

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing vows vigilant efforts against insurgents



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the State Administration Council meeting 6/2023 in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 November 2023.

TATMADAW, responsible for the State defence duty, will emphasize combatting insurgents, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The Senior General delivered a speech at the State Administration Council meeting 6/2023 at the SAC Chairman's Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Senior General continued that Tatmadaw members are striving for peace and stability in the region, perpetuation of sovereignty, and prevention of loss of property of the people with might, mainly in cooperation with members of the Myanmar Police Force.

With regard to administrative measures and ethnic armed organi-

“Tatmadaw members are striving for peace and stability in the region, perpetuation of sovereignty, and prevention of loss of property of the people with might, mainly in cooperation with members of the Myanmar Police Force.”

zation measures, KIA signed a ceasefire agreement on 24 February 1994. According to the accord, areas were set for its four brigades and 84 bases. Later, KIA committed drug trafficking

and illegal export of underground and aboveground natural resources to other countries with the reason of the peace process and then extended its strength. Moreover, arms and ammunition facto-

ries were built in Laiza and Laisin posts and developed their strength.

According to the political situation in 2021, the youths with extreme attitudes from Sagaing and Magway regions underwent military training at KIA camps and formed units. They were equipped with arms and ammunition by the newly-formed KIA Brigade 8. KIA cooperates with PDF terrorists who are committing terror acts in Sagaing and Magway regions till today. In the Kokang region of Northern Shan State, at a time when Tatmadaw clashes with MNDAA and allies, KIA attacked a minor camp of the Tatmadaw in Kachin State. So, the Tatmadaw responded to it.

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Magway Region welcomes 1.5-mln visitors in 10 months

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Token system to resume for Myanmar nationals in Thailand for renewing passports

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NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification No 51/2023

2nd Waning of Tazaungmone 1385 ME
29 November 2023

Allowing 88 Generation Student Youths
(Union of Myanmar) Party to be registered as
political party

AS of 29 November 2023, the 88 Generation Student
Youths (Union of Myanmar) Party, with its headquar-
ters located at Building No 10, Room No 002, Shweh-
ninzi Street, Shwelinpan affordable housing block 1,
Hlinethaya (East) Township, Insein District, Yangon
Region, has been allowed to register under Section 9
of the Political Parties Registration Law.

The registration number of the 88 Generation
Student Youths (Union of Myanmar) Party is 44.

Sd/ Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification No 52/2023

2nd Waning of Tazaungmone 1385 ME
29 November 2023

Allowing Union of Myanmar Federation of
National Politics Party to be registered as
political party

AS of 29 November 2023, The Union of Myanmar
Federation of National Politics Party, with its head-
quarters located at No 45, Pahtoegy Road, Sagataung
Ward, Santaw Quarter, Pyay, Pyay District, Bago
Region, has been allowed to register under Section 9
of the Political Parties Registration Law.

The registration number of the Union of Myanmar
Federation of National Politics Party is 45.

Sd/ Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Myanmar Gazette

Head of Service Organization appointed

THE State Administration Council has appointed
U Aung Thwin Oo, Deputy Director-General of the
Department of Consumer Affairs under the Ministry
of Commerce, as Director-General of the Union
Minister's Office of the same ministry on probation
from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Chinese tourists invited for FAM trip in Myanmar next year



File photo shows travellers queuing with their luggage in
front of a conveyor at Yangon International Airport.

Magway Region welcomes 1.5-mln visitors in 10 months



Pagodas in Magway Region including Myathalun and Mann Shwesettaw pagodas draw large crowds of pilgrims during
the Buddha Pujaniya Festivals.



BETWEEN January and October,
Magway Region received nearly
1.5 million visitors, including both
foreign and domestic tourists, ac-
cording to U Myint Sein, the director
of the region Directorate of Hotels
and Tourism.

"During the Thadingyut Festi-
val in October alone, Magway wel-
comed 0.87 million visitors – the
highest number this year. Most of
them were pilgrims, drawn to the

major attractions of the Myathalun
Pagoda and the Mann Shwesettaw
Pagoda," explained the director.

The Myathalun Pagoda Festival
was splendidly organized during
the Thadingyut Festival this year,
attracting pilgrims nationwide. The
number of visitors in October in-
creased by 37 per cent compared
to the same period last year.

In addition, a familiarization
trip (Fam Trip) to Magway was ar-

ranged for four holidaymakers from
Thailand, and the Yangon-Mag-
way-Minbu-Minhla-Yenangyoung
route gained popularity both locally
and internationally.

The region boasts a rich cultur-
al and natural heritage, and efforts
are underway to develop a sports
tourism project for cyclists in the
sandy valley of the Gyatkya area in
Yenangyoung to attract more visi-
tors. — ASH/NT

THE Ministry of Hotels
and Tourism said they will
invite Chinese tourists to
enjoy FAM Trip to Yangon,
Bagan and Mandalay des-
tinations in January 2024.

"To attract more Chi-
nese tourists, the ministry
organizes the FAM Trip for
Chinese media, influenc-
ers, bloggers and tourism
agents. It also intends to
express normal accessi-
bility to Yangon, Bagan and
Mandalay tourist destina-
tions. We invite the tourism
companies that work for
Myanmar tours in Yunnan
Province, as well as influ-
encers and media officials
from private and govern-
ment broadcasters. There
might be about 40 people
for the FAM Trip, and they
are expected to arrive in
January," said a ministry

official.

An invitation pro-
gramme (FAM Trip) for
Russian tourists was
launched with 30 tourists
to 14 destinations to devel-
op the tourism market in
Myanmar. Those 14 tour-
ist destinations comprised
Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Man-
dalay, Bagan, Ngwehsaung,
Chaungtha, Ngapali,
PyinOoLwin, Inlay, Kal-
aw-Taunggyi, Kawthoung,
Kyaukpyu, Manaung and
Putao. Similarly, the Fam
Trip for four Thai tourists
was organized. The Fam
Trip was made for the Yan-
gon-Magway-Minbu-Min-
hla-Yenangyoung areas.
As a result, the new tour
package has become bet-
ter known in Thai and do-
mestic tourism markets.
— ASH/KTZH



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Moreover, KIA and PDF terrorists, as well as AA group, launched fire at Htigyaing, Kanbalu, Kawlin, Tamu and Khampat in Sagaig Region and Haka and Lailinpi in Chin State. People's militia troops joined hands with Tatmadaw against them, and local people sent information about terrorists to Tatmadaw to effectively conduct counterattacks.

Likewise, UWSA returned to the legal fold in 1989 to restore peace. The government set Wa region as Special Region 2. As the region was insufficient in food, the government provided the necessary rice to the Wa region. UWSA has restored peace for more than 30 years. The government emphasized the development of the Wa region as a special issue. Since the last decade, the Wa region has been experiencing remarkable growth. It can be seen as a modern city. On the other hand, the region produced its own arms on a broader scale, but they did not clash with Tatmadaw.

In 2019, when Laukkai's unrest happened, Pheung Kya-shin and his followers ran away to Mongla where his son-in-law resides. Some of his followers went to other countries and regions. At present, a group led by Pheung Tah-shwin, son of Pheung Kya-shin, organized remnant groups of MNDAA and Kokang groups in an attempt to renew the special region. Last month, TNLA, KIA, AA and other Kokang groups and foreign drone experts attacked security posts of Tatmadaw in the Kokang region of northern Shan State. The group led by Pheung Tah-shwin attacked Tatmadaw security posts in 2015. Likewise, they launched attacks on Monekoe, Phaungseng, Kyukok, and the 105th-mile trade camp in 2016. In 2017, they attacked the Yanlonkeng checkpoint in an attempt to seize power. TNLA also attacked Nawngkhio and Hsenwi on the Mandalay-Lashio-Hsenwi Road as well as Lashio. Primarily, they use drones and drop bombs. Now, they target their attacks on Muse. TNLA attempts to interrupt the Mandalay-Lashio Road and close Hsenwi from the Lashio-Muse-Chinshwehaw Road. Likewise, TNLA joined MNDAA in some incidents.

TNLA group was formed at Laiza with the assistance of KIA in 2009. It entered the northern Shan State in 2011. It set an aim to secure the Palaung region. In 2016, it clashed with Tatmadaw at the trade zone. In 2018, TNLA attacked people's militia and security posts in Muse. In December 2022, as TNLA provided arms and ammunition to PDF terrorists

in Sagaing Region, Tatmadaw attacked it and seized arms and ammunition as well as related accessories.

In reviewing incidents which happened in the northeast area of Shan State, excessive strengths and technologies were deployed, and military drones were used to drop bombs in attacks. They have so far used more than 25,000 drop bombs and carried out attacks with the use of some 120 107mm rockets.

The government carries out security duties for the regions, peace and stability through collaborative efforts

sons were transferred to China until 28 November. A total of 3,738 were arrested and handed over to China. A total of 37,936 persons left Myanmar under their arrangements. So, those illegal foreigners totalled 43,709, and some persons remain.

AA group was established in the KIA area in 2009 and then moved to Rakhine State in 2015. In December 2015, AA forcibly recruited new members from local people in Kyauktaw Township and built units. Hence, Tatmadaw removed them from the areas. In 2009, AA attacked the border outposts

will, the work process has been done to complete the rehabilitation accounting for 99 per cent in Rakhine State. However, AA group was not loyal and violated the temporary ceasefire agreement. It participated in the incidents of MNDAA. Recently, AA group attacked two security outposts in the Paletwa region and Pauktaw. It also attacked some police stations with excessive strength. These areas are now under control due to brave counterattacks by security forces. AA group faced many casualties as well as security forces sustained some casualties. AA group abducted administrative body members and service personnel in some regions and took some drivers. So, people from Rakhine State need to fully cooperate with the security forces to ensure peace and stability of Rakhine State with a patriotic spirit.

Starting on 11 November, KNPP/KNDF group attacked Loikaw of Kayah State with excessive strength. Due to information from the people who dislike terror acts, some groups were annihilated. It was seen that they made good preparations for attacks with strength, arms and ammunition. Before the clashes, they collected arms and munitions for Kayah State. An item of information was released that 500 arms and ammunition were seized in Hopong Township on 17 December 2022. Likewise, 130 assorted arms, more than 13,000 rounds of ammunition, more than 7,600 grenades, 500 barrels for small arms and other munitions were seized on 16 November.

According to the confession of those arrested in the incident, these arms and ammunition came via the SSPP/SSA area, which moves in the Mongkai area. These arms and ammunition were trafficked by vehicles under the escort of those wearing PNO uniforms. Arms and ammunition were transported to Kayah State through various ways and means. The cases were exposed, and offenders were arrested. So, these hindered terror acts of KNPP/KNDF and PDF terrorists to some extent. At present, the Loikaw region is under control.

He continued that KNU group has not had huge fights for a long time. There were peace talks during the term of former president U Thein Sein, and the regional development activities were conducted to a certain extent by the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department with the collaboration of foreign organizations after signing the NCA.

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“Senior military officers were assigned to relevant townships to take rehabilitation tasks with the aim of ensuring better development than the original conditions with farsightedness. The majority of the State budget was spent on rehabilitation. Upholding the goodwill, the work process has been done to complete the rehabilitation accounting for 99 per cent in Rakhine State.”

of Tatmadaw and the police force due to unrest and terror acts which have been happening in 2021. So, military operations were conducted with special restraint. In some areas, security forces are deployed depending on the security situation. MNDAA and allies attack these areas with the use of drop bombs and excessive strength. As such, some posts were abandoned to avoid the danger to the lives of families. As these areas are located at the border, all measures are controlled so as not to cause misunderstandings with other countries, and these were conducted not to harm innocent people.

The current complication in the Laukkai region of Shan State (North) was triggered by online gambling. Drug trafficking and gambling have been there for many years. In the time when Covid-19 broke out, transport was delayed, and so online gambling boomed. Skilled persons and supporting staff were recruited for their online gambling businesses. So, illegal foreigners flowed into the Laukkai region. Among illegal foreigners exposed, 2,035 per-

and abducted 118 students learning in Paletwa Township. Consequently, Tatmadaw responded to it. From then on, Tatmadaw and AA have been meeting in engagements. On 1 March 2021, both sides ceased fire under the negotiation of the Nippon Foundation, and the government lifted the declaration over AA group from the terrorist group. Then, AA group has been committing recruitment, kidnapping, interfering in administrative measures, and expanding their military buildings. So, Tatmadaw warned AA group several times not to do so. In the time when Storm Mocha came in, Rakhine State faced terrible loss and damage, with some casualties. The Senior General recounted that he went to the storm-hit areas and emphasized rehabilitation measures with might and main. Senior military officers were assigned to relevant townships to take rehabilitation tasks with the aim of ensuring better development than the original conditions with farsightedness. The majority of the State budget was spent on rehabilitation. Upholding the good-

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However, there were inevitable tensions regarding political changes in 2021. Then, Chairman Saw Mu Tuu Say Phoe was removed at the 17th Congress of KNU, and Padoh Kwe Htoo Win became Chairman. Then, the KNLA Brigades 5 and 6 did not abide by the NCA and launched attacks on the small bases of Tatmadaw in Myawady and Kawkareik townships. On 24 November, the KNLA Brigade 5 raided the Tatmadaw base, and Brigade 6 exploded the Chaunghnit-khwa Bridge in Kyaikmaraw Township on 27 November.

Their doings showed that the ethnic armed groups gather their force secretly with the reason of peace, produce arms, ammunition and magazines, give terrorist training to PDFs and sell weapons to them, and are still exploiting the peace.

The Senior General said, "Our country is leading to a multiparty democratic system. Tatmadaw develops the multiparty democracy that the people aspire to. Tatmadaw led the activities to establish the multiparty democratic system, and it is not that Tatmadaw approves of that system only now. If we look at the announcements made by the State Peace and Development Council after 1988, they all are made to represent Tatmadaw. Since then, we have said to go forward to multiparty democracy. Then, we drafted the Constitution that fully supported the multiparty democracy and kept going as per the Constitution.

Meanwhile, we made a pathway to the election and organized three general elections in 2010, 2015 and 2020. Although there were specific problems in the 2010 and 2015 elections, there was no considerable case. However, voting fraud emerged in the 2020 election. Then, we have to declare the State of Emergency in accordance with the 2008 Constitution and set a five-point roadmap, as there were attempts to grab the power forcibly with illegal voting results. Therefore, Tatmadaw leads the way to the multiparty democratic system and assures that Tatmadaw will keep leading the way to a firm multiparty democratic system. We also pledge that Tatmadaw is on the same side as the people who



Tatmadaw leads the way to the multiparty democratic system and assures that Tatmadaw will keep leading the way to a firm multiparty democratic system. We also pledge that Tatmadaw is on the same side as the people who want a multiparty democratic system. Moreover, Tatmadaw will also carry out to achieve firm multi-party democratic system in nation-building sector."



want a multiparty democratic system. Moreover, Tatmadaw will also carry out to achieve firm multiparty democratic system in nation-building sector."

He then talked about the attacks of insurgents on Loikaw University, the arrest of faculty members, staff and family members, including the rector, systematic security measures of the Security Force amid the attacks in Loikaw township, including the Prison Department, an announcement to release the arrested education staff and students as such abduction breaks the facts in Geneva Convention, the release of education staff, students and families by KNPP and PDF terrorists due to the encouragement of locals and religious organizations that want peace, 11 arrestees to be released out of 204, enormous losses to the students and parents due to the postponement of examination of the University of Distance Education at Loikaw University and socioeconomic status of locals in the attack of KNPP and PDFs, closure of Technological University, University of Computer Studies and Education Degree College in Loikaw and Haka University,

He also highlighted the lower numbers of students in the universities in unstable regions. Although the universities were reopened on 23 November, it is necessary to guarantee the safety

of teachers and make efforts to reopen the basic education schools.

Furthermore, the Senior General said regarding fuel and edible oils: "We've penalized eight companies for significantly overpricing fuel oils and others that charged more than reasonable price margins. The same actions were taken in the case of edible oils. We've identified and taken action against the government officials responsible for this matter, including the two members of the State Administration Council."

He continued discussing the status of improving commodity production and cautioned about the proliferation of false news online, emphasizing that it aimed to mislead the public. "It's imperative for relevant officials and organizations to counteract this misinformation and ensure the truth reaches the people."

The council members presented some pressing matters, including ethnic armed organizations' mining and smuggling of jade and other minerals in Kachin State, the necessity to provide food and healthcare for displaced people in Kayah State, the need to inform the public about the actions of certain EAOs and self-proclaimed PDF terrorists, and powerful western countries' interference in Myanmar's internal affairs.

The SAC Joint Secretary also provided a comprehensive report on the state's

law and order status in 2023. Following this, the SAC Vice-Chairman and Deputy Prime Minister called for a collaborative approach to tackle armed violence and combat the spread of misinformation.

In conclusion, SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addressed concerns about the impact of fake news on bank depositors, noting that while some had withdrawn funds due to misinformation, the situation has since been stabilized. He highlighted the bolstered security measures in both private and state banks while acknowledging the involvement of certain bank staff in past malicious activities.

Moreover, the Senior General pointed out that the self-proclaimed PDF terrorists had been targeting banks as an easy source of funds. The most recent incident involved a private bank in Kawlin where PDF terrorists reportedly intimidated the staff and looted over K40 billion. Thus, police have been stationed at private banks, and Tatmadaw troops are stationed at more important banks for security.

Concerning education, the Senior General emphasized that Shan State (East), Kayah State, and Chin State face significant challenges. Ongoing conflicts have resulted in the closure of universities in Kayah and Chin, exacerbating the educational vulnerability in these regions.

He stressed that some individuals wanted to seize power through armed struggle and the need to rectify such a mindset, underscoring the crucial role of an educated population in upholding a multiparty democracy. He reassured that Tatmadaw would lead the way to a multiparty democracy as people desired and reaffirmed the objective of ensuring a strong, disciplined and authentic multiparty democratic system and fostering a Union founded upon democratic and federal system.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe, Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, council members and officials. — MNA/TTA+K-TZH+NT

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NATIONAL



Member of the SAC, DPM and Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San receives Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Vinay Kumar yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

DPM MoD UM receives Indian Ambassador

MEMBER of the State Administration Council, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San received Ambassador of India to Myanmar Mr Vinay Kumar yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The two sides transparently exchanged views on conditions that could continue to increase defence cooperation between Myanmar and India, security cooperation in the border region and training between the two armies. — MNA/TS

Indian Ambassador calls on DPM MoFA Union Minister

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received Mr Vinay Kumar, Ambassador of India to Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They cordially exchanged views on the further enhancement of existing traditional bonds of friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries and closer collaboration for maintaining peace and stability, the rule of law and the development of the border areas between Myanmar and India. — MNA



DPM and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe receives Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Vinay Kumar yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Counter-argument to false information

False report on arrest of civilians in Myeik, Dawei townships

FAKE news and misinformation have emerged on social media that Security Force members arrested the civilians in Myeik and Dawei townships of Taninthayi Region, and they stopped about 30 locals (male) on Sawmnyo road in Kyatsarpyin Ward of Dawei Township and at Customs Jetty on 26 November night.

An official claimed that it was just fabricated news items, and the members of the Security Forces did not take any security measures there on 26 November.

Therefore, the malicious media intentionally spread false information to affect peace and stability and cause misunderstanding against service personnel serving their assigned duties so that residents can live peacefully. — MNA/KTZH



Screenshot validates a fabricated story.

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 262 illegal immigrants, comprising 211 males and 51 females, were repatriated to China through Chinese officials yesterday. Therefore, a total of 10,170 illegal immigrants, including 9,034 males and 1,136 females, were repatriated to China from 31 October to 29 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

DVB accused of spreading falsehoods on 12 deaths in Rakhine State

ANTI-GOVERNMENT media DVB has spread fake news, quoting the AAPP record and research division, that a total of 12 residents – four females and eight males – have died between 1 and 29 November due to the attacks of Tatmadaw in Rakhine State.

Malicious media outlets create misinformation in various sectors, leading to instability and unrest in the country and causing disintegration between the people and Tatmadaw and misconceptions about Tatmadaw internationally.

Tatmadaw abides by the rules of engagement (ROE) in launching counter-terrorism operations to ensure State stability and the rule of law and to protect the people's lives.

The malicious media spread misinformation. Tatmadaw has never opened fire into the villages with heavy weapons, whereas the insurgents intentionally launch attacks in townships and villages with heavy weapons, resulting in casualties and injuries. — MNA/KTZH



Screenshot validates false claims.

Condition of El Nino during December 2023 to February 2024

Condition of El Nino during December 2023 to February 2024

- Issued at 29-11-2023**
- a. The Sea Surface Temperature (SST) over the Tropical Pacific Ocean near the Equator and atmosphere phenomena is strong condition. According to the Numerical Weather prediction models of the International Meteorological Agency, it is forecast to reach strong El Nino condition during December 2023 to January 2024. It is forecast that the El Nino condition may gradually decrease starting from February 2024.
 - b. Although the El Nino condition occurs in the Pacific Ocean, the effect of El Nino may cause generally extreme weather events such as irregular rainfall patterns, rising temperature, irregular storm formation and drought.
 - c. Therefore, it is advised to prepare in advance for all related sectors. El Nino Condition will be updated in time.

NATIONAL

Token system to resume for Myanmar nationals in Thailand for renewing passports

THE Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok has announced the reinstatement of the token system for Myanmar workers in Thailand seeking appointments to renew their passports.

PJ passports expiring on 31 December 2023 will undergo renewal, requiring PJ passport holders to visit the old Myanmar Embassy in person. They should bring their passports to obtain tokens for appointments.

This process is scheduled for between 8 am and 12 noon on Saturdays, starting from 2 December 2023.

The embassy emphasizes that individuals without a token for an appointment will not be accepted for passport renewal. — TWA/ TMT



Myanmar citizens queued at the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok last year to renew their passports.

Chinese potato price back in decline after record high



Harvested potatoes are seen in a field.

CHINESE potato price fell to K3,200 per viss on 29 November after hitting an all-time high of K4,200 per viss on 15 November.

It has been four months since the Bayintnaung Wholesale Commodity market revealed the prices of potatoes supplied by Shan State. A low supply of Chinese potatoes hiked up the price in mid-November from K1,700-1,800 per viss, as recorded on 19 October.

The steady inflow of Chinese potatoes these days scaled down the price. The wholesale market sees a daily entry of 50,000 visses of Chinese

potatoes.

Kyukok garlic and potatoes imported by China rose remarkably in late November compared to mid-October.

Local potatoes from the Sinphyukyun area are bound to flow into the Yangon market in early 2024. As per Potato Depot, the price will likely return to the average price level.

Potato chip businesses subsequently experience high production costs. The warehouses reported that discarding ripe potatoes and repackaging are barely witnessed this month. — TWA/KK

YCDC permits construction of 108 buildings

IN the second half of November, 108 construction permits were granted, and 36 building completion certificates were approved in the area under the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

Additionally, the applied list of 26 buildings for construction permits were sent to the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC). Five letters of recommendation for the construction of the buildings have been sent to the Fire Service Department, 17 documents to the Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation), three to the Urban Land Management Department, and one to the Engineering Department (Drainage Management).

When applying for building construction permits, landowners and licensed

contractors must include the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to communicate with the Electricity Corporation for access to electricity. Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation will invite licensed contractors to a meeting this week to install electricity meters in the buildings that have obtained the Building Completion Certificate (BCC). — TWA/TKO



A construction site permitted within the YCDC municipal area.

Myanmar sees slight decline in corn prices tracking FOB price dip

Corn prices in the domestic market witnessed a slight decline following falling FOB prices.

THE FOB prices are US\$255-275 per tonne of corn at present. The corn prices stand at K1,060-1,080 per viss in the domestic market, according to the Yangon Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Commodity Centre).

Myanmar exports corn to China and Thailand through the border and also ships corn to China, India, Vietnam and the Philippines through seaborne trade at present, according to the Myanmar Corn Association.

Thailand greenlit corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D) between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposes a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of



Corn seen being dried in the sunshine.

their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand. China has been purchasing Myanmar's corn through cross-border trade un-

der the opium substitution programme. Legitimate corn trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 Myanmar companies

have been permitted for corn exports. Therefore, the association stated that Myanmar will export 60,000 tonnes of corn that are produced as an alternate crop to

replace opium poppies in Shan State in October 2023.

Myanmar exported more than 2 million tonnes of corn in the 2022 corn season. Most of them were sent to Thailand, and the remaining went to China, India, the Philippines and VietNam.

More than two million tonnes of corn are expected to be shipped to foreign trade partners in the 2023 corn season, said U Min Khaing, chair of the Myanmar Corn Association.

The corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons- winter, summer and monsoon. The annual corn yield is estimated at 2.5-3 million tonnes. — NN/EM

Gold reference price set to soar at K3.2M per tical amidst spot gold price rally

THE spot gold price spiked at over US\$2,042 per ounce on 29 November, driving the reference price set by the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) up to over K3.2 million per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilogram) accordingly.

Pure gold market value hit a high of K3.65 million per tical in the grey market. There is a large gap of over K400,000 per tical between the YGEA's reference price and the unofficial market's rate.

The YGEA switched to the Central Bank of Myanmar's exchange rate (K2,100) 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 weighs the gap between the domestic gold market value and YGEA's reference gold price.

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

YGN palm oil wholesale reference price hits second-week high ending 3 Dec

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market was raised to K5,000 per viss for a week from 28 November to 3 December 2023, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The wholesale price was K4,990 per viss for the week ending 27 November. The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has closely observed the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the weekly wholesale market reference rate for edible oil.

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

To deal with the overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed the consumers of lodging the complaints for overcharging through the call centre's hotline in late August. The Department urged consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices. The Department is making concerted efforts to steer the high volatility in palm oil prices in the retail market and offer fairer prices to consumers in coordination with the Myanmar



The photo shows the edible oil shop in the market.

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

Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association formed a task force for edible oil price stability. It started informing the lists of wholesale/retail shops of each company on 28 August, including the address of the shops in the respective townships and the number of available barrels. The task force will govern the

market to meet the satisfaction of the end-users in the supply chain and get easy access to the consumers.

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

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

OPINION

Raise cooking oil production to have high sufficiency

WITH the arrival of the monsoon and the onset of the open season, the opportune moment has arrived to adapt crop cultivation practices to the prevailing climatic conditions. Shifting towards cold-season crops on croplands becomes imperative to yield new crops this season.

Emphasizing the importance of agriculture and livestock farming to meet local demands, Myanmar aligns its efforts with the inherent nature of its people — a continuous and boundless supply of agricultural and livestock products. Consequently, there is an ongoing need to intensify efforts to boost the annual production of crops and livestock.

Currently, escalating individual oil consumption has led to the annual importation of thousands of tonnes of edible oil. Myanmar, according to recent statistics, imported over 800,000 tonnes of

Myanmar's population also consumes oil crops such as groundnut and sesame in addition to cooking oil. Retaining these crops for domestic oil production instead of exporting them has the potential to elevate local oil sufficiency to an impressive 249.5 per cent annually. This shift could result in a significant reduction of approximately US\$600 million per year in cooking oil imports, underscoring the need for all farmers to intensify the cultivation of oil crops to meet the growing demand for local oil consumption.

lands, leaving no acreage vacant or unused. This expansion not only boosts local growers' incomes but also caters to consumer demand while reducing reliance on foreign imports of cooking oil, thereby saving foreign exchange expenditures. Additionally, oil crops, integral to the agriculture sector, contribute to an increase in per-acre yields, positively impacting the nation's GDP.

Myanmar's population also consumes oil crops such as groundnut and sesame in addition to cooking oil. Retaining these crops for domestic oil production instead of exporting them has the potential to elevate local oil sufficiency to an impressive 249.5 per cent annually. This shift could result in a significant reduction of approximately US\$600 million per year in cooking oil imports, underscoring the need for all farmers to intensify the cultivation of oil crops to meet the growing demand for local oil consumption.

SOME counselling seeks not only information and advice for people in need but also emotion from them. In this day and age, emotional quotient can matter more than intelligence quotient. This is because most problems in the modern world tend to arise not because of people's knowledge but because of their sudden strong emotions. Thus, many signs of higher emotional intelligence will be described comprehensively here. By Salovey and Mayer, emotional intelligence is defined as the ability to monitor one's own and others' feelings or emotions, to discriminate among them, and to use this information to guide one's thinking and actions. In light of their definition, Goleman expanded emotional intelligence into five basic emotional and social competencies: knowing one's emotions or self-awareness, managing emotions or self-regulation, motivating oneself or intrinsic motivation, recognizing emotions in others or empathy, and handling relationships or social skills. The signs of high emotional intelligence are celebrating small wins, thinking objectively, maintaining healthy relationships, being empathetic, becoming aware of our own emotions, setting boundaries, and bouncing back from setbacks in this article.

•Celebrating small wins

Some people, myself included, may find small wins childish to celebrate. Of course, small wins often contribute to big success

in the future. Such wins will very likely be the first step towards a great thing, too. As doing the same thing every day looks boring, we should alter our daily lives to a greater or lesser degree by such activities as throwing a birthday party, cooking something after exams, and buying snacks, books or clothes for self-reward. Never ever be ashamed of holding our little wins.

•Thinking objectively

To put it simply, thinking objectively is not thinking subjective



Both positive and negative emotions are presented as motivators that can drive individuals to overcome challenges associated with their respective effects. ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY

tively by which people favour their likes and egocentrism. Objective

Signs of High Emotional Intelligence

The essence of human existence encompasses the binary choices of life and death, the ongoing struggle for survival, the enduring hope inseparable from each breath, the inevitability of diverse life experiences, and the crucial role of resilience in successfully navigating challenges for sustained longevity.

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

also involves making critical and logical decisions. Thinking objectively usually offers self-reflection, self-acceptance, sympathy, empathy, equality, equity, peace, tranquillity, life satisfaction, and even happiness rather than ego-tism, ethic violations, criticism, conflicts, and regret.

•Maintaining healthy relationships

I do not think that a long-lasting relationship like friendship and loveship will crop up quite easily. This relationship is particularly founded on mutual understanding and respect. Needless to say, it is not difficult to break up the relationship just in the space of a few seconds. It would be better if a relationship that might be severed later on did not develop since the beginning. These days,

healthy relationships are extremely rare. Those relationships are, therefore, worth establishing, strengthening, forging, restoring, and cementing.

•Being empathetic

As far as we can see, people are living in different places under diverse circumstances, namely, parental influence, genetic influence, teacher influence, peer influence, positional influence and environmental influence. Hence, it cannot be expected that they will have similar thoughts, words, and behaviours even in the same situation. Whatever situation others encounter, we should not always think about it like 'If I were you...'. We will have to put ourselves in their shoes to some extent but on the bright side. To be empathetic calls for powers of endurance and

patience as well.

•Getting aware of our own emotions

It is generally assumed that emotion is a temporary mental state which cannot be controlled with our eyes shut. There are two types of emotion: 1) positive emotions – fulfilment, safety, comfort, joy, pleasure, etc. and negative emotions – grief, fear, envy, hatred, test anxiety, etc. Strangely enough, body shaming like calling 'fatty' and sexual harassment like denuding teasingly mean no emotion or neutral emotion, especially for boys, in which those being shamed or harassed feel very little or nothing about these cases. Nevertheless, we need to take good care of our own emotions mainly because those with anger mostly make mistakes, whatever they do. More importantly, both positive emotions and negative emotions should be a good drive to overcome their related undesirable effects.

•Setting boundaries

Hooke's Law states that as long as the elastic limit of a body is not exceeded, the strain is directly proportional to the stress causing it. Similarly, everybody must have the boundaries of anything, such as relatives, teacher-student relationships, and financial management. Beyond boundaries are full of backlogs, debts, difficulties, predicaments, and escapism so often. In actual fact, setting a boundary is not a mere restriction but a personal freedom in which someone

can do his utmost depending on the materials and energy of his.

•Bouncing back from setbacks

Actually, humans only have two great choices: life or death. To be able to live, one needs to struggle for survival chance. It should be believed that there is still our hope for living on so long as we are breathing in and out, at the very least. We humans will surely run into hard times, setbacks, failure, and success one day or another. We can bear up with nothing but these challenges for our longevity. We ought to bounce back or resurrect our lives pretty quickly without depression every time we are beset with heaps of setbacks.

Myself there are quite a few to say about emotional intelligence. Emotional intelligence has been observed to correlate significantly with extroversion, openness, and conscientiousness. Also, EI is negatively associated with alexithymia and alcohol consumption but positively with life satisfaction, social network size and quality. Senior managers with a high emotional intelligence employed in public sector organizations develop positive work attitudes, behaviour, and outcomes. This intelligence moderates the effect of work-family conflict on career commitment but not job satisfaction. Three approaches to measuring emotional intelligence have been used: self-report tests, reports made by others, and ability-based tests.

Study finds how to evaluate quality of global water models

Global water models serve as crucial tools for comprehending the water cycle, playing a pivotal role in elucidating the ramifications of climate change.

RESEARCHERS from IIASA contributed to a new multinational study that examined how well global water models agree with one another and with observational data.

The researchers can show where the models agree and where they disagree using a new evaluation method.

Global water models are essential tools for understanding the water cycle, including to help understand the impacts of climate change.

Changes in water extremes

Many of these impacts are felt in society as a result of changes in water extremes such as increased droughts and floods, which represent significant hazards to people and ecosystems.

However, there are changes in general water availability, such as soil moisture, which is vital for agriculture, or groundwater recharge, which is crucial for the sustainable use of groundwater.

However, differences between the results of several global water

models make such model-based conclusions dubious.

These discrepancies have not yet been thoroughly quantified, and past evaluation methodologies have provided limited information on how the models could be improved.

The new study, published in Nature Water, is the first to explore large-scale correlations between climatic and hydrological variables to uncover disparities within models and in contrast to observational data.

"In observational data, for example, we see a strong correlation between precipitation and ground-water recharge over the African continent. Not all models represent this relationship accurately and we need to understand how realistic the different model results are," explained study lead author Sebastian Gnann, who worked on the study while associated with the University of Potsdam.

IIASA Biodiversity

Peter Burek and Yoshihide

Wada, both associated with the Water Security Research Group in the IIASA Biodiversity and Natural Resources Programme, contributed to the water cycle representation of global models in the study using the IIASA Community Water Model (CWatM) - an open-source model developed for the assessment of water supply and human and environmental water demands at both global and regional levels.

SOURCE: ANI



Water models are indispensable for comprehending the water cycle and assessing the impacts of climate change. ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw observes Chinese warships; hosts friendly sports competition

YANGON Command Commander Maj-Gen Zaw Hein and senior officers of Tatmadaw (Navy) visited the destroyer Zi Bo and frigate Jing Zhou of the 44th Chinese People's Liberation Army -PLA Navy Escort Task Group (ETG) yesterday during its goodwill visit to Myanmar.

The team leader, Senior Captain Sun Bo, and the duty officers welcomed senior officers of Tatmadaw (Navy) who visited the warships. On-board, they gave a briefing to Tatmadaw officers and had a commemorative group photo taken.

Afterwards, a dinner was held on the destroyer Zi Bo, attended by the commander of the Yangon Command, senior

officers of Tatmadaw (Navy), and officials from the two countries.

Tatmadaw (Navy) officers and other ranks played against officers and other ranks from the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) in a friendly basketball tournament to mark the two countries' friendship at the Thanlyin Cantonment Sports Hall yesterday morning. — MNA/KZL

Military officers from the two countries pose for a commemorative group photo on the destroyer Zi Bo yesterday.



CRIME NEWS

K87.4 bln worth of Ketamine seized in Yephyu township

A total of 2.3 tonnes of Ketamine, valued at K87.4 billion, was seized in Yephyu Township of the Taninthayi Region, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team comprising members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a Sinotruk tipper truck, travelling from Ye to Dawei, driven by Kin Zaw and accompanied by Aung Kyaw Oo near Alaesakan village in Yephyu Township at 10 am on 22 November. The team captured 2.3 tonnes of Ketamine worth K87.4 billion.

Following interrogation, the police force also arrested Ma Ni Ni Hlaing, identified as a drug trafficker, with a Toyota Land Cruiser car near Zathapyin Bridge on the Hpa-an-Mawlamyine road at 5 pm on 23 November. The offenders confessed to transporting the drugs from Shan State to Taninthayi Region.

Legal action has been taken against the offenders, and an investigation is underway to identify others involved in the criminal chain. — MNA/MKKS

Confiscated illegal items: Timbers, foodstuffs, fuel oil, consumer goods, industrial materials and vehicles

THE on-duty teams supervised by the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force confiscated a Hyundai bus (estimated value of K25 million), travelling from Myawady to Yangon, carrying four kinds of goods worth K5.25 million, including 50,000 envelopes without official documents at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray station on 26 November. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 28 November, the combined teams seized a Nissan Condor truck and a Nissan Diesel truck (approximately K40 million), heading to Mawlamyine from Myawady, carrying seven types of goods valued at K48.53 million, including 1,600 bottles of Two-Shrimp brand palm oil (five-litre bottle) without official documents on Kyakalay- Zathapyin-Mawlamyine road. The action was conducted under Customs procedures.

On the same day, the joint teams impounded 560 gallons of informal diesel worth K940,800 without official documents in Monywa township, a total of 0.505 tonne of illegal teak worth K333,828 in Sagaing township and 0.497 tonne of illicit teak in Ottarathiri township. These



Confiscated illegal timbers in Sagaing Region.



actions were taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law and the Forest Law.

Similarly, the on-duty teams captured a Mitsubishi express bus (approximately K30 million) heading to Mandalay from Myawady, carrying two kinds of goods worth K2.85 million, including 4,950 bags of Wai Wai instant vermicelli without official documents, at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint, a Mitsubishi Canter vehicle (estimated value of K25 million), travelling from Myawady to Hpa-an, carrying five types of goods worth K10.15 million, including 10,500 bags of Yum Yum instant noodle and 720 plastic baskets without

official documents, at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint and a Dongfeng tractor head with a trailer (estimated value of K90 million), travelling from Myawady to Yangon, carrying two kinds of goods approximately valued at K21.94 million, including 5,900 kilograms of thickening agent that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID), at the Ywathagyi Dry Port. These actions were conducted under Customs procedures.

Nineteen arrests were made on 26 and 28 November, with an estimated value of K300,323,508, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

WHO says misuse of antibiotics undermining efficacy

Misusing antibiotics for common illnesses endangers efficacy, fosters antibiotic resistance, and could lead to 10 million deaths worldwide by 2050, warned by WHO.

MISUSE of antibiotics is denting their efficacy and spawning resistant bacteria which could be responsible for 10 million deaths worldwide by 2050, the World Health Organization warned Thursday.

WHO's European chapter conducted a study which showed that antibiotics were prescribed for things like common cold (24 per cent of cases), flu-like symptoms (16 per cent), a sore throat (21 per cent) and a cough (18 per cent).

The survey was carried out in 14 countries, mostly in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

"While AMR (antimicrobial resistance) is a natural phenomenon, the development and spread of superbugs are being accelerated by the misuse of antimicrobials, rendering infections more challenging to treat effectively" a statement said.

The WHO's European region comprises 53 countries, including several in Central Asia.

"All countries in our region



The survey was carried out in 14 countries, mostly in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. PHOTO: AFP

have regulations in place to protect precious antibiotics from misuse... Enforcing these regulations would solve most antibiotic misuse," Robb Butler, director of WHO Europe's Division of Communicable Diseases, said in a

statement.

WHO warned that without immediate intervention, resistance to antimicrobials — which includes antibiotics — could lead to up to 10 million deaths a year by 2050.

It cited incorrect prescription as a "cause for concern", adding that in all the 14 countries, a third of the roughly 8,200 people surveyed had taken antibiotics without a medical prescription. — AFP

Art for bark's sake: stray dogs take up painting for UK charity



Former rescue dogs Alba and Rosie take part in an exercise to create a painting at the Bristol Animal Rescue Centre. PHOTO: AFP

IN their studio in Bristol, western England, rescue dogs Rosie and Alba are hard at work on their canvases, redefining the essence of abstract art — one tail swish at a time.

To the untrained eye, their work at Bristol Animal Rescue Centre (ARC) could be seen as boisterous, childish at times and even just plain old messy.

But the two canines have a far more important job than

pleasing critics. Inflation and high interest rates across the UK plus people abandoning pets they bought during the Covid-19 pandemic has caused a surge in strays and stretched the ARC to its financial limits.

"People just can't afford insurance and veterinary care and just to look after their dogs in general," Bee Lawson, an animal behaviour specialist at the ARC, told AFP. — AFP

Nigerians look to biofuel as cost of cooking gas soars

HAIRDRESSER Shola Abiodun Adeyemi begins preparing lunch by pouring out a jug of bright green biofuel gel into her stove, as many Nigerians seek to reduce cooking expenses.

The cost of living has skyrocketed in Nigeria since President Bola Ahmed Tinubu ended a fuel subsidy in May.

Bioethanol — a cheaper, renewable alternative to cooking gas — is becoming increasingly popular.

Regular cooking gas is now unaffordable for many, with inflation in Africa's largest economy reaching more than 27 per cent over the past year, according to the Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics.

Adeyemi is glad she can avoid paying around 1,000 naira (1.14 euros, \$1.25) per kilogramme for gas.

A litre of biofuel costs the equivalent of just over \$1, and users say they can get much more cooking done with it.

Bioethanol gel offers a

cleaner and healthier alternative in Nigeria, addressing domestic air pollution that contributes to over 93,000 women's deaths annually. Its use could reduce over four million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions, with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) promoting harmonized bioethanol standards for widespread adoption.

The biofuel gel also offers a cleaner alternative in

kitchens where families are exposed to the health risks of woodsmoke and other more polluting fuels.

Every year, more than 93,000 women die in Nigeria from diseases caused by domestic air pollution, according to the World Health Organization.

Bioethanol gel releases far fewer harmful emissions into the atmosphere than traditional fuels. — AFP



More Nigerian households have been turning to greener biofuels. PHOTO: AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD



A worker of the olive industry looks on next to pouring green olives near Polygyros in Halkidiki region. **PHOTO: AFP**

Winter isn't coming: climate change hits Greek olive crop

In mid-November, the temperature in the Halkidiki region of Polygyros, northern Greece, was reported to be still over 15 degrees Celsius (59 degrees Fahrenheit), suggesting unseasonably warm conditions for that time of year.

GREEK organic farmer Zaharoula Vassilaki looks with admiration at a huge olive tree on her property believed to be over two centuries old, still yielding despite a direct lightning hit years ago.

But climate change — in this case, the absence of deep

winter — is proving too much for even this gnarled veteran to cope with.

“The climate has changed and the trees cannot cope with these big changes. We no longer have winter at all,” she told AFP.

In mid-November, the temperature in the Halkidiki region

of Polygyros, northern Greece, was still over 15 degrees Celsius (59 degrees Fahrenheit). “I consider climate change the main challenge this season,” noted Nikos Anoixas, a board member of Doepel, the Greek national interprofessional organization for table olives. — AFP

Sweden enters recession with consumers hit hard by inflation

SWEDEN fell into a recession in the third quarter as its economy contracted by 0.3 per cent and consumers tightened their belts for a fifth straight quarter, Statistics Sweden said Wednesday.

The Scandinavian country is one of the worst economic performers in the European Union, with the European Commission forecasting average growth of 0.6 per cent in the EU in 2023.

Sweden's economy shrank by 0.8 per cent in the second quarter. A recession is usually defined as two consecutive quarters of contraction.

“The downturn is mainly explained by a decrease in inventories and reduced house-

hold consumption,” the statistics agency said in a statement.

Household consumption shrank by 0.6 per cent in the third quarter from the second, while decreased industrial inventories contributed a negative 1.4 percentage points to the contraction. The country has been struggling with stubbornly high inflation for more than a year and a depreciating krona — prompting the central bank to successively raise its key rate to four per cent, its highest level in 15 years. Consumers have been hard hit by the higher prices and interest rates, with many households having mortgages with variable interest rates. — AFP



A woman shops at a supermarket in Stockholm, Sweden, 14 September 2022. **PHOTO: HE MIAO/XINHUA/FILE**

Spanish giant Ferrovial sells remaining stake in Heathrow



Ferrovial, a Spanish infrastructure company, is selling its remaining 25 per cent stake in London's Heathrow Airport to a French private equity group, Ardian, and Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, the Public Investment Fund (PIF), in a £2.37 billion (\$3.01 billion) deal after 17 years of ownership **PHOTO: AFP**

London's Heathrow Airport is undergoing a significant ownership change as Spanish infrastructure giant Ferrovial finalizes the sale of its remaining 25 per cent stake to a French private equity group and Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund.

SPANISH infrastructure giant Ferrovial announced it is offloading its remaining 25 per cent stake in London's Heathrow Airport to a French private equity group and Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund.

After owning the UK travel hub for 17 years, Ferrovial said Tuesday it had reached a 2.37 billion pound (\$3.01 billion) deal

with Paris-based Ardian and Riyadh's Public Investment Fund (PIF).

Under the terms of the agreement, Ardian will buy 15 per cent of FGP Topco, the holding company that controls the UK's busiest airport, and the Saudi public fund will take 10 per cent, according to a statement released by the Spanish

construction giant.

“Over the last 17 years, we have been contributing to Heathrow's transformation, together with our fellow shareholders, achieving some excellent milestones throughout our long-term role as investor,” said Luke Bugeja, head of Ferrovial's airports business. — AFP

Toyota logs record Oct output, sales despite production halt

Despite a temporary production halt in Japan due to a parts supplier's factory explosion, robust demand in North America and Europe contributed to the success, resulting in global sales of 890,241 vehicles, a 7.0 per cent rise year-over-year.

TOYOTA Motor Corp said Wednesday its global output and sales hit record highs for October on robust demand in North America and Europe, despite a temporary production halt in Japan due to an explosion at a parts supplier's factory.

The automaker made 900,285 cars worldwide in the month, up 16.7 per cent from a year earlier, and sold 890,241 vehicles globally, up 7.0 per cent, the company said.

The pace of production picked up amid an easing semiconductor shortage, and its production outside of Japan increased 8.7 per cent to 617,590 cars, an all-time high for a single month, it said. — Kyodo



Toyota Motor Corp announced on Wednesday that its global production and sales reached record levels in October, with 900,285 cars manufactured worldwide, marking a 16.7 per cent increase from the previous year. **PHOTO** KYODO

Austria property giant Signa to file for insolvency

AUSTRIAN real estate giant Signa — whose vast portfolio includes New York's iconic Chrysler building — on Wednesday announced it would initiate insolvency proceedings, filing for court protection as it undergoes restructuring.

“Despite considerable efforts in recent weeks, the necessary liquidity for an out-of-court restructuring could not be sufficiently secured, so Signa Holding GmbH is applying for restructuring proceedings with self-administration,” the company said in a statement.

Earlier this month, Signa said it would present plans for the company's restructuring by the end of the month.

Rene Benko — one of Austria's richest men —



The Chrysler Building in New York City is one of the properties in the portfolio of Austria's real estate giant Signa, which is seeking court protection to restructure its operations. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

founded Signa in 2000 and has grown it into a conglomerate with interests from real estate to media.

In its press release on Wednesday, Signa said its retail investments “did not bring the expected success” with the sector

under “severe economic pressure” in Europe, while also citing a “negative impact on business development in the real estate sector in recent months”. The company said it would initiate insolvency proceedings at a Vi-

enna court on Wednesday. “The aim is the orderly continuation of operational business operations within the framework of self-administration and the sustainable restructuring of the company,” it added. — AFP

Philips stock slumps after new FDA warning

SHARES in Dutch medical device manufacturer Philips plunged Wednesday after the US Food and Drug Administration warned that its new machine to help patients sleep risked overheating.

Philips stock spiked down five per cent at the

opening on the Amsterdam market, then traded lower to a seven-per-cent fall, hugely underperforming the wider market, which was flat.

The FDA advised patients using the company's DreamStation 2 machine to “carefully monitor” the

device “for signs of overheating”. The US body said it had received reports “such as fire, smoke, burns, and other signs of overheating” from people using the machine.

It recommended that customers carefully follow the users' manual and

examine the machine for “unusual smells or changes in appearances before and after each use”.

The machine is designed to help patients with sleep apnoea, a condition where people develop breathing difficulties in their sleep. — AFP

Uber to partner with London's black cabs despite disputes

UBER is to roll out its service to London black cabs next year, it announced Wednesday, despite long-running friction between drivers of the traditional taxis and the US-based firm. “The move opens up the Uber app to the iconic hackney carriage — much-loved by tourists and Londoners alike and an historic part of the capital's transport network,” the San Fran-

cisco-based company said in a statement.

Currently, black cabs are hailed as they drive on London's roads, but people will be able to use Uber to book them from early 2024, with drivers able to sign up to the service from Monday.

Uber launched in London over a decade ago, and has since provided over a billion trips in the UK capital. — AFP



Uber has come into conflict with traditional ‘cabbies’, who accuse the service of undermining prices, workers' rights and safety standards. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC CHENMING VOY.NO. (2316S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHENMING VOY.NO. (2316S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-11-2023** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Interpol fights crime and controversial image, 100 years on

More than a thousand police and law enforcement leaders from around the world are attending Interpol's centenary general assembly in Vienna, where it was founded.

AS Interpol marks its centenary, it faces the tricky task of nabbing criminals while ensuring that its famous red notices are not abused to snare dissidents.

This week, more than a thousand police and law enforcement leaders from around the world are attending Interpol's general assembly in Vienna, where it was founded.

"We've been growing from 20 member countries in 1923 to 196 today," Juergen Stock, Secretary General of the Lyon-based agency, told AFP.

With its famous red notices, Interpol "makes sure there is no safe haven for criminals, whether it's the physical or the online world," the 64-year-old German said.

But the organization has had



Interpol, short for the International Criminal Police Organization, is an international organization that facilitates cooperation among law enforcement agencies from different countries to combat transnational crime. **PHOTO: APA/AFP**

to step up controls after abuse of the notices led to criticism.

Mafia and tattoos

As a global hub for information sharing, Interpol helps member countries "connect the dots across continents" by identifying and locating criminals, explained Stock.

Interpol's database boasts 125 million police files, and receives about 16 million searches per day. The global police body has also helped Italy in recent years crack down on the country's wealthiest and most powerful mafia: the 'Ndrangheta. In May, Interpol launched an unprecedented campaign to identify 22 women believed to have been murdered in Belgium, Germany and The Netherlands. — AFP

Virgin set for first long-haul flight with low-carbon fuel

Sustainable Aviation Fuels are seen as the main tool for decarbonizing the sector over the coming decades, but the technology is still in its infancy and production remains very expensive.



A Virgin Atlantic Airbus A330 passenger plane is seen above a hotel coming in to land at London Heathrow Airport in west London on 14 February 2021. **PHOTO: JUSTIN TALLIS / AFP/FILE**

BRITISH airline Virgin Atlantic on Tuesday operates the first transatlantic flight powered entirely by Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), but environmental groups criticised the event as "greenwashing".

The flight will leave Lon-

don's Heathrow airport at 1130 GMT bound for New York's JFK.

It is the first time that SAF will be used "in both engines, by a commercial airline, for long-haul flight", the airline said in a statement.

However, the Boeing 787 plane equipped with Rolls-Royce engines will not carry any paying passengers or cargo.

SAFs are produced from renewable biomass and waste resources and can be used in jet fuel to a maximum of 50 per cent, having been blended with kerosene, in modern aircraft.

They are seen as the main tool for decarbonizing the aviation sector over the coming decades, but the technology is still in its infancy and production remains very expensive.

Also, they are used in combustion engines that still generate carbon dioxide, with decarbonization taking place further upstream by reusing plant matter instead of extracting hydrocarbons. — AFP

S Africa platinum mine lift plunge kills 11

WINDING gear at a giant South African platinum mine failed sending an elevator into a precipitous fall that killed 11 workers and injured 75, the operators said Tuesday.

Impala Platinum said 14 of the injured workers remained in "critical condition" after the disaster on Monday as the elevator brought the miners up after the end of their shift.

All operations at the Rustenburg mine, northwest of Johannesburg, have been suspended

while an investigation is started, company chief executive Nico Muller said in a statement.

Muller said the "devastating accident" at the mine was "the darkest day in the history" of the company, which is known as Implats.

There were 86 employees in the three-level lift when it "unexpectedly reversed direction and began descending back down through the shaft," Implats said in the statement. — AFP



11 shaft at the Rustenburg platinum mine where 11 miners were killed and 75 injured when an elevator fell 180 metres. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS

S Korea suspend striker Hwang Ui-jo over sex video investigation

South Korean striker Hwang Ui-jo, a Norwich City forward, suspended from national team seven weeks before Asian Cup due to police investigation into alleged illegal filming of a sexual encounter with ex-girlfriend, a charge he denies.

STRIKER Hwang Ui-jo has been suspended by South Korea seven weeks before the Asian Cup because of a police investigation into allegations he illegally filmed an ex-girlfriend.

The Norwich City forward is accused of filming a sexual encounter with the former partner on his phone without consent. He denies the allegation.

Hwang played for South Korea in two World Cup qualifiers this month, scoring a penalty against Singapore, but the Korea Football Association (KFA) on Tuesday suspended him pending the outcome of police investigations.

The 31-year-old remains able to play for English second-tier club Norwich and scored in a 3-2



South Korea's forward Hwang Ui-jo scores a penalty against Singapore earlier this month. PHOTO: AFP

defeat at Watford on Tuesday.

"Until a definitive conclusion is drawn, we have decided to exclude Hwang from the national team," a KFA statement said.

Lee Youn-nam, who heads the KFA's ethics committee, told

reporters that national players must conduct themselves "with a high degree of morality and responsibility".

"Considering the fact that the player is being investigated as a suspect, it is difficult for him

to carry out normal national team activities," Lee said.

"Football fans have high expectations for the national team, (so) we have deemed it inappropriate to select Hwang Ui-jo for the national team." — AFP



Min Woo Lee triumphed last week at Royal Queensland Golf Club. PHOTO: AFP

'Petty' sibling rivalry fires up rising star Lee at Australian Open

AUSTRALIA'S newest golf star Min Woo Lee says that his rivalry with better-known sister Minjee Lee will fire him up as he chases a fourth DP World Tour title this week in Sydney.

The Perth-born siblings will both be in action at the Australian Open because the men's and women's events take place at the same courses at the same time.

The 25-year-old Min Woo has long been in his sister's shadow, with the 27-year-old Minjee win-

ning two majors and consistently one of the best players in women's golf. But the colourful Min Woo is enjoying the best year of his career and has broken into the top 40 in the world for the first time.

He won in Macau last month on the Asian Tour and carried that red-hot form into last week's Australian PGA Championship, where he triumphed by three strokes for a third title on the DP World Tour, formerly the European Tour. — AFP

Women's sport revenues tipped to break \$1 billion barrier

GLOBAL revenues from women's sport will top \$1 billion for the first time in 2024 thanks to an explosion in popularity, according to financial experts Deloitte.

Fresh from a highly successful 2023 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, football's revenue is expected to reach \$555 million out of a total predicted figure of \$1.28 billion in 2024.

But more than 50 per cent of total revenue for women's sport is still generated in North America despite the growth of women's football in Europe.

Deloitte expects valuations for teams and leagues will continue to rise, with several team values predicted to exceed \$100 million next year.

"Over the last few years we have seen exceptional growth in women's sport across the globe, driving a significant uplift in its commercial value, which in turn

has led to growing interest from investors," said Jennifer Haskel, insights lead for Deloitte's Sports Business Group.

"Crucially, women's sport is increasingly being viewed as a unique product that is becoming ever more distinct from men's elite sport.

"This surge in fan and investor engagement is leading

to new and improved opportunities for clubs and leagues, including greater commercial partnerships, increased participation and bigger match days."

The booming popularity of women's sport is expected to lead to more prime-time broadcasting slots and visibility on streaming platforms. — AFP



Revenue from women's sports events is predicted to surpass \$1 billion in 2024. PHOTO: AFP

Interpol fights crime
and controversial
image, 100 years on
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WORLD

A grab from footage released by Yemen's Huoutj Media Centre on 19 November 2023 reportedly shows members of the militias during the capture of an Israel-linked cargo vessel at an undefined location in the Red Sea. **PHOTO: HOUTHİ MEDIA/AFP**



US warns ships to ‘exercise caution’ in Red Sea, Gulf of Aden after ship attacks

The southern Red Sea and Gulf of Aden have historically been perilous, especially due to the Yemen war between the Yemeni government, its Sunni allies, and the insurgent Shiite Ansarallah movement (Houthis) since 2015.

IN RESPONSE to several attacks and seizures of commercial vessels in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean in recent weeks, the US government has issued a warning to navigators to “exercise caution” when transiting the waterways.

“Exercise caution when transiting these areas and remain cognizant of

evolving threats in this region,” the US Department of Transportation said on Monday in an alert about the seizure of several ships in recent days.

However, UK security company Ambrey told US media that it was Israeli-owned or Israeli-flagged ships that faced the most risk in the region, although noting that sometimes vessels have been

attacked due to mistaken identity, too.

The southern Red Sea and Gulf of Aden have long been dangerous areas to traverse, especially due to the war in Yemen between the Yemeni government and its Sunni allies and the insurgent Shiite Ansarallah movement, better known as the Houthis, that has raged since 2015. — SPUTNIK

ON MEDICAL ADVICE

Suffering from flu, Pope Francis cancels COP28 trip

POPE Francis cancelled his upcoming trip to Dubai for the COP28 climate talks Tuesday, on the advice of doctors concerned over his recent flu-like symptoms, the Vatican said.

The 86-year-old, who has made protecting the environment a cornerstone of his 10-year papacy, had planned to become the first pontiff to attend the UN event since the process began in 1995.

“Although the Holy Father’s general clinical picture has improved with regard to his flu-like condition and inflammation of the respiratory tract, doctors have asked the Pope not to make the trip planned for the coming days to Dubai,” Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said in a statement. “Pope Francis accepted the doctors’ request with great regret and the trip is therefore cancelled,” Bruni said. Bruni — who just hours earlier had told a briefing that the pope would be attending — added that the pope still wished to be part of discussions in Dubai, without specifying.

With Francis’s withdrawal from the conference, which begins Thursday, COP28 will lose one of the highest profile advocates of the environment, a moral authority recognizable on the global stage whose words some believed could nudge leaders to take concrete action. — AFP

EU agreement on reducing industrial emissions

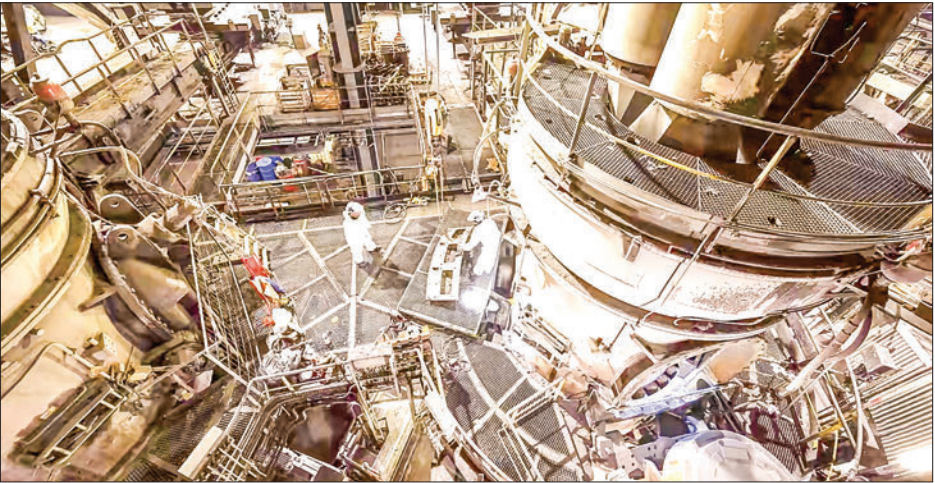
EU member countries and the European Parliament said Wednesday they have reached a preliminary agreement on curbing industrial emissions, including those from intensive poultry and pig farms and from ore mines.

The deal, struck late Tuesday, would “reduce harmful emissions from industry and improve public access to information,” the European Council, representing member states, said in a statement.

The lead EU lawmaker on the file,

Radan Kanev, said it would “significantly” reduce emissions “without creating further red tape for industries and farmers” while bringing in stiff fines for companies violating it. The agreement, which still has to be formally adopted, aims to bring down air, soil and water pollution from companies by revising existing rules on emissions and landfill of waste.

It would also update a European pollutant release and transfer register known as E-PRTR. — AFP



A power plant in eastern France. The EU’s carbon border tax aims to level the playing field for European industries already forced to pay for their emissions. **PHOTO: FREDERICK FLORIN/AFP**