

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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Sunday, 29 October 2023

## Myanmar businesspersons invited to participate in Int'l Agricultural Expo in Viet Nam

Myanmar businesspersons are invited to join the International Agricultural Expo of Northern Delta 2023, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

The expo will be held for seven days from 30 November to 6 December at Thái Bình Square, Hoàng Diệu, Thái Bình City of Viet Nam. **SEE PAGE-2**

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2023 Mid-Year Gems Emporium winds down

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National livestock census set for Nov in 215 townships of 13 states/regions

**BUSINESS PAGE-7**



Kyukok garlic, China's potato prices on the rise



A panoramic scene of Yangon Port's container yard with terminals in the background.

## Myanmar's pulse exports surge, crossing US\$770 mln in 6.5 months

Myanmar's pulses exports swelled by over US\$1.47 billion from more than 1.9 million tonnes in the previous FY2022-2023.

Myanmar shipped more than 930,000 tonnes of pulses, with an estimated value of over US\$778 million, to foreign trade partners over the past six and a half months of the current 2023-2024 financial year, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics

indicated.

The value of pulses exports by sea-borne trade hit \$663.741 million (over 798,819 tonnes), whereas over 133,758 tonnes of pulses worth \$114.687 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders between 1 April and

20 October 2023, totalling \$778.428 million from exports of over 932,577 tonnes.

Myanmar's pulses exports swelled by over US\$1.47 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes in the previous FY2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated. **SEE PAGE-3**

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# NATIONAL

## Wife of SAC Chairman Prime Minister watches participation of contestants in song, Shan traditional dance contests



Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister, watches the competition of contestants in the Shan traditional dance (open) contest at Plenary Hall of MICC-II yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

DAW Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister, enjoyed the competition of contestants in the song contest

under the title of “Uplift of National Prestige and Integrity” at the singing room of Myanmar International Convention Centre-II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi

Taw yesterday afternoon.

Female contestants at the higher education level showed off their skills and talent in the song contest. Together with

the wife of the SAC Secretary, the wife of the Joint Secretary, wives of Union-level officials and wives of the senior military officers from the Office

of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the wife of the SAC Chairman Prime Minister enjoyed the competitions.

After the ceremony, the wife of the SAC Chairman Prime Minister cordially greeted maestros from the panel of judges.

They also watched a competition of contestants in the Shan traditional dance (open) contest at the Plenary Hall of MICC-II.

Yesterday, the marionette contest took place at Banquet Hall, the lyric-free dancing contest at Plenary Hall and the guitar contest at News Briefing Hall, winning the applause of audiences. — MNA/TTA

## Two companies allowed to produce sunflower oil via JV farming system in Kayah

THE Kayah State Investment Committee approved two companies to grow and sell corn and sunflower through a joint venture farming system in Kayah State.

At the meeting of the Kayah State Investment Committee held on 27 October, the Chief Minister of Kayah State gave an order allowing the operation of Treasure Corn Agri Company Limited and Treasure Corn Company Limited, which will grow and sell corn and sunflower through a joint venture

farming system, to the company officials.

Following Kayah State's economic development process, it is important to invite local businessmen to invest mainly in the agriculture and livestock sectors and MSMEs.

The state chief minister said that priority should be given to investment in modern livestock industries, and efforts should be made to produce, distribute and sell quality local products. — TWA/KZL



The file photo shows the Kayah State Investment Committee's 3/2023 meeting being held on 25 August 2023.

## Statement of Young Men's Buddhist Association

27 October 2023

1. All citizens residing across the Republic of the Union of Myanmar wish to live in peace.
2. Reportedly, armed insurgents and terrorists not willing to see peace and stability in the State committed to destroying houses, blowing up public-owned bridges, destroying public-owned roads to cause transport difficulties, abducting innocent people and brutally killing and attacking State service personnel.
3. So, the Young Men's Buddhist Association issued a statement, strongly condemning the destructive acts of those armed insurgents to ruin the interests of the State and citizens.

*Young Men's Buddhist Association*

## Myanmar businesspersons invited to participate in Intl Agricultural Expo in Viet Nam

### FROM PAGE-1

The expo aims to show off the socioeconomic development of Vietnamese northern delta areas. The international businesspersons can introduce their products and brands and find business partners as well.

More than 300 booths from 200 domestic and international businesses are expected to participate in the expo. Additionally, Thai Binh Homecoming Day is a programme to promote cultural exchange

and boost business cooperation between Viet Nam and the Republic of Korea.

Agricultural machinery, equipment, pesticides, fertilizers, feedstuffs, chemicals, products of biotechnology, seeds, rice and wheat, plants, fish, meat, value-added agricultural produce, spices, wine and beverages, clothes, silk, leather, cosmetics and jewellery will be exhibited.

The expo participation fee is 3.5 million Vietnamese Dong

per booth, which is a half of the normal price. The participants must bear accommodation, flight tickets and transport, food and other costs themselves.

The information of those interested in Myanmar businesspersons must be sent by email to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization event.td.myantrade@gmail.com or reached via phone 067 3408622 by 6 November. — NN/EM



# NATIONAL

## CFRD donates Panda Packs to 27 monastic schools in Nay Pyi Taw

China Foundation for Rural Development (CFRD) donated Panda Packs containing 21 kinds of personal items, stationeries and other accessories to 4,709 basic education primary level students of 27 monastic schools in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The donation ceremony was organized at Yadana Hman Monastery in Pyinmana Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday and attended by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin, Deputy Minister U Aye Tun, Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Myint Soe, the director-general and officials of CFRD.

First, they took Five Precepts from Nay Pyi Taw Sangha Nayaka

Committee Chairman Dr Bhaddanta Munikumara.

Then, the Union minister explained the donation that describes bilateral relations between Myanmar and China.

Next, Country Director Ms Lin Yuan of CFRD said the Panda Pack project is an effort to establish a close relationship between the two countries and it was initiated in 2009 in China. Currently, the CFRD provides nearly 500,000 Panda Packs in 12 regions and states for students and their families.

At the ceremony, the Union minister and party also offered a day meal to Sayadaws. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin presents a panda pack to the schoolboy from the monastic school in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San seen before leaving for China yesterday.

## Union Defence Minister departs for 10<sup>th</sup> Beijing Xiangshan Forum

A delegation led by State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San left by air yesterday afternoon to attend the Tenth Beijing Xiangshan Forum to be held in Beijing, People's Republic of China. The delegation was seen off by the Yangon Region chief minister, the Yangon Command commander, officials from the Chinese Embassy and senior military officers at the Yangon International Airport. — MNA/MKKS

## 2023 Mid-Year Gems Emporium winds down

THE 2023 Mid-Year Gems Emporium continued at the Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the exhibition, a total of 792 jade lots from Group-C were sold to local gem merchants in Myanmar Kyats under the open tender system to improve MSME industries and the officials announced that 779 jade lots were sold.

A total of 300 pearl lots out of 300 pearl lots and 73 gem lots out of 160 gem lots were sold successfully to local and foreign gem merchants by exceeding the price.

In addition, 3,704 jade lots were sold out while 520 jade lots from Group-A, 1,733 jade lots from Group-B and 1,792 jade lots from Group-C were on sale at the 2023 Mid-Year Gems Emporium to local and foreign gem merchants

under the open tender system.

The 2023 Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium was successfully organized by the Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee from 20 to 28 October at Maniyadana Jade Hall, aiming to not only generate foreign income and economic benefits for the country but also to improve the MSME industries. — MNA/MKKS



The general view of the 2023 Mid-Year Gems Emporium at its concluding event yesterday.

## Myanmar's pulse exports surge, ...

### FROM PAGE-1

Myanmar mainly exports black grams, green grams and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black grams and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India while green grams are exported to China and Europe. India has

growing demand and consumption requirements for black gram and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black grams and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur)

from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that annual quota.

The prevailing market prices are K2.918 million per tonne of black gram

(urad) and K4.075 million per tonne of pigeon pea (tur). Black grams which India primarily purchases are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia, according to the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. — NN/EM



# NATIONAL

## 24<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition (Central Level) enters fifth day



At the Basic Education level (aged 15-20) song composing competition in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE 24<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition (Central Level) continued for the fifth day at designated venues in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The traditional performing arts competitions are being held by putting all hearts and souls into this matter bearing the sustainability of the State together with national prestige, integrity, tradition and culture in mind. Being an arts competition, it can be described as an event to explore the traditions and culture based on the friendship of ethnic people and connect the elderly artistes with new generations in other words cultural integration of national brethren.

The contestants from various regions and states participated in the “uplift of nation prestige and integrity” singing competition, dance competition, song composing competition, orchestra solo competition, guitar competition, xylophone competition,



At the Higher Education level (men's) Myanmar orchestra solo competition.

In the second-class amateur xylophone competition.



In the second-class amateur narration of stories competition.

Myanmar orchestra troupe competition, “Narration of religious or historical stories” competition, marionette troupe competition, and Mahawthahta drama competition which took place at designated venues yesterday.

SAC members, Union-level officials, deputy ministers, ministers for Ethnic Affairs and Ministers for Social Affairs of regions and states, advocates-general, relevant officials, departmental staff and parents of contestants at-

tended the competitions.

The singing competition includes classical/modern song competitions for amateur level second class and higher education level.

Moreover, the dancing competition includes male and female dancing competitions at all levels, Kabyalut dance for women's (first class), Shan traditional dance and Shan traditional dance (open class) in which candidates from regions and states competed. — 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 GAZETTE

### Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of U Aung Kyaw Oo, Director-General of the Consular and Legal Affairs Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

### Condition of El Niño during November 2023 to January 2024

Issued at 28-10-2023

(A) The Sea Surface Temperature (SST) over the Tropical Pacific Ocean near the Equator and atmosphere phenomena is moderate condition. According to the Numerical Weather prediction models of the International Meteorological Agency, it is forecast to reach strong El Niño condition during November 2023 to January 2024. It is forecast that the El Niño condition may gradually decrease starting from February 2024.

(B) Although the El Niño condition occurs in the Pacific Ocean, the effect of El Niño may cause generally extreme weather events such as irregular rainfall patterns, rising temperature, irregular storm formation and drought.

(C) Therefore, it is advised to prepare in advance for all related sectors. El Niño Condition will be updated in time.

### COVID-19 report, 28 October 2023

NEW TESTS

2,265

NEW CASE

One

CASUALTIES

Nil

## State Pariyatti Sasana universities' admission applications open on 7 November



Members of Sangha take Sasana Taksila Dhamma Cariya exam for the 1384-1385 ME (2022-2023) academic year at the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Mandalay).

ADMISSION applications for the 2023-2024 academic year at the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon and Mandalay) will be available starting from 7 November, as announced by the Department of Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana.

Monks and novices who wish to attend the Sasana Taksila Dhamma Cariya (first-year) course must passed government Pahtamagyi, Cetiyan-gana and Sakkasiha and must be ages 30, vasa 10.

Monks and novices who wish to enrol in the Sasana Taksila Maha Dhamma Criya (first-year) course must hold one of four kinds of Dhamma

Cariya titles. Applicants must be aged 15, vasa 15.

Monks and novices applying for admission to the Sasana Taksila Dhamma Cariya course (first-year) are required to answer a set of five questions on Vinaya, Abhidhamma, Pali and general knowledge equivalent to the level of Pahtamagyi course.

This examination spans two days, with one set of five questions for each day.

Monks and novices who have applied for admission to the Sasana Taksila Maha Dhamma Cariya (first year) are expected to be at the level equivalent to Sasana Taksila

Dhamma Cariya (fourth year). In the examination, candidates must answer ten questions. On the second day, they are required to answer ten questions in Pali, Myanmar, and English languages.

Application forms for the Sasana University will be issued on 7 November and closed on 24 November 2023. Completed application forms can be submitted to the registrar of the respective universities.

For more details, applicants can contact the registrar Office at State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) and State Pariyatti Sasana University (Mandalay). — TWA/KZW

## National livestock census set for Nov in 215 townships of 13 states/regions



A livestock census was conducted in Kya-Inn-Seikkyi Township, Kayin State in 2019.

THE national livestock population census will be enumerated in 215 townships in 13 regions/states in November. This information comes from the National Livestock Census Central Committee in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

It is conducted following the objective of a nationwide livestock census every five years. In the relevant regions, it is reported that 10 per cent of the townships in the provinces conducted annual interim population censuses until 2022.

The animal census enables the estimation and confirmation of the annual animal population in Myanmar. This in-

formation aids in estimating local consumption and aligning production with the demands of the foreign market, offering benefits such as the development of breeding and production plans.

To obtain accurate population numbers of animals, a systematic ground survey is needed in 17 townships in Yangon Region. The Minister of Economic Affairs for Yangon Region emphasized the importance of cooperation among related departments in implementing the enumeration work in selected villages and wards during the regional livestock census meeting on 25 October. — TWA/KZW



# Entertainment

## Celebrity Brief



### Daw Khin Lay Swe

ON behalf of the organization marking the 46<sup>th</sup> respect-paying ceremony to aged film artistes, U Win Myaing, a member of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization provided K400,000 and medicines to 92-year-old Daw Khin Lay Swe.



### U Paw Lay

COMEDIAN U Paw Lay celebrated his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday on 25 October at the home for the elderly of Myanmar Comedian Organization (Central) in Yangon. He urged the fans to keep doing good deeds for their present and future life.



### Maung Sein Win (Padeegon)

FAMOUS WRITER Maung Sein Win (Padeegon) informed his audiences that he will publish his novels frequently starting next year. I gave 25 kinds of books to three publishing houses, he explained it via his Facebook page.



### Sithu Lwin

SINGER Sithu Lwin performed at the tribute night of songwriter Saw Khu Sae and said song composer Saw Khu Sae is talented at composing songs and his song "Myat Wun" made him famous and still receiving the support of fans. Sithu Lwin has been married for 13 years.



### Mee No

SINGER Mee No sang "Aphae Aye yeik" song for tribute Live Show of the third anniversary of the demise of Mee Mee Khe. On 28 October, she sang in a show named "Ahnaung Aphwe - Chit Phoo Tae Pone Pyin" at Jolly Bar & Family Entertainment in Mawlamyine. She also made donations for disaster victims in mid-October.

- Make Up Artist : Wine Thu Kha
- Hair : Miley Miller
- Designer : Lone Lone & Thune Thune
- Jewel : Diamond Empress
- Photo : Aung Kyaw Tun – Visual Design



### Ni Ni Lin Eain

MYANMAR beauty contestant competed in Miss Grand International held in Viet Nam from 3 to 25 October together with 70 contestants from 70 countries and grabbed 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up, Country's Power of the Year 2023, Popular Vote Winner, Miss Grand International Pageant Insider Winner-MGI 2023, Global Beauties Miss Photogenic 2023, Best in Ao Dai, Top 6 Pre-Arrival, Top 18 Grand Voice, Top 10 Best National Costume, and Top 10 Best in Swimsuit. She said, "I don't want to bother my fans. Although

I missed the winner award, I received an award that is deserved for me." – Htun Htun/KTZH

## Myanmar beauty queen to showcase Rakhine oil lamp costume in Miss Cosmopolitan World 2023



The photo shows Thandar Soe wearing the costume of the Rakhine traditional oil lamp dance.

MYANMAR beauty queen Thandar Soe will compete in the National Costume Competition of Miss Cosmopolitan World 2023 wearing the costume of a Rakhine traditional oil lamp, according to Ko San Thar, founder of Rangoon Akyab Stars Co Ltd.

The Myanmar beauty contestant competes in Miss Cosmopolitan World 2023 which is held from 24 October to 9 November in Malaysia together with beauty queens from 16 countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Viet Nam, Singapore, Cambodia and Nepal.

"I am very happy for Myanmar beauty contestant Thandar Soe for her competition. She has taken several training and prepared for language. We will have to wait and see how she will participate in the competitions. We hope she will grab the best results," said Ko San Thar.

Myanmar beauty contestant Thandar Soe will wear the costume of the Rakhine traditional oil lamp dance to present the famous oil lamp dance of the Rakhine people and the glory time of the Rakhine dynasties, said Designer Kyaw Swa. – ASH/KTZH



## Fifty container vessels scheduled to call in November

A total of 50 container vessels are scheduled to arrive in November at Yangon Port, according to the Myanma Port Authority.

In November, seven container vessels each run by Samudera Shipping Line and Sealand Maersk Asia, five by COSCO Shipping Line and MSC Line, four by SITC Line, three each by Evergreen Line, ONE Line, CMA CGM Line and PIL Line, two each by RCL Line, Inter Asia Line, BAY Line and BLPL Shipping Line, one each by Land And Sea Line and Ti2 Container Line are slated to dock at the Yangon Port.

This year, 52 container vessels in January, 51 in February, 55 in March, 50 in April, 56 in May, 57 in June, 53 in July, 54 in August, 53 in September and 49 in October arrived at Yangon Port.

Yangon Port handled a total of 620 container vessels this year. Following the draft extension, the international ocean liners can access the inner port for now, according to the Myanma Port Authority's statement on 22 June 2022.

After the new navigation channel (Kings Bank Channel) accessing the inner Yangon Riv-



An aerial view of Yangon Port with container vessels loading and discharging export and import cargoes on the Yangon River.

er was found, the draft extension work was accelerated. After that, the port can now handle larger ships. The container vessel (185.99-metre LOA, 35.25-metre Beam, 29,232 GRT and 2,698 TEU) Hong Kong-based SITC Shipping Line docked at Asia World Port Terminal for the first time on 22 June.

That vessel is the largest ship that AWPT Port handled.

From May 2021, the arriv-

al of the ships at terminals in Yangon has increased again. To fulfil the seaborne trade requirements, three new container vessels by Maersk Line Myanmar (SeaLand Maersk) started to run in 2021.

Earlier, the larger ships had draft problems preventing their sailing on the Yangon River. The draft was extended up to 10 metres, so the larger ocean liners could enter the Thilawa Port.

The coast of Myanmar is 2,228 kilometres long (1,260 nautical miles) including the Rakhine coastline (713 kilometres), delta region (437 kilometres) and Taninthayi coastline (1,078 kilometres), stretching from northern Bangladesh's border to southern Thailand's border area.

There are 10 seaports along the coastline, including Yangon Port, Thilawa Deep Sea Port,

Kyaukphyu Deep Sea Port, Sittway Port, Thandwe Port, Patheingyi Port, Mawlamyine Port, Dawei Deep Sea Port, Myeik Port and Kawthoung Port.

Seaborne trade accounts for 75 per cent of foreign trade. However, Yangon Port including Thilawa terminals is the only international port and the remaining ports in eight cities are designated for the domestic way only. — NN/EM

## Kyukok garlic, China's potato prices on the rise

ALTHOUGH the exported Kyukok garlic prices become high, the China potato prices are still falling, Ko Aung, a purchaser of potatoes and onions told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The prices of China potato and Kyukok garlic were high at Bayintnaung market on 27 October due to the difficulties of transportation at border area, Ko Thein, seller of potato and Kyukok garlic from Yetama Street told the GNLM.

On 27 October, the wholesale price of Chinese potato was K1,700 per viss and the opening price was K1,800, reached K1,900/1,950 in the evening and K2,400 on the morning of 28 October.

Some decaying potatoes are

included in the bags of potatoes and they are sent back to the Bayintnaung wholesale centre from countryside areas, said a merchant from the delta region.

A potato bag containing about 15 visses is priced over K20,000 and they are not easily sold, so they are sent back to the wholesale centre.

Some sellers select the fine potatoes out of the decaying ones and so the buyers have to carefully select the fine ones, said a potato purchaser.

Although most of the commodity prices hit record prices, the potato price reached only K3,000 per viss. It is about K2,000 per viss and reaches to K1,700 recently. The prices of Chinese potato and Kyukok garlic are rising due to the difficulties of

transport at the border, said a purchaser.

On 10 July, the wholesale price of Shan Aungban potatoes was K2,800-K2,900-K2,950-K3,000 per viss while K2,900-K2,950 for Chinese potato, and only the potato prices are mentioned until now.

The Shan potatoes grown in March and April are dug out in August and September. The Para-Shan potato is grown in July and August and harvested in November and December. The Shan potatoes grown in January and February are harvested in April and May.

The Sinphyukyun potatoes are especially grown in October and November and harvested in January and February. — TWA/KTZH



The photo shows bags of Chinese potatoes.



# OPINION

# ARTICLE BOOKRACK

## Select healthy cooking oils for public well-being

**IN** TODAY'S world, consumers must remain vigilant against the unscrupulous practices of certain businesses that peddle low-quality and adulterated cooking oils. Consuming such oils can lead to detrimental health conditions, making it imperative for individuals to make informed choices in the realm of cooking oils.

Unscrupulous businesspersons have, unfortunately, shown a penchant for producing and selling substandard cooking oils and adulterated products. Their disregard for the well-being of consumers is evident, as they seize every opportunity to cut corners and maximize profits. Fortunately, relevant regulatory bodies and organizations are poised to take legal action against these unscrupulous actors.

Within the domestic market, there are instances where oil dealers intentionally market subpar cooking oils in an attempt to reduce costs and gain a competitive edge. Their misguided belief is that by offering lower-priced cooking oils, they can bolster their market image and secure the trust of consumers. However, they fail to recognize that they, too, are consumers, and they would not willingly subject themselves to the health risks associated with the oils they sell.

It is essential to acknowledge that their actions are not absolved by any ethical or religious doctrine, and their behaviour perpetuates a harmful cycle. Consequently, consumers endure financial losses and wasted resources when they purchase oils of inferior quality and lower quantity. This nefarious market conduct is pervasive and, regrettably, has become an accepted norm.

A research paper presented at the 47<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Medical Research Conference in 2019 stated that laboratory tests on various samples of cooking oils, including peanut

oil, palm oil, fried oil, labelled sunflower oil, and horse gram oil, uncovered the prevalent adulteration of peanut oils with palm oils.

However, sunflower and horse gram oils remained free from adulteration. This research underscored the malpractices of unscrupulous oil dealers and sounded a warning bell regarding the health of consumers who unwittingly consume these unsafe oils.

The research paper was based on extensive surveys involving 96 samples of cooking oils collected from four major markets in the Yangon Region. Consumers must be discerning in their choice of cooking oils to protect their health and well-being. It is essential to hold unscrupulous businesses accountable and support regulations that ensure the availability of safe and high-quality cooking oils in the market. By making informed choices and advocating for safer products, consumers can safeguard their health and contribute to a market that prioritizes their well-being over profit margins.

**A** NEW study showed that pigeons approach some challenges in the same way that artificial intelligence would, allowing them to perform challenging tasks that humans would struggle with. Previous studies demonstrated that pigeons learned how to tackle complicated categorization problems that human ways of thinking, such as selective attention and explicit rule application, would be ineffective in addressing.

According to Brandon Turner, the main author of the new study and professor of psychology at Ohio State University, researchers hypothesised that pigeons utilised a "brute force" style of problem-solving similar to what is used in AI models.

### Avian Abilities

However, this study may have confirmed it, Turner and a colleague evaluated a rudimentary AI model to see if it could solve issues in the same way that pigeons did - and it did. "We found really strong evidence that the mechanisms guiding pigeon learning

## Study shows pigeons match wits with artificial intelligence



A recent study revealed that pigeons tackle problems similarly to artificial intelligence, enabling them to excel in challenging tasks that might stump humans. **ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY**

are remarkably similar to the same principles that guide modern machine learning and AI techniques," Turner

said. "Our findings suggest that in the pigeon, nature may have found a way to make an incredibly efficient learner

that has no ability to generalize or extrapolate as humans would." Turner conducted the study with Edward Wasserman, a professor of psychology at the University of Iowa. Their results were published in the journal *iScience*. In the study, pigeons were shown a stimulus, which could include lines of various widths and angles, concentric rings and sectioned rings. They had to click a button on the right or left to indicate to which category it belonged. If they got it correct, they received a food pellet - if they were wrong, they received nothing.

### Pigeon Performance

There were four different tasks in the study, some harder than the others. Results showed that, through trial and error, the pigeons improved their ability to make the correct choices in one of the easier experiments from about 55 per cent to 95 per cent of the time. Even in a more difficult scenario, their correct responses improved from 55 per cent to 68 per cent.

**SOURCE: ANI**

### Night and Day

By Maung Swan Yi  
Translated by Myint Zan

*during times of worship  
at night  
I saw the heavenly abode*

*during the daily struggles  
of day-time  
I perennially see the abode of  
hell*

This poem in Burmese by  
Maung Swan Yi (born 1936) was  
first published in April 1994 of  
Kalyar magazine

### Thadingyut

By Chit Ko Pe

Everywhere lanterns and lights aplenty,  
Thadingyut festival makes all happy.

As the Buddhist Lent time is up,  
monks liberate from travel curb.

Elder monks pardon the ills and sins,  
committed by their brethren kin.

The Buddha descending from heaven stage,  
laypeople celebrate and pay homage.

Monks, parents, teachers and elder relatives,  
all are orderly inclusive and worshipped.

Sharing food and things with those in need,  
daytime is filled with meritorious deeds.

Up high night sky with a full moon,  
beautified by fireworks and fire balloons.

Street fairs brimmed with revellers,  
carnival atmosphere gets merrier,  
May Thadingyut last forever!



Book Title	-	Death in the Bunker
Translator	-	Maung Maung Hla Myint
Publishing House	-	Mayu Myit
Publication Date	-	January 2023 (1 <sup>st</sup> Edition)
Price	-	K3,000

## Hitler Ei Bunkerdwin Naukhson Settikyek (Death in the Bunker by Ian Kershaw)

THIS book deals with the last 11 days of Mr Adolf Hitler, who is known as the one who created the Second World War, the common enemy of the Jews as well as of the entire world nations, the father of the Nazi Party, the leader of modern Germany and the dictator who caused panic to the whole world. The original title of the book is Death in the Bunker.

The book starts with a brief biography of Mr Adolf Hitler, who was born on 20 April 1889. The book was written in chronological order from birth to death.

The Nazis under the lead-

ership of Adolf Hitler introduced dictatorship in their establishment of the Third Germany. Hitler and his men were in hot pursuit of the Jews residing within Europe, other races professing different religious faiths and all else, and slaughtered them all mercilessly and systematically, thereby causing World War II. They killed 39 million people six million of which were Jews.

Translated widely across the world, Ian Kershaw's award-winning two-volume Penguin biography of Hitler is widely regarded as the defin-

itive work on the megalomaniac Nazi leader. Death in the Bunker offers a compelling account of the final hours of Germany's Third Reich: the oaths and betrayals of the Fuhrer's henchmen, and his ultimate suicide in an underground chamber alongside his new wife Eva Braun.

Sir Ian Kershaw is an English historian whose work has chiefly focused on the social history of 20<sup>th</sup>-century Germany. He is regarded by many as one of the world's experts on Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany and is particularly noted for his biographies

of Hitler. Interestingly, the one who has translated the book of Ian Kershaw is also a historian named Maung Maung Hla Myint. He was the chairman of the Taikkyi Township Writers' Association. Unfortunately, the translator died just seven months after publishing his translated version of the biography of Adolf Hitler.

The death of Hitler was not very clear, causing confusion among the world's people who had their own death stories. However, the widely accepted version is that Adolf Hitler committed suicide by swallowing a cyanide capsule and shooting himself in the head on 30 April 1945. In January 1945, facing a siege of Berlin by the Soviets, Hitler withdrew to his bunker to live out his final days. Located 55 feet under the chancellery, the shelter contained 18 rooms and was fully self-sufficient, with its own water and electrical supply. Though he was growing increasingly mad, Hitler continued to give orders and meet with close subordinates. He also married his long-time mistress Eva Braun just one day before his suicide.



Book Title	-	Kensuke's Kingdom
Translator	-	Than Lwin Myint
Publishing House	-	Mayu Myit
Publication Date	-	October 2023 (1 <sup>st</sup> Edition)
Price	-	K5,000

## Kensuke Bayint Naing Ngan Daw (By Michael Morpurgo)

THIS book is about an unexpected encounter between a 12-year-old boy and a 75-year-old war veteran. The boy is called Michael and the old war veteran is called Mr Kensuke. Michael is hungry, lonely and scared when he is washed up on a seemingly deserted island. He soon discovers another inhabitant - Kensuke, a former Japanese soldier, who although initially unfriendly, provides Michael with food and water. Gradually, a strong bond develops between the two castaways.

Exploration and discovery are the main themes in Kensuke's Kingdom. The use of maps

and inclusion of geographical vocabulary help to elevate this theme further. Loss - the theme of loss is explored when Michael becomes marooned on the island.

This book is great for nine plus readers. This is a very exciting book because Michael was stranded on an island with a man, who loved and cared for apes and monkeys on the island. The setting of Kensuke's Kingdom is a deserted fictitious island. In this scenario, the island is inhabited with people trying to cope with the devastating effects of flooding caused by climate change.

This book has ten chapters and offers a unique discussion point or tasks for children to engage with. Chapter 1 has 16 pages. In this chapter, we learn why Michael wants to tell his story. We learn about his family, friends and school life. We learn that Michael disappeared on 28 July 1988. We also learn about Michael's family plan to sail around in their boat called Peggy Sue.

What appeals to me most is the bond between man and animals, the correlation between man and nature and the loyalty maintained between and among the human beings.

Additionally, we can also learn what a good friend means, the humans' resilience for survival and the courage and diligence of the Japanese. Another thing that we should imitate is the mentality of Kensuke. Despite being a soldier, the profession of Kensuke is a medical doctor. He joined the Navy during the Japan-American War. One day the naval vessel which he was on board was bombed. The whole crew lost their lives except him. The vessel was floating until it reached an island. Before his vessel was bombed, the atomic bomb was dropped onto Nagasaki where his family lived. Hearing this news over the radio, he thought that all his family members were killed in the atomic bomb attack. Unable to find a good reason to go back to Nagasaki, he spent about 40 years on the island alone before he met Michael. He regarded the island as his own kingdom with the animal beings inhabiting the island being all his subjects. He was happy there, never thinking of escape. Kensuke was a bizarre man. Nevertheless, Michael was always thinking of escape. Whether Michael could have found ways to escape from the island is left to the readers.



# NATIONAL

## People who commit financial fraud online arrested

THE government is paying attention to national stability and the rule of law, and the security organizations identified and arrested them as they collected information about foreign nationals based in Yangon committing online scam.

Officials searched the office of the Supportfix Co Ltd located at Room No S-19, U Chit Maung Housing, U Chit Maung Street, Tamway Township, Yangon Region on 26 October and arrested 88 persons: 22 females and 66 males led by Zhuqian (alias) Longfa aged 34, (father's name U Loukshee) along with computers, mobile phones and accessories which are used to collect information of foreign nationals and carry out financial fraud.

According to further investigation, officials searched for Yanglonshin, owner of Zhan Tu Co Ltd, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor of Diamond Condo, Nanattaw Street, Kamayut Township but he ran away before the officials arrived.

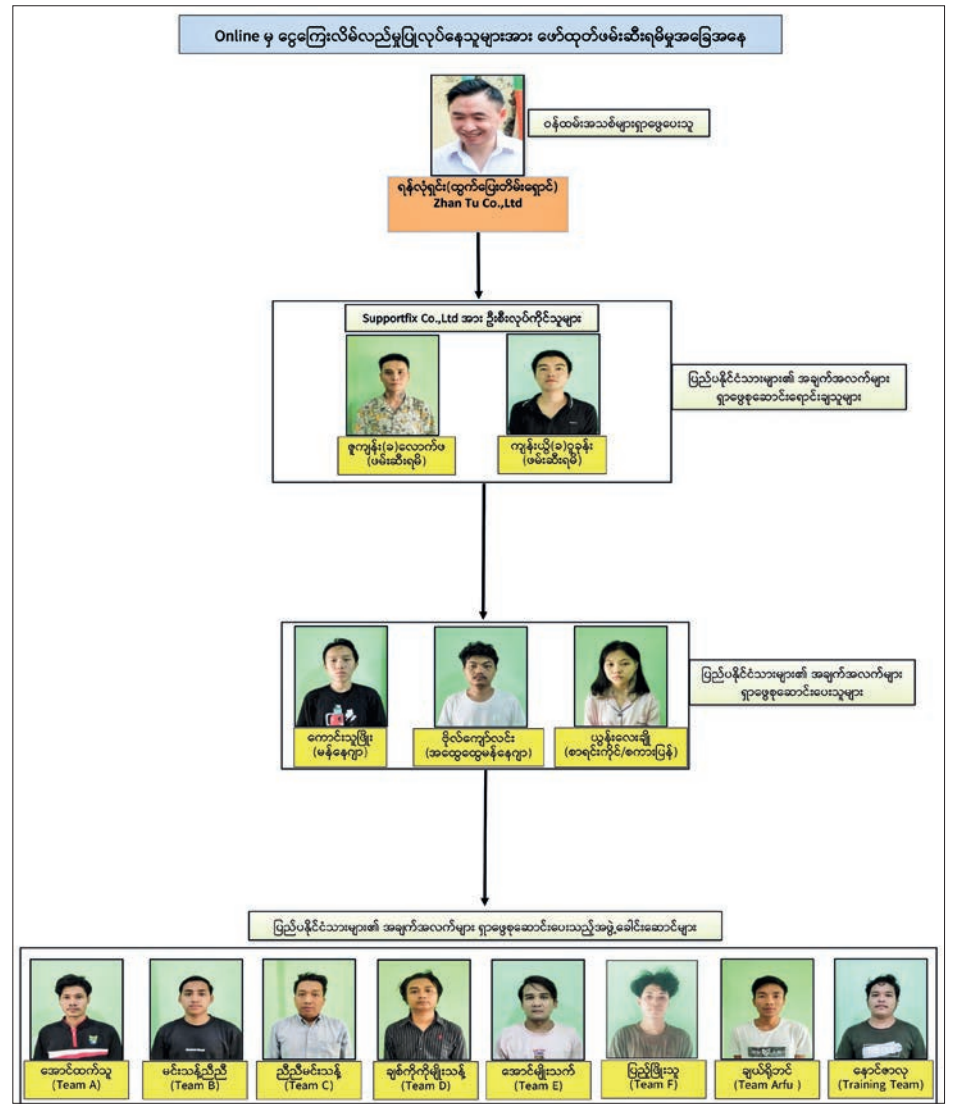
Officials also seized his office located at No 1502, 15<sup>th</sup> floor, Time City Office Tower 3, Kamayut Township.

According to the investigations, these groups have organized eight small groups of employees with about 10 persons in each group to find and collect targets in order to fraudulently obtain money from foreign nationals and to get the personal information of the targets.

It has been verified that the collected information is being resold to other groups who intend to defraud money.

Ninety-five offenders who have been caught committing financial fraud from foreign nationals through such online social networks will be taken effective action under the law.

A notification has been issued that the public can secretly report to the relevant security organizations if they know of organizations involved in financial fraud like the above. — MNA/KZL



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Efforts to stabilize Chinshwehaw underway

MAJ-GEN Zaw Min Tun, Information Team Leader of the State Administration Council, said that the government is cooperating with China to stabilize Chinshwehaw Township and the downtown area is now under control. He added that there are limitations in taking security measures in Chinshwehaw as the town lies near the border with China.

### Trucks stuck at Lashio, Kutkai, Hsenwi, Laukkai road sections

Recent armed conflicts in northern Shan State closed the Lashio-Muse, Lashio-Chinshwehaw road sections and the Union highway, halting the Myanmar-China border trade. Although it is a normal situation in Muse, locals said that trucks carrying watermelons to be exported to China have been stranded in Lashio, Kutkai, and Hsenwi road sections and around the Laukkai intersection.

### MSMEs gain purchase orders for raw materials

From January to August of this year, 36 MSMEs received K6.562 billion and more than US\$ 28.4 million worth of purchase orders for 33 types of raw materials from 28 production companies operating in Yangon's Thilawa Special Economic Zone, mentioned SAC Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the meeting of the Work Committee on MSME Development.

## Myanmar, China strengthen BRI cooperation

CHINA-Myanmar cooperation for BRI will be strengthened, Mr Chen Hai, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar, said at the China-Myanmar Belt and Road Cooperation Discussion held at the Wyndham Grand Hotel in Yangon on 26 October.

"Myanmar is a country situated along the Belt and Road and is an active participant and a beneficiary. The joint construction of the China-Myanmar Belt and Road as well as the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor will promote the peace and development of Myanmar and benefit the entire Myanmar people. We will strengthen efforts for the improved quality of China-Myanmar Belt and Road joint construction works," Mr Chen Hai elaborated.

## Above 620 lots of jade sold on emporium's seventh day

ON the seventh day of the gem emporium held in Nay Pyi Taw, 753 lots of jade were offered to local and overseas buyers through the open tender system, of which more than 620 lots were sold, according to the exhibition organizing committee. Similarly, 300 lots of pearl and 73 lots of gems were sold at the 2023 mid-year gem emporium.

## Two depressions likely occur leading to storm

IN the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, low-pressure areas may occur two times in November while one of them may escalate to a weak storm, according to a release on 28 October by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

Similarly, night temperatures in Shan State (southern and eastern), Kayah State and Kayin State may rise by 1.5 degrees Celsius above the average temperature of November. Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Magway Region, Bago Region, Yangon Region, Ayeyawady Region, Taninthayi Region, Kachin State, Shan State (North), Chin State, Rakhine State and Mon State may have average temperatures of November. — Htun Htun/TH



## Suspect in mass shooting found dead, drawing 'sigh of relief' in Maine

THE suspect in a mass shooting that killed 18 people in the US state of Maine has been found dead, the state's governor said Friday, ending a two-day manhunt that mobilized hundreds of law enforcement agents and set jittery residents of the northeastern state on edge.

Robert Card, a 40-year-old Army reservist, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, and his body was discovered at 7:45 pm (2345 GMT), Maine

public safety commissioner Mike Sauschuck said.

Card is believed to be the perpetrator of a rampage on Wednesday evening that left 18 people dead and 13 others wounded in a bowling alley and a bar-restaurant in this hard-scrabble city.

"I'm breathing a sigh of relief tonight knowing that Robert Card is no longer a threat to anyone," governor Janet Mills told a hastily called news conference. — AFP

## More than 100,000 protest to demand Bangladesh PM step down

Protesters demanded Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation for a free and fair election under a neutral government, as the country gears up for a general election within three months.

OVER 100,000 supporters of two major Bangladesh opposition parties rallied in the capital Dhaka on Saturday, police said, demanding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina step down to allow a free and fair vote under a neutral government.

Saturday's rallies by the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the largest Islamist party, Jamaat-e-Islami, were the biggest so far this year, AFP journalists

on site said, and marked a new phase in their protests with a general election due within three months.

Hasina — daughter of the country's founding leader — has been in power for 15 years and has overseen rapid economic growth with Bangladesh overtaking neighbouring India in GDP per capita, but inflation has risen and her government is accused of corruption and human rights abuses. — AFP



Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) supporters rally in Dhaka, demanding that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina step down to allow a free and fair election under a neutral government on 28 October 2023. PHOTO: MUNIR UZ ZAMAN /AFP



Wang Yi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chinese foreign minister, held two rounds of talks with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Washington, DC, the United States, on Thursday and Friday. PHOTO: LIU JIE/XINHUA

## Chinese foreign minister holds talks with US secretary of state

*China and the United States, as big economies and UN Security Council members, share common challenges alongside their own development goals.*

WANG Yi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chinese foreign minister, held two rounds of talks with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday and Friday.

The two sides agreed to work together toward a meeting between the two heads of state in San Francisco.

The current international situation is undergoing transformation and turbulence, and China-US relations are also at a critical crossroads, Wang said.

As the world's two largest economies and permanent members of the UN Security Council, China and the United States face not only their respective development tasks,

but also common challenges, he said.

The Chinese foreign minister said China always believes that the common interests of the two countries outweigh their differences and disputes, that their respective success is an opportunity rather than a challenge for each other; and that the way for major countries to get along should be dialogue and cooperation rather than a zero-sum game. China holds that China and the United States should bring their relationship back on the track of healthy and steady development at an early date, so as to benefit both countries as well as the world, he added.

The twists and turns in the path of China-US relations this year offer both experience to

sum up and lessons to draw, Wang said.

Most importantly, he said, the two sides should adhere to the following "five musts": must abide by the consensus reached by the two heads of state, must stabilize bilateral relations, must keep communication channels open, must properly manage differences, disputes and frictions, and must promote mutually beneficial cooperation.

In order to stabilize and further improve China-US relations, the two sides should have objective views of each other's strategic intentions, correctly treat the competitive factors in the exchanges between the two countries, and define the concept of national security, Wang said. — Xinhua

## Spanish clergy sexual abused over 200,000 children

OVER 200,000 minors are estimated to have been sexually abused in Spain by the Roman Catholic clergy since 1940, according to an independent commission published Friday.

The report did not give a specific figure but said a poll of over 8,000 people found that 0.6 per cent of Spain's adult population of around 39 mil-

lion people said they had suffered sexual abuse by members of the clergy when they were still children. The percentage rises to 1.13 per cent — or over 400,000 people — when including abuse by lay members, Spain's national ombudsman Angel Gabilondo told a news conference called to present the findings of the report. — AFP



# ECONOMY WORLD

## Israeli tech sector closes ranks during conflict

Israel's tech industry, a significant part of the country's economy, contributes nearly half of its exports.

ISRAEL'S tech industry, a key sector of the country's economy that accounts for nearly half of exports, has closed ranks since the start of the conflict with Hamas, with numerous startups seeking to help civilians.

Eran Orr, chief executive of the Israeli-American start-up XRHealth, rushed back to Israel after Hamas militants stormed into the country from the Gaza Strip on 7 October, and killed at least 1,400 people, mostly civilians and kidnapped more than 220 others, according to Israeli officials.

Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry said retaliatory Israeli strikes have killed more than 7,000 people, mostly civilians and

many of them children, raising growing calls for protection of innocent people caught in the conflict.

Orr's company, founded in 2016, makes virtual reality headsets for therapeutic use.

XRHealth has donated hundreds of headsets to Israeli hospitals to help survivors deal with post-traumatic stress, because "there's a very big shortage of mental health clinicians", Orr told AFP.

But the company believes the need is much greater and is seeking \$3 million (2.8 million euros) in donations to help 2,000 households that have been directly affected by the 7 October

attack.

Such examples were increasing in a country which hosts at least 7,500 tech firms, according to Start-Up Nation Central, an Israeli non-profit that helps match up investors and entrepreneurs.

### Meeting needs

The tech sector accounted for 18 per cent of the country's output last year and nearly 48 per cent of exports at \$71 billion, as well as 14 per cent of salaried employees.

From software development to chip manufacturing, all of the global players in the industry are present to tap into the country's rich ecosystem. — AFP



Part of Azorim High-Tech park in Kiryat Arie industrial area, Petah-Tikva, Israel. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ WIKIPEDIA**

## Guyana finds more oil in waters claimed by Venezuela, okays drilling



US energy giant ExxonMobil has discovered a huge natural gas reserve off the coast of Cyprus, Cypriot authorities said on 28 February 2019, a find that could raise tensions with nearby Türkiye. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ CHRISTOS AVRAAMIDES / PIO / AFP/FILE**

GUYANA on Thursday announced a "significant" new oil discovery in an area claimed by neighbouring Venezuela and said it had awarded bids to eight companies, foreign and local, to drill for crude in its waters.

The new find, as well as some of the drilling concessions, are in a disputed area whose possible annexation Venezuela is putting to a national referendum.

Guyana, much smaller

than its neighbour, has the world's highest reserves of crude per capita.

US oil giant ExxonMobil made the discovery of an estimated "20 metres of hydrocarbon-bearing reservoir" and about another "81 metres of additional hydrocarbon-bearing sandstone", Guyana's natural resources ministry said in a statement.

The new reservoir would undergo a "comprehensive appraisal process", it added.

Later, Vice-President Bharrat Jagdeo told reporters that drilling bids had been awarded to companies including ExxonMobil, French multinational TotalEnergies and local company SISPRO Inc.

"We now have to meet with the parties to which the blocks have been awarded to have a negotiation on the contracting, that is to move towards the completion of the award," said Jagdeo. — AFP

## EU, Australia make 'progress' towards free trade deal: French minister

*Becht did not rule out the possibility of reaching a technical agreement at the upcoming Group of 7 (G7) trade meeting in Osaka.*

THE European Union and Australia have made "progress" towards a free trade deal, France's trade minister said Friday, ahead of a Group of 7 trade meeting.

"At the current stage of discussions, we have made a number of very positive advances," Olivier Becht told reporters on a visit to Tokyo, adding that he was "not ruling out" the possibility of reaching a technical agreement at the meeting this weekend.

The minister is due to take part in the talks in Osaka, which will also be attended by Austral-

ian trade minister Don Farrell and other trade ministers from the group. The EU and Australia have been negotiating for several years over a free trade deal and a number of sticking points remain, including on agricultural products and the protected designation of origin in Europe.

In July, the two parties failed to reach an agreement during talks in Brussels, with Australia saying it had not been guaranteed "significant" access to the European market for its agricultural products. — AFP



File image of an Australian iron ore mine. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AMY COOPES / AFP /FILE**



# About 93% of Japanese firms raised employee wages in 2022: survey

The Japanese government is developing an economic stimulus package to mitigate the challenges posed by rising prices and insufficient wage growth.

AROUND 93 per cent of Japanese companies were compelled to raise wages for their employees in 2022 to prevent them from moving to better-paying jobs amid labour shortages, a government-affiliated think tank said Saturday.

The results of the survey, conducted by the Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training, come as Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's government is crafting a new economic stimulus package aimed at easing the negative impact of price hikes amid insufficient wage growth.

The think tank said about 68 per cent of respondents implemented wage increases in a bid to improve the motivation of workers and enhance their benefits, while around 42 per cent of the firms answered that salary raises were necessary to address staff shortages. Among companies that did not boost wages, 70 per cent of them attributed their decision to business sluggishness, the think tank said, adding that some of them suffered an economic slump amid the COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020. — Kyodo



Approximately 93 per cent of Japanese companies increased employee wages in 2022 to retain them in the face of labour shortages. **PHOTO: KYODO**

## Bumper profits ebb at US oil giants as they tout big fossil deals



Chevron scored profits of \$6.5 billion, down 42 per cent from the year-ago level. **PHOTO: JUSTIN SULLIVAN /AFP**

EXXONMOBIL and Chevron reported lower profits Friday compared with the year-ago blowout quarter as the oil giants touted recent acquisitions they said balance economic and environmental priorities.

The two petroleum heavyweights — which in recent weeks have unveiled large takeovers of mid-sized fossil fuel players — both reported third-quarter profits that were big, but dwarfed by those in the

year-ago period.

ExxonMobil reported third-quarter profits of \$9.1 billion, less than half the level in the 2022 period of booming commodity prices, while Chevron scored profits of \$6.5 billion, down 42 per cent from the year-ago level.

The lower profits reflected an ebbing in commodity prices compared with the year-ago period, when Russia's invasion of Ukraine lifted oil and natural gas prices. — AFP

## Equinor profits tumble on gas price drop

PROFITS tumbled at Norway's energy giant Equinor during the third quarter, the company said Friday, due to sharply lower gas prices and offshore wind problems.

Adjusted earnings, which

excludes certain exceptional elements, fell by 67 per cent from the same period last year to \$8.0 billion at the firm, which is two-thirds owned by the Norwegian state.

That beat analyst expect-

tations of \$7.6 billion. Net profit plunged 73 per cent to \$2.5 billion.

Like other energy firms, the drop in global oil and gas prices has strongly impacted Equinor's performance. — AFP

## Panama bans new mining deals, but fails to quell protests

The ban does not affect an existing contract with a Canadian company that has led to significant protests in Panama.

PANAMA'S President Laurentino Cortizo on Friday announced a ban on new metal mining concessions, but maintained a contract with a Canadian company that has sparked massive protests in the country.

In a televised address, the president said the government had issued a decree "declaring a ban on granting new metallic mineral concessions throughout the country." Cortizo made no mention of the controversial contract with First Quantum Minerals, the Vancouver-based company whose Caribbean copper mine sparked demon-



The Cobre Panama mine in Panama. **PHOTO: LUIS ACOSTA/AFP**

strations over potential environmental impacts and in which

protesters have clashed with police. — AFP



# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Lavrov: Impossible to destroy Hamas without destroying Gaza with most of its civilian population



Reporters take cover upon hearing sirens warning of an incoming rocket attack from Gaza, in the southern Israeli city of Sderot, on 23 October 2023. **PHOTO: JACK GUEZ/AFP**

Lavrov emphasizes the importance of not destroying Gaza, as it would result in a humanitarian catastrophe for the civilian population there.

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that it is impossible to destroy Hamas without destroying Gaza with most of its civilian population.

"It is necessary to stop, it is necessary to announce humanitarian programmes to save the population, which has found itself in a blockade: no water, no electricity, no food - there is none of this," Lavrov said in an interview.

He stressed that if the

Gaza Strip is destroyed and two million people are expelled, it will be a catastrophe for many decades or even centuries.

"We send signals to the Israelis, we have full contacts with them, our ambassador communicates with them regularly, we send signals about the need to seek a peaceful solution and not to complete the announced scorched earth strategy in Gaza," Lavrov said.

— SPUTNIK

### 14 MINERS STILL MISSING

Death toll in Kazakhstan mine fire rises to 32: emergency services

THE death toll from a fire at a mine owned by ArcelorMittal in Kazakhstan rose to 32 people on Saturday, with searches underway for 14 miners still missing, the country's emergency services said.

"At the Kostyenko mine as of 4 pm (1000 GMT) the bodies of 32 people have been found," the emergency situations ministry said in a statement. "The search for 14 miners is continuing." — AFP

## Barenboim-Said music academy rocked by Mideast conflict

ON stage, the musicians of the Barenboim-Said Akademie in Berlin still play in perfect harmony. But inside, they are reeling.

The recent escalation of fighting between Israel and Hamas poses the greatest existential challenge yet for the music academy, founded to build bridges between young Israeli and Arab musicians.

"The situation has always been complex, but this is the biggest test since the academy was created in 2016," Michael Barenboim, a violinist and dean of the school, told AFP.

The Barenboim-Said Akademie was born out of a long partnership between Barenboim's father, the Israeli-Argentine pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim, and the Palestinian-American scholar Edward Said, who died in 2003.

Students at the school receive a broad musical education but also attend classes in philosophy, history and literature in English. Tuition and accommodation are free for the first

two years and competition is tough, with only one in three or four applicants granted a place, depending on their instrument.

The current contingent of 80 students includes 17 Israelis and six Palestinians as well as young musicians from Egypt, Lebanon, Iran, Syria and Türkiye.

**'Our hearts are heavy'**

"Emotionally, it's extremely complicated for them" in a context where "everyone knows someone who knows someone" directly affected by the conflict, said Michael Barenboim, 38.

A recent concert in Berlin gave the academy's students the opportunity to express their emotions. Before the performance, students distributed a message expressing sympathy for those affected by the situation in Palestine and Israel. A minute of silence was observed, followed by a musical performance conducted by 80-year-old Barenboim. The school has offered psychological support, helplines, and class flexibility for students. — AFP

## Philippines detains nearly 600 in anti-trafficking

PHILIPPINE police have detained nearly 600 people during a raid on a suspected sex trafficking and online scam operation in Manila, authorities said Saturday.

Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Filipino nationals were among the people found inside the compound during Friday night's operation, the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC) said in a statement.

Authorities were interviewing 598 detainees to determine who was a victim or suspect, Justice Secretary Crispin Remulla told reporters.

The Chinese embassy has been asked to help to identify nine people suspected of run-



A policeman stands guard inside a compound, where police raided buildings in Metro Manila on 27 June 2023. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP/FILE**

ning the business, which was licenced as an internet gaming company.

"It's a large-scale oper-

ation... very-well capitalized operation that makes money out of trafficking persons," Remulla said. — AFP

## Nearly 29,000 Lebanese flee homes near Israel border: UN

NEARLY 29,000 Lebanese civilians have fled communities near the border with Israel because of deadly artillery exchanges between Iran-backed

Hezbollah fighters and the Israeli army, a UN agency said Friday.

A total of 28,965 Lebanese have fled their homes, the In-

ternational Organization for Migration said in an update, adding that the figure had risen by 37 per cent since its last report on Tuesday. — AFP



# SPORTS

## Hanthawady extends win streak at MNL

HANTHAWADY United made consecutive wins after securing a 1-0 victory over Yadanabon FC at the Week-18 match of Myanmar National League played at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 28 October.

Hanthawady took an advantage of the draw between Maha United and ISPE FC, which could put pressure on third place in the table, and put themselves in a good position to finish third at the end of the season.

Team Yadanabon tried to get a point but lost due to a goal conceded in the second half.

There was no difference in

terms of skill and both teams tried to win, so the game was mutual. The winning goal for Hanthawady United was scored by midfielder Nay Moe Naing at the 80 minutes. The best player award for this match was won by Nay Moe Naing who scored the winning goal. After this match, the Hanthawady team had 31 points while Team Yadanabon secured 19 points.

Myawady FC will take on Rakhine United today at Thuwunna Stadium for the fourth match of the Week-18 Myanmar National League. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



A Hanthawady player (red) passes the rival players with football skills during the Week-18 match of the Myanmar National League at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 28 October 2023. PHOTO: MNL

## Police ban Inter fans' whistle welcome for 'traitor' Lukaku

Inter Milan fans are prohibited from distributing whistles to make noise in response to Romelu Lukaku's return with Roma, citing public safety concerns, despite their readiness to create a commotion at the game.



Romelu Lukaku has been in fine form for Roma scoring eight goals since joining on loan in the summer. PHOTO: ALBERTO PIZZOLI / AFP

INTER Milan fans have been banned by police from distributing tens of thousands of whistles with which they were planning a noisy return for hero turned 'traitor' Romelu Lukaku this weekend.

Police have ordered that the Serie A leaders' hardcore supporters not hand out the

whistles for reasons of public safety, angering fans who were ready to create a din on Sunday evening when Lukaku arrives with his new club Roma.

"The whistles have been banned, yet another violation," said Inter's ultras on their Instagram page on Friday.

Earlier this month the Cur-

va Nord Milano group had announced that they would hand out 50,000 whistles for Sunday's match, when Lukaku plays against Inter for the first time since leaving in controversial circumstances.

Lukaku was once the idol of Inter fans, winning the Serie A title in 2021 before being sold for well over 100 million euros to Chelsea that summer.

He returned to the San Siro club on loan last year but was dogged by injury and largely kept out of the team by Edin Dzeko.

His mooted permanent move to Inter broke down this summer as the club found out he had been making noises towards fierce rivals AC Milan and Juventus, so Lukaku and Chelsea eventually accepted a loan deal with Roma. Lukaku scored in Thursday night's 2-0 win over Slavia Prague in the Europa League to take his Roma tally to eight in all competitions since signing for Jose Mourinho's side in late August. — AFP

## Sabalenka tries to seal year-end No 1 spot at WTA Finals



Top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus will try to claim the year-end world number one ranking at the WTA Finals in Mexico © Dylan Buell / AFP/FILE

TOP-RANKED Aryna Sabalenka will try to hold off Poland's second-placed Iga Swiatek for the year-end world number one spot when the WTA Finals begin Sunday at Cancun, Mexico.

The \$9 million season-ending outdoor hardcourt showdown of eight top players features round-robin group matches to decide semi-final pairings ahead of the 5 November championship match.

Sabalenka, the reigning Australian Open champion, was the runner-up in last month's US Open and reached the semi-finals at Wimbledon and the French Open.

The 25-year-old from Belarus also won WTA titles this year at Madrid and Adelaide and enters the WTA Finals with a 630-point lead over 22-year-old reigning French Open champion Swiatek.

Four-time Grand Slam winner Swiatek, the 2022 year-end world number one, also took 2023 titles at Stuttgart, Qatar, Poland and earlier this month at Beijing.

Sabalenka can clinch the year-end top spot by reaching the final with a 2-1 group stage record no matter what Swiatek does. "It's not just about becoming world number one," Sabalenka said last month in China. — AFP



## K-pop star G-Dragon under police probe for alleged drug use



K-pop star G-Dragon from BIGBANG is being investigated for alleged drug use. PHOTO: FRANCOIS GUILLOT/AFP

K-pop star G-Dragon — of the wildly successful but problem-plagued band BIGBANG — is under investigation for alleged drug use, police said Thursday, becoming the latest in a string of South Korean entertainers to face such a probe.

South Korea has extremely tough legislation on illegal drugs, and even Koreans who take drugs like marijuana legally overseas risk prosecution upon

returning to their home country.

This year, President Yoon Suk Yeol called for more stringent measures to eliminate drug traffickers, saying the country was no longer “drug-free”.

Police in Incheon told AFP on Thursday that they had “opened an investigation” into G-Dragon’s case, but declined to provide details of the allegations against him. The disclosure comes less than a week after police launched an investiga-

South Korea has strict drug laws, and even using drugs legally abroad can lead to prosecution upon returning.

tion into “Parasite” actor Lee Sun-kyun, who stands accused of using marijuana and other psychoactive drugs. Local news reports said that Lee — previously celebrated for his wholesome image — was being dropped from his ongoing television and commercial projects. Earlier this month, another high profile actor, Yoo Ah-in, was indicted for alleged drug use.

G-Dragon’s group BIGBANG is one of South Korea’s most successful boy bands, having sold at least 140 million records worldwide since their debut in 2006.

Group member Seungri retired from show business in 2019 amid mounting criminal investigations, and was later sentenced to 18 months in prison for offering up women to potential investors for sexual services, among other charges. — AFP



Thales and Afalula collaborate to provide 24/7 surveillance and control for Al'Ula's public sites and archaeological buildings. PHOTO: AFP

## Thales of France signs heritage deal with Saudi city

FRENCH technology group Thales has signed a \$42 million deal with Saudi Arabia to secure the heritage site and landmarks of the ancient oasis city of Al'Ula, the French Development Agency said Wednesday.

“This cooperation is a reminder of the excellence of our French companies in cutting-edge technologies designed to facilitate the sustainable management” of sites, said France’s former foreign minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, now president of Afalula, the French agency overseeing Al'Ula development.

The agency said the partnership will “furnish 24/7 surveillance and control of public sites as well as buildings housing important archaeological finds”. — AFP

## Mattel posts strong Q3 results, boosted by ‘Barbie’ mania

American toy maker Mattel revised its annual earnings forecast after its third quarter results beat analysts’ expectations, riding on the success of the “Barbie” blockbuster.

“Consumer demand for our product increased in the quarter, and we continued to outpace the industry,” Mattel CEO Ynon Kreiz said in a press release.

He added: “Our results benefited from the success of the Barbie movie, which became a global cultural phenomenon, and marked a key milestone for Mattel.”

In a call with analysts Kreiz said ticket sales, the movie toy line and consumer product partnerships contributed to the company’s performance.

The film has grossed more than \$1.44 billion worldwide since

it was released in theaters in July.

The group posted \$1.92 billion in sales from July to September, which was higher than the \$1.84 billion forecast by FactSet analysts.

It posted a net income of \$146.3 million, half the figure for the same period last year, due to a one-time charge of \$212 million linked to taxes on foreign assets, the company said. However, its adjusted per-share profit of \$1.08 beat analysts’ estimate of 86 cents.

“Given our year-to-date performance and expectations for a strong holiday season, we are updating our guidance for 2023 to reflect anticipated upside to our margin and bottom-line results,” Chief Financial Officer Anthony DiSilvestro said in a statement. — AFP

The third-quarter results surpassed analyst expectations, driven by the success of the “Barbie” franchise.



Barbie merchandise is displayed at a Macy’s store on 25 July 2023 in Corte Madera, California. PHOTO: JUSTIN SULLIVAN/AFP