

# The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

Vol. X, No. 188, 8<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Thadingyut 1385 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Sunday, 22 October 2023



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends the Inlay PhaungdawU Buddha images conveyance ceremony yesterday.

## Senior General conveys Inlay PhaungdawU Buddha images to Atthadisa Dhamma Vihara chamber in Nyaungshwe, enjoying Inntha traditional boat race

A ceremony to convey Inlay PhaungdawU Buddha images to Atthadisa Dhamma Vihara chamber in Nyaungshwe took place yesterday morning, attended by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who led the conveyance of the Buddha images.

Together with his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and State dignitaries, the Senior General watched cultural dances of ethnic

traditional dance troupes.

The Senior General and party paid homage to Inlay PhaungdawU Buddha images which arrived there by Karaweik barge and conveyed these Buddha images onto the decorated float leading to Atthadisa Dhamma Vihara chamber after carrying out the conveyance in Nyaungshwe.

The Senior General, his wife and State dignitaries in addition to locals and travellers enjoyed the Inntha traditional boat race in which rowers use their legs

instead of hands.

The Senior General presented the first and second prizes to Kayla and Shwepyitha villages in the men's over-100-oar event whereas Daw Kyu Kyu Hla gave the first and second prizes to Aingdaungyi (B) and Mongthauk-in villages in the women's 26-oar event.

Also, SAC members and Union ministers handed prizes to other winning teams.

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Shan garlic price peaked at K9,600 per viss

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# NATIONAL



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla enjoy the Inntha traditional boat race in which boat rowers use their legs instead of hands for rowing boats on the Inlay Lake yesterday.

## Senior General conveys Inlay PhaungdawU Buddha images to Assadisa Dhamma Vihara chamber in Nyaungshwe, enjoying Inntha traditional boat race

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The Senior General and wife offered alms, water, flowers, oil lights and gold foils to Inlay PhaungdawU Buddha images

and donated cash to the fund for all-round renovation of the chamber.

While in Taunggyi, the Senior General and wife paid hom-

age to Shwephonepwin and Culamuni Lawkachantha pagodas in the afternoon.

From the viewpoint on the platform of Shwephonepwin Pa-

goda, the Senior General enjoyed the panoramic view of Taunggyi and instructed officials to shape Taunggyi into a disciplined and clean city as it is a prominent city

in Myanmar.

While visiting the pagoda, the Senior General cordially greeted travellers and pilgrims. — MNA/TTA

## Mid-Year Gems Emporium 2023 continues its second day in Nay Pyi Taw



The second day of the 2023 Mid-Year Gems Emporium in progress at the Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE second day of the 2023 Mid-Year Gems Emporium was held at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Local and foreign merchants looked around and viewed the displays of pearl, jade, and gem lots in the hall and raw jade lots outside the hall.

In the Gems Emporium, pearl lots 1 to 150 are being put on sale under the open tender systems.

At the exhibition, out of the 300 pairs of pearls offered, Tender No 1, encompassing bids from pair No 1 to pair No 150, was opened at 1 pm. Subsequently, Tender No 2 was initiated at 5 pm, and officials announced the sale of 150 pairs of pearls.

On the third day of the exhibition, the remaining 300 sets of pearls, numbered from set No 151 to set No 300, will be

sold through an open tender system, to both domestically and international jewellers.

Patron of the Myanmar Emporium Central Committee Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi inspected jade pairs, sets of gems and jewellery stores at the Maniyadana Jade Hall, the venue for the exhibition yesterday morning.

The Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium for 2023 is currently underway at the Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, running from 20 to 28 October. The exhibition features a collection of 160 pairs of gems, 520 pairs of jade from Group A, 1,733 pairs of jade from Group B, and 1,792 pairs of jade from Group C, making a total of 4,045 pairs of jade available through an open tender system. These items will be made available for purchase by foreign jewellers.

More jewellers from four foreign countries attended the ongoing Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium. The presence of a significant number of foreign jewellers has reportedly led to higher prices for pearl sets. — MNA/KZW

## Public holiday announcement for Deepavali Day

ACCORDING to the State Administration Council Notification 220/2023 on 21 October, Deepavali day, which falls on Sunday, the 14th Waxing of Thadingyut 1385 ME (12 November 2023), is a public holiday under Section 25 of the Negotiation Instrument Act of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

## COVID-19 report, 21 October 2023

NEW TESTS 2,418

NEW CASE Nil

CASUALTIES Nil

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# NATIONAL

## Senior General Min Aung Hlaing calls for expanding poultry farms in Ayethaya Industrial Zone through modern techniques



(L&R): State Administration Council Chair Premier Senior General views round the Nanthida multi-agriculture and livestock farm of the Eastern Command and the raising of the layers in the evaporated cooling system in Taunggyi yesterday.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing stressed the need to expand poultry farms in the Ayethaya Industrial Zone for the distribution of eggs to the entire nation through modern techniques in addition to conventional ways.

During the tour of the Ayethaya Industrial Zone in Taunggyi yesterday afternoon, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gave guidance to officials while viewing round Shan Yoma Livestock Zone in the industrial zone.

Although advanced poultry farming based on the evaporated cooling system costs high capital, such a farm has full

biosecurity with the advantages of producing high quality and production rate, the Senior General said.

He expressed his pleasure in seeing successful raising layers taking the attention of local breeders although the preliminary aim was set to operate dairy cows in Ayethaya Industrial Zone to reduce the import volume of milk and dairy products from abroad.

The Senior General urged all to systematically review and calculate daily consumption of meat, fish and eggs for the total population of the nation to extend livestock zones and livestock farming tasks.

Dr Win Zin Maung, the head of the Shan State Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department reported to the Senior General on facts and figures of the Shan Yoma livestock zone.

The Senior General viewed round advanced functions of raising the layers in the evaporated cooling system of Dr Sai Lon in Shan Yoma Livestock Zone and gave guidance on prospects to improve the livestock sector.

The Senior General also made an inspection tour of the Nanthida multi-agriculture and livestock farm of the Eastern Command the same day.

At the briefing hall of the farm, the

Senior General heard reports on undertakings at Nanthida multi-agriculture and livestock farm by the Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Hla Moe.

The Senior General gave guidance that multi-agriculture and livestock farms of relevant military commands have to be smart and it is necessary to assign those who are working.

The Senior General inspected the progress of agriculture and livestock tasks including breeding pigs, ducks, cows and layers at Nanthida multi-agriculture and livestock farm 1 and farm 2 and left necessary guidance. — MNA/TTA

## Myanmar attends 41<sup>th</sup> ASEANAPOL Conference held in Vientiane, Laos

A Myanmar delegation including senior police officers led by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Lt-Gen Ni Lin Aung participated in the 41<sup>st</sup> ASEANAPOL Conference held in Vientiane, Laos from 17 to 19 October.

The conference was also joined by Chief and Senior Officers of the Police Force from 10 ASEAN member countries, Executive Director and Senior Police Officers of the ASEAN Police Secretariat, Police Chiefs and Senior Police Officers from partner organizations/nations: China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, New Zealand, Turkiye, Britain, Australia, senior officers from ASEAN Secretariat, partner countries/organizations: Canada, France, Fiji, Timor-Leste, Italy, United Arab Emirates, International Association of Chiefs of Police-IACP, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) based in the US.

The conference held the meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee on 16 October. On 17 October, the opening ceremony



The documentary group photo of the 41<sup>st</sup> ASEANAPOL Conference opening in Laos.

of the 41<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Police Conference, First Plenary Meeting, Forum of Leaders of Delegation of ASEAN Police Member States, Meeting of Leaders of Delegations from ASEAN Police Member States and Dialogue Parties, Commission A, B,

C meetings were held. On 18 October, a golf tournament between the leaders of the ASEAN Police was held. On 19 October, the Second Plenary Session and the Closing Ceremony of the 41<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Police Conference were held.

The Commission A, B, and C meetings discussed mutual assistance in criminal matters such as drug trafficking, violence, arms smuggling, human trafficking, wildlife crimes, maritime fraud, business fraud, bank fraud, cybercrime, forgery of travel documents, transnational fraud, electronic database system of ASEAN police, and matters related to ASEAN police capacity building programme and forensic science linkages.

On 19 October, Police Major-General Kamkim Phouilamanyvong, Deputy Minister for Laos Ministry of Public Security and Chief of Police handed over the emblem of the ASEAN Police to Myanmar Police Chief Lt-Gen Ni Lin Aung, as Myanmar will host the 42<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Police Conference in 2024.

The video titled “Landscapes of Myanmar” was played at the hand-over ceremony. The Myanmar delegation arrived back in Yangon yesterday.—MNA/TH



# NATIONAL

## Mandalay political parties urged to gather members in prescribed period: UEC



A meeting between Union Election Commission Chairman U Thein Soe and chairpersons and officials of six political parties from the region, district and township in progress at former Hluttaw office, Mandalay yesterday.

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Thein Soe called on political parties in Mandalay Region to become strong parties that can carry out regional and

national interests while meeting chairpersons of six political parties from the region, district and township offices at former Hluttaw office, Mandalay yesterday.

The UEC Chair highlighted the amendment to the Registration of Political Parties Law on 26 January and the related bylaws on 31 January this year,

the requirement to gather at least 100,000 members within 90 days if a party plans to organize nationwide as well as at least 1,000 members for parties if they aim to operate within a region or state, the establishment of the minimum number of offices as mentioned in the law within 180 days, and the disallowance of continuing as a political party unless it meets requirements.

He also elaborated on preparations underway to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election, securement of accurate voter lists to prevent electoral fraud, employment of advanced IT technologies including CVLMS (Central Voter List Management System) software by obtaining technical and professional assistance of experts from computer universities under the Ministry of Science and Technology, the

development of the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine (MEVM) with the help of experts from Myanmar, and the current involvement of ministries' employees and residents of the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory in practical tests to vote.

Afterwards, UEC Member and in charge of Mandalay Region U Than Aung Kyaw said that the list of party members submitted by the six political parties in Mandalay Region is verified according to the law. Mandalay Region's Minister for Social Affairs, officials from the General Administration Department and the Election Sub-commission also explained the actions taken to correct the list of party members. The UEC Chairman gave feedback to the discussions of the officials before concluding the meeting with a closing remark. — MNA/TH

## Contestants of 24<sup>th</sup> Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

THE central-level competitions of the 24<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition will take place in Nay Pyi Taw commencing on 24 October.

Administrative officers and contestants from Kachin, Kayah, Chin and Rakhine states and Taninthayi and Yangon regions to participate in the 24<sup>th</sup> Myanmar

Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2023 arrived at their respective accommodations in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Officials warmly welcomed competing troupes and arranged them for convenient accommodations at the designated places.— MNA/MKKS



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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.  
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## 57 Myanmar nationals repatriated from India



Officials welcome Myanmar returnees from India at the airport on 19 October 2023.

A total of 57 Myanmar nationals, who had been sentenced to jail for 2-10 imprisonments years in India for various reasons, were repatriated from Port Blair island, India, to Myanmar on 19 October.

The travel expenses for

those were donated by Sitagu Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara along with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Sitagu Sayadaw conducted not only a total of 19 times

to release Myanmar prisoners who were jailed for various reasons in Sri Lanka, India and Malaysia but also over 2,000 prisoners back to Myanmar in cooperation with respective authorities. — TWA/MKKS

## YUPT company ventures into Yangon with electric buses

YANGON Urban Public Transport-YUPT company chairman U Aung Win said on 20 October that the company is making efforts to run electric buses in Yangon.

He added at the fourth annual meeting ceremony that YUPT will make efforts to change the service with electric buses.

As for YUPT, which is owned by the Yangon Region government up to more than 92 per cent with a share value of more than K34 billion, and is running in line with the



Some YBS buses are seen on the road of Yangon.

instructions of the region government.

YUPT company provides services to the commuting

public with 25 bus lines and 699 vehicles in Yangon's transportation activities. — TWA/KZL

## 1,495 candidates pass Special EPS-Topik test

A total of 1,495 candidates passed the Special EPS-Topik test, according to the list of overseas employment agencies POEA- EPS.

The exam was held from

4 to 20 October and 1,495 out of 1,697 candidates passed the exam. The Special EPS-Topik test is for Myanmar workers who have legally worked in South Korea for more than

three years.

The processes of distributing and receiving job application forms will be announced later, according to the POEA - EPS announcement. — TWA/KTZH

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Efforts for moving forward of NCA: AFP Chairman

DR Aye Maung, Chairman of Arakan Front Party (AFP) told the CNI news agency that the neighbouring countries of Myanmar have developed. The current armed conflict should be solved through NCA. All should try to make the NCA better, for its future operation to ensure national reconsolidation and trust building. How should we lead to new nation? It is a fundamental thing according to the Constitution. We should pass through it. We thank U Thein Sein and U Aung Min who tried to receive it. I also thank General Mu Tu Say Poe, General Yawd Serk and all leaders of ethnic armed groups. Of the outcomes, if we want to hand it over to the next generation, there should be peace and stability and sustainability of the country.

### Russian medicines to be used for Myanmar cancer patients

MINISTRY of Health Prof Dr Thet Khaing Win and Mr Grigoriev Evgeny Dmitrievich, Chairman of the External Relations Committee, member of the Government of St Petersburg from the Russian Federation, discussed the plans of using Russian medicines for cancer patients in Myanmar on 19 October in Nay Pyi Taw.

### Over 400 stalls to be set up at People's Square for Thadingyut

THE Yangon City Development Committee said they will establish 401 stalls to sell foodstuffs and commodities at the People's Square and Park. Moreover, they will make arrangements to be systematic stall locations, provide electricity and water for sellers, car parks for visitors and erect modern lamp posts.

### Possible river water drops in 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October, including Ayeyawady

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology on 21 October released a statement that all the water levels of rivers including the Ayeyawady River might fall below the current water level in the third 10-day week of October.

The statement said the Ayeyawady River water level may fall below the present water level by about three to four feet at Myitkyina, Bhamo, Shwegu and Katha and about five to seven feet at Thabeikkyin, Mandalay, Sagaing, Myinmu, Pakokku, NyaungU, Chauk, Minbu, Magway, Aunglan, Pyay, Seiktha, Hinthada and Zalun. Moreover, the water levels may fall below the current water level at Chindwin, Myittha, Dokhtawadi, Sittoung, Shwegyin, Bago, Thanlwin, Thauingyin, Thanlwin, Ngawun, Kaladan and Bilin rivers.

### EV pilot project 75% successful

DURING the period of the pilot project, the use of electric vehicles was successful for 75 per cent, said U Kyaw Swa Tun Myint, general secretary of Myanmar Automobile Manufacturer and Distributor Association. The EV pilot project is from 1 January to 31 December 2023.



# Entertainment



## Miss Grand Myanmar 2023 donates at Sezar Yaung Chi Existence Centre

MYANMAR beauty contestant Ni Ni Lin Eain who competed in the Miss Grand International 2023 donated an oxygen concentrator to Sezar Yaung Chi Existence Centre and lunch and dinner to 18 elderly and eight children at the centre on 19 October.

On behalf of the beauty, her mother led the donation and she also provided clothes to the centre.

She competed in the National Costume Competition of Miss Grand International 2023 on 20 October evening.

“Ni Ni told me to donate an oxygen concentrator to the centre. The children don’t have clothes enough and a patient is in critical condition at Insein Hospital. We donate the necessary things as a donation of Ni Ni. I do it on behalf of her,” said Daw Nway Yamon Saw, mother of Ni Ni Lin Eain.

Myanmar beauty contestant Ni Ni Lin Eain will compete in the Grand Final of Miss Grand International 2023 on 25 October in Viet Nam. – ASH/KTZH



### Sonny Nyein

THE Sonny Nyein Remembered: Primordial by Sonny Nyein event is being organized at No 1A in 1<sup>st</sup> Pyidaungsu street of Saya San Road in Bahan Township of Yangon from 15 to 29 October. Sonny Nyein is the son of well-known Lethwei legend and writer Kyar Ba Nyein and brother of writer Editor Win Nyein and Myo Myint Nyein.

The event features collections of the late Saya Sonny Nyein including over 30 sculptures, graphical posters illustrated for Novels, Hna Koh Ta Seik- the love life and the romance between Saya Sonny Nyein and his dear wife, paper plates series and works of abstracts. The exhibition is brought by Spaces-31, Tiger Gallery and Myan/art.

### Hsaung Wuttyee May

ACTRESS Hsaung Wuttyee May celebrated her 28<sup>th</sup> birthday on 17 October with a donation at Myo Set Thit Orphanage in Htantabin Township. She said, “I am very satisfied when I see their happiness. It is such a peaceful day providing loving kindness to the children who should receive the love of parents...everyone can donate as much as they can and they can donate there in person.”

## Celebrity Brief

- **Outfits Designer :** Lal Lian Mawi (Brother & Sister Fashion Gallery)
- **MUA :** Miley Miller
- **Stylist :** Ei Kay Khine Win
- **Photo by** DJ Photography

### Kaung Sett

SINGER Kaung Sett who gained great achievement with his song “ Amyint Sone Hmar” appeared again on the state for his audience. Regarding the Iron Cross Band that formed on 27-4-1990, he said the good point of the IC is they are very careful with their work. They are punctual. When a new band appears, they break up when they are famous. Some resign, but the members of IC haven’t changed yet over 30 years. Therefore, the Taste they offer doesn’t change.



### Khine Hnin Wai

ACTRESS Khine Hnin Wai provided flood victims of the Bago Region with K10 million and distributed the food boxes and water bottles together with members of Shin Than Yay and Shwe Kyar social welfare organizations.



### Yadana Bo

ACTRESS Yadana Bo takes the role of Shwe Wutt Hlwa character in the “Myitta Mone Tine” series in which she is a single mother, trying for her son as an egotist to others. Regarding this character, she said, “I have encountered challenges for various characters as I am an artist.”



### Akyi Taw/ Dira More

9 NOVEMBER is the first demise anniversary of writer Akyi Taw. His younger brother Dira More will organize a memorial event Akyi Taw Music Tribute Show at 6 pm on 9 November at Sky Star Hotel Ballroom. Moreover, he said Akyi Taw tried to be a composer before he was famous as a writer. There are about 100 songs he wrote before and after he gained success. His melody is unusual. The Music City Orchestra and Ayoe, Wai La, Aung Htet, Dira More and MCM VOICE will participate in the Tribute show called “(Mental)Purity “. The tickets will be sold and the profits will be used to establish Akyi Taw library. – Htun Htun/KTZH





## Pigeon pea price doubles this year, black gram price jumps

*Stakeholders in the pulses industry including growers and traders are making thriving businesses this year.*



The photo shows samples of black grams and pigeon peas seen in the market.

THE prices of black gram escalated and pigeon pea prices even doubled in the third week of October 2023 compared to those of the corresponding period last year.

The prices touched a high of K2.77 million per tonne of black gram (Fair and Average Quality), K3.065 million per tonne of black gram (Special Quality) and K4.075 million per tonne of pigeon pea on 21 October 2023.

The prices were registered at K1.8 million per tonne of black gram (FAQ), K2.133 million per tonne of black gram (SQ) and K1.965 million per tonne of pigeon pea on 21 October 2022.

The figures indicated an

increase of over K900,000 per tonne for black gram and K2.1 million for pigeon peas this year.

The FOB prices for 19 to 21 October 2023 were US\$1,005-1,025 per tonne of black gram FAQ, \$1,110-1,130 per tonne of black gram SQ and \$1,350-1,370 per tonne of pigeon pea.

The FOB prices last year were \$775-795 per tonne of black gram (FAQ), \$910-930 per tonne of black gram (SQ) and \$835-855 per tonne of pigeon pea on 21 October 2022.

Despite the harvest season of black gram (urad) in India, they are of low quality. Consequently, Myanmar's black gram is offered at higher prices.

The black gram was priced at 9,500 Rupees per Quintal (100 kilogrammes) in mid-October in India. In the 2023-2024 season, India forecast that pulses yield rates were estimated at 650,000-700,000 tonnes of black gram and 250,000-300,000 tonnes of pigeon pea, citing pulses news.

Myanmar is expected to generate higher export earnings from pulses this year. Myanmar primarily exports pigeon peas to India. Myanmar accounts for half of India's pigeon pea (tur) import.

Amid India's growing demand for pulses in 2023, pulses growers and traders will prosper this year. — TWA/KK

## Shan garlic price peaked at K9,600 per viss

GARLIC (large size) from Shan State surged to K9,600 per viss in the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market on 20 October.

Similarly, Kyukok garlic imported from China also rose to K7,800 per viss, Ko Thein, a seller from Yetama Street told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

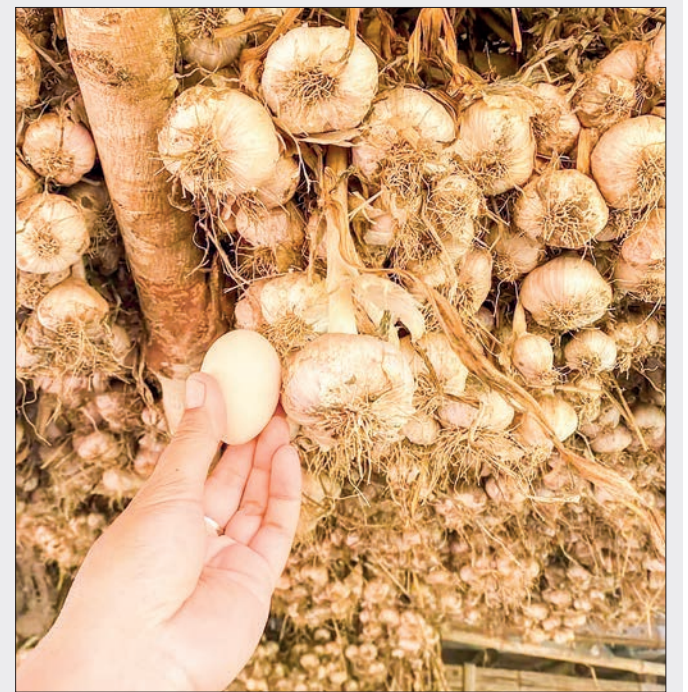
The prevailing prices doubled compared to that of those registered in the year-ago period.

The prices stood at K3,200-4,100 per viss of Shan garlic and K5,200-5,300 per viss of Kyukok garlic in the post-Thingyan period. The prices hit a record high of K7,800-9,500 for Shan garlic and K8,200-8,300 for Kyukok garlic on 24 August. Then, the prices dipped to K8,600 for Shan garlic and K7,400 for Kyukok garlic. The prices have rebounded from 9 October.

At present, about 10,000 viss of garlic are flowing into the Yangon's market daily.

Between 7 and 13 October, Myanmar exported 48 tonnes of garlic (approximately 30,000 visses) to Thailand via the Tachilek border.

Heavy rains at garlic harvest time affected the yield rate, a trader told the GNLM. This year, the onion price hit record highs in history. — TWA/KK



The photo shows high-quality garlic from Shan State.

## Kyat depreciation against US dollar slows in domestic market

KYAT'S fall against the greenback stops at approximately K3,300 in the shady dealings. At present, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sets the reference exchange rate at K2,100.

CBM has set the currency trading band at 0.3 per cent for the Kyat to fluctuate between these two specified upper and lower exchange rates for transactions, selling or buying, according to a directive issued by

the CBM on 10 August 2022.

Financial institutions including banks and informal money exchanges are instructed to set a dollar value at K2,094 for buying and K2,106 for selling. However, the over-the-counter Kyat-dollar exchange rate was K3,250 for buying and K3,300 for selling on 21 October.

Despite a large price difference between the reference rate of the CBM and the unofficial

market rate, there is no way for the CBM to set the new price, as per the notification released in May 2023.

The dollar gained to around K4,000 on 19 August 2023.

Under Section 9 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, only those entities holding foreign exchange dealer licences are allowed to deal in foreign currency and traveller's cheques. Those holding foreign

currencies without valid licences and permits will face legal actions under the law, according to the CBM's notification released on 21 August 2023.

According to Notification 7/2014 dated 30 September 2014 issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar under Clause 15 of the Foreign Exchange Management Rule, domestic residents are allowed to keep US\$10,000 in maximum or equivalent amount

of foreign currencies for six months. If those foreign currencies that have been unused for over six months have to be exchanged in local currency at the market price through authorized dealers or deposited into bank accounts.

Those illegally holding foreign currencies will be taken action under the Foreign Exchange Management Law, the CBM warned again. — NN/EM



# OPINION

# ARTICLE BOOKRACK

## Ensure a secure cyber society with registered SIM cards

**IN** THE digital age, everybody finds themselves navigating a vast landscape of communication networks, but among them, some individuals with malicious intent exploit unregistered SIM cards to commit crimes and even acts of terrorism. So, the Ministry of Transport and Communications has taken a significant step towards safeguarding citizens by instituting a system of registered SIM cards and enforcing systematic re-registration.

Across the nation, more than 60 million SIM cards have been issued by telecom operators. This number is notably larger than the total population, indicating that many individuals possess at least two SIM cards. Such a proliferation of SIM cards necessitates a robust system to track their usage and ensure accountability.

In a previous government term, the relevant ministry had announced its intention to ban unregistered SIM cards. The primary goal of this initiative is to protect users of mobile communication

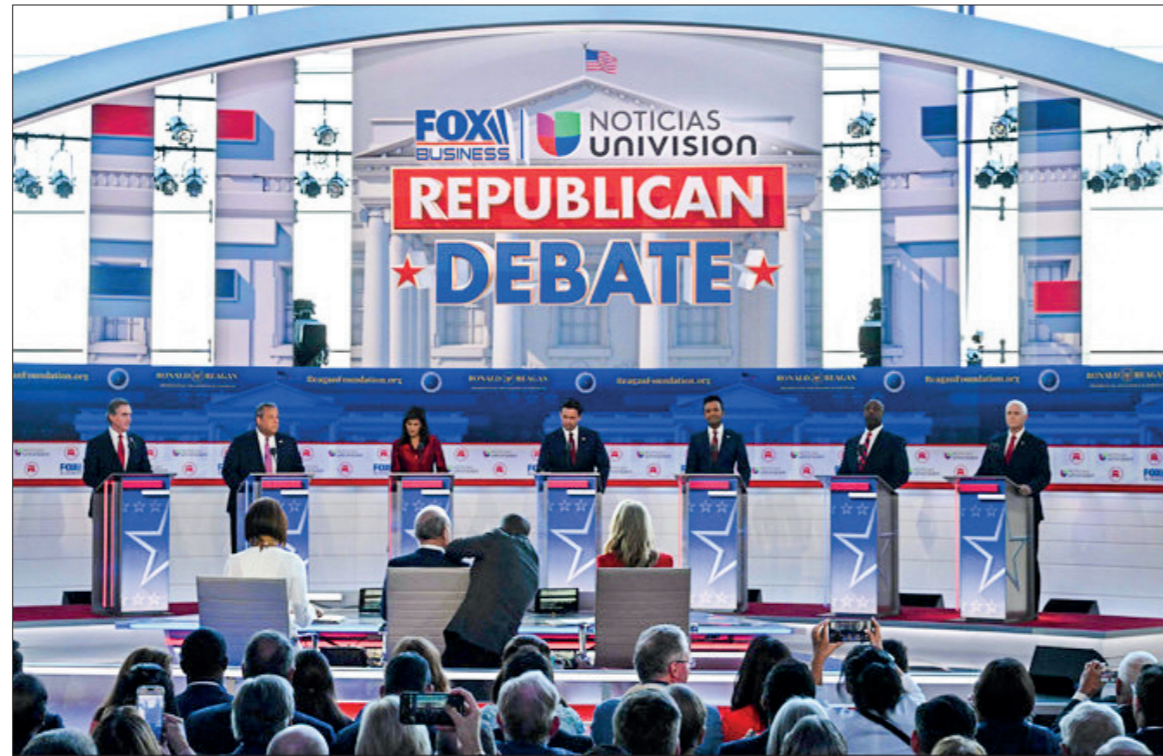
services, prevent fraudulent activities in mobile monetary and online services, and curb the rising tide of cybercrime. Crimes involving unregistered SIM cards, such as fraud, defamation, and extortion, pose particular difficulties for law enforcement, making it essential to adhere to prescribed procedures for selling SIM cards.

Strict guidelines for SIM card sales have been established to combat the illicit use of unregistered cards. Those who flout these directives and engage in the sale of unregistered SIM cards may face legal repercussions. Local SIM cards must be registered within 30 days, and any SIM cards not updated with citizenship scrutiny card data will be totally banned within 90 days.

The Ministry has outlined a clear course of action for dealing with those who sell or use unregistered SIM cards in violation of established rules and regulations. Under Section 72 of the Myanmar Communications Law, offenders may be subject to penalties, including imprisonment for less than six months, fines, or both.

To protect themselves from potential legal consequences and the looming threat of cybercrime, SIM card sellers and users must diligently ensure the registration of their SIM cards. By using registered SIM cards, individuals can access secure communication services, leading to a society that is both convenient and free from cybercrimes.

The adoption of registered SIM cards is a vital step in the journey towards a safer, more secure cyber society. This initiative serves as a testament to the commitment of individuals to uphold the principles of law and order, while also fostering a safer environment for all members of the community.



(From L) North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum, former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, former US envoy to the UN Nikki Haley, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, Senator Tim Scott and former Vice-President Mike Pence attend the second Republican presidential primary debate in Simi Valley, California, on 27 September 2023. PHOTO: AFP

## And Then There Were Seven!

*Candidates simply would not shut up and no one with a coherent or cogent thought was given time to express his or hers.*

By U AC

**IF** YOU find the first Republican debate awful, the second one being assessed as cringeworthy would be an understatement. Viewers and reviewers alike are flabbergasted by candidates talking over one another, in some cases, three candidates talking at the same time, resulting in none of them getting any message across at all to the audience. Viewers are unable to comprehend any of the words coming out of their mouths, all caught in a competition of who can out-speak the other. Similar to the first debate, moderators

exhibited little or no control and their instructions went unheeded by the candidates. Candidates simply would not shut up and no one with a coherent or cogent thought was given time to express his or hers.

Other than the Donald Duck pre-scripted joke, Chris Christie's impact is minimal and this second debate confirmed another wasted opportunity for him, despite being the only Braveheart to hammer the cartoon character from the beginning.

Tim Scott and Nicky Haley, both from South Carolina, per-

formed slightly better than in the first debate, other than sparring between themselves over some expense claims! Both look anything but presidential.

Pence performed the worst, even his jokes falling short on laughs from crowds. North Dakota governor Doug Burgum complained about the absence of time for him to discuss energy issues on stage, afterwards, despite his state being among the top sellers of energy in the country. But based on his lacklustre performance encore, it would be highly unlikely for him to be able

to continue for the third debate. Vivek surprised his counterparts with his fiery and ceaseless gibberish and claims, but his competitors all came prepared and this time was he not! He was out-talked by most this time round.

The first runner-up nationwide in polls, Ron DeSantis, did reasonably okay for this debate. Rather than starting fights of his own and allowing others to attack him, he stuck to his memorized talking points on immigration,

China and the economy, while bombarding the Biden administration and Democrats.

The smartest man turned out to be Donald Trump, who sat out the debate of the children fighting among themselves. His omnipresence was there without being actually present. Probably he is thanking them all!

Let us wait and see some more chaos in the upcoming final Republican debate on 8 November, happening in Miami, Florida.



Book Title	-	Ahmyathsonhsu Gabyamyar
Poet	-	Myo Myat Myat Myint Maung
Publishing House	-	Shinmataung
Publication Date	-	September 2023 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K5,000

### Ahmyathsonhsu Gabyamyar

THE poet is an old hand, having composed poems for almost three decades. He has been creating poems amidst his onerous duties as an officer. His poems have all reflected his career – both naval and civilian. As he has been in the line of duty in different sectors, the readers can have different tastes. This book is a collection of poems which are carried in six parts. And the book is titled, "Ahmyathsonhsu Gabyamyar".

There are 12 poems under the title, "Ahmyathsonhsu", 14 poems under the title, "Pyae Thargaung Myar", 14 under "Thanmani Seikhtar Ei Hnalonthar Thitsa", 16 under "Shay Khayee", 14 under "Chit Tha-

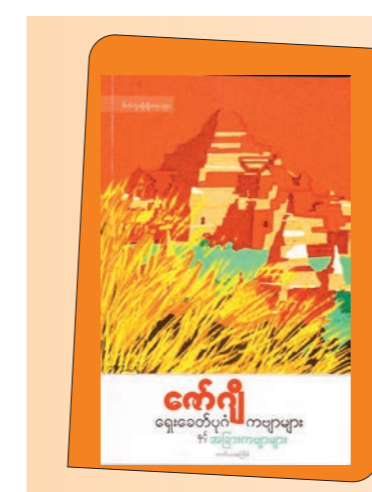
dar Thet Hnaung Myitta Lethsaung", and 17 under "Wunhtan Ta Oo Ei Diary". There are 87 poems in toto.

In his foreword to the book, Poet Zaw Min Min Oo said that as the poet is a navy sailor, his poems are in one way or another concerned with the life of a sailor and that there are some poems arousing the patriotic spirit, depicting the political scenarios and the union peace process as a patriotic citizen. This book is highly recommended if the readers want to know the overall situation of the country while enjoying the beauty of the poems.

The opener is about a son who is away from home to earn

a living. As his duties prevent him from going back home to pay respect to his parents, he suffers from homesickness. Nevertheless, his parents have arrived at his place, and this makes him overwhelmed with happiness. During his short stay, his father speaks words of advice and admonition, reminding his son to be loyal to his motherland, and staying away from bribery and corruption. Additionally, his father encourages him to become a good leader. His mother also tells him not to forget the Triple Gems and to have due regard for his parents and teachers. And when he pays obeisance to his parents, his parents give him the blessing.

Another poem worth reading is titled, "E Khayee Nee Bar Thi", meaning this is a short trip. The theme of the poem is concerned with peace. The first stanza warns the people against the complaints about the peace process, saying this is too long a journey. The second stanza says that however high the tidal wave is, it is under the boat, that however high a mountain, it is under the feet of the climbers and that as long as one is going, one will reach the destination in the end regardless of the distance. The third stanza reminds the readers to constantly bring to the fore wisdom and mindfulness and encourages them to get united. The fourth stanza encourages the indigenous people living on the same land, partaking in the same water to work together in anticipation of everlasting peace. Another poem titled "Chit Thadar Thet Hnaung Myitta Lethsaung" is about the love and kindness he harbours towards his better half. Despite being a naval officer, he has a very soft heart when it comes to his wife. He expresses his unwavering love towards his woman. There is also a poem worth reading. This poem is titled, "Thu Lo Lu". This is about General Aung San, the architect of independence.



Book Title	-	Shay Khit Bagan Gabyamyar Hnit Ahchar Gabyamyar
Poet	-	Zawgyi
Publishing House	-	Seikku Cho Cho
Publication Date	-	September 2023 (3rd Edition)
Price	-	K6,000

### Shay Khit Bagan Gabyamyar Hnit Ahchar Gabyamyar

IN his foreword to the noblest poem, Saya Zaw Min Min Oo said, "If one has a beautiful mind, he produces beautiful writings, and only if one keeps good intentions, his writings will be beneficial to mankind." In fact, Saya Zaw Min Min Oo is referring to Saya Zawgyi, when he writes this foreword. Sayagyi has been a professor honoris causa of Myanmar Language and Literature. Additionally, he is one of the luminaries of the Myanmar literature world. As a poet laureate, he is highly widely known, and so, there are very few people who have not read his poems.

He is better known among high school students as his poems are included in the high

school Myanmar curriculum. Not only the high school students but also the middle school students are all familiar with his poems. The middle school students have to learn such poems as Doe Taing Pyi (Our Country), Hline Galay (A Small Wave), and Inlay Luyichun Sakhan Hmar (At the Inlay Luyichun Camp) etc while the high school students have to learn such poems as Shay Khit Baganpyi (The Ancient City of Bagan), 1948 Lut Lat Yay Nay Ahtway (The 1948 Independence Day Thought), Kanbawza Tho (To Kanbawza), Paenin (The Coxswain), Ta Khu Thaw Thingyan Ahkhar (On One Water Festival Day), O Tetlu Doh (O Promising Young Men), Padauk Pan

(Padauk Flower), Baydar Lan (Path Strewn with Hyacinth Flowers), Myet Yeik Thamar (Grass Mowing Man), and Dabaung Moe (Dabaung Rain) etc.

Not only the poems but the prose of Saya Zaw Gyi are incorporated into the school curriculum. This being so, the students are quite familiar with his prose such as Mon Wungyi Hnit Myanmar Sagarbyay (The Mon Minister and Prose), Gabyar Waing Sar Waing Hnit Kyundaw (The Reading Circles and D), Nway Oo Kyet Thayay (The Grace of Spring) etc in addition to Kaytumati and Bagan Zay (Bagan Bazaar). In the Optional Burmese Text, Zati Man Sarso U Lun is quite popular among the students because this

article can arouse the patriotic spirit in the Myanmar people. This book under review is a collection of 50 poems published by Seikku Cho Cho. This is the third impression with the cover illustrated by Artist Tawti Swe while the inside illustrations are done by Artist Mokethon. From the first poem to the 33rd, the background events date back to the Bagan Era from King Anawrahta to Nara Thiha Patae (Tayoke Pyay Min). His poems give not only knowledge but also different emotions, feelings, sentiments and thoughts. This is why, his poems cannot be said to reflect only the historical events, especially concerning the royalties and the nobilities. We can also learn lessons from the past historical events while enjoying the poems.

Most of the poems have already been published in Shumawa Magazine from the 1980s up to the 1990s. Some have been carried in Yadanamon Magazine and some township magazines. The poems composed in dedication to the ancient pagodas in Bagan were created by Saya Zawgyi in his overripe age. The book carrying the poems dedicated to the ancient city of Bagan has won Saya the National Literary Award in the genre of poems.



# Belt and Road Initiative: A Road of Prosperity for the New Era

**I**N 2013, President Xi Jinping put forward the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). After a decade of development, the BRI has effectively promoted economic integration and interconnected development and delivered benefits to all. It has laid down a pathway toward mutual benefit, win-win outcomes, prosperity and development in an age rife with turbulence and change.

**The BRI shines the light on development and provides a new impetus for global development.** Development holds the master key to solving all problems and is a timeless theme for humanity. The BRI, focusing on development which best serves the common interests of all countries, has provided a platform for development with great inclusiveness and promoted the common development and prosperity of all countries around the world. From 2013 to 2022, the total value of China's trade in goods with key Belt and Road partner countries grew at an average annual rate of 8.6 per cent, and the two-way investment exceeded USD 270 billion. Newly signed contracts of projects are worth over USD 1.2 trillion, and an

array of infrastructure projects including roads, bridges and ports have come into commission, further promoting land, maritime, air and cyberspace connectivity.

The Belt and Road cooperation is not a solo performance, but a symphony played by all. The BRI has effectively synergized development strategies and practical demands among partners and has helped partner countries transform their own advantages into tangible fruits of development. Over the past decade, overseas cooperative industrial parks including Thailand-China Rayong Industrial Zone and Ethiopia's Eastern Industry Zone have flourished, serving as a catalyst for local industrialization and modernization. The World Bank estimates that by 2030, Belt and Road cooperation will bring an annual benefit of USD 1.6 trillion to the world, accounting for 1.3 per cent of the global GDP and injecting a strong impetus into global development.

**The BRI shines the light of happiness and makes new contributions to people's well-being.** The people are the foundation of a state. When the foundation is strong, the state will be secure. Improv-

ing people's livelihood has become another distinctive feature of the BRI. Over the past ten years, the BRI has helped lift nearly 40 million people out of poverty and created paths towards opportunity and prosperity for the local people. A large number of "small yet smart" livelihood programs such as schools, hospitals and stadiums have been put in place one after another, and more and more people are living a better life with a greater sense of happiness and benefit. The China-Europe Railway Express completed over 15,000 freight services, serving as a health train delivering medical supplies during the pandemic. In January this year, the China-aided African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) headquarters, the first CDC in Africa featuring modern office facilities and high-end laboratories, was successfully handed over. Facing the global food crisis, China and its BRI partners have been actively engaged in agricultural cooperation and popularized hybrid rice, Juncao and other practical technologies, making positive contributions to ensuring food supply for the local people.

**The BRI shines the light of hope and opens up new prospects for common prosperity.** The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is now encountering difficulties in its implementation, and the development gap keeps widening. Countries around the world have a stronger aspiration for development and cooperation. Many developing countries

have seized the momentum of the BRI and got on board the express train of China's development. As we accelerate the development of the health Silk Road, the digital Silk Road, the green Silk Road and the Silk Road of innovation, more opportunities for cooperation will be created. This will open up broader prospects for industrial upgrading, energy transformation and innovative development in those countries.

Talent is the most important asset that secures a bright future. Under the framework of Belt and Road cooperation, China has vigorously carried out relevant talent exchange activities and research cooperation. With the help of Luban Workshops, China has put in place vocational workshops in more than 20 countries to provide vocational and technical training for local young people, boosting the internal growth drivers of relevant countries.

The third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation will soon be held in Beijing. It will be the grandest event to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BRI and an important platform for all parties to discuss high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

We hope that all parties, standing on the new starting point, will make the pie of development increasingly bigger, so as to provide solid support for people's well-being and create more opportunities for economic growth. In doing so, we will usher in another wonderful decade on this road of global prosperity.

(Source: Chinese Embassy)

**A**LONG Kenya's Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway, animals as tall as giraffes cross the railroad bridges easily through the large passages built for them. At solar farms in Pakistan's Punjab province, plants and fruits are grown under solar panels. These scenes not only showcase the tangible outcomes delivered under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) but also highlight how the Belt and Road cooperation is turning the inspiring vision of green development into reality with concrete actions.

## Ancient Chinese wisdom makes new contribution

A sound ecosystem is essential for the prosperity of civilization. For thousands of years, the Chinese civilization has set a great store by the idea that humanity must seek harmony with Nature. Into the new era, China is committed to the principle that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets, and pursuing modernization that features harmony between humanity and Nature. Thanks to persistent efforts, incredible progress has been accomplished in its eco-environmental protection and green

# Belt and Road Initiative: A Road of Green Development for the New Era

development endeavours.

While steadily advancing green development at home, China has explored contributing its ideas and experience in green development to the Belt and Road cooperation. In 2019, at the opening ceremony of the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, China made clear that green will be a defining colour of the BRI, and green infrastructure, green investment and green financing will be promoted to protect the planet we all call home. This appeal to build a green Silk Road together demonstrates China's leadership as a major country in global eco-environmental governance and contributes Chinese wisdom to the joint endeavour for a clean and beautiful world.

## Boosting the green development of partner countries

In building a green Silk Road,

China has not only expressed its commitment but more importantly, taken concrete actions. In Senegal, China takes an active part in Dakar's wastewater treatment project to improve the water quality in surrounding areas and rehabilitate the environment along the beaches, which benefits hundreds of thousands of residents in the Bay Area. In Ghana, the Sunon Asogli Power Plant project has been completed with help from China. Supporting 25 per cent of Ghana's electricity demand, the plant has alleviated electricity shortage for local communities with green and clean power. In Kazakhstan, new energy projects delivered with the participation of Chinese enterprises, such as the Zhanatas Wind Power Station and the Turgusun hydropower station, have provided a strong boost to the country's green and

low-carbon development.

As the world's largest market and equipment manufacturer in the field of clean energy, China has conducted green energy cooperation with more than 100 countries and regions. In Belt and Road partner countries, Chinese investment in green and low-carbon energy has surpassed that in traditional energy. This has promoted a greater balance between socioeconomic development and eco-environmental protection, brought more opportunities for green development to participating countries and regions, and delivered green benefits to local communities.

## Building closer partnerships for green development

As the world faces increasing environmental problems, green development has become a consensus of all countries. So far, China has signed 50-plus co-

operation documents on eco-environmental protection with relevant parties, and jointly launched the Initiative for Belt and Road Partnership on Green Development with 31 partner countries and the Belt and Road Initiative Energy Partnership with 32 partner countries. The Belt and Road Initiative International Green Development Coalition now has more than 100 partner institutions, and the Green Silk Road Envoys Programme has trained more than 3,000 green development professionals for 120-plus partner countries. Ten years of steady and solid efforts have fostered ever stronger consensus among BRI participants on the importance of green development and enabled China to build closer partnerships on green development with partner countries.

In the future, guided by the vision of green development and supported by various cooperation platforms, this collective effort to build a green Silk Road will surely bring more benefits to people across the world and facilitate the building of a community of life between humanity and Nature.

(Source: Chinese Embassy)



## India launches key test for manned orbital mission

The rocket conducted a successful test of the crew module's emergency escape system on Saturday, with the module separating from the rocket and making a safe sea landing approximately 10 minutes after launch.

INDIA on Saturday successfully launched the first unmanned trial run of its upcoming crewed orbital mission, in the latest milestone for its spacefaring ambitions.

The Gaganyaan ("Skycraft") mission is slated to send three astronauts into Earth's orbit in 2025, an important yardstick of the Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) technical capabilities. Saturday's rocket tested the emergency escape system of its crew module, which separated from the thruster and made a soft sea landing about 10 minutes after the launch.

"I am very happy to announce the successful accomplishment of the mission," ISRO chief S Somanath said afterwards.

The lift-off was postponed for two hours after bad weather and a glitch in the engine.

ISRO will conduct a series of 20 major tests, including carrying a robot to outer space, before the final manned mission takes place in 2025.

Gaganyaan is the first mission of its kind for India and comes with an estimated price tag of \$1.08 billion, according to ISRO. — AFP

## Ragnar Locker ransomware gang taken down in international sweep

A man believed to be a key figure in a ransomware group has been arrested in France over a string of cyberattacks on critical infrastructure across the world, including one in 2020 against Japanese video game maker Capcom Co, police said Friday.

Law enforcement authorities from Japan, the United States and nine European countries co-

operated in the investigation targeting the Ragnar Locker group, which threatened to publish and block access to victims' personal data unless ransoms were paid for decryption tools.

The man, suspected of being a developer for the group, was arrested by French authorities in Paris on Monday, Japan's National Police Agency said. — Kyodo

### MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

## UN chief calls for humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza war



Seen on a large screen the Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi opens the International Peace Summit in Cairo on 21 October 2023 amid the ongoing battles between Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas. PHOTO: AFP

UN chief Antonio Guterres on Saturday urged a "humanitarian ceasefire" in the Gaza war between Israel and Hamas and called for global "action to end this godawful nightmare".

The war has left thousands dead and displaced a million Palestinians, who Guterres said need "much more" than the 20 trucks that were entering the besieged territory

of 2.4 million people. The Palestinians need "a continuous delivery of aid to Gaza at the scale that is needed", he told regional leaders at Cairo's "Summit for Peace". — AFP

## First aid trucks enter besieged Gaza from Egypt

THE first aid trucks arrived in the war-torn Gaza Strip from Egypt on Saturday, AFP journalists said, bringing desperately needed humanitarian relief to the Hamas-controlled Palestinian enclave under Israeli siege.

Israel has vowed to destroy Hamas after the Isla-

mist militant group carried out the deadliest attack in the country's history on 7 October. It launched a military campaign and cut food, water, electricity and fuel supplies to the densely populated and long-blockaded territory of 2.4 million people, sparking fears of a humanitarian ca-

tastrophe.

AFP journalists saw 20 trucks from the Egyptian Red Crescent, which is responsible for delivering aid from various UN agencies, pass through the Rafah border crossing from Egypt, and the first trucks entering Gaza on the other side. — AFP



Commuters drive along a road past banners with the image of Pakistan's former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) party leaders in Lahore on 21 October 2023. PHOTO: AFP

## Exiled former Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif arrives home for comeback bid

THREE-TIME prime minister Nawaz Sharif arrived back in Pakistan Saturday after four years of self-imposed exile, primed to make a political comeback ahead of elections.

The South Asian nation is facing overlapping security, economic and political crises ahead

of polls already pushed back to January 2024, with Sharif's primary opponent, the fiercely popular Imran Khan, languishing in jail. Sharif spent the past several days in Dubai and left on a chartered flight packed with journalists, touching down in the capital Islamabad around 1:30 pm (0830

GMT) according to local media.

"We are completely ready for elections," he told reporters before his flight took off. "Our country which should have been at the heights of prosperity has really gone backwards," he said. "How did we get here? Why did it come to this?" — AFP



# ECONOMY WORLD

## Japan PM asks ruling bloc to weigh income tax cut to fight inflation



It was designed to cushion the impact of higher inflation on households. Vendors wait for customers at their shop in Tokyo's Tsukiji area on 22 April. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP/FILE**

PRIME Minister Fumio Kishida asked senior ruling coalition executives on Friday to consider reducing income tax as a temporary measure to relieve households from the adverse effects of inflation.

Kishida, who has made the "redistribution" of economic growth a hallmark of his policy, met with senior lawmakers from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner Komeito to ask them to look into the proposal on the same day an extraordinary parliamentary session was convened.

A cut to income tax is ex-

*Cabinet plans to cut income tax in an inflation relief package amid rising prices and falling real wages.*

pected to be a key feature of an inflation-relief package that the Cabinet plans to finalize on 2 November, as rising prices of everyday goods are already squeezing household budgets while real

wages are falling.

Although the idea of cutting income tax has emerged within the ruling bloc, some lawmakers have reservations about pursuing the policy due to questions about its effectiveness, as well as the amount of time it would take to get the measures through parliament among other factors.

LDP policy chief Koichi Hagiuda has said the LDP will not rule out an income tax cut while his Komeito counterpart Yosuke Takagi asked the prime minister to consider the proposal during an in-person meeting earlier this week. — Kyodo

## Lebanon national carrier halves flights amid fears of Israel war

*Next week, only eight of the company's 22 planes will be in operation, while the remaining fleet will be transferred to different airports.*

LEBANON'S national carrier Friday said it was cutting more than half of its flights as tensions along the border with Israel prompted more Western countries to warn against travel to Lebanon.

Since a Hamas attack on 7 October triggered war between Israel and the Gaza-based militants, the Lebanese-Israeli border has seen near daily tit-for-tat incidents involving Lebanon's

Hezbollah or Palestinian groups including Hamas.

At least 22 people have been killed on the Lebanese side, including four civilians, sparking fears of a wider escalation.

On Friday, Mohammad El-Hout, chairman of Middle East Airlines (MEA), said only eight of the company's 22 planes would operate as of next week, with the rest of the fleet relocated to other airports. — AFP

## Sweden to limit social benefits for non-European immigrants

*Sweden, with 10.3 million people, faces "significant problems" with unemployed foreign-born individuals relying on benefits.*



Sweden's right-wing government said on Friday it would make it harder for non-European immigrants to receive social benefits. **PHOTO: AFP**

SWEDEN'S right-wing government said on Friday it would make it harder for non-European immigrants to receive social benefits, saying it wanted to dissuade migrants from arriving and better integrate those who do.

Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson's minority government came to power a year ago with

— for the first time — backing from the far-right Sweden Democrats (SD). It has vowed to crack down on immigration and crime. Sweden had previously taken in large numbers of immigrants since the 1990s, primarily from conflict-torn places like the former Yugoslavia, Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Iran and Iraq.

But it has struggled to integrate them. "Since 2012, more than 770,000 people have immigrated to Sweden from countries outside the European Union and European Economic Area (EEA)," the leaders of the three-party coalition and the far-right SD wrote in an opinion piece in newspaper Dagens Nyheter. — AFP



The decision came after changes to the company's insurance coverage following the 7 October Hamas attack. **PHOTO: AFP**



## S&P returns Greece's credit rating to investment grade

THE ratings agency S&P has returned Greece's credit rating to investment grade for the first time since 2010, citing the "significant progress" it has made in tackling economic challenges.

S&P is upgrading the country's credit rating to BBB-/A-3 from BB+/B for long- and short-term local and foreign currency sovereign credit ratings, it announced in a statement Friday.

Its decision makes it the first of the three major US ratings agencies to lift Greece's credit rating from speculative to investment grade.

"Greece's public finances are improving thanks to the budgetary consolidation efforts,"

it said, explaining its decision.

"Since the debt crisis in 2009-2015, significant progress has been made in addressing Greece's economic and fiscal imbalances," it added.

S&P expects the government to achieve a primary surplus of "at least" 1.2 per cent of GDP this year, well above target, growing to 2.3 per cent of GDP over the next three years.

The general election earlier this year that returned Kyriakos Mitsotakis to power "allows the government to continue to build upon past reform efforts" to make Greece internationally competitive, S&P said. — AFP



In Greece, investors will find a wide spectrum of opportunities, a friendly environment, and some of the most beautiful locations in the world. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Auction of first Senegalese president's jewellery put on hold

AN auction in France of possessions that belonged to the first Senegalese president has been delayed, AFP learned Saturday, as Senegal negotiates with the owner over buying them directly.

The items, which were to be auctioned in Caen, include Leopold Sedar Senghor's military jewellery and decorations, plus various other objects.

Rings, bracelets, pendants and watches are listed as part of the collection.

But Senegalese President Macky Sall had earlier asked the culture minister, together with the Senegalese embassy in

Paris, to enter into "appropriate discussions" with the auctioneer.

"My seller and I perfectly understand the excitement caused by this sale among the Senegalese and... we therefore decided to postpone the sale," auctioneer Solene Laine told AFP Saturday.

She said that instead they would hold negotiations over the next few weeks and hope to find "common ground".

She said the Senegalese state wanted to acquire the entire Senghor portfolio, which is currently owned by a private individual. — AFP



This photo taken on 19 June 2023 shows workers at a factory of Lotus in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province. **PHOTO: CHENG MIN/XINHUA**

## China's automobile manufacturing industry logs robust growth in January-August

*Companies in the sector made a total profit of 303.59 billion yuan, which is 2.4 per cent more than the previous year*

CHINA'S automobile manufacturing industry registered steady expansion in the first eight months of this year, industry data showed. The industrial added-value of the sector surged 11.7 per cent year on

year during the period, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

Combined operating revenue of the industry came in at 6.17 trillion yuan (about 859.39 billion US dollars), soaring 10.9

per cent from the same period last year. Companies in the sector raked in a total profit of 303.59 billion yuan in the same period, up 2.4 per cent over one year earlier, the data revealed. — Xinhua

## Christiane Benner, first woman to lead Germany's biggest union

*As she gets ready to represent over two million IG Metall members, including those in industries like automotive and electrical, Benner has a clear set of priorities.*

CHRISTIANE Benner will become the first woman to lead Germany's biggest union when she takes the helm at IG Metall next week. But the milestone comes as the once mighty industrial sector battles a series of crises. Soaring energy costs due to Russia's war in Ukraine, high inflation and weaker demand from key trade partner China have culminated in a manufacturing slump that has raised fears about Germany's future as an industrial powerhouse



Christiane Benner, Vice-President of German metalworkers' union IG Metall (Industriegewerkschaft Metall) speaks during an interview with AFP in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany, on 4 October 2023. **PHOTO: KIRILL KUDRYAVTSEV / AFP**

and export champion.

Benner's appointment is set to be confirmed at an IG Metall congress on Monday.

As she prepares to go to bat for IG Metall's more than two million members in sectors including the automotive, machine tool and electrical industries, Benner is clear about her priorities. "The most important thing is keeping industry in Germany and Europe," she told AFP in an interview in her Frankfurt office. — AFP



# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Indian imports of Russian raw diamonds hit 5-year high in August - Statistics

INDIA bought \$215 million worth of raw diamonds from Russia in August, the highest value since March 2018, when it imported \$481 million worth of Russian gems, according to data from the Indian Commerce Ministry analyzed by Sputnik.

India's diamond imports from Russia quadrupled in August month-on-month, or nine per cent year-on-year, as the industry mulled a halt in supplies to avoid a glut. The purchase raised this year's total to \$863 million, up 29 per cent from 2022.

India's Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council said in late September that Russian diamond producer Alrosa had agreed to pause raw diamond exports to India for September and October.

The Indian gem trade body asked other diamond-mining giants to halt supply for two months from mid-October after seeing a drop in demand for finished diamonds in the United States and China. — SPUTNIK

*India bought four times as many diamonds from Russia in August compared to the previous month and nine per cent more than last year, totalling \$863 million in 2023, a 29 per cent increase from 2022.*



Workers work with diamonds at a diamond polishing workshop in Ahmedabad on 10 January 2023. PHOTO: SAM PANTHAKY/AFP/FILE

### RHETORIC AND ACTIONS

#### Meta, Google quit tech summit over organizer's Israel remarks

META and Google have pulled out of the Web Summit, one of the tech sector's biggest annual events, after the organizer criticized Israel's actions following the Hamas attacks, the companies said on Friday.

A spokesman for Meta confirmed to AFP that it would not take part in this year's event.

"We will no longer have a presence at Web Summit," a Google spokesperson said.

Irish entrepreneur Paddy Cosgrave, co-founder of the Web Summit, wrote on social media platform X last week that he was "shocked at the rhetoric and actions of so many Western leaders and governments." — AFP

## Latin American presidents to meet in Mexico for migration summit

*This year, 1.7 million migrants came to the border between Mexico and the United States, causing immigration to be a big political concern in both countries as they approach presidential elections next year.*



Central American migrants and a Spanish journalist ride a makeshift raft across the Suchiate River from Tecún Umán in Guatemala to Ciudad Hidalgo in Chiapas state, Mexico, on 11 June 2019. PHOTO: QUETZALLI BLANCO/AFP/FILE

WHEN a dozen Latin American presidents and foreign ministers meet on Sunday in Mexico, they'll face a huge task: finding a solution to migration flows roiling two continents as people

make their way to the United States.

This year alone, 1.7 million migrants arrived at the Mexican-US border. Immigration is becoming a huge political issue

in both nations, which each have presidential elections next year.

September alone saw 60,000 migrants arrive in Mexico from Venezuela, along with 35,000 Guatemalans and 27,000 Hondurans, according to the Mexican government.

"It is very difficult to be able to manage these numbers if we do not have a policy where migration is not only handled between Mexico and the United States, but also from the northern part of South America to the United States," Mexican Foreign Minister Alicia Barcena said this week before congress.

"We need to agree" on migration policy "because we can do many things ourselves" within Latin America, said Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. — AFP

## Belgian justice minister resigns after deadly Brussels attack

BELGIAN Justice Minister Vincent Van Quickenborne resigned Friday, four days after a Tunisian migrant killed two Swedish football fans in Brussels, saying the failure to extradite him was a "monumental mistake".

He told a news conference that Tunisia had on 15 August last year sought the extradition of Abdesalem Lassoued and it

had not been followed up.

"It's an individual, monumental and unacceptable error with dramatic consequences," he said. "The magistrate in question did not follow up this demand and the dossier was not handled".

"I am not looking for any excuses. I think it's my duty" to resign, he said. — AFP



Belgian police officers from the forensic service gather in the street in the Schaerbeek area of Brussels on 17 October 2023. PHOTO: JOHN THYS / AFP



# SPORTS

## Shelton shakes things up to reach first final at Japan Open

RISING American star Ben Shelton said he had to “shake things up” to reach his first ATP Tour final at the Japan Open on Saturday after another gruelling three-set match.

The 21-year-old beat American qualifier Marcos Giron 6-7 (2/7), 7-6 (7/5), 6-4 in Tokyo and will face Russia’s Aslan Karatsev in Sunday’s final.

Shelton lost the first set and found himself two breaks down in the second against world number 79 Giron, who eliminated second seed Casper Ruud earlier this week. Shelton said it was “definitely a difficult place to be in” and credited a change in strategy for turning the match in his favour.

“I knew that if I continued to keep playing the way I was, with the rhythm that he’d found, I was going to lose the match,” he said.

“I tried to shake things up and try something that was going to surprise him.

“I was able to get him out of his rhythm for the three or four games that I needed to get myself back into the match.”

Shelton rode the momentum after he had survived his second-set scare, closing out the match with an ace before letting out a roar and thumping his chest.

He said the encounter was “one of the tougher matches that I’ve played in my career”. — AFP

## Defending Champion edges big win over GFC

DEFENDING Championship Shan United trounced GFC FC 6-1 in the Week-17 match of the Myanmar National League held at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

Shan United, the current champion, is playing the remaining games without making any mistakes to defend the championship, so they won this game again. As it was a meeting with GFA from the relegation zone, Shan United won by half a dozen goals playing at a disadvantage.

The Shan United team scored four goals in the first half and two more in the second half.

The winning goals of Shan United were found at 28 minutes by Motohiro, Zar Naya Thu at 30 and 45 minutes and Belo at 43, 47 and 48 minutes. The consolation goal for GFA was scored by Myo Min Aung at 61 minutes. After



Shan United Captain Nanda Kyaw (white) vies for the ball with a GFA player during the Week-17 match of Myanmar National League at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 21 October 2023. PHOTO: MNL

this match, Shan United is still leading the Myanmar National League table with 44 points, while GFA remains at the bottom with eight points. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Rooney pays tribute to Charlton after losing return to English football

WAYNE Rooney paid tribute to Manchester United legend Bobby Charlton after losing his first match in charge of Birmingham 1-0 against former teammate Michael Carrick 1-0 at Middlesbrough.

A minute’s applause broke out around the Riverside at the beginning of the second-half when the news was announced that Charlton had passed away at the age of 86 on Saturday.

Rooney surpassed Charlton’s records as United and England’s all-time record goalscorer during his playing

career. “I’m still in shock. I came out for the second-half and didn’t really know what was happening, then it hit me,” said Rooney.

“Sir Bobby was always great with me. We had conversations not just about football but about life.

“He’s a huge loss to football and a huge loss to his family, more importantly. He’ll be greatly missed”. Carrick also shared his memories of time spent with Charlton during a 12-year playing career at Old Trafford. — AFP

## Golf tournament for juniors held in Yangon

THE first day and opening ceremony of the Junior Golf Tournament to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Junior Golf Myanmar (JGM) jointly organized by the Myanmar Golf Federation and JGM was held at Yangon Golf Course (Danyingon) in Yangon yesterday.

After the first (round), Hein Naing Zin scored 71 strokes, while Kaung Myat Hein secured 86, Aung Than Htut earned 84, and Chotha Aung grabbed 81 strokes respectively.

A total of 44 junior golfers in various age-wise events are competing in the tourney, which

will run till 22 October. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



A junior golfer is seen competing in the Junior Golf Tournament on 21 October 2023. PHOTO: MGF



Inter Milan’s players celebrate after winning the Italian Serie A football match between Torino and Inter Milan, at Torino’s Olympic Stadium, in Turin on 21 October 2023. PHOTO: AFP

## Red-hot Martinez helps move Inter top as Kvaratskhelia revives Napoli

LAUTARO Martinez continued his red-hot scoring form in Inter Milan’s 3-0 win at Torino on Saturday which moved his team top of Serie A while Khvicha Kvaratskhelia’s brace at Verona put Napoli’s title defence back on track.

Argentina striker Martinez nodded home his 11 league goal of the season in the 67 minute of a straight-forward win in Turin as Inter went one

point ahead of AC Milan, who host third-placed Juventus on Sunday night.

The 26-year-old is already five goals ahead of Victor Osimhen, his nearest rival at the top of the scoring charts, after just nine matches and has become the attacking focal point for Inter who are also the highest scorers in Italy’s top flight with 24. —AFP



## Rolling Stones return with a little help from a Beatle

*The Rolling Stones have released their 24<sup>th</sup> studio album, "Hackney Diamonds", their first in 18 years, with notable appearances from music icons like Elton John, Lady Gaga, and their former rival, Paul McCartney, who played bass on the song "Bite My Head Off".*

THE Rolling Stones burst back to life on Friday with "Hackney Diamonds", their first album in 18 years, featuring megastar cameos from Elton John, Lady Gaga and even their old rival, Paul McCartney. Now in their seventh decade of making music together, the legendary British band is back with their 24<sup>th</sup> studio album. McCartney joins in for the first time, playing bass on the punky "Bite My Head Off".

Back in their 1960s heyday, much



The Rolling Stones' big earners, Ronnie Wood, Mick Jagger, Charlie Watts and Keith Richards, perform in July 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

was made of the rivalry between the Stones and the Beatles, but it was always more marketing than reality, with John Lennon singing on the Stones' "We Love You" in 1967. "Paul and I have always been friends," Stones frontman Mick Jagger, 80, told France 2 this week.

McCartney's appearance was something of an accident, Keith Richards told *Guitar Player* magazine.

"He happened to be around and dropped by," Richards said. "I don't even think he intended to play bass on a track, but once he was in there, I just said, 'Come on, you're in. You ain't leaving till you play.'" While McCartney and Elton John's contributions are somewhat hard to pick out, Lady Gaga and Stevie Wonder make more of an impact on "Sweet Sounds of Heaven", a blues-y ballad in the vein of classics such as "You Can't Always Get What You Want". — AFP



Supplied photo shows Toyota Motor Corp's new electric vehicle concept car Kayoibako. **PHOTO: TOYOTA MOTOR CORP. /KYODO**

## Next-gen EVs from SUV to minicar in spotlight at Japan mobility show

*Toyota will showcase the Kayoibako EV concept, a versatile microvan with a customizable interior for various uses, including outdoor fun, deliveries, and as a food truck, featuring a panoramic glass roof.*

A wide variety of vehicles from a sleek crossover sport-utility and an upscale autonomous minivan to a mini recreational car, all powered by batteries, will be among the eye-popping concepts at the Tokyo auto show next week when a record 475 companies participate in the event.

The Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, the event organizer, calls this

year's show — the first since 2019 following a pandemic-induced hiatus — the Japan Mobility Show to highlight a variety of advanced technologies beyond the auto industry, such as robots and drones.

Japanese carmakers, seen as laggards in the all-electric vehicle market, are determined to play catch-up with overseas rivals such as Tesla Inc. Among major EV makers, Chinese leader BYD Co will take

part in the Tokyo auto show for the first time. The show will be open to the media for two days from Wednesday next week and to the public from 28 October to 5 November. Toyota Motor Corp will display the Kayoibako EV concept. The microvan with a panoramic glass roof allows owners to customize its interior for diverse purposes, ranging from outdoor recreation to delivery services and even as a food truck. The world's largest carmaker will also exhibit a next-generation EV concept before its rollout in 2026 as part of its push in the battery-powered vehicle market to meet a goal of selling 1.5 million EVs in 2026. — Kyodo

## French geeks plan world's biggest video game museum



"Godzilla" is a popular fictional monster known for its appearances in movies, TV shows, and video games. **PHOTO: AFP**

French gaming nerds are planning to open the world's biggest video game museum near Disneyland Paris.

The Odyssey Project — named after the first ever console designed by

Magnavox in 1972 — will house one of the biggest collections of games ever assembled. The complex, which will also include a "Japanese village" dedicated to the country's popular culture and

cuisine, is the brainchild of collector Ludovic Charles and YouTuber Benoit Theveny, better known to his million followers as Tev.

Charles, 49, has amassed a collection of 2,200 consoles over the last two decades, with every imaginable version of Nintendo, Sega, Sony, Microsoft and other game systems.

"I do not want them to sit pointlessly on the shelves any longer," he told AFP at the warehouse where he stores them in southern France.

"Gathering them all was what interested me," he added, "but the goal was always a museum" with an exhaustive overview of the evolution of video games.

The pair have already crowd funded more than one million euros to get the project off the ground. They put their heads together last year when Charles put the collection up for sale online for around one million euros. — AFP