

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Myanmar showcases investment opportunities at 2023 ASEAN Investment Forum in Nanning, China

ACCORDING to the statement released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar delegates explained and discussed potential investment opportunities in Myanmar at the 2023 ASEAN Investment Forum. The 2023 ASEAN Investment Forum was held at Guangxi Minzu University, located in Nanning City of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the People's Republic of China, on 24 November.

Myanmar delegates, led by Consul-General to Nanning U Kyaw Soe Thein and Commercial Attaché Daw Kay Khaing Kyaw, attended the event.

Rector Xie Shangguo of Guangxi Minzu University and President Ms Chen Youcui of Beijing-based Chongqing Business Association gave opening speeches at the forum.

Cambodian Consul-General Mr Taing Sokngorn, Lao Consul-General Mr Vongpano Sipaseuth, Myanmar Consul-General U Kyaw Soe Thein, Vietnamese Consul-General Mr Do Nam Trung, and the Director of Thai Economic Office Mr Xie Mingqiang presented investment opportunities in their respective countries.

U Kyaw Soe Thein explained current investment opportunities in Myanmar, businesses invested in Myanmar by China, how to invest in Myanmar, priority investment sectors in Myanmar, and benefits and privileges for foreign investors in Myanmar. He invited Chinese entrepreneurs to make investments in Myanmar at the forum.

SEE PAGE-2



A thriving business scene at the shrimp pond in Myeik Archipelago, Taninthayi Region. **PHOTOS: KANU**

Myanmar ships white shrimp to China, Japan

MYANMAR exports white shrimp (Vannamei), which generates export earnings and has been successfully produced in the fish ponds in Kawthoung, Myeik and Dawei districts of the Taninthayi Region, to China and Japan, according to the Taninthayi Region Fisheries Department.

White shrimp farming was launched in the Taninthayi Region, and the demand from foreign countries for quality marine products due to the clean seawater is high. The maritime workers are also interested in white shrimp farming rather than capturing as they see a solid market.

“White shrimp farming



Buyers assessing prices for seawater shrimps, a key fisheries product from Myeik Archipelago.

has been operational in the Taninthayi Region only for five years. It obtains certain

achievements. There might be a huge investment amount where the profit is significant.

If we do something wrong in livestock breeding, the losses are huge. Since early this year, marine entrepreneurs have faced losses and become interested in white shrimp farming. Some started operating white shrimp farming. Some also applied for land plots to develop as shrimp ponds. Demands for Myanmar's white shrimp from China and Japan are currently the highest. But the demand from China has fallen recently. Foreign countries prefer Myanmar's white shrimps for its quality due to the clean seawater. The entrepreneurs are also ready to breed as much as possible,” said department secretary U Thet Soe.

SEE PAGE-7

NATIONAL

PAGE-3



MoBA UM receives Nippon Foundation President

NATIONAL

PAGE-5



Chinese PLA delegation visits Myanmar Naval Headquarters

NATIONAL

PAGE-6



Manufacturing sector exports generate US\$5.87 bln as of 17 November

NATIONAL



Devotees seen at the Shinpin Sekeinte Pagoda in Minbu, Magway Region.

Pilgrims flock to lighting festival of Shinpin Sekeinte Pagoda

A lighting festival featuring 3,000 candles was held at Shinpin Sekeinte Pagoda in Minbu, Magway Region, to mark the Tazaungmone Full Moon Day on 27 November.

Pilgrims across Myanmar, departmental officials and members of various associations lit 3,000 candles inside the pagoda compound and sent hot-air balloons into the air, said pagoda board of trustees' chair U Kyaw Thein. People also visited Nagabwat Mountain, Shin Min Puu Pagoda, Mann Shwe Settaw Pagoda and Shin Pin Chantha Gyi Pagoda on the same day, donating food utensils and doing good deeds. — Maung Maung (Minbu)/KZL

Myanmar showcases investment opportunities at 2023 ASEAN Investment Forum in Nanning, China

FROM PAGE-1

Consul-General U Kyaw Soe Thein also informed potential Chinese investors that all the necessary assistance will be offered to those who want to engage in trade and investment sectors with Myanmar.

A total of more than 60 personnel, including consuls-general of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Viet Nam in Nanning, personnel from Guangxi Minzu University, commercial attaches, and members of the Chongqing Business Association based in Beijing and Tianjin cities, as well as the Chongqing Business Association in Hainan, Hebei, Jilin, and Liaoning provinces, participated in the forum. — ASH/TMT



Consul-General U Kyaw Soe Thein presents investment opportunities in Myanmar at the event in China.

Theme of 103rd Anniversary of National Victory Day 2023

From peace of the Union towards development of the State

Objectives of 103rd Anniversary of National Victory Day 2023

10th Waning of Tazaungmone 1385 ME
7 December 2023

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

Kyaiktiyo draws above 5,000 pilgrims during Tazaungdine Festival



Peaceful pilgrims seen at Kyaiktiyo Pagoda during the holiday.

ACCORDING to U Soe Hla, chairman of the pagoda board of trustees, there were over 5,000 pilgrims at the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State during the Tazaungdine Festival.

In 2023, from the 13th waxing to the full moon day of Tazaungmone, more than 5,000 pilgrims from home and abroad visited the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda.

“There were above 1,300 pilgrims on the eve of the full moon day and over on the full moon day. Some booked solo, and some booked as a group. They are also coming today. There are more visitors this year than last year,” said U Soe Hla.

The duration of the Buddha Pujaniya Festival of the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda is from the Thadingyut Full Moon Day to the Kasone Full Moon Day. The pagoda board of trustees reportedly manages food and shelter for pilgrims, and the security forces also ensure the safety of the visitors. — ASH/TRKM

NATIONAL

MoBA UM receives Nippon Foundation President



Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung holds talks with the delegation headed by the president of Nippon Foundation yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung received Nippon Foundation President Mr Sasakawa yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

They frankly and cordially discussed issues related to the development of border areas and the development

of human resources, the success of the multi-regional development projects in Mon and Kayin states, and the Education for Peace and Development Project in Kayah and Shan states, which were jointly conducted between the Ministry of Border Affairs and the Nippon Foundation,

signing a new MoU to boost cooperation in these projects, peace, the leadership training for the development of border regions and ethnic peoples and vocational training projects, the completion of the school construction project in Rakhine State, and future cooperation. — MNA/TS

FPB welcomes new CEO to drive accelerated advancements in banking

THE First Private Bank (FPB), which makes efforts towards a modern technology-based banking system, has announced the appointment of a new CEO to accelerate the progress of the bank.

The bank officials ex-

plained the trustworthy information to the public despite the banking service-related false information and also announced the newly elected CEO.

The Board of Directors and Management Team of FPB, a listed company of the

Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX), is attempting to transform its banking services into a technology-based banking system.

Therefore, the Board of Directors has decided to elect U Thura as CEO for his experiences in the banking sector to improve the bank's significant development.

Moreover, the proposal to appoint U Thura as CEO was submitted to the Central Bank of Myanmar and the CBM permitted him to take the position on 15 November. Former CEO U Myint Zaw retired on 30 June 2023 and now serves as a consultant for the Management Team.

The FPB was established in 1992 and is now 31 years old, with over 640 staff at 38 branches. — Thit Taw/KTZH



The facade view of the First Private Bank (FPB) in Yangon.

MoH UM to attend SCO's traditional medicine forum

AT the invitation of the People's Republic of China, a delegation led by Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win left Yangon yesterday morning to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's Traditional Medicine Forum 2023, which will be held in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, in China.

The 2023 Traditional Medicine Forum of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will be held under the theme 'Inheritance and Innovation of Traditional Medicine, Globalization of Traditional Medicine, Intellectual Property Rights'. Ministers of health, representatives from the World Health Organization, traditional medicine professionals, and officials from conventional Chinese

medicine companies from member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, including China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, as well as observer countries like Afghanistan, Belarus, and Mongolia, and dialogue partner countries such as Myanmar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Cambodia, will attend this meeting.

China and member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, observer countries, and partner countries will discuss issues related to improving the quality of traditional medicines. They will also discuss the innovation of traditional medicine production and the protection of intellectual property related to conventional medicine. — MNA/KZW



Union Health Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win seen on his departure for China yesterday at Yangon International Airport.

MNHRC holds talks with UMFCCI

THE delegation led by Commissioner U Kyaw Myint met President U Aye Win and Executive Members of UMFCCI at the UMFCCI Headquarters in Yangon yesterday. Commissioner U Kyaw Myint discussed the commission's law, activities, 2023 operational plan, and business and human rights.

The commission delegation replied to questions raised by

the UMFCCI president, members, and officials who attended the meeting. MNHRC provided the books of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), international conventions on human rights translated and published by the MNHRC, and pamphlets to UMFCCI. — MNHRC

NATIONAL

Efforts to boost country's sustainable paper production

ABOUT 301 million bamboos in natural forests are cut down every year to be used as raw materials for producing pulp and paper, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi stated in his meeting with industrial entrepreneurs at the United Paper Mill in Dagon Myothit (East) Township on 26 November that measures would be taken to set up plantations of fast-growing species of trees and bamboos to provide raw materials in the long run for paper production.

As the country faces a high

demand for paper, a variety of raw materials such as trees, bamboos, straws, and banana fibres are being used. Additionally, waste paper is recycled for producing paper.

The Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry are reportedly working together to boost the manufacturing of pulp and paper.

The newsprint mill (Thaboung) resumed operations in August after a hiatus. If it can operate at full capacity, it will be capable of producing newsprint as well as other types of paper. Besides the



Union ministers and officials inspect the paper production.

Thaboung paper mill, paper production once depended on the Yeni and Sittoung paper mills, the latter of which has been shut down due to its advanced age. — ASH/NT

Counter-argument to false information

Tatmadaw faces allegations of false university occupation claims: Authorities discredit accusations

FALSE news circulating on social media has accused Tatmadaw of occupying Sittway University, positioning themselves at vantage points in the town, and using students, teachers and faculty members as human shields against the Arakan Army's intensifying offence on 27 November.

Authorities discredited false news by clarifying that Tatmadaw troops were stationed outside the university premises to ensure the security of students and people inside during school time.

Malicious media outlets in-



Screenshot validates false claims.

tentionally spread fake reports on social media sites like Facebook, aiming to create misconceptions regarding Tatmadaw among international observers and the public.

During an incident at Loikaw University a couple of weeks ago, terrorists abducted education staff and students, saying "they were rescuing them", and reportedly tried to use them as human shields.

Unethical media outlets are purportedly spreading false information as a smokescreen to conceal the acts of terrorists. — MNA/NT

Myanmar war veterans' delegation joins 35th Executive Board Meeting, 22nd General Assembly



The Myanmar delegation participates in the VECONAC meetings in Manila, the Philippines, on 27 November 2023.

A Myanmar delegation led by Vice-Chair(1) Lt-Gen Ye Aung (Retd) of the Myanmar War Veterans Organization attended the 35th Executive Board Meeting of Veterans Confederation of ASEAN Countries (VECONAC) held on 27 November in Manila, the Philippines.

The meeting was attended by presidents and representatives of veterans' organizations from 10 VECONAC member countries. They reviewed and discussed ten resolutions to be submitted to the 22nd General Assembly and decided to approve nine.

The 22nd General Assembly

of the VECONAC was held on 28 November. The presidents and wives of veterans' organizations from ten VECONAC member countries, delegates, observers, and invitees attended the general assembly. MWVO Vice-Chair(1) Lt-Gen Ye Aung (Retd) read the country report.

At the General Assembly, the nine resolutions that were discussed and decided upon at the 35th Executive Board meeting of the VECONAC were approved. Additionally, ten member countries of VECONAC signed a joint declaration. — MNA/KZW

WEATHER REPORT

Low Pressure Area Conditions

Issued at (19:00) hours MST on 28-11-2023

ACCORDING to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over the South Andaman Sea still persists. It may further intensify into a Well Marked Low Pressure Area on (29.11.2023) and likely to move West-North-

westwards and may further intensify into a Depression over the Southeast Bay of Bengal on (30.11.2023). Thereafter, it is likely to move Northwestwards and may further intensify into a Cyclonic Storm on (2.12.2023).

NATIONAL

Chinese PLA delegation visits Myanmar Naval Headquarters

A delegation headed by Senior Captain Sun Bo, Commander of Operations of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), on a goodwill visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, visited the Naval Training Headquarters yesterday morning.

The goodwill delegation discussed the maritime security exercise with Tatmadaw (Navy) officials and donated stationery to the students studying at the Basic Education High School (Seikkyi) in Thanlyin District.

Then, in the evening, the

commander of the local naval command hosted a dinner for the friendship delegation.

In addition, Tatmadaw (Navy) officers and other ranks boarded and studied the Chinese warships, and the delegation also went on study tours to famous places in Yangon. — MNA/KZL

Discussions on maritime security exercise underway yesterday.



Illegal immigrants handed over to relevant authorities



The handover event in progress on the border yesterday.

THE government focuses on national stability and law and order in all regions and states, including the border areas. As some foreign na-

tionals illegally enter and reside in Myanmar through land borders, administrative bodies conduct necessary checks and repatriate them

to relevant countries under the law.

A total of 714 illegal immigrants, comprising 511 males and 203 females, were repatriated to China through Chinese officials. Therefore, a total of 9,908 illegal immigrants, including 8,823 males and 1,085 females, were repatriated to China from 31 October to 28 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

CAD facilitates complaints for electric vehicle purchases

THE Department of Consumer Affairs notified that a complaint can be lodged with the department's call centre number 1535 if there is any loss and damage in purchasing electric vehicles

(EVs) and chargers.

Forty-eight consumer information and complaint centres (CICC) have been reportedly opened in States and Regions, including Nay Pyi

Taw, so consumers can quickly contact and complain.

The Department of Consumer Affairs ensures consumers' rights, safety, satisfaction, and warranty. — TWA/MKKS

Confiscated illegal items: Timbers, foodstuffs, consumer goods, industrial materials, auto parts and vehicles

THE joint team managed by the Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force captured four vehicles and two trailers (approximately worth K230 million), heading to Yangon from Myawady, carrying six types of goods worth K73.2 million, including 1,000 kilogrammes of Golden Mountain oyster sauce and 36,000 packs of Lactasoy soy milk that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID), near Kamawkasin village in Hpa-an township on 26 November. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

During the inspections on 27 November, the combined on-duty teams confiscated an unregistered JN tractor (estimated value of K1.5 million) in Paungde township, a total of 0.878 tonne of illegal teak and 3.276 tonnes of other illegal timbers in Bago and Toungoo districts and an Isuzu Giga truck, a Mitsubishi Fuso



Seized illegal goods in Kayin State.

tractor head with a trailer (approximately worth K86 million) carrying 15,000 kilogrammes of Power cable and 100 Bridgestone tubeless tyres valued at K245 million without official documents near the Myitnge Bridge on the outskirts of Mandalay. The action was conducted under Custom procedures, the Export and Import Law, and the Forest Law.

Sixteen arrests were made on 26 and 27 November, with an estimated value of K636,771,306, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL



The photo shows a garment factory working on a Cutting-Making and Packaging basis.

Manufacturing sector exports generate US\$5.87 bln as of 17 November

THE export value from the manufacturing sector amounted to over US\$5.86 billion as of 17 November in the financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, showing a billion dollar drop compared to the corresponding period last FY, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Exports of finished indus-

trial goods by the private sector were estimated at \$3.75 billion, while exports worth \$2.1 billion were performed by the public sector.

Finished industrial exports include garment exports, sugar, natural gas and other goods.

Myanmar exports agricultural produce, livestock

products, fisheries, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods and other goods. Of them, the manufacturing sector bagged the highest foreign income.

Garment export is ranked first among the top ten items, including natural gas and minerals. — TWA/KK

Andaman Sea Alert: Potential cyclone brewing in low-pressure zone

A low-pressure area emerged between the southern Andaman Sea and the Malacca Strait could grow into a cyclonic storm by 2 December, warns the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

As of 12:30 pm today, observations suggested that the low-pressure area moved westward and remained in the southern Andaman Sea. It could develop into a well-marked low-pressure area on 29 November and move west to northwestern.

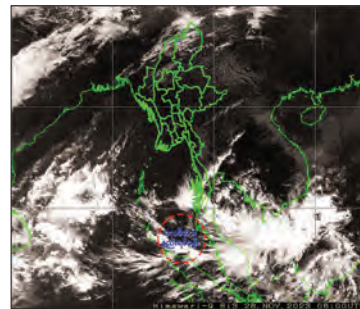
Subsequently, it might evolve into a depression in the southeastern Bay of Bengal by

30 November, continuing its path in a northwestern direction before potentially developing into a cyclonic storm by 2 December, according to the department's announcement.

The announcement further predicted a period of thick morning fog in states and regions including Nay Pyi Taw, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi, Rakhine, Kayah, and Kayin from 5 to 15 December.

The foggy condition could extend to the upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Shan, Chin, and Mon states from 16 to 25 December.

Night temperatures in Yangon, Taninthayi, Kachin, northern and eastern Shan, Chin, Kayin, and Mon are forecast to hover around December's average. In contrast, Nay Pyi Taw, the Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady, Shan (South), Rakhine, and Kayah could experience temperatures 1.5 degrees Celsius higher than December's average. — TWA/NT



A low-pressure area between southern Andaman Sea and Malacca Straits.

Weekly market update of dry groceries at Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre

FOR a week from 22 to 28 November 2023, the prices of potato, sugar, sugarcane candy, and chickpea dipped at the Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre.

Onion

The Bayintnaung Wholesale Market saw a supply of 150,000 visses of onions on 28 November. The wholesale prices moved in the K2,400 and K3,900 per viss range depending on the quality, size and producing areas (Seikphyu and Monywa) that day.

Garlic

The garlic prices from Aungban, Shan State, stood at K10,300-K11,800 per viss depending on varieties and qualities, whereas Kyukok garlic fetched K11,500-K12,500 per viss on 28 November.

Potato

Chinese potato prices dipped to K3,200-K3,300 per viss on 28 November from K3,400 per viss registered on 25 November.

Chilli pepper

The wholesale prices of chilli peppers were K6,000-10,000 per viss for long chilli pepper and Moehtaung variety on 28 November. Those red chillies processed in cold storage fetched K14,500-K15,000 per viss. The prices of bell peppers from the Sinphyukyun area and delta regions were K15,000-K23,000 per viss.

Rice

The prices hit K63,000-K64,000 per sack of low-grade monsoon rice, K83,000 for short-mature old rice (90 days), K75,000



The photo shows a retail shop selling dry groceries.

per sack of old rice grown under the intercropping season and K91,000-K102,000 for Pawkywel variety. The high-grade old Pawsan rice prices were

K130,000-K150,000 per sack depending on the producing areas (Myaungmya, Shwebo) on 28 November. The price of stick rice has decreased to K105,000

per sack from K113,000.

Palm oil

For a week from 27 November to 3 December 2023, the wholesale reference price of Yangon Region was set higher to K5,000 per viss. The FOB prices fluctuated between US\$855 per tonne and \$872.5 per tonne this week.

Pulses

The prices of various pulses stood at K2,790,000 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K3,005,000 per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC), K3,250,000 per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) RC, K3,430 per viss of green gram and K5,650-5,950 per viss of chickpea in Yangon's wholesale markets. — TWA/KK

Myanmar ships white shrimp to China, Japan

FROM PAGE-1

The entrepreneurs show interest in saltwater shrimp farming that guarantees market and income, whereas the fish resources become rare, the transportation charges are high, and the market is unstable. The foreign purchasers visit the farming ponds. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation signed a MoU with the Chinese officials. The agreement will benefit captured shrimp and seawater shrimp exports and improve the country's GDP.

There are 18 shrimp breeding ponds on 124.62 acres of land in Kawthoung District, operated by Grand Adman Co Ltd, 105 ponds on 832 acres of land by Pyae Phyo Tun Company in Kyunsu Township of Myeik District, 53 ponds on 531.05 acres of land by Khine Zin Yaw Company (Masanpa), 25 ponds on 299.77 acres of land by Shwe Kan Maw Company in Pulaw Township, eight ponds on 40 acres of land by The Best Myanmar Co Ltd in Yephyu Township of Dawei District, totalling 209 ponds on 1827.44 acres of lands.

Two to four million shrimps are bred in a 2.5-acre wide and six-foot deep pond for saltwater shrimp farming. There is also a reservoir and disinfectant pond. One hundred acres can produce 40 per cent. The larvae of white shrimp are imported from Thailand, and they are marketable after four months of breeding. An export company earns over US\$10 million from saltwater shrimp exports. An increase in breeding companies can lead to a rise in export earnings. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

ADVERTORIAL

Successful Start of Level A Overhaul of the Dapein (1) Hydropower Station in Myanmar



IN order to further ensure safe production and efficient and stable operation of generator sets in the Dapein (1) Hydropower Station in Myanmar, the overhaul of generator sets has been started as scheduled recently. At present, the rotor of the 2# generator set has been successfully lifted out, marking a stage victory of Level A overhaul of the 2# generator set of the Dapein (1) Hydropower Station in Myanmar.

In addition to normal maintenance, the Level A overhaul (expansion) of generator sets involves the transformation and

upgrading of overflow components and excitation systems of the generator set, to greatly improve the equipment reliability and automation of the 2# generator set and lay a solid foundation for further digital transformation and intelligent construction in the hydropower station. The overhaul also provides learning opportunities for Burmese employees, including on-site training by technical backbones on production knowledge to young employees, and strengthening of learning and communication of Chinese and Burmese employ-

ees, thus enhancing employees' skills.

The scheduled 85-day Level A overhaul will be completed in late January next year. For the purpose of Level A "superior generator set", the overhaul will be performed in strict accordance with standard procedures. Technical measures, safety measures, and environmental protection measures will be taken conscientiously to efficiently complete the overhaul of the generator sets and supply high-quality and stable power in China and Myanmar, especially Bhamo in Myanmar.

Rubber price rebounds to K1,600 per pound

THE price of rubber rose again to over K1,600 per pound in Mon State's rubber market.

The prices touched a high of K1,520 per pound of Ribbed Smoked Sheet Local 3 and K1,500 for sun-dried rubber on 3 November.

The prevailing prices increased to K1,660 per pound for sundried rubber and K1,640 for RSS Local 3. The figures showed a three-week rise of over K140 per pound. Yet, the price level has not reached a record high of K1,790 per pound of RSS3 and K1,770 per pound of sundried rubber.

Global demand for rubber, rubber production in the Southeast Asian nations and the market supply contribute to Myanmar's rubber prices.

Traders elaborated that the rubber price in Mon State, a significant rubber production state in Myanmar, is also closely tied to those factors.

Myanmar's annual rubber production is estimated at 300,000 tonnes. Seventy per cent of rubber produced in

Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries.

The association aims to achieve rubber exports of 300,000 tonnes in the 2023-2024 financial year beginning 1 April.

The rubber production in the last FY 2022-2023 reached over 360,000 tonnes, and more than 200,000 tonnes of rubber were shipped to foreign trade partners.

Rubber is commonly produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions. As per 2018-2019 rubber season data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres.

Myanmar bagged more than US\$449.102 million in revenue in rubber exports in the 2020-2021 FY. — NN/EM

YGEA sets gold reference price to K3.16 mln per tical tracking escalating spot gold price

THE spot gold price hit over US\$2,015 per ounce on 28 November from \$1,938 per ounce on 11 November, prompting the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) to push up the reference price to around K3.1648 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) on 28 November.

The spot gold price indicated an increase of \$77 per ounce within three weeks.

The pure gold fetches around K3.67 million per tical in the grey market. There is a price gap of over K500,000 per tical between the YGEA's reference price and the grey

market rate.

The YGEA switched to the Central Bank of Myanmar's exchange rate (K2,900) for interbank transactions in calculating the reference price for pure gold. The US dollar is currently exchanged at approximately K3,400 in the grey market.

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

When the dollar exchange rate surged to K4,000, the gold price hit a record high of K4 million per tical in late August 2023. — NN/EM

Expedite vaccination of measles to age-wise groups

MEASLES vaccination rates have experienced a gradual decline in various societies, partly attributed to the diminishing potency of drugs. This decline has had dire consequences, with a staggering 43 per cent increase in the death rate of measles patients in 2021, followed by an 18 per cent rise in 2022, as reported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the United States on 16 November.

The report highlights that a concerning nine million individuals worldwide suffered from measles in 2022, resulting in the tragic loss of 136,000 lives. The infection spread to 37 countries, raising the spectre of a potential global pandemic. Despite being one of the most infectious diseases globally, measles is entirely preventable

through vaccination. However, success in eradicating measles requires a minimum vaccination coverage of 95 per cent among the population. Failure to complete the recommended vaccination schedule exposes individuals to the risk of measles infection. The disease primarily spreads through coughing and sneezing, prompting medical specialists to caution against contact with nasal and throat fluids and close proximity to infected individuals to prevent further transmission. WHO records indicate that measles vaccination globally saved the lives of 56 million people between 2000 and 2021. Yet, the disease claimed 128,000 lives in 2021, with a majority being children under five years old who had not received vaccinations. Despite new health initiatives, only 83 per cent of newborns received measles vaccination by their first birthday in 2022. Unfortunately, the number of children lacking adequate measles vaccination is increasing annually due to declining vaccination coverage. Public Health Department records reveal a measles pandemic in Myanmar in 2011 and 2012, with subsequent outbreaks occurring 15 times in 2013 among individuals aged 18 to 20. Health officials now administer measles vaccinations to children at nine months and 18 months to address this public health challenge, aiming to minimize measles infections in Southeast Asia by 2030. In light of these alarming statistics and trends, there is an urgent need to expedite measles vaccination efforts, focusing on age-wise groups, to ensure comprehensive coverage and mitigate the potential for a widespread measles pandemic in the future. Thanks to the creativity and initiatives of medical scientists, various kinds of drugs have saved millions of people worldwide from outbreaks of pandemics several times. Now, everyone around the world needs vaccinations to fight measles without fail carefully.

IN the intricate tapestry of human existence, the concepts of life and death stand as profound and inexorable threads, weaving through the very fabric of our consciousness. As we navigate the intricacies of being alive, we are compelled to ponder the elusive meaning behind both life and its inevitable counterpart, death.

Life as a Journey of Experiences

Life, in its essence, can be perceived as a journey of experiences and moments that shape our understanding of the world. From the joyous highs to the challenging lows, each encounter contributes to the rich tapestry of our individual narratives. The meaning of life, for many, lies in the accumulation of these diverse experiences, offering opportunities for growth, connection, and self-discovery.

The Pursuit of Purpose

A sense of purpose often emerges as a guiding force in the quest for meaning. Whether it be through personal relationships, professional accomplishments, or contributions to society, individuals seek a purpose that transcends the routine of daily existence. The pursuit of purpose imbues life with a deeper significance, providing a compass that directs our actions and choices.

Connections and Relationships

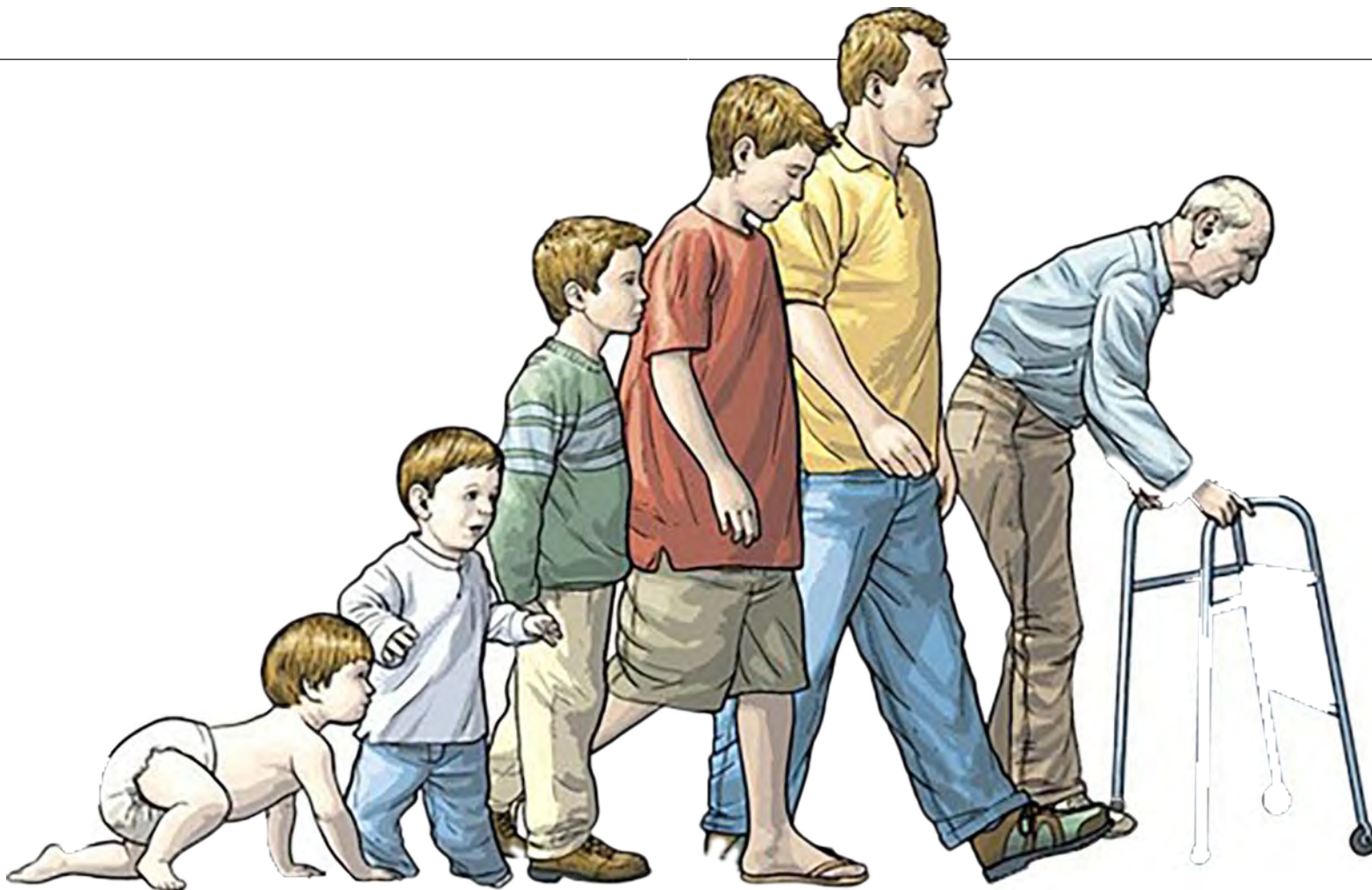
Human connections, be they familial, romantic, or platonic, form an integral part of the human experience. Meaning in life often emanates from the bonds we create with others. The relationships we cultivate contribute to a sense of belonging, love, and shared experiences, fostering a deeper understanding of our interconnectedness.

The Inevitability of Death

While life unfolds as a series of moments, the spectre of death looms as an ever-present companion. The contemplation of mortality prompts reflection on the transient nature of existence. Some view death as the natural conclusion to the symphony of life, while others grapple with existential questions surrounding what, if anything, comes after.

Legacy and Impact

The desire to leave a lasting legacy and make a meaningful impact on the world is a driving force for many. Whether through creative pursuits, intellectual con-



tributions, or acts of kindness, individuals seek to transcend their mortal existence by leaving an indelible mark on the collective human experience.

Spiritual and Philosophical Perspectives

Various spiritual and philosophical traditions offer diverse perspectives on the meaning of life and death. From Eastern philosophies emphasizing impermanence to Western religious beliefs offering notions of an afterlife, these perspectives provide frameworks for understanding the mysteries of existence.

Balance and Acceptance

Ultimately, finding meaning in life and death may entail striking a delicate balance between embracing the present moment and acknowledging the inevitability of mortality. Acceptance of the cyclical nature of life, with its beginnings and endings, can lead to a profound appreciation for the preciousness of each fleeting moment.

In fact, the meaning of life and death is a nuanced exploration that varies across cultures, individuals, and belief systems. Whether found in the pursuit of experiences, connections, purpose, or legacy, the search for meaning serves as a fundamental aspect of the human condition. As we navigate the intricate dance between life and death, we embark on a quest to uncover the profound significance of our existence.

A Reflection on Longevity

BY YIN NWE KO

istence.

In addition, in the tapestry of human aspirations, the desire for a longer life stands as one of the most universal and enduring threads. People across cultures and generations share a common yearning for longevity, and understanding the reasons behind this quest unveils a complex interplay of personal, societal, and existential factors.

Inherent Instinct for Survival

At the core of the human psyche lies an instinctual drive for survival. This primal urge is deeply embedded in our DNA, compelling individuals to seek ways to prolong their existence. The innate fear of mortality, coupled with an instinct to preserve life, fuels the widespread aspiration for a longer and healthier lifespan.

Pursuit of Fulfillment and Achievement

Longevity often intertwines with the pursuit of personal goals and the achievement of dreams. Many individuals harbour a desire to witness and contribute to significant milestones, be it the success of their children, the realization of professional ambitions, or the completion of creative endeavours. A longer life provides a canvas for these aspirations to unfold.

Cultural and Social Influence

Cultural and societal norms play a pivotal role in shaping the desire for longevity. In societies that place a premium on familial bonds and generational continuity, the wish for a longer life is intricately linked to the preservation of family lineage and the passing down of traditions. Additionally, societal emphasis on success and accomplishment often aligns with the pursuit of a lengthier existence.

Advancements in Quality of Life

As medical science progresses and healthcare becomes more accessible, the concept of a longer life is increasingly synonymous with an improved quality of life. Advancements in healthcare offer the promise of prolonged vitality, reduced susceptibility to diseases, and the opportunity to age gracefully, contributing to the overall well-being of individuals.

Fear of the Unknown

The unknown aspects of what lies beyond life can evoke a profound sense of uncertainty and anxiety. The fear of the unknown after death may intensify the desire to cling to life, prompting individuals to seek ways to extend their time on Earth.

Cultural Shifts in Retirement and Leisure

With changing attitudes toward retirement and leisure, in-

dividuals today envision an active and engaged lifestyle well into their later years. The desire for a longer life is closely linked to the aspiration to enjoy a fulfilling retirement, pursue hobbies, and engage in meaningful activities during the twilight years.

What is more, the quest for longevity is a complex tapestry woven from a myriad of threads, reflecting both individual and societal values. From the primal instinct for survival to the pursuit of personal fulfillment and the influence of cultural norms, the desire for a longer life is a multifaceted expression of the human experience. Understanding these underlying motivations provides insight into the profound and enduring nature of the aspiration for longevity.

In recent times, the quest for a longer life has become a common goal for many individuals. While the idea of longevity brings forth numerous advantages, it also carries its fair share of drawbacks. In this exploration, let us delve into the advantages and disadvantages of a prolonged lifespan.

Advantages of Longevity

- 1. Increased Experiences and Wisdom:** With a longer life comes more time to accumulate experiences and wisdom. Individuals can engage in various activities, travel, and learn, contributing to personal growth and a deeper understanding of the world.
- 2. Stronger Interpersonal Connections:** Longevity provides an opportunity to nurture and maintain stronger relationships with family and friends. More time allows for the building of lasting connections, fostering a sense of community and support.
- 3. Advancements in Medical Care:** In an era of medical advancements, a longer life often means access to improved healthcare. Regular medical check-ups, preventive measures, and effective treatments contribute to a healthier and more active lifestyle.
- 4. Contribution to Society:** Extended lifespans can enable individuals to make lasting contributions to society. Through continued work, volunteerism, or mentorship, older individuals can share their knowledge and skills for the betterment of the community.

Disadvantages of Longevity

- 1. Financial Challenges:** A longer life may lead to increased financial strain, especially if individuals haven't adequately prepared for their extended retirement years. Longevity often requires careful financial planning to sustain a comfortable lifestyle.
- 2. Health Concerns:** While medical advancements are a boon, an extended lifespan may also mean facing age-related health issues. Chronic conditions, decreased mobility, and cognitive decline are potential challenges that can impact the quality of life in later years.
- 3. Social Isolation:** The loss of friends and family members over time can contribute to social isolation, particularly in old age. Loneliness and a lack of social connections can adversely affect mental and emotional well-being.
- 4. Overpopulation and Resource Strain:** From a societal perspective, a growing population of elderly individuals can strain resources such as healthcare, social services, and pensions. This demographic shift poses challenges for maintaining a balanced and sustainable society.

Balancing Longevity

As we weigh the advantages and disadvantages of a longer life, it becomes evident that achieving a balanced and fulfilling extended lifespan requires proactive measures. Financial planning, maintaining physical and mental well-being, and fostering social connections are crucial elements in navigating the complexities of longevity.

Ultimately, pursuing a longer life is a multifaceted journey that necessitates thoughtful consideration of the potential benefits and challenges. By addressing these aspects, individuals can strive for a meaningful and balanced extended life, contributing positively to both personal fulfillment and societal well-being.

Here, my readers have just read the long text that seems to be the theoretical concept of longevity. Now, I am going to give my opinion and my own experiences about longevity. These are as follows: -

Losing my grandfather at the age of 50, during a period of civil unrest, left an indelible mark on

my family. He owned vast farmlands and livestock in a village plagued by insecurity. Fearing robbery, he eventually moved to town, leaving his property behind. Tragically, his house and barn were later burned by robbers, leading to a decline in his health. With limited access to effective medicine, he relied on indigenous remedies, ultimately succumbing to illness. This was 67 years ago, a time when medical care was scarce.

Reflecting on this, I recently spoke with a friend in his mid-50s who, despite not being as affluent as my grandfather, emphasized the importance of regular medical check-ups and modern treatments. This contrast highlights the impact of political stability on access to healthcare.

In 2003, I faced health issues and sought help from a local clinic. Diagnosed with high blood pressure, I received vital instructions and medication. Unlike my grandfather, I had the fortune of timely medical intervention. Subsequent health issues led to a regimen of four daily pills, prompting me to ponder the significance of prolonging life.

Longevity, as described in Wikipedia, has significantly increased due to improved living conditions and advancements in medicine. However, the term "useful life" caught my attention, leading me to question the purpose of a prolonged life. If one merely exists, relying on others for daily tasks, is their longevity genuinely beneficial to society?

I believe an individual should contribute to society during their lifetime. Otherwise, their longevity becomes a burden on others. Personal responsibilities, such as eating, dressing, and taking medication, should not be a perpetual duty for someone else. In my view, a meaningful life involves contributing positively to society, and if that is not achievable, accepting death may be more meaningful than a prolonged existence.

A perspective from my past resonates with me: "Being alive and being dead are greatly different in meaning. However, when they are identical, being dead is much better than the first one." This statement emphasizes the importance of leading a purposeful life, contributing to society, and finding meaning beyond mere existence.

NATIONAL

Myanmar to prioritize Viet Nam for sugar export

MYANMAR will prioritize Viet Nam for sugar export as a purchase order for 10,000 tonnes of sugar has already been received from Viet Nam, according to the Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane Related Association.

Myanmar has planned to export sugar to Bangladesh, Indonesia and other foreign countries. Yet, sugar exports to Viet Nam will be arranged first upon its purchase order.

Myanmar ships exports to foreign trade partners be-

yond self-sufficiency. Myanmar's sugarcane crushing operations are in full swing from November to December. The sugarcane production is estimated at 400,000 tonnes per year.

New sugar will start flowing into the domestic market in December. This year, The sugar mills raised the price of sugarcane to K150,000 per tonne for the 2023-2024 sugarcane season from the earlier set rate of K110,000 per tonne. — TWA/KK



Sugar bags are seen being uploaded onto the vessel for exports.

Myanmar's young directors, film editors attend filmmaking workshop in Viet Nam

THE young and aspiring film talents from Myanmar attended the workshop of Film Leaders Incubator FLY2023 held in Viet Nam, according to director Min Thant Maung

Maung.

The Korea Busan Film Commission organized the workshop from 1 to 15 November.

"The FLY is held yearly. It

was also organized in Myanmar in 2014. The programme was suspended in 2019 due to the outbreak of COVID-19, and it resumed again. People from Myanmar attended it before," said director Min Thant Maung Maung.

Myanmar youth director Min Thant Maung Maung, director Thuta Kan, and film editors Sein Lae Nandar and Nyan Phyo Aung joined the FLY 2023. Directors Min Thant Maung Maung and Thuta Kan attended the five-day post-production workshop, and Sein Lae Nandar and Nyan Phyo Aung participated in the 10-day full project.

Director Min Thant Maung Maung is an alumnus of the New York Film Academy, Los Angeles of the United States of America. — ASH/KTZH



Myanmar's young motion pictures creators seen at the workshop in Viet Nam.

Myanmar delegation attends Chiang Mai Wellness Fair in Thailand



Consul-General U Min Kyaw Linn talks on Myanmar-Thailand cooperation in promoting tourism at the event.

A Myanmar delegation, led by U Min Kyaw Linn, Consul-General in Chiang Mai, participated in the Chiang Mai Wellness Fair in Chiang Mai, Thailand, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported.

The fair, jointly organized by the Chiang Mai Tourism Industry Association, Pinkan Resort, Chiang Mai State Tourism Promotion Association, Chiang Mai Health Development Association, and CISW International Company, commenced on 25 November to promote tourism.

At the Chiang Mai Wellness Fair, health-related products from various industries,

including medicines, health accessories, beauty items, kitchen and household utensils, and clothing, were exhibited. The fair was attended by the Director-General of the Department of Tourism of Chiang Mai Province, diplomats from the consulates-general in Chiang Mai, and officials from the Chiang Mai provincial government.

As part of Myanmar's efforts to boost domestic tourism, the Myanmar consul-general explored the potential for Myanmar-Thailand cooperation in promoting tourism. — ASH/TKO

Drugs seized in some townships

DRUGS were seized in several townships across the country, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

A combined team, including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force, stopped and searched a motorbike driven by Aung Myo Min on the detour in Shwepyitha Kwetthit ward

of Bhamo township at 8:45 pm on 26 November and seized 1,950 stimulant tablets.

Similarly, the joint team examined two suspicious men, Win Naing and Aye Maung, on Thanthuma road in South Okkalapa township at 12:45 pm on the same day and confiscated 60,000 stimulant tablets.

On the same day, the combined team searched the house of Kyaw Lin in Ward 1 in Namseng township at 10:15 am and seized 2,300 stimulant tablets.

Offenders have been prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS

Virtual floats reduce waste at Thai festival

LUSCIOUS greens, egg-yolk yellows and delicate oranges flickered across waterways in the Thai capital Bangkok, as virtual projections of the Loy Krathong festival’s traditional offerings reduced waste at the popular event.

The annual festival, celebrated on Monday, sees millions ask forgiveness from the river goddess Khongkha by releasing colourful floats into waters across Thailand under a full moon.

In recent years environmentalists have expressed concern as Bangkok’s already clogged waterways are increasingly choked by the plastic and foliage “krathongs”, as the offerings are known.

To combat this, a Bangkok

Metropolitan Administration (BMA) initiative took a fresh approach to the centuries-old tradition.

Rather than floating the elaborately constructed offerings — which include leaves, flowers, plastic, candles, incense sticks and sometimes coins — people were asked to create digital krathong.

After colouring-in drawings of krathong on paper, or on their phones, attendees’ sketches were scanned and then projected onto the city’s Ong Ang Canal.

“The tradition still remains. But we must integrate the festival to be up-to-date, in order to create less impact and less pollution on nature,” attendee Chainarong Tumapha, 27, told AFP. — AFP



This photo taken on 27 November 2023 shows a man (L) releasing a “Krathong” or floating basket into the Ong Ang canal during the annual Loy Krathong festival celebrations in Bangkok. PHOTO: AFP

High school students recreate masterpiece on classroom walls

WHEN there were yellow paint stains on the hem of Zhou Baile’s school uniform, his family and teachers suggested that he change into a new uniform, but he refused.

“For me, the stains are a symbol of creation,” said Zhou, who is in his second year of senior high school in Changchun, the capital of northeast China’s Jilin Province.

Zhou is one of the 21 students at No 150 High School of Changchun who replicated the masterpiece “A Thousand Miles of Rivers and Mountains,” which was painted by Wang Ximeng during the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127), on the walls of their fine art classroom. The 3.5-metre-tall replica has a total length of 11 metres and it took the students 129 days to complete, said Duan Yingzi, the fine art teacher at the school who guided the painting.

To allow more students to receive aesthetic education, Duan established a painting club at the end of 2022, guiding students to appreciate and imitate famous Chinese paintings.

She purchased a high-definition copy of “A Thousand Miles of Rivers and Moun-



Students replicate the masterpiece “A Thousand Miles of Rivers and Mountains”, which was painted by Wang Ximeng during the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127), on the walls of their fine art classroom at No 150 High School of Changchun, northeast China’s Jilin Province, 28 April 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

tains,” and brought it into class so that her students could appreciate the lines and essence of the classic.

“Wang created the masterpiece at the age of 18. It occurred to me to question why my students, at a similar age, couldn’t give it a try,” said Duan, having encouraged her club members to participate in the painting project.

The project began in early March. The students sketched, applied colour and filled in the details, turning the original, flat painting into a relief work. They also added figures, flowers and other elements into their ver-

sion of the painting, including their own inspirations.

“Seeing the work we created, I could sense what Wang was feeling when he was completing this masterpiece more than 900 years ago,” said Zhang Chuying, another student who took part in the project. “It was as if I were standing next to him and enjoying the rivers and mountains with him.”

Though some parents were concerned that the time-consuming project would affect their children’s academic performances, Zhou does not believe they had any cause for concern. — Xinhua

Exhibition of works of young Chinese, Beninese artists celebrates booming cultural exchanges

AN exhibition featuring works by 11 Beninese and Chinese artists opened here Saturday evening, aiming to celebrate booming cultural exchanges between the two countries’ young artists.

The exhibition, held at the Chinese Cultural Centre in Cotonou, attracted visitors including cultural players, students from the Confucius Institute, representatives from media and diplomats.

The exhibition brings together 35 works created by six

Chinese artists, and around 20 works of art and sculptures by five Beninese artists.

The artists use painting, sculpture and other forms of art to express their vision of the world.

Carole Borna, representative of Benin’s Minister of Tourism, Culture and Arts, lauded the cultural exchange between young artists from the two countries, and expected a continuation of the cross-cultural fusion. — Xinhua



A visitor watches art works exhibited during the exhibition of works of young Chinese and Beninese artists at the Chinese Cultural Centre in Cotonou, Benin, 25 November 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA



Mascots representing the seagull 'Boogi' stand ontop of a line of cycles in front of Le Palais Brongniart in Paris on 24 November 2023 to highlight the bid of the South Korean city of Busan for the World Expo 2030. **PHOTO: AFP**

Viet Nam’s central bank asked to ensure sufficient credit supply

THE State Bank of Viet Nam (SBV) has been asked by Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh to ensure sufficient credit supply in the remainder of this year, Vietnam News Agency reported Tuesday.

The prime minister ordered the central bank to urgently review the credit supply of credit institutions and each sector, and take measures to manage credit growth for 2023 in a timely, effective and feasible manner.

The order was made in the context of the low capital absorption rate of businesses and the entire economy.

The impacts of economic slowdown and high risk level from enterprises made it difficult for credit institutions in Viet Nam to increase lending because the credit standard could not be lowered to ensure system safety and prevent bad debt from increasing again, according to the SBV’s credit department. — Xinhua

Kenya launches 10-year plan to spur growth of digital economy

KENYAN President William Ruto on Monday launched a ten-year plan to spur the growth of the digital economy through investing in a robust innovation ecosystem, training, mentorship, and market linkages. Launched on the sidelines of the third edition of Kenya Innovation Week, underway in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, the innovation plan roots for supportive infrastructure, training, and access to capital as a means to accelerate the growth of technology start-ups in the country.

“The ten-year national innovation masterplan provides a roadmap for accelerating growth of the knowledge-based economy through tapping into private capital, enacting policy frameworks, and providing training to the youth,” Ruto said. He reaffirmed Kenya’s commitment to become a regional innovation hub, adding that angel investors and venture capitalists were keen to pump capital into local start-ups that are promoting digitization of the public and private sectors. — Xinhua

Busan, Riyadh or Rome? 2030 World Expo host to be revealed

ORGANIZERS will on Tuesday announce the host of the 2030 World Expo, with Rome in Italy, the Saudi capital Riyadh and South Korea’s Busan contending to welcome the show-piece event held every five years.

The World Expo, which traces its history back to the 1851 Great Exhibition in London, is a months-long mega event attracting millions of visitors that aims to respond to the specific challenges of the current time.

The hosting of this year’s event has been the subject of particularly intense lobbying from Italy, Saudi Arabia and South Korea, whose governments are all keen to have the honour of the 2030 World Expo.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman has been at the forefront of the kingdom’s efforts to host the Expo, which would be the latest in a line of events to be hosted by the kingdom despite concern over its rights record. It is set to host the 2034 football World Cup after emerging as the only bidder for the event.

But Rome and Seoul have also not stinted in their efforts.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol was in the French capital only last week to make a final pitch for Busan’s bid, while Italy’s right-wing Premier Georgia Meloni has pressed Rome’s cause in Paris and elsewhere. — AFP

Climate change already reducing global GDP: report

CLIMATE change is already shaving billions off the world’s economy, with developing countries hardest hit, according to a new report published Tuesday ahead of COP28 climate negotiations.

The report by the University of Delaware estimated that impacts from human-caused climate change cut 6.3 per cent from global economic output last year, when weighted across populations.

The figures reflect both direct consequences of climate change — such as disruptions to agriculture and manufacturing, and reduced productivity from high heat — as well as spill-over impacts on global trade and investments.

“The world is trillions of dollars poorer because of climate change and most of that burden has fallen on poor countries,” said lead author James Rising of the University of Delaware.

“I hope that this information can clarify the challenges that many countries already face today and the support they urgently need to address them,” he added.

When calculated without taking into account impacts

borne by the average person, the global GDP loss was 1.8 per cent of GDP — or about \$1.5 trillion dollars — in 2022.

“The difference between those two numbers reflects the uneven distribution of impacts, which concentrate in low-income countries and tropical regions that typically have more population and less GDP,” the authors said in a statement.

Least developed countries experienced higher popula-

tion-weighted GDP loss of 8.3 per cent, with Southeast Asia and Southern Africa particularly affected — losing 14.1 per cent and 11.2 per cent of their GDP respectively.

On the other hand, some developed countries benefited. Thanks to warmer winters Europe saw a nearly five per cent net gain in GDP last year.

But such gains are “poised to erode” as hotter summers offset milder winters, warns the report. — AFP



(FILES) This aerial view shows a flooded area in Dolow following devastating floods on 25 November 2023. State-of-the-art climate models drastically underestimate how much extreme rainfall increases under global warming, according to a study published on 27 November 2023 that signals a future of more frequent catastrophic floods unless humanity curbs greenhouse emissions. **PHOTO: AFP**

EasyJet returns to profit but warns of Gaza war impact

BRITISH no-frills airline EasyJet on Tuesday announced its first annual profit since the outbreak of the Covid pandemic but warned that the Israel-Hamas war will impact its winter results.

Profit after tax stood at £324 million (\$409 million) in the 12 months to the end of September on higher demand and increased fares, EasyJet said in a statement.

That compared with a loss after tax of £169 million in its 2021/22 financial year.

EasyJet chief executive Johan Lundgren

gave an upbeat outlook, even if the group saw a negative impact from the Israel-Hamas war.

“We see a positive outlook for this year with airline and holidays bookings both ahead year on year,” he said in the statement.

Lundgren said “consumer research highlights that around three quarters of Britons plan to spend more on their holidays versus last year with travel continuing to be the top priority for household discretionary spending”.

— AFP

China’s cross-border e-commerce thrives, delivering global dividends

CHINA’S cross-border e-commerce has seen robust growth in recent years, injecting fresh impetus into the country’s foreign trade and delivering global dividends.

“The development of China’s cross-border e-commerce has always adhered to an innovation-driven development strategy,” said Xiao Lu, an official with the Ministry of Commerce, noting that the country has deepened its international cooperation in the sector.

Xiao made the remarks while delivering a speech at the second Global Digital Trade Expo (GDTE) in Hangzhou, the



capital city of east China’s Zhejiang Province. Over 800 enterprises were invited to attend this recently concluded expo, where cutting-edge prod-

ucts and services were showcased, and discussions revolved around hot topics related to global digital trade.

From January to September, the scale of cross-border e-commerce imports and exports totalled 1.7 trillion yuan (about 239 billion US dollars), a year-on-year expansion of 14.4 per cent and accounting for 5.5 per cent of the goods trade volume during the period.

Over the past five years, the share of cross-border e-commerce in China’s foreign trade has risen from less than one per cent to about five per cent.

The expo has provided a platform that can expedite the country’s inbound and outbound cross-border e-commerce. — Xinhua

Business receipts of Singapore’s services industries grow 3.2% in Q3



A container vessel docks at the Pasir Panjang port terminal in Singapore on 30 August 2023. PHOTO: AFP

OVERALL business receipts of Singapore’s services industries (excluding Wholesale Trade, Retail Trade, Accommodation and Food Services) increased 3.2 per cent in the third quarter of 2023 from a year ago, according to Singapore’s Department of Statistics (DOS).

All industries except the Transportation & Storage and Administrative & Support Services industries registered higher business receipts year on year, said the Business Receipts Index released by the DOS on Monday. On a quarter-on-quarter basis, overall business receipts (non-seasonally adjusted) increased 1.9 per cent in the third quarter of 2023. All industries except the Transportation & Storage and Professional Services industries registered higher business receipts. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (058N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (058N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-11-2023** 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:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V NEGAR VOY.NO. (SCY1161)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NEGAR VOY.NO. (SCY1161)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-11-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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 LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS SDN BHD LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (209N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (209N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-11-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (161N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (161N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-11-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

World leaders must break deadly cycle of global warming at COP28 climate conference, warns UN chief



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks to the press outside the Security Council Chamber at the UN headquarters in New York on 27 November 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres emphasized on Monday that world leaders attending the COP28 climate conference this week need to interrupt the perilous progression of global warming before a “critical tipping point” is encountered.

The UN chief was briefing reporters at the UN headquarters in New York after seeing for himself over the weekend the “profoundly shocking” speed at which ice is melting in Antarctica – three times faster than the rate in the early 1990s.

COP28, which refers to the

28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, is scheduled to be held in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, from 30 November to 12 December.

Recent data shows that the current extent of sea ice at the South Pole is 1.5 million square kilometres less than the average for this season, an area equivalent to the total combined landmass of Portugal, Spain, France, and Germany.

“What happens in Antarctica doesn’t stay in Antarctica,” Guterres said. “We live in an

interconnected world. Melting sea ice means rising seas. And that directly endangers lives and livelihoods in coastal communities across the globe.”

He pointed out that the consequences extend beyond the impact of floods and salt-water intrusion on food and water resources, affecting the sustainability of small islands and numerous coastal cities around the globe.

“The movement of waters around Antarctica distributes heat, nutrients and carbon around the world, helping to regulate our climate and regional weather patterns,” he told correspondents outside the UN Security Council.

“But that system is slowing as the southern Ocean grows warmer and less dense. Further slowdown — or entire breakdown — would spell catastrophe.”

With no let-up in fossil fuel extraction “we’re heading towards a calamitous three-degree Celsius temperature rise by the end of the century,” he warned. “If we continue as we are, and I strongly hope we will not, the Greenland and West Antarctica ice sheets will cross a deadly tipping point,” he said. — Xinhua

Australia to ban vape imports over child addiction concerns

AUSTRALIA will ban imports of disposable vapes from 1 January, the government said Tuesday, slamming the devices as recreational products addicting children.

The block on single-use vapes is aimed at reversing a “disturbing” increase in vaping among young people, Health Minister Mark Butler said.

Australia first revealed the import ban in May but had not given a start date until now.

Vaping had been sold to governments as a tool to help long-term smokers quit, Butler

said. “It was not sold as a recreational product, especially not one targeted to our kids, but that is what it has become,” the minister said.

“The great majority of vapes contain nicotine, and children are becoming addicted.”

About one in seven children aged 14-17 uses vapes, the government said in a statement.

It cited “consistent evidence” that young Australians who vape are about three times more likely to take up tobacco smoking.

Legislation will also be introduced in 2024 to outlaw the manufacture, advertising or supply of disposable vapes in Australia, the government said.

The import ban was hailed by the Australian Medical Association.

“Australia has been a world leader in reducing smoking rates and the subsequent health harms, so the government’s decisive action to stop vaping in its tracks and prevent further harm is very welcome,” said association president Steve Robson. — AFP

BRI brings strengthened connectivity for common development, prosperity

CHINA’S Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has marched forward a decade since its unveiling and has continued growing in scope and scale, bringing better connectivity for common development and prosperity, experts have said at an international forum here.

In his opening remarks at the International Forum on New Inclusive Asia (IFNIA) 2023 on Monday, Ong Tee Keat, president of the Belt and Road Initiative Caucus for Asia Pacific sang high

praise for the solid achievements made by the BRI over the past decade.

Since it was proposed in 2013, the BRI has grown to include over 3,000 projects in 152 countries and regions and is a game changer in transforming the economic competitiveness of its partnering countries, with a 2019 World Bank study reporting that the BRI is expected to add real income gains of between 1.2 and 3.4 per cent for participating nations, Ong said. — Xinhua

Japan OKs 1st home-grown COVID shots tailored for Omicron subvariant

JAPAN’S health ministry on Tuesday approved the manufacture and sale of a coronavirus vaccine made by Daiichi Sankyo Co that targets an Omicron subvariant, paving the way for the first domestically produced COVID-19 shots to be used across the country.

The vaccine, which will be sold under the name Daichirona and tailored for the Omicron XBB.1.5 subvariant, is expected to be supplied to local governments from early December and will be offered free of charge. The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has agreed to purchase 1.4 million doses of the vaccine.

The newly approved vaccine

utilizes messenger RNA technology akin to those produced by US companies Pfizer Inc and Moderna Inc and will be used as a booster for individuals aged 12 and older.

The Japanese drug maker’s earlier version of COVID vaccine, which targeted the strains that spread during the initial stages of the pandemic, was approved in August but was not rolled out.

Since the spread of the novel coronavirus in early 2020, Japan has primarily relied on Pfizer and Moderna’s vaccines, while the development of domestically produced vaccines has largely fallen behind US and European countries. — Kyodo



A man is vaccinated against the Omicron variant of the novel coronavirus at a facility in Tokyo on 20 September 2022. PHOTO: KYODO

SPORTS



The Shan United team (white) seen competing against Macarthur FC in the previous international match. PHOTO: THAW GYI

Shan United to take on Macarthur FC in AFC Cup Week 5

REPRESENTING Myanmar, Shan United will play against Macarthur FC in Week 5 of the ASEAN Zone AFC Cup Championship for the 2023-2024 season at BG Stadium in Thailand on 30 November.

While Shan United have no hope of advancing to the next round, Macarthur FC needs a must-win to move to the next round. After four games, the

Shan United team had one point, and the Macarthur FC team had nine points. Shan United lost their first-leg match against Macarthur FC by three goals at home.

Shan United is playing the remaining matches of the AFC Cup group during the Myanmar National League, a domestic league competition. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Sabalenka to play Brisbane in warm-up for Australian Open defence



Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka returns the ball to Poland's Iga Swiatek during their women's singles semifinal tennis match at the WTA Finals Championship in Cancun, Mexico, on 5 November 2023. PHOTO: AFP

ARYNA Sabalenka will launch preparations for the defence of her Australian Open crown by playing at the Brisbane International, organizers said on Tuesday.

Elena Rybakina — beaten by Sabalenka in the final in Melbourne at the start of this year — will also play at the 31 December -7 January Brisbane event.

Four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka was already named in the field as she returns to tennis.

"I'm excited about starting my 2024 Australian season in Brisbane," world number two

Sabalenka said in a statement released by organizers.

"Australia holds a special place in my heart after winning my first Grand Slam there".

Tournament director Cam Pearson said he was looking forward to welcoming the Belarusian Sabalenka and Moscow-born Kazakh Rybakina, who is fourth in the world. "We all remember the exciting Australian Open final the girls played at the start of the year," he told a news conference. "That has really kicked off what is a pretty exciting rivalry between the two players". — AFP

Fernandes undaunted as Man Utd prepare for Galatasaray test

BRUNO Fernandes says he is relishing the prospect of playing in a hostile atmosphere at Galatasaray this week as Manchester United seek to keep their slim Champions League hopes alive.

Erik ten Hag's side appear unlikely to reach the knockout stages after defeats in three of their four Group A matches left them rooted at the bottom of the table. The three-time European champions have lost away to Bayern Munich and Copenhagen and at home to Galatasaray, meaning another defeat in Istanbul on Wednesday would end their Champions League dreams with a match to spare.

But United captain

Fernandes said the players were confident they could turn things around, with Wednesday's match at Galatasaray followed by a home game against already-qualified Bayern.

"We know that's going to be tough, it's going to be difficult but we have to think that we can do it because we have done it in the past in difficult situations," he said.

"We get through some difficult periods, so we just have to do it again".

United beat Everton 3-0 on Sunday for their fifth league victory in six games, leaving them sixth in the table despite a poor start to the season.

"Obviously sometimes you don't get the results you want but we feel confident because we have confidence in the team we have, in the players we have, in the process we are (going) through," said Fernandes.

"We know that it's already the second year with this manager, so some of the things have to be better and we have to improve that on the road to win games".

United lost 3-2 to Galatasaray in the reverse fixture at Old Trafford last month and now face one of the most intimidating atmospheres in Europe — something Fernandes believes will help him rather than hinder him. — AFP



Manchester United's Portuguese midfielder (8) Bruno Fernandes reacts after the UEFA Champions league group A football match between Manchester United and Galatasaray at Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, north west England, on 3 October 2023. PHOTO: AFP

World leaders must break deadly cycle of global warming at COP28 climate conference, warns UN chief

PAGE-14



WORLD

Israel, Hamas agree to extend truce, more intl mediation in place

WITH the four-day truce expiring on Tuesday, Israel and Hamas have agreed to extend the pause by two days, said a Qatari foreign ministry spokesperson on Monday.

“The State of Qatar announces, as part of the ongoing mediation, an agreement has been reached to extend the humanitarian pause for an additional two days in the Gaza Strip,” the spokesperson said on X, formerly Twitter.

Deeming the extension as “a glimpse of hope and humanity in the middle of the darkness of war,” UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, “I strongly hope that these will enable us to increase even more the humanitarian aid to the people in Gaza that (are) suffering so much”.

On Monday, the last day of the Israel-Hamas truce, Israel confirmed that Hamas released another 11 captives in the Gaza Strip, while 33 Palestinians released by Israel arrived early Tuesday in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Israel Defence Forces (IDF) special forces and Israel Security Agency (ISA) forces are currently accompanying 11 released hostages in Israeli territory,



This handout picture released by the Israeli army shows a former Israeli hostage reunited with a family member following her release by Hamas from the Gaza Strip, at the Sourasky Medical Centre in Tel Aviv early on 28 November 2023. **PHOTO: ISRAELI ARMY / AFP**

the statement read. “After they undergo an initial medical assessment, our forces will escort them until they are

reunited with their families.”

They were released 52 days after being taken hostage by Hamas militants

in their deadly attack on southern Israel on 7 October. Of the about 240 hostages captured by Hamas, less than one-third have been released so far, according to IDF figures.

Under the original four-day truce deal, Hamas will release 50 Israelis in exchange for some 150 Palestinians from Israel. The humanitarian pause in the Gaza Strip entails a cessation of hostilities and an increased flow of aid trucks carrying relief supplies and fuel through the Rafah crossing.

Hamas said in a statement to Xinhua that the extension of the truce will be carried out “under the same conditions as listed in the previous cease-fire deal.”

Over the weeks since the Israel-Hamas fighting began, Qatar has played a crucial role in facilitating the truce, while more international efforts of mediation are coming soon.

As the rotating president of the UN Security Council for November, China will hold a Security Council high-level meeting on the Palestinian-Israeli issue on Wednesday. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will travel to New York to chair the meeting. — Xinhua

Nagasaki survivor urges nuke weapons abolition at UN treaty confab

AN 83-year-old survivor of the US atomic bombing of Japan’s Nagasaki called Monday for the

elimination of nuclear weapons in his speech at the onset of a five-day UN meeting in

New York.

“We’re faced with a growing risk of nuclear war” and the dev-

astation in Ukraine and the Gaza Strip is reminiscent of the suffering caused by the 1945 atomic bomb attacks, Sueichi Kido told a session of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The treaty, which took effect in January 2021, had 69 countries and territories as members as of early November. But the parties do not include countries that possess nuclear weapons. Japan, the only country to have been attacked with atomic bombs, is not part of the treaty and did not send a representative to the first meeting of the its parties last year in Vienna as well as the ongoing second meeting. Kido, secretary-general of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations, also said a nuclear war would only leave a world of death. — Kyodo

Public security authority vows tough crackdown on cyber violence

CHINA’S Ministry of Public Security on Tuesday made public a number of typical criminal cases involving cyber violence on the backdrop of frequent occurrence of such cases in recent years.

In one such case, while within the probation period for suspension of sentence, a culprit surnamed Zhang, in an attempt to continue to manipulate the victim, illegally obtained the victim’s private information through locators and wiretaps, hired online spammers to spread the victim’s intimate videos and photos, and fabricated report letters to the victim’s employer, resulting in the victim suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. — Xinhua



Sueichi Kido (C) delivers a speech at a session of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in New York on 27 November 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**