

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Foreign tourists admire panoramic twilight view at the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone pagoda. **PHOTO: KANU**

Visitors delight in Bagan's twilight beauty

Visitors love to see the twilight beauty in Bagan, especially at Culamani Lake and Nyaunglaph-
etkan mound.

View Mounts have been created in the 19 square miles of Bagan to see the natural beauty of the pagodas and Ayeyawady Riverview.

Tourists occasionally see the scenic beauty of Bagan over the temples of Minn-anthu Lake, Komauk Lake, East Ohhtein Hill, and West Ohhtein Hill, Kyaukmyat-maw, Buu, Nyaunglaphak Lake and Culamani Lake.

"Bagan region is a region that is re-

lying on tourism. It is expected that there will be a steady stream of domestic and foreign tourists throughout the tourism season starting from this year's weekend festival.

"Since the re-opening of the tourism sector after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the arrival of tourists has not yet reached the previous standard, but we can see that it is increasing year by year.

"When visiting Bagan, one of the must-do things for both local and foreign tourists is to take pictures while enjoying the beauty of the evening twilight.

"Foreign tourists and young people

often watch the evening beauty from Culamani Lake and Nyaunglaphak Lake. Bagan region has to develop the tourism sector going forward," said Deputy Director U Win Aung from the Hotels and Tourism Directorate (Bagan Branch).

Hotels and guesthouses in the Bagan region are almost fully booked for the 2023 Thadingyut Festival. About 3,000 visitors flocked to destinations in Bagan on the Thadingyut Full Moon Day in 2021. The number of visitors rose to 120,000 on the same event in 2022. More visitors are expected to visit Bagan this year. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KZL

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8th Day of 2023 Mid-Year Gems Emporium: 999 jade lots sold out

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Local products to be sold at fair prices at Thadingyut Festival Expo

BUSINESS PAGE-7



Import Health Certificate for imported food obligatory: FDA

77 elephant costume troupes parade Kyaukse Myoma Market in dummy elephant festival

According to the organizing committee, the annual elephant dance festival in Kyaukse will be held on 28 October.

A total of 101 elephant dummies will participate in the festival; 77 of them will go around the Myoma Market, and three elephant dummies decorated with sequins will dance around the streets with modern music.

The elephant dance contest will be held in turns at the central pavilion (of scoring referee 1) in the elephant dance competition ground, the Shwethalyaung Buddhist Temple; the scoring referee 2 at the corner of Yangon-Mandalay Highway and TadaU; and the scoring referee 3 in the precinct of Lemyethna Pagoda.

A total of 17 elephant dummies will participate in the competition, and the winning teams will be awarded prizes and certificates of honour after the competition, according to the festival organizing committee. — TWA/CT



The Elephant Dance Festival was held in the previous year in Kyaukse.

NATIONAL

Wife of the SAC Chairman Prime Minister enjoys competition of marionette troupe performance



DAW Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister, watched a competition of marionette troupes at Yinkyayhmu Yadana Hall under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture yesterday afternoon.

Together with the wife of the Council Secretary, the wife of the Joint Secretary, wives of the SAC members, wives of senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Union-level officials, and deputy ministers, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla enjoyed compe-

petition of Tawwin Yokesone marionette troupe representing Yangon Region with the performance of "Pyinnya ShweOh" drama in the amateur level (Grade-1) marionette troupe event.

The marionette event has been held in the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition since 1998 for many years. This year's competition also comprises the marionette event for the preservation of Myanmar's cultural heritage and revitalization of Myanmar's marionette art. — MNA/TTA

Wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla of the SAC Chairman Prime Minister cordially greets the judges for the marionette troupe competition.

Statement of Myanmar Writers Association

27 October 2023

INSURGENTS attacked locations near Chinshwehaw in northern Shan State and abducted civilians as hostages on 27 October 2023.

The Myanmar Writers Association objects to the deliberate hostage-taking of innocent people.

Myanmar Writers Association

Statement of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization

27 October 2023

THE Myanmar Motion Picture Organization has issued this statement strongly condemning the armed insurgents for their attacks in Chinshwehaw in northern Shan State and hostage-taking against innocent civilians on 27 October 2023.

Myanmar Motion Picture Organization

Statement of Myanmar Music Association (Central)

27 October 2023

SOME places were attacked and destroyed, and innocent people were forcibly abducted in Shan State yesterday (27 October 2023). The Myanmar Music Association (Central) issued a statement strongly condemning and unacceptable.

Myanmar Music Association (Central)

Myanmar War Veterans Organization Statement

27 October 2023, Friday

1. Now is the time for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to walk on the path of a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system, and the 8th anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) could be successfully organized. At present, some armed insurgents attacked and destroyed some areas of townships in northern Shan State on the morning of 27 October, Friday intending to cause instability in the country and panic on the people and abduct some innocent people.

2. The Myanmar War Veterans Organization hereby issued a statement, strongly condemning the terror acts of armed insurgents in the incident to cause injuries to innocent people and loss of the country.

Myanmar War Veterans Organization

Myanmar Press Council Statement 6/2023

27 October 2023, Friday

1. Armed insurgents reportedly attacked and destroyed several locations in Shan State yesterday (27 October 2023) with the intention of stoking chaos, fear, and panic among the people while obstructing the path to genuine and disciplined democracy.

2. The Myanmar Press Council issued a statement strongly condemning terrorist acts perpetrated to harm the country and innocent people who seek to live in peace, deeming them totally unacceptable.

Myanmar Press Council

Objectives of 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2023

- To uplift national prestige and integrity and to preserve the cultural heritage and national characteristics
- To explore, preserve and uplift the traditional cultural heritage of performing arts of ethnic nationals and national cultural characteristics
- To explore and preserve the traditional cultural heritage for the young generation and further propagate the national spirit
- To support measures in the field of national culture ensuring the development, peace and tranquillity of the State

COVID-19 report, 27 October 2023

NEW TESTS 2,583

NEW CASES Two

CASUALTIES Nil

NATIONAL

Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MIFER), aiming to develop human resources and to improve the capacity of staff, the 35th ceremony of Friday Talk of Knowledge Sharing Programme-KSP was held at Office No 1, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday. Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw attended and delivered the opening remarks.

The Union minister pointed out that the title of the 35th Friday Talk is the topic “The Importance of Knowledge Sharing Programme and Factors Influencing the Knowledge Sharing Programme”, and most people accept that knowledge is the connection between humans and psychology. He emphasized that newly developing countries are striving to achieve food security similar to developed countries. They prioritized industrialization for national economic devel-



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw opens the 35th Friday Talk yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.



MIFER's 35th Friday Talk held

opment. In such doing, most of the countries needed technology to prioritize industrial factors. In developing countries, the key requirement for development is human resource development, not capital and materials. Consequently, the majority of the countries in the world implemented human resource de-

velopment favourably. He also expressed that improvement of knowledge is the genuine development of sharing knowledge can understand dos and don'ts and to overcome difficulties. He highlighted the importance of KSP and Factors Influencing the Knowledge Sharing Programme for human resource

development. In conclusion, he urged the presenter to do a comprehensive presentation and MIFER's staff need to actively participate in the discussion.

Daw Ei Ei Khaing, Assistant Director from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration presented the topic “The Importance of Knowledge

Sharing Programme and Factors Influencing the Knowledge Sharing Programme”, the attendees raised questions, queries and discussions.

The deputy minister, the director-general, senior officials and a total of 120 staff members joined this programme.— MIFER



Gem merchants evaluating jade lots at the emporium yesterday.

8th Day of 2023 Mid-Year Gems Emporium: 999 jade lots sold out

The eighth day of the 2023 Mid-Year Gems Emporium continued at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. Local and foreign gem merchants looked around and examined the lots of jade that had been displayed at designated places outside the hall since the morning.

In the exhibition, for the development of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), 1,000 utility jade lots were put on sale to local merchants in Myanmar Kyats through an open tender system, and it was announced that 999 lots of jade were sold.

A total of 792 jade lots were on display for the final day of the exhibition, where they were inspected by local gems merchants, and bids were placed in the tender boxes. Officials closed the bidding for the 792 jade lots at 3 pm. The tender boxes will be opened, and the sale of jade lots will be announced at 8 am on 28 October. The remaining 792 jade lots will continue for sales on 28 October, the last day of the exhibition. — MNA/CT

YR Tourism Work Committee approves hotel, guesthouse permits

The Yangon Region Tourism Work Committee has granted construction permits to one hotel and one guesthouse worth K23,111 million in Yangon Region in November, according to the 2/2023 work committee meeting held on 24 October.

During the meeting, it granted one hotel construction permit, one guesthouse construction permit, six hotel licences and one guesthouse licence in the region. The permitted capital amount for hotel and guesthouse businesses of Myanmar citizens and the investment amount is

K23,111 million and it can create 184 job opportunities.

Moreover, it also issued 102 travel agency licences (inbound and outbound) and 65 travel agency licences (outbound).

Similarly, the region tourism work committee approved six hotel licences and one guesthouse construction permit with 217 rooms at the 1/2023 meeting. The investment amount was K10,067 million and it created 125 job opportunities.

Moreover, the committee permitted K33,178 million investment for the hotel sector in Yangon Region and provided 309 job opportunities. — ASH/KTZH



NATIONAL

24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition (Central Level) continues



State Administration Council members and dignitaries watch the Mahawthahta drama competition performed by the Ayeyawady Region cultural troupe yesterday.

The 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition (Central Level) continued for the fourth day at designated venues in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The contestants from various regions and states participated in the “Maha Gita” singing competition, “modern song” competition, dance competition, song-composing competition, adding lyrics to melody of composing competition, mandolin competition, violin competition, oboe competition, Myanmar orchestra solo competition, marionette troupe competition, and Mahawthahta drama competition which took place at designated venues yesterday.

State Administration Council members, the chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, Union-level officials, deputy ministers, ministers for Ethnic Affairs and Ministers for Social Affairs of regions and states, advocates-general, relevant officials, departmental staff



At the Maha Gita singing contest.



At the mandolin competition.



At the dancing competition.



At the singing contest.

and parents of contestants attended the competitions.

The singing competition includes songs promoting national prestige, and integrity in Maha Gita, classical and modern song competitions for amateur level second class and higher education level. The dancing competition includes amateur level (female second class) and basic education level (male aged 10 to 15). — MNA/KZW

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

NATIONAL



Myanmar citizens stranded in Israel were repatriated under the Myanmar government's arrangement. They arrived back in Myanmar on 26 October 2023. Some of them expressed their gratitude and shared their experiences with the readers.

THE government takes care of its citizens working abroad and assists them if they face hardships. The government also arranged to repatriate Myanmar nationals stranded in Israel and they arrived back in Myanmar on 26 October and were welcomed by their relatives and parents at the Yangon International Airport.

The government evacuated its citizens from Tel Aviv, Israel, to Bangkok, Thailand, on 25 October under an evacuation plan, and the citizens arrived back in Yangon by 8M 351 MAI flight from Bangkok in the same evening.

One of the returnees, Ko Aung Kyaw Oo, said "I was frightened as the war broke

out suddenly. We run down to the bomb shelter as we cannot stay in the house anymore. I have been attending an agricultural training course in Israel for over four years. The Myanmar Embassy to Israel contacted us and arranged for us to return so we arrive back safely and peacefully.

"I am very excited at Israel airport for my return to Myanmar. When I arrived in Bangkok, the feeling of happiness was just 50 per cent and when the flight landed at the Yangon airport, the consciousness of being my land cannot be replaced with anything. None of the places is as warm as my motherland. I thanked the ones who welcomed me. I am

from Pinlaung of Shan State. I deeply thank the government officials, Myanmar Ambassador to Israel and other relevant officials. I thank all."

Ma Lamai Mirror said, "The feeling of coming home cannot be replaced by anything. I would like to express deeper words to express my gratitude. I am from Tanai in Kachin State. I prayed along the trip. I thank the government and embassy for my return. I also thank all officials who repatriated me to my parents."

Ma Moe Thidar Aung said, "I live in the downtown area. I heard the noise of war at Israel's border. At that time, I wanted to return to my country. The

embassy officials contacted us to repatriate so I could return peacefully. I would like to thank the embassy for their patience for repatriation. I live in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township of Yangon. I want to thank the relevant officials and heads of the country."

Ma Khin Hnin Ei said, "I heard the noise of war in Tel Aviv every day. We have been living there for four years. We haven't encountered such a case before. Some foreigners returned to their respective countries. There are also some Myanmar citizens. I wanted to return to my country as soon as I heard the sound of war. We were very tired of thinking about what would happen every day. I live in Thayawady of Bago Region. I miss my family. When I received the letter from the embassy, I was very delighted. Before the flight landing off at Israel airport and after flying in the air was the longest time for me. I became calm when I arrived in Bangkok and felt happy and sad at the same time on arrival at Yangon airport. The power of happiness when I stepped on my motherland cannot be exchanged with anything. I would like to express my gratitude to the relevant officials for their help in repatriating us."

The returnees were welcomed back by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Disaster Management Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and their family members at Yangon International Airport. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH



Ko Aung Kyaw Oo.



Ma Lamai Mirror.



Ma Moe Thidar Aung.



Ma Khin Hnin Ei.

K1.35 billion worth of stimulant tablets captured in Dagon (South), North Okkalapa townships

A total of K1.35 billion worth of 1.35 million stimulant tablets were captured in Dagon Myothit (South) and North Okkalapa townships, the Myanmar Police Force stated. Acting on a tip-off, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force examined a Changhe vehicle driven by Thawda

Lin on Yadanabon Street in Dagon Myothit (South) township at 8 am on 21 October and seized 200,000 stimulant tablets. According to the investigation, the Police Force arrested Myo Min Paing, a trafficker, with a light truck at his house on Anawrahta Street in Dagon Myothit (South) township at 8:30 am. In

addition, the Police Force seized 1,150,000 stimulant tablets from a room in a Thiriyadana bus station compound in North Okkalapa township.

Police have taken legal action against the offenders and an investigation is underway to identify the perpetrators of the crime chain. — MNA/MKKS

K120 mln worth of ketamine, happy water seized in Nawngkhio township



THE Police Force seized K120 million worth of ketamine and happy water in Nawngkhio township, according to

Myanmar Police Force.

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a Caldina passenger car near the Oriental Tollgate in Nawngkhio township and arrested a passenger Than Htike Oo with seven kilogrammes of ketamine and 0.58 kilogramme of happy water from a carton.

The offender is prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL



The photo shows the naval exercise named Sea Shield-2022 conducted on 5 July 2022.

Maritime, aerial warnings released for maritime security exercise

THE Maritime Security Exercise will be launched from 7 to 9 November 2023 in the northern waters of the Andaman Sea and it will include sea, aerial and underwater exercises and live firing missions.

The exercise area where the coordinates are drawn is

11° 51' of north latitude and 96° 40' of east longitude for Point A, 11° 51' of north latitude and 97° 40' of east longitude for Point B, 12° 51' of north latitude and 96° 40' of east longitude for Point C and 12° 51' of north latitude and 97° 40' of east longitude Point D and the maritime warning

and aerial warning have been announced.

During maritime security exercises, the movement of large and small ships are not allowed within five miles of the area and aircraft and helicopters should not fly below 15,000 feet over the area. — TWA/KTZH

Entries deadline for Mt Popa National Geopark commemorative logo contest: 7 November

A commemorative logo design competition will be held for the Mount Popa National Geopark and contested designs must be submitted by 7 November, according to the Forest Department.

It will be presented the first prize is K500,000, the second prize is K300,000 and the third

prize is K200,000. The logo designs must be artistic modern designs not only based on the history and ancient culture of Mt Popa but also on the improvement of tourism and local people's economic interests while aiming for Myanmar's first-ever Geopark.

The design must be 12 by

10 inches including the text – Mt Popa National Geopark – and can be summarized to be a stamp-size drawing with a favourite paint and technique by self-imagination.

Contestants must submit the entries to the Forest Department's Nay Pyi Taw website by 7 November. — TWA/ MKKS

Local products to be sold at fair prices at Thadingyut Festival Expo



The opening ceremony of the Thadingyut Festival Expo is seen.

THE Yangon Region chief minister said that products produced by businesses in the region and state can be purchased in one place at a low price at the People's Square Thadingyut Festival Expo.

At the Thadingyut Expo, businesses from all over the state will be able to get the benefits of being connected in one place, and people can also buy and use it at a low price. Entrepreneurs will also be able to display and sell their products and get a market where they can connect," said the Yangon Region Chief Minister.

Thadingyut Expo will be held from 27 to 30 October. In the exhibition, products from

29 industrial zones in Yangon Region, including UMFCCI, MSME enterprises, small industries and products from the Ministry of Cooperatives, industrial products and aquatic products, and local products from regions and states will be displayed and sold.

At the festival, basic food products will be sold at low prices, and vehicles will also be arranged to facilitate transport for the people who come to the festival.

During the festival, there will be entertainment including daily E-Sport game competitions. The showrooms will be busy from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm.

— TWA/KZL

MLAO grants temporary stay in Thailand for children under 18 of Myanmar workers

THE Myanmar Labour Attaché Office in Thailand announced on 25 October that the children of Myanmar workers in Thailand under the age of 18 are allowed to stay for the period specified for their parents, according to the decisions made at the meeting of the Thai government.

According to the decisions made by the Thai government in early October, Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand have been allowed to live and work temporarily from 1 October 2023 to 13 February 2025.



Myanmar nationals and workers are seen waiting to enter Thailand through the Myawady border.

However, employers must submit a list of workers to apply for work permits between 18 January 2023 and 15 January 2024.

The children of Myanmar workers who have work permits will reportedly get permission to stay for the period specified for their parents.

In addition, children who have turned 18 will be allowed to stay until 13 February 2025, and if they want to work, they can apply for a work permit, according to the Myanmar Labour Attaché Office in Thailand. — TWA/CT

Black gram price rally continues up to over K2.9 mln per tonne

THE upward trend of black gram prices persists up to over K2.9 million per tonne, which is a new peak in the market.

The black gram price stood only at K2.465 million per tonne on 3 October and jumped to K2.918 million per tonne on 27 October, indicating a sharp rise of over K450,000 per tonne within four months.

The FOB prices of black gram were US\$955-975 per tonne on 3 October and increased to \$1,045-1,065 per tonne, according to Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Wholesale Depot).

Meanwhile, the pigeon pea price stayed the same on the high side with K4.075 million per tonne.

Myanmar's various pulses export earnings were estimated at over \$715 million from over 860,000 tonnes in the H1 of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April.

Myanmar's pulses exports earned over US\$1.47 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes in the previous FY 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar primarily exports black



The photo shows various beans including black grams and pigeon peas being organized for sale in the market.

gram, green gram and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black gram and pigeon peas are mostly shipped to India while green grams are exported to China and Europe.

Black grams which India primarily

purchases are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green gram and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association said. — NN/EM

Import Health Certificate for imported food obligatory: FDA



Food laboratory staff working at the food and Drug Administration Department (Nay Pyi Taw).

THE Department of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under the Ministry of Health notified food importers of seeking a mandatory Import Health Certificate (IHC).

The IHC can be applied digitally or manually at the respective border checkpoints or FDA offices in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw.

Those importing companies holding import recommendations can apply for the IHC through a registered account on <http://esubmission.fda.gov.mm/>, providing the OGA No issued by the Customs Department.

Import recommendation (IR), Certificate of Analysis (CoA), Bill of lading, invoice, packing list, released order, import license from Trade Department, and photo of imported food are required in seeking the IHC.

The online payment receipt for the service fee of K50,000 and laboratory service fee of K200,000 per item must be attached to the application.

In seeking the IHC, the sample has to be sent to the respective FDA offices in Lashio District, Nay Pyi Taw, Muse District, Tachilek, Yan-

gon and the Myawady border.

Customs clearance can be proceeded only with the presence of the IHC. Processing time is seven working days for those imported food with least and medium health risk and 21 days for those with high health risk.

For further details, food importers can contact 0673 403967 and 09882853983 of the Ministry of Health and visit websites <http://esubmission.fda.gov.mm/register> for registration and <https://esubmission.fda.gov.mm/user-guides/food/guide-for-ihc.pdf> for instructions. — NN/EM

MoC eases import rule of EV permit for seafarers

THE Ministry of Commerce reduced income inward remittance of seafarers to US\$50,000 from over \$200,000 per year to grant import permits for electric vehicles (EVs), according to a notification released on 26 October.

As per the statement released on 13 October, if those Myanmar citizens including seamen transferred their foreign wages to the local banks, they were entitled to import one EV which value is equivalent to five per cent of the inward remittance worth more than US\$200,000 per year. Except for those receiving monthly salary, others were allowed to import electric vehicles or electric motorcycles which is equivalent to five per cent of the remittance if they made inward remittance worth \$50,000 per year.

To bolster the growth of the

electric vehicle industry and promote environmental conservation activities, import permits for electric vehicles or electric motorcycles are granted for inward remittance of foreign salary or other wages of Myanmar citizens as a special programme.

The ministry changed the inward remittance amount to \$50,000 for all Myanmar citizens receiving foreign salaries including seafarers in line with the notification released on 26 October.

If an individual's remittance does not meet the amount of the EV or electric motorcycles, they can import them collectively.

This action of EV import permit is effective from 16 October 2023. The following contact phone 067 3408433 and email dotraining2008@gmail.com of the ministry can be reached and contacted for further details.

— NN/EM



Imported electric vehicles seen in August 2023.

OPINION

Remove narcotic drugs, and stimulant tablets from the vicinity of youths

THE global issue of narcotic drug abuse is a serious concern, and it's not limited to Myanmar; it plagues societies worldwide. Young people, in particular, are vulnerable to the influence of unscrupulous individuals who, driven by selfish interests, introduce narcotic drugs and stimulant tablets into their lives through devious means.

Youthful curiosity often leads them to explore new experiences and lifestyles. Narcotic drugs and stimulant tablets become potent tools in the hands of malevolent actors who use them to ensnare impressionable youths. These substances, including ketamine, ecstasy, methamphetamine, happy water, amphetamine, caffeine, diazepam, and tramadol, are readily available at bars, nightclubs, and KTVs, which are popular hangout spots for young people. Consequently, these drugs can result in nights filled with unconscious dancing and singing for those who fall victim to their influence.

Narcotic drugs create a powerful addiction among users. Those ensnared by these drugs find themselves unable to escape their devastating effects. Over time, drug addicts experience a significant decline in their physical and mental well-being. They face escalating costs associated with their addiction, leading to the loss of property, life, social standing, and deteriorating health.

The ripple effects of drug abuse are felt not only by the users but also by their families and society at large. Families of drug addicts bear the brunt of social, economic, health, and personal challenges. The nation loses a substantial portion of its workforce, with the burden of providing health-care services to these addicts further straining the country's resources. The toll taken by drug addiction is, therefore, a collective burden shared by the entire nation and its people.

To combat this pervasive issue, authorities must prioritize raising public awareness about the dangers of narcotic drugs and stimulant tablets. It is crucial to remove these substances from the reach of the youth. Educational institutions and government departments should educate students from an early age, instilling in them the knowledge needed to resist the temptations of narcotic drugs.

The trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs are primary sources of income for armed insurgents. Eradicating narcotic drugs is not only a matter of public health but also a strategic move to cut off the lifeblood of these groups. Keeping young people away from these harmful substances is essential for ensuring they have a future free from addiction and filled with opportunities. Therefore, everybody needs to unite with relevant task forces in the collective effort to eliminate narcotic drugs and stimulant tablets once and for all.

UNITY is strength, as the saying goes, as well as team building commonly gives a living signal of unity among communities today. Briefly, the term 'team' refers to a group of people who work together at a particular job, according to Oxford, whereas by Longman, it denotes a group of people who are chosen to work together to do a particular job. From the educational point of view, a team is defined as a small number of people with complementary skills committed to a common purpose, set of performance goals, and approach for which they themselves hold mutually accountable. Educational teams can be grouped in terms of the potential duration of the team and time commitment that team members should be expected to provide into four types: 1) the self-managed team, producing an entire product, component, or service; 2) the project team, working on a project until completion, then disbanding; 3) the parallel team, performing on a particular problem that requires only part-time commitment; and 4) the virtual team, which team members collaborate via the computer in. The following will then be described the stages of team development, roles of a team and team leaders, the behavioural dimensions of effective teams, challenges of teams, and all about team building.

There must be five stages in the development of teams: 1) the forming stage, in which people get acquainted and establish ground rules; 2) the storming stage, in which team members discuss the difference in goals, priorities, or values, and strive to manage the conflicts over these issues; 3) the norming stage, which is characterized by the resolution of an important difference in goals or values and establishment of norms

governing the behaviour of team members that enable the teams to sanction individuals who violate imperative team rules or procedures; 4) the performing stage, where the teams focus on conducting their vital tasks; and 5) the adjourning stage, which results in disbanding of the teams when their purpose is completed. Effective team performance needs team members to take different roles which makes the team realize its potential. The task-facilitating role places a priority on keeping the team to accomplish its task goals such as improving quality or developing new ideas. In this role are partly included 1) direction giving – identifying ways to achieve goals and providing clarification; 2) information seeking – asking questions, identifying knowledge

Effective team performance needs team members to take different roles which makes the team realize its potential. **PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY**



gaps, or requesting other members' opinions; 3) information giving – providing facts and data, or offering judgements; 4) coordinating – pulling ideas together and helping others understand team members' suggestions or opinions; and 5) summarizing – combining ideas made by team members and drawing conclusions. Next, other team members enact the relationship-building role that centres on sustaining harmony between team members as well as facilitating improved interpersonal relationships and maintaining team morale. Also, in this role are partially involved in 1) supporting – praising team members' ideas and recognizing their contributions; 2) harmonizing – mediating the differences between team members and identifying compromises; 3)

tension relieving – using humour to put others at ease; 4) energizing – exuding enthusiasm and good spirits to motivate others; and 5) facilitating – acting as a catalyst to smooth interactions between individuals who have difficulty communicating with each other. Both the task-facilitating role and the relationship-building role must be carried out by all team members, otherwise, the team is likely to perform inadequately. For instance, if only the task-facilitating role is selected, the team will not develop

past the norming stage now that it cannot overcome the interpersonal conflicts which arise at this point of development. The team captain ought to give the team strike a balance between these two roles and deal with deviant individuals who frustrate the team's capacity for effectiveness, like those who dominate discussions, take unrealistic positions, or stifle creativity. Most teams have their lead-

ness can be defined as having an objective dimension, i.e., organizational goal attainment, and two subjective dimensions, i.e., personal-other perceptual evaluations of significant reference groups or self-assessments, and overall job satisfaction of individual subordinates. Excellence in leadership calls for the ability to attract capable people, motivate them to put forth their best efforts and

solve problems that crop up, too. Educational leaders will be able to practise four types of leadership. The first type is Laissez-Faire leadership, where leaders avoid expressing their views or taking action on important issues, fail to make or at least delay decisions, ignore responsibilities, provide no feedback, and allow authority to remain dominant. The second type is transactional leadership, where leaders motivate followers by exchanging rewards for the services rendered. The third type is transformational type, where leaders are proactive, raise the awareness levels of followers about inspirational collective interests and assist followers to achieve mainly high-performance outcomes, and the fourth type instructional leadership, where leaders attempt to change such school factors as curricular content, teaching methods, assessment strategies, and cultural norms for academic achievement.

Here, leadership effective-

Here, leadership effective-

With Regard to Team Building for Education

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

After the team behavioural dimensions come the challenges of managing the team regarding the problems that can undermine its focus. Three of the most challenging issues are – free riders, who take credit for team efforts while providing minimal work, nonconforming high performers, who get something well done as individuals but are difficult to work with in collaborative endeavours, and lack of rewards for teamwork in contrast to individual performance.

In conclusion, it is probable that organizations work efficiently when their people get together as a team effectively. This means that good teamwork creates synergy in which the combined effect of the team is much stronger than the sum of individual efforts. Of course, team building at work contributes to better relationships and ultimately productivity on the increase. What is more, it can benefit each and every individual by letting them get happiness, job satisfaction and the opportunities to step forward to their full potential as their strengths are highlighted. Finally, the advantage of an educational team as a whole is made possible by team building.

THE food industry has utilized and chosen a variety of fungal strains due to their ability to ferment, produce flavours, or produce heterologous compounds.

Two fungi that are used to make food products may have probiotic benefits on inflammation in the stomach, as per a recent study.

The study illustrated a potentially novel approach to creating novel probiotics and was published in the American So-

Food-producing fungi may produce novel probiotics: Study

Two fungi that are used to make food products may have probiotic benefits on inflammation in the stomach, per a recent study.

ciety for Microbiology journal mSystems.

“There is much to learn by studying the role of the fungal strains in the microbiota and host health and also that species simply used in food processes can be the source of new probiotics,” said lead study author Mathias L

Richard, PhD, Research Director at INRAE in the Micalis Institute in Jouy-en-Josas, France.

To date, very little is known about the diversity of foodborne yeasts and their potential effect on gut microbiota and gut health.

Yeasts are microscopic fungi consisting of solitary cells that re-

produce by budding. Some have been used for hundreds of years, like *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* for wine and bread production, and many others for cheese crust production or ripening, like *Debaryomyces hansenii*.

The researchers conducted the new study because they are

working to further knowledge of the potential effect of the fungal microbiota on human health.

In this particular study, the idea was to target specifically the fungi that are used by food companies to produce food products (cheeses, charcuterie).

“Since our interest is more

focused on the role of fungi in gut health and on the development of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis), we monitored the effect of these fungi on adapted in vitro and in vivo models,” Richard said.

SOURCE: ANI



To date, very little is known about the diversity of foodborne yeasts and their potential effect on gut microbiota and gut health. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY**

TECH/ENVIRON WORLD



Pakistani porters hike the Baltoro Glacier, 14 July 2023. PHOTO: JOE STENSON / AFP

UN report warns of catastrophic risks to Earth systems

MELTING glaciers, unbearable heat and space junk: a month before crunch climate talks in the United Arab Emirates, a UN report published Wednesday warns about irreversible impacts to the planet without drastic changes to connected social and physical systems.

The Interconnected Disaster Risks Report identifies thresholds it calls “risk tipping points,” defined as “the moment at which a given socioecological system is no longer able to buff-

er risks and provide its expected function” – after which the risk of catastrophe increases significantly.

It focuses on six areas that connect the physical and natural world with human society: accelerating extinctions, groundwater depletion, mountain glacial melt, space debris, unbearable heat and an “uninsurable” future. “As we indiscriminately extract our water resources, damage nature and biodiversity, and pollute both

Earth and space, we are moving dangerously close to the brink of multiple risk tipping points that could destroy the very systems that our life depends on,” said Zita Sebesvari, the report’s lead author.

For example: underground water reservoirs represent an essential freshwater resource around the world and today mitigate half of the losses of agriculture caused by droughts, which are being exacerbated by climate change. — AFP

AI models lack transparency: research

ARTIFICIAL intelligence models lack transparency, according to a study published Wednesday that aims to guide policymakers in regulating the rapidly-growing technology.

Stanford University researchers devised a “Foundation Model Transparency Index” that ranks 10 major AI firms.

The best score — 54 per cent — was given to Llama 2, the AI model launched by Facebook and Instagram owner Meta in July.

GPT-4, the flagship model of Microsoft-backed firm OpenAI, which created the renowned

chatbot ChatGPT, was ranked third with a score of 48 per cent.

Google’s PaLM 2 is fifth at 40 per cent, just above Claude 2 of Amazon-backed firm Anthropic at 36 per cent.

Rishi Bommasani, a researcher at Stanford’s Centre for Research on Foundation Models, said companies should strive for a score of between 80 and 100 per cent.

The researchers said “less transparency makes it harder” for “policymakers to design meaningful policies to rein in this powerful technology.” — AFP

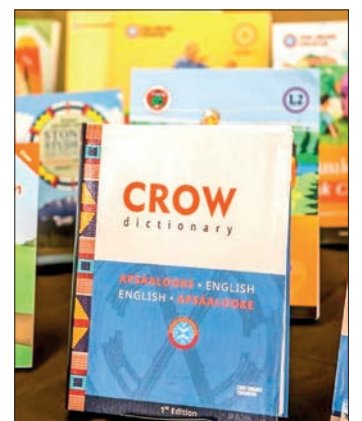
Tech breathes new life into endangered Native American languages

Of the more than 6,000 Indigenous languages recognized globally, nearly half of them are at risk of disappearing, with about 1,500 facing immediate extinction.

LINGUISTICS experts are turning to cutting-edge technologies to revitalize threatened Native American languages — and rejuvenate generations of Indigenous tradition — through new approaches such as children’s books and smartphone apps. In one such endeavor, three Native American women rack their brains as they gather

around a computer, trying to remember — and record — dozens of Apache language words related to everyday activities such as cooking and eating.

They are creating an online English-Apache dictionary, just one of several projects working to preserve endangered Indigenous languages in the United States. — AFP



Using the Rapid Word Collection (RCW) software, Indigenous communities can now create dictionaries of their languages in a fraction of the time. PHOTO: AFP

Qualcomm unveils cutting-edge platforms to accelerate AI for devices

Qualcomm introduced advanced platforms for generative AI across various devices, prioritizing immediacy, reliability, personalization, and privacy.

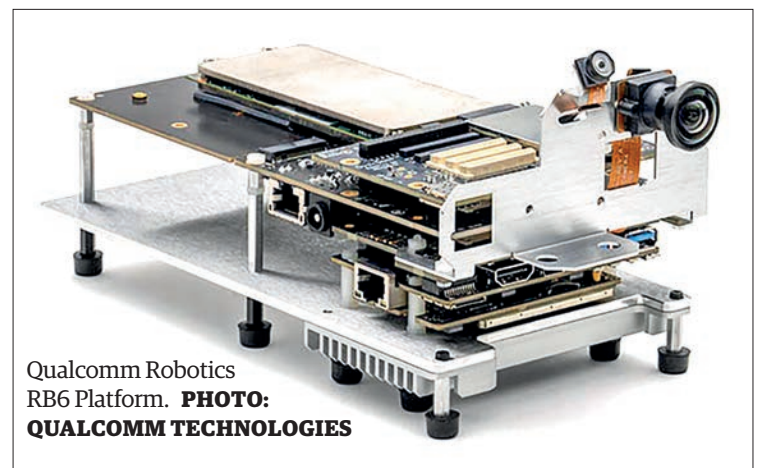
US leading chip manufacturer Qualcomm has unveiled a suite of cutting-edge platforms to enhance generative artificial intelligence (AI) experiences for devices from personal computers (PCs), mobile devices to earbuds, at its annual tech summit in Maui in the US state of Hawaii.

Generative AI is a type of AI that generates text, image, audio, video, programming codes

AI devices and applications, with focuses on immediacy, reliability, personalization and privacy.

The new platforms include Snapdragon X Elite, a PC platform which outpaces competing laptop central processing unit (CPUs) and sets a new bar in AI performance; and Snapdragon 8 Gen 3, a mobile platform which further scales on-device AI.

These platforms showcase



Qualcomm Robotics RB6 Platform. PHOTO: QUALCOMM TECHNOLOGIES

and other content in response to prompts. Qualcomm’s new Snapdragon platforms showcase enhanced on-device AI performance for a wave of generative

extreme speeds in generative AI tasks, such as on-device chat assistants for Windows 11 laptops or image generation on a smartphone. — Xinhua

Opera diva Maria Callas museum opens in Athens on centenary

A quarter of a century in the making, Greece's capital Athens on Thursday opens a museum honouring legendary soprano Maria Callas, billed as the first of its kind in the world.

Designed to mark the centenary of her birth, the museum showcases over 1,300 exhibits including Callas's school scrapbook, inscribed books and sheet music, opera dresses and photographs, organizers said.

"The great diva, Maria Callas, returns home," Athens

mayor Kostas Bakoyannis said Wednesday at a media tour of the venue.

"We are very proud of this first museum that combines technology and lived experience," he said.

A listed four-storey building from the 1920s that previously housed a hotel, the custard-coloured museum near central Syntagma Square took over a decade to complete at a cost of 1.5 million euros (\$1.6 million). — AFP



Visitors stand in one of the rooms of the Maria Callas Museum during its official opening. **PHOTO: AFP**

South Korean academic acquitted of defaming 'comfort women'

A South Korean professor who challenged the consensus view of Japan's wartime sex slaves was acquitted of defaming the victims on Thursday, overturning an earlier verdict.

Park Yu-ha, of Sejong University in Seoul, was found guilty in 2017 of defamation for questioning the popular narrative that all euphemistically termed "comfort women" were forcibly dragged from their homes by Japanese soldiers during World War II.

In her 2013 book "The Comfort Women of the Empire", she suggested the reality was more complex, with some women volunteering — though without necessarily knowing what their fate would be. Many were told that

they would get factory jobs. The book also suggested some women forged emotional bonds with the soldiers they served, sparking an angry response from surviving victims. Six years ago, a Seoul court ordered the academic to pay a 10 million won (\$7,357) fine for defaming victims, who remain highly sensitive historical figures in South Korea.

But the country's Supreme Court acquitted Park on Thursday, stating it was reasonable to consider Park's "expressions" in the book as her "academic arguments" and opinions.

The court said that it was difficult to see them as "indications of facts that can be punished for defamation". — AFP

Brazil scientists developing new 'vaccine' for cocaine addiction

Named "Calixcoca," this vaccine, after successful trials on animals, stimulates the immune system to prevent cocaine and crack from affecting the brain.

SCIENTISTS IN BRAZIL, the world's second-biggest consumer of cocaine, have announced the development of an innovative new treatment for addiction to the drug and its powerful derivative crack: a vaccine.

Dubbed "Calixcoca," the test vaccine, which has shown promising results in trials on animals, triggers an immune response that blocks cocaine and crack from reaching the brain, which researchers hope will help users break the cycle of addiction.

Put simply, addicts would no longer get high from the drug. If the treatment gets regulatory approval, it would be the first time cocaine addiction is treated using a vaccine, said psychiatrist Frederico Garcia, coordinator of the team that developed the treatment at the Federal University of Minas Gerais.

The project won top prize last week—500,000 euros



Scientists say the vaccine is aimed at recovering addicts who are off cocaine and want to stay that way. **PHOTO: DOUGLAS MAGNO/AFP**

(\$530,000) — at the Euro Health Innovation awards for Latin American medicine, sponsored by pharmaceutical firm Eurofarma. The vaccine works by triggering patients' immune systems to produce antibodies that bind to cocaine molecules in the bloodstream, making them too large to pass into the brain's mesolimbic system, or "reward centre," where the

drug normally stimulates high levels of pleasure-inducing dopamine. Similar studies have been carried out in the United States—the world's top cocaine consumer, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. But they stalled when clinical trials did not demonstrate sufficient results, among other reasons, Garcia says. — AFP

The Rock' waxwork in Paris retouched after skin tone complaints

Dwayne Johnson, who is of Samoan and black origin, took to Instagram to joke about the Grevin Museum's wax figure.



An employee at the Grevin Museum adjusts the skin tone on the wax effigy of Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. **PHOTO: STEFANO RELLANDINI / AFP**

A famed Paris museum said it would on Wednesday reinstall a waxwork of Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson with a more

true-to-life look after it was taken off public show for additional work when the US actor complained about its pale skin tone.

Johnson, who is of Samoan and black origin, took to Instagram this weekend to joke about the Grevin Museum's wax figure, which appeared to depict him with white skin, and bears only a vague likeness to his features.

"We removed the waxwork (from the show) on Monday evening. Our craftspeople worked on his complexion through the night and day," the museum's director Yves Delhommeau told AFP. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Thailand to accelerate construction of China-Thailand railway: PM

Thailand plans to build a train system connecting Bangkok to Khon Kaen, Nong Khai, and reaching China, in support of the Belt and Road Initiative.



This aerial photo taken on 23 February 2023 shows a construction site of the China-Thailand railway in Nakhon Ratchasima province, Thailand. **PHOTO: WANG TENG/XINHUA**

THAILAND plans to speed up the construction of the China-Thailand railway, a bilateral flagship project under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin has said.

Thailand will create a rail system from Bangkok to Khon Kaen, Nong Khai, and extends all the way to China, aligning with the Belt and Road Initiative, Srettha said during the live dinner talk of Thailand's future 2024 on Tuesday evening.

The two provincial capital cities of Khon Kaen and Nong Khai are both regarded as transport hubs leading up to Thailand's northeastern region.

"Logistics is one of the significant issues for Thailand regarding BRI cooperation and Thailand will enhance the con-

nection between its domestic railways and the China-Laos Railway, a flagship BRI project in the region," Srettha said in an interview with Xinhua before his official visit to China earlier this month, during which he also attended the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.

The China-Thailand railway, an important part of the trans-Asian railway network, will be Thailand's first standard-gauge high-speed railway.

When completed, the line will see trains running from Bangkok to the border town of Nong Khai, where a bridge is expected to connect it with the China-Laos Railway, making it possible to travel by train from Bangkok, through Laos, to Kunming in southwest China's Yunnan Province. — Xinhua

ECB set to pause rate hikes as eurozone feels pinch



The ECB has cranked rates up by 450 basis points to tackle inflation since July 2022. **PHOTO: KIRILL KUDRYAVTSEV / AFP/FILE**

EUROPEAN Central Bank policymakers are widely expected to leave interest rates unchanged when they meet in Athens on Thursday, as their previous policy moves seemed

to be biting.

A decision to stand pat would end a streak of 10 straight hikes that has seen interest rates climb faster and further than ever.

Since July 2022, the ECB has cranked rates up by 450 basis points to tackle inflation driven in large part by surging energy prices in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The long tightening cycle has left the key deposit rate at four per cent, its highest mark in the history of the central bank.

Once red-hot eurozone inflation has started to settle, falling to 4.3 per cent in September from its double-digit peak towards the end of last year.

While the figure is still more than twice the ECB's target of two per cent, rising borrowing costs have also shown signs of weighing on the currency bloc. — AFP

Bird flu kills more than 500 marine mammals in Brazil

In Brazil, the world's largest chicken exporter, no cases have been reported in domesticated birds or commercial poultry farms.

AT least 522 seals and sea lions have been found dead along the coast of southern Brazil, authorities said Wednesday, blaming the die-off on avian flu.

Brazil declared an animal health emergency over avian flu in May after confirming multiple cases in wild birds, and reported its first outbreak of the disease among marine mammals last month in the

state of Rio Grande do Sul.

The country, the world's biggest chicken exporter, has not reported any cases in domesticated birds or commercial poultry operations.

The Rio Grande do Sul agriculture department said the dead seals and sea lions had been found at various points along its coast. — AFP



Animals near Brazil's border with Uruguay also recently reported hundreds of seals and sea lions killed by avian flu. **PHOTO: AFP**

Pakistan prepares deportation centres as deadline for Afghans looms

THE Pakistani government said Thursday it would open several "holding centres" for undocumented migrants as a deportation deadline looms for hundreds of thousands of Afghans.

Islamabad has given Afghans it says are living illegally in Pakistan until 1 November to leave voluntarily or face deportation — an order the Taliban government says amounts to harassment.

"These centres have been named as 'holding centres'. Illegal immigrants will be kept there," Sarfraz Bugti, the caretaker interior minister, said at a press conference. — AFP

Stellantis to buy stake in Chinese EV start-up Leapmotor

GLOBAL carmaker Stellantis said Thursday it will buy a 20 per cent stake in Chinese electric car maker Leapmotor, making it the latest European brand seeking a foothold in the country's highly competitive market via partnerships with local manufacturers.

Hangzhou-based Leapmotor only pro-

duces electric vehicles and is relatively unknown in Europe, despite selling 10,000 cars a month in China, while Stellantis is one of the world's largest carmakers, owning popular brands including Alfa Romeo and Jeep.

Under the deal, the Netherlands-based firm will spend 1.5 billion eu-

ros (\$1.6 billion) on the stake in Leapmotor.

The two firms will also establish a Stellantis-led joint venture, Leapmotor International, which will hold "exclusive rights for the export and sale, as well as manufacturing, of Leapmotor products outside Greater China", Stellantis said. — AFP



Stellantis will pay China's Leapmotor \$1.6 billion for a 20 per cent stake. PHOTO: TOBIAS SCHWARZ/AFP

Mercedes profits fall due to lower sales

GERMAN carmaker Mercedes-Benz said Thursday that its profits fell in the third quarter due to a drop in vehicle deliveries amid shortages of some parts. Net profits came in seven percent lower, at 3.7 billion euros (\$3.9 billion), in the July to September period, the company said in a statement. It was slightly better than a prediction by analysts surveyed by financial data firm FactSet, who had forecast a figure of 3.4 billion euros.

Revenue fell 1.4 percent to 37.2 billion euros, partly because passenger car sales were around five per cent lower in the quarter due to a shortage of some parts. — AFP

TotalEnergies boosts profits despite drop in energy prices

TOTALENERGIES said Thursday it managed to boost its net profit last quarter despite energy prices sliding from the peaks set last year.

The French firm

earned a net profit of \$6.7 billion in the third quarter, an increase of 1.5 per cent from the July through September period last year.

Oil and gas prices

surged last year following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, leading to windfall profits at energy firms.

While oil prices are still high in historical terms, the main crude oil contract was down 14 per cent last quarter compared to the same period last year, TotalEnergies.

Average liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices were down by more than half and several leading piped gas contracts fell more than two-thirds.

"This quarter again demonstrates the relevance of TotalEnergies' profitable transition strategy," said chief executive Patrick Pouyanne. — AFP



While oil prices are still high in historical terms, the main crude oil contract was down 14 per cent last quarter compared to the same period last year, TotalEnergies.

PHOTO: AFP

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

AS the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the **28 October 2023 to 30 October 2023 (Thadinkyut Public Holiday)**, Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE CITY GOLF RESORT FOR PAYMENT OF MONTHLY FEES

1. It is found out that some members (Myanmar/ Foreigners) of the City Golf Resort, Yangon City Development Committee, have failed to pay their monthly fee for various reasons.
2. According to paragraph (9) of the rules and regulations of the City Golf Resort, those members (Myanmar/Foreigners) who fail to pay their monthly fees for a period of one year and over shall cease to be member of the Resort, and so they are intimated to come and clear their outstanding monthly fees.

**General Manager
City Golf Resort**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (206N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (206N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-10-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NEGAR VOY.NO. (SCY1159)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NEGAR VOY. NO. (SCY1159)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-10-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS
SDN BHD LINE**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V POAVOSA WISDOM VI VOY.NO. (022302)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V POAVOSA WISDOM VI VOY.NO. (022302)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-10-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** 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: **2301928**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S RAFFLES SHIPPING INTERNATIONAL PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Latest developments in the Hamas-Israel war



People receive a batch of humanitarian supplies that entered Gaza from the Rafah crossing in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, on 23 October 2023. **PHOTO: RIZEK ABDELJAWAD/XINHUA**

HERE are key developments from the past 24 hours:

Ground forces incursion

Israel's army said Friday its infantry backed by fighter jets and drones carried out a "targeted raid" in central Gaza, its second incursion in as many days.

"The IDF identified and struck numerous terror targets, including anti-tank missile launch sites, military command and control centres, as well as Hamas terrorists," it

said, adding troops "exited the area at the end of the activity".

Rockets were also fired on Friday from Gaza towards central Israel and Tel Aviv, wounding a 20-year-old man, Israeli medics said.

US-Iran tensions

Washington on Thursday warned Tehran against any escalation as it struck facilities in Syria it says were used by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and others.

"The precision self-de-

fence strikes are a response to a series of ongoing and mostly unsuccessful attacks against US personnel in Iraq and Syria by Iranian-backed militia groups," Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said.

The United States has moved two aircraft carrier groups near Israel since the Hamas attacks in what it says is a bid to deter Iran and its proxies, including Lebanon's Hezbollah, from broadening the conflict.

— AFP

TIME-TESTED CPC MEMBER

Li Keqiang passes away

LI Keqiang, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the 17th, 18th and 19th Communist Party of China (CPC) central committees and former premier of the State Council, passed away on Friday in Shanghai. He was 68.

Li died of a sudden heart attack at 00:10 on Friday after all-out rescue efforts failed, according to an official obituary notice issued on Friday. Li was extolled as an excellent CPC member, a time-tested and loyal communist soldier and an outstanding proletarian revolutionist, statesman and leader of the Party and the state.

The obituary notice was jointly issued by the CPC Central Committee, the National People's Congress Standing Committee, the State Council and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. — Xinhua

KEY CEREMONIAL ROLES

Malaysia picks Sultan Ibrahim to be next king

MALAYSIA'S royalty on Friday chose an influential sultan from the southern state of Johor to be the country's next king.

The position is largely ceremonial but oversees major appointments such as the prime minister and serves as the head of Islam in the Muslim-majority country and the commander-in-chief of its armed forces.

Malaysia is a constitutional monarchy, with a unique arrangement where the throne changes hands every five years between rulers of the nine Malaysian states headed by centuries-old Islamic royalty.

Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar was appointed the country's 17th king after a conference of rulers in the capital Kuala Lumpur.

The 64-year-old will be sworn in after the incumbent king's term expires on 31 January next year, before a coronation ceremony several months later. — AFP

Flashpoint statue of US Confederate general melted down

The statue was subsequently melted down in secret at a foundry whose location is being kept confidential.

A statue of a US Civil War general for the pro-slavery Confederacy that became the focus of protests for racial justice has been melted down in secret, The Washington Post reported on Thursday.

The towering bronze statue of General Robert E Lee, who commanded the Army of Northern Virginia during the bloody 1861-65 conflict, was removed in July 2021 from a public park in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The Post said the statue,

which had been handed over to the city's Black history museum, was melted down on Saturday at a foundry whose location is being kept secret.

Tensions over the fate of the Lee statue led to violence in August 2017 when an avowed white nationalist drove his car into a crowd of demonstrators in Charlottesville. The protesters had gathered in opposition to white supremacists who staged a "Unite the Right" rally against

plans to remove the statue of Lee.

Then-president Donald Trump came under fire when he said afterward that there were "very fine people on both sides" of the protests.

The Charlottesville violence gave new life to a campaign to remove Confederate symbols which first gained momentum following the June 2015 murders in South Carolina of nine black churchgoers by another white supremacist. — AFP



The towering bronze statue of General Robert E Lee, who commanded the Army of Northern Virginia during the bloody 1861-65 conflict, was removed in July 2021 from a public park in Charlottesville, Virginia.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

SPORTS

MANCHESTER City will test the strength of Manchester United's recent revival at Old Trafford this weekend, while red-hot leaders Tottenham are seeking their eighth win in 10 games.

Pep Guardiola's champions have put their own mini-slump behind them and go into Sunday's game against their local rivals as firm favourites.

Ange Postecoglou's Tottenham can go five points clear of the chasing pack, at least temporarily, if they beat Crystal Palace

on Friday.

AFP Sport picks out three talking points ahead of the action in the English top flight.

Can Rashford find cutting edge against Man City?

Marcus Rashford scored the winning goal at Old Trafford last year as Manchester United

came from behind to beat Manchester City 2-1 – the ninth time in a row he had scored at his home ground.

The England forward went on to score 30 goals for the club during the season, lifting himself into the bracket of elite forwards. — AFP

Man City loom for goal-shy Man Utd



Manager Erik ten Hag predicted earlier this month that Rashford would soon be "on fire", but the 25-year-old has failed to score for United since then, though he netted for England at Wembley. **PHOTO: AFP**

Suwannapura overcomes early bogeys to keep Maybank Championship lead

THAILAND'S Jasmine Suwannapura recovered from two early bogeys to maintain her lead at the Maybank Championship in Kuala Lumpur on Friday, courtesy of a three-under-par round of 69.

Suwannapura's 12-under 132 through two rounds kept her one shot ahead of American Rose Zhang, who shot up to second after shooting a 68 on day two. France's Celine Boutier shot the lowest score of the round with a 64 courtesy of nine



Jasmine Suwannapura of Thailand. **PHOTO: AFP**

birdies, finishing ahead of a trio of golfers five shots back.

But it was business as usual for Suwannapura on a clear day in the Malaysian capital as she bids to win her third title on the LPGA Tour.

She made a horrendous start with two bogeys on the first three holes, but the 30-year-old kept her composure and grew in confidence as the round went on. Suwannapura secured her first birdie on the par-4 sixth hole and went on to produce a solid back nine with another four birdies. — AFP

Miami's Messi named finalist for MLS Newcomer of the Year

LIONEL Messi was among three finalists named on Thursday for Major League Soccer's Newcomer of the Year award despite the Argentine star playing only six league matches for Inter Miami.

The 36-year-old striker, who inspired Argentina to World Cup glory in Qatar, powered Miami to the Leagues Cup title in a tournament with MLS and Mexican league sides in August.

Messi only played his first MLS match for Miami on 26 August as a second-half substitute and scored a goal in Inter's 2-0 win at New York Red Bulls to snap an 11-match winless streak.

But nagged by a late-season

leg injury, Messi was unable to lift Miami from the league cellar into the MLS playoffs.

Since signing with Inter Miami in July, Messi has been a moneyspinner for MLS from jersey sales and his role in boosting sales of MLS season pass viewing subscriptions as well as ticket sales wherever Miami played.

Messi's rivals for the newcomer award, defined as anyone with pro experience who made an MLS debut this year, are Greek forward Giorgos Giakoumakis of Atlanta United and German midfielder Eduard Lowen of St Louis City. — AFP

Newcastle 'in limbo' over Tonali betting ban

NEWCASTLE boss Eddie Howe said there is a "high chance" that Sandro Tonali could be involved in Saturday's Premier League fixture at Wolves despite being handed a 10-month ban by Italian authorities for breaching betting rules.

The Italian football federation announced on Thursday the 23-year-old international midfielder had been suspended until next season following an investi-

gation, although the sanction is yet to be ratified by governing bodies UEFA and FIFA.

Tonali's agent has said his client, who joined Newcastle from AC Milan in July for around £55 million (\$67 million) has a gambling addiction.

Asked for his reaction to the ban on Friday, Howe said: "It's a difficult one because we haven't had official confirmation as a football club yet. — AFP



Newcastle midfielder Sandro Tonali was found to have gambled on matches involving his former club AC Milan. **PHOTO: GABRIEL BOUYS / AFP/FILE**



CIA Vet: US aiding Ukrainian drone attack on Russian nuclear power plants

Maria Zakharova suggested Ukrainian drones used Western satellite data for long-distance attacks on Russian soil.



A UKRAINIAN drone attacked the town of Kurchatov, home to the Kursk Nuclear Power Plant, on 1 September. Kyiv is using the Pentagon's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) systems to conduct the strikes, former CIA analyst Larry Johnson told Sputnik.

Ukraine's unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) was confirmed to have hit a non-residential building in Kurchatov, causing minor damage to the facade. There were no casualties.

Commenting on the attacks, Rus-

sian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova stated: "The Ukrainian forces' drones that attacked objects on Russian territory would not have been able to fly such a distance without information from Western satellites".

"It's highly likely that," Larry Johnson, a veteran of the CIA and former analyst at the State Department's Office of Counterterrorism, told Sputnik.

"What it's called ISR, Western intelligence surveillance reconnaissance capabilities, are supplying Ukraine with that kind of information."

The Department of Defence's (DOD) intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) systems typically include manned and unmanned airborne, space-borne, maritime, and terrestrial systems. These Pentagon

platforms play a critical role in supporting military operations.

Prior to launching a drone attack on Russia's facilities the Ukrainian military need geo-coordinates and other extensive data of the targets. Who could provide them with such details? Most certainly their NATO backers: the US and the UK, according to Johnson.

— SPUTNIK

At least 27 dead in Mexico after country's strongest-ever hurricane comes ashore

The storm was the most powerful to ever make landfall on the Central American nation, and broke records with its rapid intensification in the hours before striking the Guerrero coast.



View of damages in the beach area following the passage of Hurricane Otis in Acapulco, Guerrero State, Mexico, on 26 October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

AT least 27 people are dead after Hurricane Otis struck Mexico's Pacific coast on Wednesday, Mexican authorities said on Thursday. The powerful storm had winds of 165 miles per hour when it made landfall near the resort city of Acapulco, smashing buildings and dumping several inches of rain on the mountainous region, triggering floods and landslides.

"The mountain came down on them. The mud took her from the mother's arms," one woman from the Acapulco outskirts told US media of a three-year-old girl torn from her mother's side. "We need help," she said, noting the girl had not yet been found.

With nearly all communications and electricity severed in the region and its main airport too damaged to be used, Mexican authorities were working to plough their way through the debris along the roads using an army of bulldozers and electrical workers, who were steadily removing down wires and restoring the power. — SPUTNIK

Thai ruling party elects Thaksin daughter as leader

THAILAND'S ruling party on Friday elected the daughter of jailed billionaire ex-prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra as its leader.

Paetongtarn Shinawatra, Thaksin's youngest daughter, was voted unopposed to become Pheu Thai's new leader, two years after entering politics.

Thaksin, the most influential but divisive politician in recent Thai history, returned to the kingdom in August from 15 years in self-imposed exile after being ousted in a 2006 coup.

"The new administrative body of Pheu Thai must improve itself to lead the party to becoming number one for the people again," Paetongtarn told party members and reporters, wearing a red suit, the party's signature colour.

Paetongtarn, 37, was the figurehead of Pheu Thai's campaign for the May general election and has plans to modernise the party. — AFP