

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Vice-Senior General Soe Win says budget is systematically verified for boosting State economy and socioeconomic life of the people

Vice-Senior General Soe Win said that the budget is systematically spent on respective sectors on priority in order to promote State economy and improve socioeconomic life of the people.

Vice-Chairman of the Financial Commission Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win unveiled systematic spending of the budget at the coordination

meeting on submitting the additional budget of the Union for the 2023-24 financial year, held at the office of the SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

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49 container vessels scheduled to call in Yangon Port in Dec



An overseas container vessel docks at Yangon Port for loading and unloading.

According to the Myanma Port Authority, Yangon Port is bound to handle 49 container vessels in December.

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

This year, 52 container vessels arrived at Yangon Port 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, 49 in October and 50 in November.

Yangon Port handled a total of 620 container vessels last year. Thanks to

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.

After the new navigation channel (Kings Bank Channel) accessing the inner Yangon River was found, the draft extension work was accelerated. Afterwards, 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 has ever handled.

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

Earlier, the larger ships had draft

problems preventing sailing on the Yangon River. The draft was extended up to 10 metres, and more giant ocean liners could enter Thilawa Port.

The coast of Myanmar is 2,228 kilometres (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 ten 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 domestic use only. — NN/EM

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Myanmar to explore business opportunities at India Intl MEGA Trade Fair

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MoSWRR issues nearly 40,000 PWD registration cards within three years

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Korea GES firm explores electricity production from Hteinbin, Daweichaung landfills

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Kampaiti border experiences surge in exports: Tissue-culture bananas, black sesame, and rubber in abundance

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Announcement of Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

3rd Waning of Tazaungmone 1385 ME
30 November 2023

IT is necessary to control Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) infection continuously. So, it is now announced that public requests, orders, notifications and directives (except for easing restrictions) released by Union-Level Organizations and Union Ministries up to 30 November 2023 have been extended to 31 December 2023 for prevention, control and treatment on Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

Myanmar showcases traditional handicrafts at ACDACU's International Bazaar in Cuba



A Myanmar booth seen at the event in Cuba on 26 November 2023.

MYANMAR'S traditional crafts and cultural items were showcased at the International Bazaar organized by the Association of Spouses of Diplomats Accredited in Cuba (ACDACU) at the Cultural Exhibition

Complex in Havana City on 26 November, as reported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The event, aimed at promoting global unity and equality among nations, featured the Myanmar embassy's cul-

tural booth, which displayed traditional gold embroideries, woodcarving items, lacquerware, gemstone-decorated paintings, precious gems and stones, and traditional Myanmar costumes. These exhibits garnered keen interest from visitors.

The opening speech at the event was delivered by the President of ACDACU, the spouse of the Ambassador of Qatar to Cuba. Mrs Anayansi Rodriguez Camejo, Deputy Minister for Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, departmental personnel from Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cultural Ministry, and diplomats and their spouses in Cuba were present at the event. Over 60 embassies to Cuba participated in the exhibition by setting up booths. — ASH/TMT



India International Mega Trade Fair.

Myanmar to explore business opportunities at India Intl MEGA Trade Fair

MYANMAR plans to showcase its commodities at the India International MEGA Trade Fair; a central hub to connect global consumers from various industries, which will be convened over a long period, according to the Union of Myanmar Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

The 2023 edition of the India International Mega Trade Fair will commence at Science City, Kolkata, from 15 December 2023 to 1 January 2024 under the auspices of the Bengal Chamber and GS Marketing Associates.

The Bengal Chamber and GS Marketing Associates have strived to create an environment where business ideas thrive. Innovations shine, and with each passing year, the India International Mega Trade Fair has evolved into a hub of opportunities, connecting entrepreneurs, manufacturers, traders, and consumers from various sectors under one roof, stated the Bengal Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

With G S Marketing Associates arranging a free stand for Myanmar, UMFCCI member associations can participate on a fixed date, and those unable to attend the fair can send their product samples and brochures through the commercial attaché in Kolkata to be displayed at the event.

"We are considering participating in this trade fair because India is one of Myanmar's economic partners and our export destination and import source. So, we can showcase our products abroad, and there will be business opportunities, too," said a Myanmar manufacturer.

The UMFCCI has advised interested participants from its affiliated associations and entrepreneurs to send their names, titles, names of companies/enterprises/associations, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers to the Exhibition Unit, Member Affairs Section. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN

Assoc eyes tourist arrival surge in early 2024

ACCORDING to U Naung Naung Han, Chairman of the Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Association, inbound tourist arrivals in Myanmar are expected to increase early next year.

Every year, October to April is the peak period for visitor arrivals in Myanmar, and the prospect of more tourist arrivals in early next year is growing as the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism strives to attract more foreign visitors and develop more attractive destinations.

"The number of foreign visitors hasn't fallen much more than expected, but the figure is not very encouraging. Since it is not a big drop, we can still hope for January, February and March next year. The outlook can be said to be good or not bad," U Naung Naung Han explained.

Thai tourists topped the list of foreign visitors to Myanmar during this year's travel season.

"From October to November, tourist arrivals from Thai-

land have increased. But the figure is still low if compared to previous ones," he said.

On the other hand, the number of home-grown travellers is expected to increase in the coming season and travel agencies are making the necessary preparations.

"We expect more local travellers to come in December. Therefore, we are preparing now for expected guests," said a local travel agency official. — Thit Taw/ZN

WEATHER REPORT

Well Marked Low Pressure Area Conditions

Issued at (19:00) hours MST on 30-11-2023

According to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the Well Marked Low Pressure Area over Southeast Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to move West-Northwestwards and intensify into a Depression during next (18) hrs. It would intensify gradually into a Cyclonic Storm over Southwest Bay of Bengal on (3.12.2023).

NATIONAL



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win chairs the coordination meeting on Union's additional budget submission for the 2023-2024 financial year yesterday.

also systematically verified by the Union and Region State Budget Advance Scrutiny Committee formed under the guidance of the Head of State.

According to the report of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, he continued to say that demanding the budget prioritized revenue to the State, cash amount to the State, additional allowance for service personnel, expenses for security, and construction projects to be completed in the financial year and these budget demands were scrutinized for relevant expenses with the least requirements.

The Vice-Senior General explained that in observing the original estimated budget of the Union for 2023-24 financial year, the whole country's GDP was K138,195.703 billion, and the comparison of GDP with budget deficit hit 5.65 per cent.

He noted that after relevant scrutiny bodies have checked the GDP, the final finding showed GDP value does not change but the ratio of budget deficit to GDP could be reduced from 5.65 per cent,

FROM PAGE-1

He continued that the budget was allotted on time for rehabilitation in remedying loss and damage caused by cyclonic storm Mocha which hit Rakhine on 14 May 2023, adding service personnel dutifully serving their assignments of State duties were allowed to enjoy the additional allowance starting from October 2023 for easing their daily difficulties.

The Vice-Senior General unveiled that the Union Budget Law for the 2023-24 financial year was approved on 31 March 2023 and such a law is under implementation.

He underscored that Union-level departments and organizations may have other possible incomes in the financial year in addition to the estimated incomes mentioned in the law whereas they can face more compulsory expenditure in addition to the expenses mentioned in the law. Hence, the additional budget is scrutinized at different levels under the Constitution.

He pointed out that the departments and organizations which demand the ad-

Vice-Senior General Soe Win says budget is systematically verified for boosting State economy and socioeconomic life of the people

Salient points in speech of Vice-Senior General Soe Win at meeting on submitting additional budget of the Union for the 2023-24 FY

- Service personnel dutifully serving their assignments of State duties were allowed to enjoy the additional allowance starting from October 2023 for easing their daily difficulties.
- Budgets demanded by departments and organizations have been scrutinized at different levels.
- Budget demands were scrutinized for relevant expenses with least requirements.
- The whole country's GDP was K138,195.703 billion in 2023-24 financial year.

ditional budgets have to spend the allotted funds after the State Administration Council has enacted the Union Additional Budget Law.

The Vice-Senior General highlighted that the budgets demanded by departments and organizations have been scrutinized at different levels and these were

to 5.31 per cent.

Chairman of the Union and Region or State Budget Scrutiny Committee SAC Member Lt-Gen Nyo Saw made clarifications on advance scrutiny of the additional budgets for the 2023-24 financial year for the Union and region/state.

Commission Secretary Union Minister U Win Shein, Union Auditor-General Dr Khin Naing Oo and Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win reported on their respective sectors. Those from Union-level organizations and Union ministries discussed financial matters.

The meeting was also attended by Union-level persons, Union ministers, deputy ministers and officials through videoconferencing. — MNA/TTA

DPM MoTC Union Minister receives Nepali Ambassador

SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo received Nepali Ambassador Mr Harishchandra Ghimire in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They cordially exchanged views on the operation of direct flights between the two countries to promote tourism industry.

Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Aung Kyaw Tun, departmental heads and officials attended the meeting. — MNA/MKKS



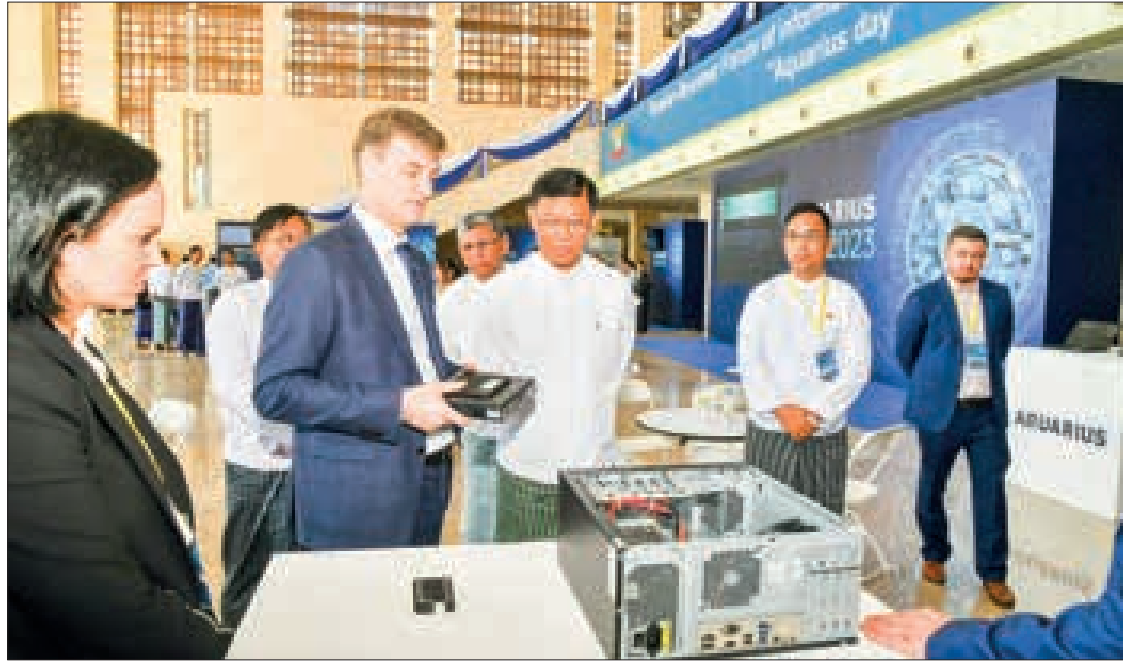
Nepali Ambassador Mr Harishchandra Ghimire calls on SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo yesterday.

NATIONAL

According to the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, an "Aquarius Day" forum jointly held by Myanmar and Russia kicked off at MICC II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The forum aims to enhance Myanmar-Russia's digital transformations, digital economy, e-government system, cooperation in the cybersecurity and information sector, and understanding of Aquarius IT Company's products.

Speaking at the forum's opening ceremony, State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo said that Myanmar and Russia currently cooperate in various sectors and bolster information and communication technology. The country will also try to support the digitalization and development of the e-government system. The Ministry of Transport and Communications drafted the Myanmar E-Governance Master Plan 2030. Moreover, Myanmar is moving towards digital government, and



The Aquarius Day forum underway yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, attended by Deputy Premier Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo.

Myanmar-Russia "Aquarius Day" forum kicks off

the forum will bring a lot of benefits to support the country's digitalization programmes.

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw discussed local and regional cooperation for e-government

system development and activities to increase investments in Myanmar's technological sector.

At the same time, the Russian Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr Iskander Azizov, talked about

the enhancement of bilateral friendships, technical cooperation, and technology exchanges with Russian IT companies including Aquarius to support Myanmar's digitalization and

e-government system. Chairman of Aquarius IT Company, Mr Vladimir Stepanov, clarified accessible and sustainable Russia-Myanmar international technological cooperation.

At the forum, the officials of Aquarius Company, Astra Group of Company and RSC Progress Company, affiliated departments of the Ministry of Transport and Communications and Russian IT companies discussed digitalization, server and data storage, wireless communication systems, ecosystem solutions and RSC "progress" and other IT related matters.

The forum was attended by SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo, Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San, SAC Member Lt-Gen Nyo Saw, Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein, other relevant ministers, deputy ministers, the Russian Ambassador to Myanmar, IT experts and invitees. — ASH/KTZH

Counter-argument to false information

False reports circulate in Taungtha: Allegations of forced recruitment and ransom of young man

FAKE news was distributed on the social media page of Myaylat Athan Media that an 18-year-old youth was arrested by security forces while crossing in front of the Taungtha Township General Administration Office at around 1 pm on 28 November. He was ransomed with money because he was forced to join the military. A suspicious man was walking in front of the general administration office of Taungtha

Township, and the security forces conducted security checks at noon on 28 November, according to an administrative official from Mandalay Region. According to the inspection findings, he was drinking too much alcohol, was unable to answer questions, and did not have a citizenship scrutiny card. One bundle of clothes and K1,000 of cash were found with him. Later, the young man's mother arrived and took him back,

saying that he was not ransomed with money. Therefore, when the terrorist insurgents are carrying out acts of attack and destruction, the malicious media is continuously broadcasting incitement and false information, and they are spreading fake news to the people to create a false impression on the security forces who are protecting the lives of the people and the state. — MNA/KZL

Official statements quash false social media claims on electricity, property theft

INTENTIONALLY published false news on social media claims that the Tatmadaw is removing power cables from the electric power lines in Pazunmyaung Village, located in Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region, and selling them, resulting in a lack of electricity in the village. Misinformation also alleges that Tatmadaw has taken cattle and furniture from the villagers.

However, administrative officials of Bago Region assert that the villagers of Pazunmyaung are continuing their daily routines as usual, and the news, as mentioned above, is mere misinformation.

According to a member of the security forces

serving duties around Pazunmyaung village, terrorists fired indiscriminately near the village three months ago, damaging and cutting off some parts of the power transmission lines. Consequently, the village has been without electricity for three months.

In reality, terrorists are engaging in destructive acts such as explosions, sabotage, and arson, targeting essential infrastructures, including the electricity sector, and forcibly taking public properties. Malicious news outlets publish stories to defame the Tatmadaw and the police force, who serve their rightful duties in maintaining tranquillity, security, and the rule of law in towns and villages. — MNA/TMT

Denial: False information about 2 monks, civilians injured in Tatmadaw's attack

FALSE information that two monks and two civilians were injured at Anphalay village in Kayin State's Kawkareik township due to Tatmadaw artillery fire has been spread on social media pages, according to a statement issued by the State Administration Council on 30 November.

A malicious media posted on social media that four artillery shells exploded inside a monastery located at Anphalay village at around 5:30 pm on 27 November, destroying a monastery building and a water tank tower and injuring two monks, the statement said.

The statement described that, according to military sources, Tatmadaw did not use heavy weapons around the village, but terrorists have made planned attacks on non-military targets – towns, villages, schools and religious buildings. Besides, news that Tatmadaw had twice bombed a school and hospital located at Ywashayma village in Taze township of Sagaing Region is also false, said the statement. But PDF terrorists attacked Taze in YeU district on 28-29 November, and combined security forces launched a brave and effective counterattack, causing heavy casualties on terrorists, who retreated in array. There was no fighting in Taze's villages on 30 November, which is false information, according to the statement quoting a security official serving in Taze.

Malicious media that intend to disturb the country have spread such false information intending to conceal PDFs' terror acts and misleading cooperation between Tatmadaw and residents, said the statement. It added that residents have also requested security forces to eradicate PDF terrorists. — Thit Taw/ZS

NATIONAL

2023 Inter-State/Region Sepak Takraw Championship concludes

THE final match and awarding ceremony of the 2023 Inter-State/Region Sepak Takraw Championship was held at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

State Administration Council members enjoyed the final matches between the Mon State team and the Rakhine State team in the women's regu event, while the Nay Pyi Taw Council team faced the Sagaing Region team for the men's regu event. Mon State team crowned the women's championship title while Sagaing secured the men's championship trophy.

The tourney was held with the aim of helping the athletes gain friendship, keep the spirit of patriotism alive and sharp, raise the standard of Myanmar's Sepak Takraw, and bring forth a new generation of athletes to represent the country. A total of 262 athletes from 12 women's teams and 14 men's teams competed in the championship, which was conducted from 22 to 30 November. — MNA/KZL

Championship trophies seen being presented to the Mon State Women's Team and the Sagaing Region Men's Team respectively.



Myanmar delegation attends 2023 Shanghai Cooperation Organization Traditional Medicine Forum



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win participates in the 2023 SCO Traditional Medicine Forum in China.

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister of Health, Dr Thet Khaing Win attended the traditional medicine forum of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization at Nanchang, Jiangxi Province in People's Republic of China 2023, held on 29 and 30 November. Leaders from Shanghai Coopera-

tion Organization member countries attended the forum pre-meeting on 28 November evening along with Ye Jianchu, Governor of Jiangxi Province, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, ministers from partner organizations and the deputy ministers.

First, the governor of the

province, gave a welcoming speech, and then the member countries participated in the discussion.

In the Union minister's speech, he discussed the issues of promoting cooperation in the development of the traditional medicine academic sector among the member countries, exchange of mutual experiences, topics related to improving the quality of traditional medicines and supervision of production processes discussed in a friendly and open manner.

Afterwards, the Myanmar delegation led by the Union minister attended the traditional medicine forum commemorative dinner of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization hosted by the governor of Jiangxi Province. — MNA/TS

Youth & Literary Arts Festival to kick-start for 76th Independence Day

TO promote the development and empowerment of young people, the Youth and Literary Arts Festival will be held from 20 to 22 December at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium B in Nay Pyi Taw to commemorate the 76th Independence Day.

The festival organizing committee held a coordination meeting at the Ministry of Information Assembly Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint said that the Youth and Literary Arts

Festival date is approaching, and he urged everyone to discuss agendas. He pointed out that an entrainment programme will be included during the event, featuring 13 exhibition booths of respective ministries starting from 12 December.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Myint Soe also remarked the coordination had been done to sell traditional ethnic foods at reasonable prices to the festival visitors, followed by other discussions. — MNA/KZL



The coordination meeting of the organizing committee on Youth and Literary Arts Festival in progress yesterday.

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NATIONAL

Korea GES firm explores electricity production from Hteinbin, Daweichaung landfills

REPRESENTATIVES from Korea GES Global Energy Solution Company met the Yangon Mayor to discuss the generation of electricity from the Hteinbin and Daweichaung landfills, the remaining landfills in the Yangon Region on 29 November.

The project aims to produce electricity from the purified gases collected through the combustion of the mentioned landfills. Dr Won Seunghyun and officials from GES Global Energy Solution Company deliberated on various aspects, including the status of electric power production from Hteinbin and Daweichaung landfills, the project's timeline, the three-step process, and the techniques for electricity generation based on the feasibility study conducted in collaboration with the Department of Urban Conservation and Sanitation.

The discussions also covered the anticipated amount of electric power generated, laboratory results of waste from the landfills, possibilities of reducing the size of the landfills, and profit-sharing arrangements from the project. — TWA/TRKM



Hteinbin landfill.

Myanmar Ambassador to S Korea receives 2023 Best Ambassador Award



Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of Korea U Thant Sin poses for the group documentary photo at the Korea Consumer Brand Awards Ceremony 2023.

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced that U Thant Sin, Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, has been honoured with the 2023 Best Ambassador Award by the Korea Consumer Global Council.

The award, presented as part of the Korea Consumer Brand Grand Prize Awards, was bestowed in recognition of Ambassador U Thant Sin's active involvement in the diplomatic sector, consistent support to the Korea Consumer Global Council, and efforts to enhance cultural collaboration between the two nations.

The ceremony took place at the Korea Press Centre on 29 November. In his acceptance speech, Ambassador U Thant Sin expressed his commitment to strengthening the friendship and collaborative activities between Myanmar and Korea, emphasizing continued cooperation with the Polytechnic University and the Korea Consumer Global Council in diplomatic, business, and cultural realms.

Ambassador U Thant Sin received the Best Ambassador Award for the second time following his recognition in 2021. — ASH/TRKM

2023 Myanmar Academy Awards applications now open for receptionists

THOSE aspiring to become the receptionists at the Academy Awards ceremony can submit their applications to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization starting from 1 December. Applicants for the receptionists position must be between sixteen and twenty-five years old by 31 December 2023 and unmarried.

Female applicants must be between five feet and two inches and five feet and eight inches

tall, while males must fall within the height range of five feet and six inches to six feet. Additionally, applicants must be healthy, possess good character, and have a well-proportioned body.

Application forms will be available for pickup starting 1 December at the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, No 16, Wingaba Road. The deadline for submitting applications is the evening of 15 December. — TWA/TKO



Receptionists at the events of the 2019, 2020 and 2022 Myanmar Academy Awards.



A very competitive and high-performance sport contested by the PWDs.

MoSWRR issues nearly 40,000 PWD registration cards within three years

It is necessary to create employment opportunities and income sources for people with disabilities (PWDs) rather than financial assistance.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement, PWD registration cards have been issued to 39,268 disabled persons from 2021 to November 2023.

Measures are also being taken to carry out the registration and classification pro-

cess of disabilities in another ten townships in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, and Mandalay to provide financial assistance.

The associations of disabled persons remarked that it is necessary to create employment opportunities and sources of income for disabled persons,

especially those who are graduates or skilled in trades, rather than providing financial assistance.

According to the statistics released by the associations of disabled persons, there are 2.3 million PWDs in Myanmar. — TWA/ TMT

Domestic pulses market prepares for decline amid lower FOB prices



A close-up view of Myanmar's pulses and beans in the market.

WITH the FOB prices moving down, black gram and pigeon peas prices have fallen.

The FOB prices stood at US\$1,090-1,370 tonnes for black gram (FAQ/RC) and \$1,350-1,370 per tonne for pigeon pea on 1 November and plunged to \$980-1,000 tonnes for black gram (FAQ/RC) and \$1,190-1,210 per tonne for pigeon pea on 29 November.

The figures indicated a sharp drop of \$110 per tonne of black gram and \$160 per tonne of pigeon pea.

The prices touched a high of K2.894 million per tonne

of black gram (FAQ/RC) and K4.075 million per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) on 1 November. The price levels showed a sustained decrease of K2.78 per tonne of black gram and K3.25 per tonne of pigeon pea on 29 November.

The prices were down by K114,000 per tonne of black gram FAQ and K825,000 per tonne of pigeon pea within one month in the domestic market.

Black gram, green gram, and pigeon peas top the list of pulses exported. Among them, black gram and pigeon peas are primarily exported to India,

while green grams are shipped to China and some European countries.

Myanmar exported more than 1 million tonnes of pulses, with an estimated value of over \$865 million, to foreign trade partners over the past seven and a half months of the current 2023-2024 financial year beginning 1 April, as stated in the Ministry of Commerce's statistics. Myanmar's pulses exports bagged US\$1.47 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes in the previous FY 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated. — NN/EM

Myanmar striving for onion exports to Philippines through G-to-G pact

MYANMAR has been exerting efforts with the officials concerned to export onion to the Philippines under the government-to-government agreement, according to Myanmar's commercial attaché in Manila, the Philippines.

A trial shipment will be initially undertaken to assess the onion's quality to reach a G-to-G agreement. Myanmar Onion, Garlic and Kitchen Crops Producers and Exporters Association and Myanmar Rice Federation are connected with the Philippines International Trade Corporation (PITC) and Bureau of Plant and Industry under the Philippines Department of Agriculture to implement this.

The Philippines is likely to import 21,000 tonnes of onions in December; the Bureau of Plant and Industry notified on 27 No-

vember 2023. It will import an adequate volume of onions to avoid a shortage of onions during Christmas and to control the potential price rise. The onion price was up by 10-20 pesos per kilogramme, yet the remaining stocks have been distributed to the market. Subsequently, they will import onions adequately sooner rather than later.

The onions fetch 140-180 pesos in the Philippines. The price will likely decline with an influx of imports in the coming weeks.

The Philippines imports onions from China, India, Australia, South Korea, the Netherlands and New Zealand. There are 168 authorized onion-importing companies in the country. Onions export to the Philippines through the G-to-G pact is the only accessible way for now. — NN/EM



A shopper sorts onions to purchase them at the market in Yangon.

Kampaiti border experiences surge in exports: Tissue-culture bananas, black sesame, and rubber in abundance

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar primarily shipped tissue-culture bananas, black sesame and rubber to neighbouring China through the Kampaiti border.

Between 1 and 21 November, the Kampaiti border witnessed exports of 7,992 tonnes of tissue-culture bananas worth US\$2.767 million, 50 tonnes of black sesame worth \$0.078 million and 34 tonnes of natural rubber worth \$0.046 million.

Myanmar mostly brought



Lorries laden with export cargoes seen on the Sino-Myanmar border.

iron sheets, iron pipes, artificial grass, apples, tangerines, ceramic tiles and consumer goods. Imports of 180 tonnes of capital goods worth \$0.356 million, 759 tonnes of intermediate goods worth \$0.708 million and 389 tonnes of consumer goods worth \$0.418 million were registered then.

There is no freight forwarding service running in the Kampaiti border. Companies transport with their trucks. There are no landslides or road blockag-

es along the Kampaiti-Waingmaw-Myitkyina trade channel, and trucks are regularly seen flowing in and out of the Kampaiti border post.

The Kampaiti border aims to achieve a trade target of \$4.5 million in November, comprising exports worth \$3 million and imports worth \$1.5 million. About \$4.386 million worth of trade was conducted at the Kampaiti border as of 21 November, accounting for 97.466 per cent of the trade target. — NN/EM

OPINION

Take security measures based on unity for the future

THE importance of security in the daily lives of individuals cannot be overstated, as it encompasses a broad spectrum that directly influences the well-being of societies. Security, or the lack thereof, plays a pivotal role in forging the rule of law, peace, and stability within communities.

Societies that lack security expose themselves to a range of threats, including intimidation, bullying, atrocities, abductions, kidnapping, illegal detentions, hostilities, and attacks, leading to a multitude of dangers. In such scenarios, the society's failure to protect its citizens triggers a domino effect that spreads to neighbouring communities, resulting in widespread collapse and disarray.

Consequently, adopting a proactive approach is imperative for implementing security measures both internally and externally.

Unity emerges as the linchpin for effective security measures. A collective, unified effort to prioritize security serves as the most potent response to the concerns and worries of the populace. Such endeavours empower societies to triumph over challenges. A comprehensive understanding of the value of security among the populace guarantees a future free from imminent dangers.

security ensures that its citizens are shielded from the adverse impacts of potential dangers. Collaboration becomes imperative, as individuals must unite to implement foolproof security measures, preventing the occurrence of societal ruins.

Unity emerges as the linchpin for effective security measures. A collective, unified effort to prioritize security serves as the most potent response to the concerns and worries of the populace. Such endeavours empower societies to triumph over challenges. A comprehensive understanding of the value of security among the populace guarantees a future free from imminent dangers.

The term 'security' holds paramount significance in shaping the destiny of societies. By implementing proactive security measures based on unity, societies can fortify themselves against threats and challenges, ensuring a future characterized by peace, stability, and prosperity.

Authorities must engage in widespread psychological dissemination of knowledge, enlightening individuals and groups about the critical importance of maintaining security. A comprehensive understanding of security values can pave the way for successful societies.

A global examination of scenarios reveals that many countries grapple with daily challenges while attempting to restore security for their citizens. Nations that neglect security measures are inevitably headed for ruin, as history has demonstrated, with numerous countries succumbing to the miseries of destruction.

In the current context, Myanmar stands at a crucial juncture, necessitating the prioritization of national security restoration. Every individual must be vigilant about personal security and contribute to society's collective security. The impenetrability of a society with robust

"The illness led to a new word - 'scromiting' - to describe simultaneous screaming and vomiting."

DOCTORS are reporting a rise in people coming into emergency rooms with stomach pain and unrelenting vomiting. They compulsively take hot showers. Anti-nausea medication offers little relief. The unexpected culprit is Cannabis - overconsumption can lead to what is known as cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome (CHS).

"Many patients with CHS have violent hurling when they arrive at the emergency department," says Sam Torbati at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

They often show up weak and dehydrated and sometimes lose consciousness, he says.

Cannabis is commonly associated with relieving nausea - so much so that chemotherapy patients are often prescribed medications containing THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol that is found in Cannabis), the psychoactive compound in the plant. But in humans and some other mammals, high doses of THC can have the opposite effect.

CHS is a relatively newly defined condition, first described in a handful of cases in Australia in the early 2000s. There is no blood test or scan to determine whether someone has the condition, so doctors instead look for a combination of symptoms, including unrelenting nausea, bouts of vomiting, and stomach pain. The intensity of this illness has led to the informal adverb of a new word - "scromiting" - describing episodes where people are simultaneously vomiting and screaming in pain. "The cause of this syndrome is unknown," says Linda Parker at the University of Guelph in Canada, but it seems to be limited to long-term and high-dose users - so people won't come down with this condition after a single toke. CHS has a series of escalating phases, which can last days to years. A loss of appetite builds to the "hyperemetic phase", which includes persistent, painful vomiting. This is usually when people begin compulsively bathing in hot water, which may offer temporary relief by diverting blood flow from the abdomen to the skin or possibly by activating a part of the brain called the hypothalamus, which is involved in both temperature regulation and appetite, among other things.

Experts don't know the exact mechanisms behind why Cannabis can trigger this illness, but they agree that THC is to blame. The compound binds to receptors in the endocannabinoid system, which regulates sleep, appetite, mood, and more. "We currently believe that CHS may result from chronic overstimulation of endocannabinoid receptors in the body, leading to derangements in the body's intrinsic control of nausea

A growing problem

Though still rare, the prevalence of CHS has soared in the past decade. For example, one study found that the rate of emergency room admissions in Ontario, Canada, increased 13-fold from January 2014 to June 2021.

CHS shows up unpredictably, which makes it even trickier to spot. Decades-long marijuana users can develop CHS late in life, while some young people are coming down with the condition after a few years of heavy smoking.

Mounting research suggests one reason for the increase in cases may be greater access to marijuana, from vapes to edibles.

In Colorado, there was a 29 per cent increase in vomiting-related emergency room visits in the five years following the legalization of the drug for recreational use.

A similar pattern has played out in Alberta, Canada. After marijuana was legalized in the province in 2018, the rate of CHS-related emergency room visits went from 15 per 100,000 people to 21 per 100,000. In 2020, it jumped to 32 visits per 100,000 people across all age groups. For those aged 16 to 24, the rate climbed to 600 per 100,000 individuals.

One reason that CHS is more common among young adults may be because they consume the most marijuana. Another factor may be potency. Cannabis available today contains more than ten times as much THC, on average, as it did in the 1970s. Doctors can manage some symptoms with medication and intravenous fluids, but the only "cure" is cutting out Cannabis and waiting for symptoms to subside, which may take months.

Rewiring the brain

Some find temporary relief from creams containing capsaicin, the active ingredient in chilli peppers, applied to the arms and belly.

Experts think this warming sensation, similar to the effect of taking a hot shower, activates a receptor in the stomach that can calm nausea and vomiting.

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and vomiting," says Torbati.

Long-term, heavy cannabis use "can change how our brains regulate nausea and vomiting", says Mariela DeVuono at Western University in Canada. "While much more research is needed to understand the link, it seems likely that endocannabinoid system impairment is underlying CHS."

Exploring the Surprising Link Between Cannabis Overconsumption and Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome

By Min Zan



A cannabis farm in Petrolia, Calif., on 3 August 2022. PHOTO: MELINA MARA / GETTY IMAGES

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to refer to products or types of Cannabis that make you feel high. But this term has also been used as a tool for racial discrimination.

You may think the words Cannabis and marijuana mean the same thing. However, they have significant cultural, legal, and scientific differences. Marijuana has a complicated history, so many people now prefer Cannabis.

Here's a bit of background and reasons to choose these words carefully.

What's the difference between Cannabis and marijuana?

In Botany (the science of plants), the term Cannabis is used to refer to a family of plants called Cannabis sativa. These plants produce unique chemicals known as cannabinoids.

Some types of cannabis plants mainly produce cannabidiol (CBD). CBD is the active ingredient in Epidiolex, an FDA-approved epilepsy medication. These plants are often referred to as hemp. People tend to use CBD products for things like anxiety, stress relief, or nerve pain.

Other types of cannabis plants produce more of the mind-altering

chemical tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). THC is well-known for its ability to make people feel "high." But it's also responsible for some of cannabis' potential medical benefits, like pain relief.

In popular culture, the word marijuana generally refers to types of Cannabis that contain THC. Most people in the US understand this term to mean a plant that gets you high. Most laws, state regulations, and history books use the word marijuana when referring to high-THC Cannabis. To find out why, we need to take a step back in time.

What's the history of the term marijuana?

By the 1850s, Cannabis was a very popular medicine in the US. You could find it over the counter in drugstores across the country. The word Cannabis even appeared in the US Pharmacopeia, a trusted reference book for pharmacists.

In the early 1900s, the Mexican-Spanish word "marihuana" first appeared in American English. Because of Henry Anslinger (the first director of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics), the use of this word spread throughout the

1930s. Anslinger, who remained in office for 30 years, was powerful and outspoken against Cannabis — which he chose to call marijuana. He used propaganda films and movie theatres (a brand-new technology at the time) to spread disinformation about Cannabis.

In 1937, the word marihuana (or marijuana) became legally fixed with the passage of the Marihuana Tax Act. This federal law defined the plant using the term marijuana and made it essentially illegal in all 50 states. The American Medical Association opposed the Tax Act. They stated that the bill was an "obvious" effort to rebrand Cannabis and stop people from using it.

Today, the word marijuana still appears in most laws and rules about Cannabis due to the legal precedent set by the Tax Act.

Why is the term marijuana problematic or controversial? Henry Anslinger was well-known for his racist beliefs and remarks. They were documented in many of his public speeches. Anslinger and other cannabis opponents chose the word marijuana (rather than Cannabis) on

purpose. They wanted to make the familiar medicinal plant sound like a foreign threat. They also racialized the plant by changing its name — they gave it a new identity by associating it with immigrants and people of colour.

Anslinger was successful in his mission to portray cannabis use as disgraceful and shameful. This shameful legacy, known as stigma, still persists today. **Marijuana and the war on drugs**

Anslinger was also the first person to use the term "war on drugs." This was a controversial movement that President Richard Nixon later supported. Nixon and his administration used harsh drug laws to target people of colour as well as those who disagreed with the Vietnam War.

By the 1990s, studies showed that the war on drugs was mainly a war on Cannabis. From 1990 to 2002, 82 per cent of drug-related arrests were for Cannabis offences. And the vast majority (88%) were for cannabis possession.

The war on drugs has had devastating effects, mostly for people of colour. Black and Latino people are arrested far more often for cannabis possession despite the fact that rates of cannabis use are similar across all races. As a result, the US has more people in prison for drugs than any other country, many because of marijuana.

Why is Cannabis the preferred term to use?

The word-cannabis is the proper scientific term for the plant. It also doesn't have historical baggage associated with racism and the war on drugs. Because of this, experts are advocating that states should replace the word marijuana in their laws and regulations with the word cannabis.

However, some Latino communities are reclaiming the word marijuana. That's because it's only associated with racism and other negative things in the US — not in Mexico or other Latin American countries. Some Cannabis activists also suggest that we shouldn't completely erase the use of the term marijuana. They believe that doing so could erase the important history behind it and allow people to ignore or forget how it's been used to target certain racial and ethnic groups.

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purpose. They wanted to make the familiar medicinal plant sound like a foreign threat. They also racialized the plant by changing its name — they gave it a new identity by associating it with immigrants and people of colour.

nabis because it's illegal. This is part of the reason cannabis has so many nicknames. In North America, some of the slang terms for Cannabis include:

Weed
Pot
Grass
Herb
Mary Jane
Ganja
Trees
Broccoli

Other slang terms may not be good to use because they have complicated histories or negative meanings:

Dope (also used as a slang term for more dangerous drugs)
Reefer (used in 1930s propaganda)

Like all slang, the word marijuana may also discount people's meaningful and complex experiences with the plant. Some consider it to be a sacred medicine or spiritual tool that should be spoken of with respect.

In conclusion, the rise in cases of cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome (CHS) serves as a stark reminder of the complex relationship between Cannabis overconsumption and unexpected health consequences. The emergence of the term "scromiting" highlights the severity of the condition, characterized by simultaneous screaming and vomiting. CHS, though relatively rare, has seen a significant increase in prevalence over the past decade, potentially linked to greater marijuana accessibility and higher THC potency. The syndrome's unpredictable onset, ranging from long-term users to relatively new consumers, poses challenges in diagnosis. As research delves into the underlying mechanisms, the only known "cure" remains the cessation of Cannabis use. This intriguing connection between Cannabis and CHS underscores the need for careful consideration of marijuana use, taking into account not only its potential benefits but also the evolving understanding of associated health risks. Furthermore, a deeper appreciation of the historical and cultural context surrounding the terms "Cannabis" and "marijuana" encourages a nuanced discourse that acknowledges the complexities of this widely used plant.

What about other slang terms for Cannabis?

People often feel a need to be careful when talking about Cannabis because it's illegal. This is part of the reason cannabis has so many nicknames. In North America, some of the slang terms for Cannabis include:

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Pot
Grass
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Mary Jane
Ganja
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Broccoli

Other slang terms may not be good to use because they have complicated histories or negative meanings:

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Like all slang, the word marijuana may also discount people's meaningful and complex experiences with the plant. Some consider it to be a sacred medicine or spiritual tool that should be spoken of with respect.

Reference: New Scientist
11 Nov 2023

NATIONAL

Western-backed Media Allegedly Instigating China and Myanmar in Shan State (North) Conflicts

By Myo Khine

INFORMATION Team Leader of the State Administration Council and Deputy Minister for Information Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun said it is necessary to notice the organizations and West bloc-backed media instigating China and Myanmar in northeast conflicts of Shan State.

“We can see the organizations, especially West bloc-backed media, are attempting to instigate occurrences of misunderstanding between China and Myanmar on conflicts in the northeastern part of Shan State in various ways and means. As such, everybody needs to take care of these attempts.”

He noted that Western media are widely spreading their propaganda based on research papers, leading to a worsening of the current Myanmar affairs issued by the USIP (United States Institute of Peace) backed up by the US government.

The Information Team Leader continued, “Primarily, their reviews and analyses lead to worsening the current situation of Myanmar. The important review is that the organizations and individuals holding arms to insti-

gate conflicts will not be militaristic; they will not be organizations like robbers, and they are in unity, with attempts to fuel the conflicts. It can be seen that they vividly interfere in Myanmar’s internal affairs. Moreover, they show hints for more possibilities. It shows that the organizations related to the Western bloc will interfere more in Myanmar’s internal affairs. So, I would like to note that the ground situations are very different from their predictions. Everybody can see it. Disunity happens in the armed groups, they indicate. In the Sagaing Region, these armed groups attack each other. NUG and CRPH declared that they do not accept some armed groups. They committed killing and robbing the people several times. Turning a blind eye to unlawful acts, they showed their assessments.”

As Western countries and allies are deeply involved in the current conflicts, the people of Myanmar and neighbouring countries need to take care of their conspiracies, said Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun.

The research of USIP mentioned that most current resist-

ance was rooted in the wish to have a new political system. As it is connected with societies, some diversity can be seen. The malicious Western media stated it was impossible that those military leaders would not be aggressive.

“In Sagaing, a group of PDF terrorists had detained a woman for many months and severally raped her. When news of such a case notoriously spread, they admitted to taking action against offenders, but they did not do so. And such a group escaped from the case. Moreover, individuals can practically observe the cases of unlawfully abducting and killing people and setting fire to the villages where people with different attitudes lived. Moreover, the original business of MNDAA terrorists is opium trafficking. There is a lot of distinct evidence in history. The history shows where a Kokang lady who was notorious as a drug lord worldwide came out and what she descended from. At that time, the Kokang lady drug lord herself arranged opium aid from the CIA of the US. Later, the Burma Communist Party-BCP influenced there,

and the drug lord and followers disappeared. And BCP continued the opium business. In this regard, the BCP ordered subordinate ethnic people to do such an opium business. When those ethnic people escaped from the BCP’s control, they also did so. They can earn income from opium businesses. So, they established armed groups to protect their business. Due to managing armed groups, they can do more illegal businesses. They bought arms and ammunition and extended their armed group to do so. It is like a vicious circle. I do want to note everybody knows that the West bloc and allies turn a blind eye to the history and distinct shreds of evidence deeply concerning the conflicts they fuelled. So, I would like to urge our people and all neighbouring countries to notice their steps carefully,” he explained.

Reportedly, the paper compiler mentioned that a democracy activist research team interviewed the youths from seven states and four regions who joined the democratic activities.

“USIP supports the federal parliament and the government.

Whatever party takes office, it will be a leader. They use USIP for military affairs and military propaganda. If they find genuine facts, they never release them to the public. They submit the report on genuine data to government agencies. They never mention any data for all, but Myanmar always posts their data on Facebook pages. I mean, they release two types. The first one is to submit the true reports to their government. They have a government parliament and many federal agencies. So, it is a manual that they have to submit the legal information to the government. But, when they issue any press releases for the public, these never contain any important facts and data. It is their policy. In policy, they do not have to mention true data to the public. It is the State policy. But, when the report is translated into Myanmar, readers can see the wrongs as the truths. As such, individuals need to know what USIP is. If they think misinformation as true information, it will be toxic,” said a political columnist.

Translated/TTA

Myanmar participates in Forum on Aligning BRI with ASEAN Connectivity Master Plan

MYANMAR delegation led by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine attended a forum on “Enhancing Connectivity and Sharing Prosperity: Achievements and Prospects of Aligning BRI with Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025” hosted by the ASEAN-China Centre in Vientiane of Lao People’s Democratic Republic from 26 to 29 November.

On 26 November, the Myanmar delegation visited the destinations of Vientiane, including the Vientiane development zone and joined the welcome dinner.

On 27 November, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Laos, Vice Chairperson of the National Committee of the Chinese



Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine poses for the documentary group picture at the event in Laos on 26-29 November.

People’s Political Consultative Conference, Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine, and the ACC Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN

Economic Community addressed the opening ceremony.

In her opening speech, the Union minister emphasized the benefits of enhancing ASEAN

connectivity through improved physical, institutional and people-to-people links.

She highlighted the five strategic areas prioritized for MPAC 2025: sustainable infrastructure, digital innovation, seamless logistics, regulatory excellence, and people mobility.

She mentioned ongoing infrastructure projects, such as the Myanmar-Laos power interconnection projects, which further exemplify the commitment to connectivity.

Then, the deputy foreign minister explained the implementation of 15 initiatives under five strategic areas of MPAC 2025, showing 73.42 per cent progress according to data of August 2023, saying Myanmar will keep work-

ing together in enhancing ASEAN-China transports, technology and digital project 2023.

Additionally, Myanmar ambassador to Laos briefed all on the opportunities and challenges to be encountered in the future, and the deputy director-general for the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations reported on Myanmar’s investment-related issues.

On 28 November, the Myanmar delegates visited well-known places in Luang Prabang. The delegation arrived back in Myanmar at noon on 29 November.

The forum aims to support the balance between the MPAC 2025 and BRI and promote regional connectivity in the post-COVID-19 period. — MNA/KTZH

Philippines exceeds foreign tourist arrival target for 2023

The Philippines surpassed its 2023 target with 4,822,530 foreign tourist arrivals, generating 404 billion pesos (\$7.296 billion) as of 27 November, according to Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia-Frasco.

THE Philippines has exceeded its target of 4.8 million foreign tourist arrivals for 2023, Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia-Frasco said Thursday.

As of November 27, Frasco said the Southeast Asian country has welcomed 4,822,530 international visitor arrivals, raking in 404 billion pesos (7.296 billion US dollars). Frasco said 91.88 per cent of the total arrivals were foreign visitors, while 8.12 per cent were returning overseas Filipinos.

South Korea remains the country's top source of foreign

arrivals, accounting for 26.37 per cent of the total, followed by the United States (16.53 per cent), Japan (5.66 per cent), and China (5.02 per cent), Frasco said.

Frasco said the tourism industry "is the second-highest driver of economic growth", as the industry has employed around 5.35 million Filipinos.

As a key economic driver in the Philippines, tourism contributed 6.2 per cent of the country's gross domestic product in 2022, with at least 2.65 million inbound foreign visitors. — Xinhua



Tourists are seen at a resort in Batangas Province, the Philippines, on 18 November 2021. PHOTO:ROUELLE UMALI/XINHUA/FILE

Dolly Parton's crossover rock album tops charts

Dolly Parton's latest album, "Rockstar," is her 49th studio album and is well-received across genres.



Dolly Parton, shown here at the 37th Annual Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in 2022. PHOTO: AFP

THE United States may be riven by division, but most Americans of all political persuasions can agree on Dolly Parton — including the 77-year-old's latest album that's topping charts across the genres.

"Rockstar" is the country icon's 49th studio album, and

debuted atop both Billboard's top country and top rock and alternative albums charts, a cross-genre crowd-pleaser that includes both original music and covers of rock classics.

Parton's latest opened in the third slot of the all-genre Billboard 200, behind Drake

and Taylor Swift. It's Parton's highest career rank on the chart, and her third foray into the top ten.

The idea for her 30-track rock album was born after Parton was nominated for induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2022, an honour she tried to decline because she didn't feel rock enough — but to which she eventually acquiesced, entering the ceremony wearing a leather body-con outfit dripping in chains.

Onstage she declared her intention to record "Rockstar," which includes a number of features from rock artists including Sting, John Fogerty, Stevie Nicks and Joan Jett.

Elton John, Melissa Etheridge and Debbie Harry along with Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr also appear on the record.

It's Parton's first top country album since 2020, when she released "A Holly Dolly Christmas." — AFP

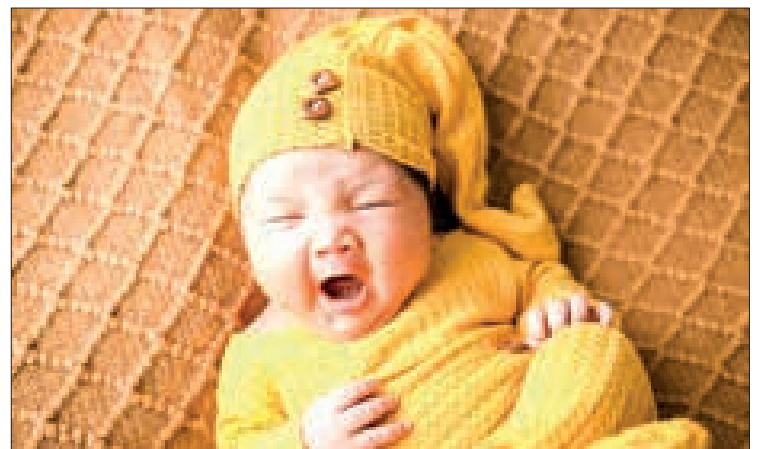
Newborn babies can perceive the beat in music, study shows

ACCORDING to new research, newborn babies can detect beats in music. The research, conducted by a team of scientists from the University of Amsterdam and the HUN-REN Research Centre for Natural Sciences (TTK) in Hungary, demonstrates that this ability to recognize a beat is not simply due to newborns' statistical learning ability, but that beat perception is a separate cognitive mechanism that is already active at birth. The findings were published in the scholarly journal Cognition. "There is still a lot we don't know about how newborn babies perceive,

remember and process music," said author Henkjan Honing, professor of Music Cognition at the UvA.

"But, in 2009, we found clear indications that babies of just a few days old have the ability to hear a regular pulse in music — the beat — a characteristic that is considered essential for making and appreciating music."

Because the previous research from Honing and his colleagues had so far remained unreplicated and they still had many questions, the UvA and TTK joined forces once again — this time using a new paradigm. — ANI



The ability to recognize beats in music is not solely attributed to newborns' statistical learning but is a separate cognitive function. PHOTO: ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

SUV sales 'offset' carmakers' electric gains, Greenpeace says

A sharp rise in sales of gas-guzzling sport utility vehicles by the world's three largest carmakers has offset any climate gains from the companies' transition to electric vehicles, Greenpeace said Wednesday.

The fleets of SUVs produced by Toyota, Volkswagen, and Hyundai-Kia have all posted sales increases of more than 150 per cent over the past decade, meaning the companies are moving "in the opposite direction" of global efforts to curb CO2 emissions, the environmental advocacy group said in a new report.

Released a day before the United Nations COP28 climate summit is set to open in Dubai, the analysis dovetails with separate research published earlier this month by the Global Fuel Economy Initiative expert alliance, which found the trend toward bigger SUVs was preventing motor sector emissions reductions.

"The world's biggest automakers are charging full speed

The environmental advocacy group calls for the auto industry to halt the trend, highlighting the increased carbon footprint not only from SUV tailpipe emissions but also from the manufacturing process, which involves greater steel consumption.



Environmental report shows growth of over 150 per cent in SUV sales offsets climate progress for Toyota, Volkswagen, and Hyundai. **PHOTO: GREENPEACE**

ahead with SUV manufacturing, pushing the planet further toward climate disaster," said Erin Choi, a Greenpeace activist focused on the East Asia region.

The Greenpeace report said that SUVs emit approximately 12 per cent more carbon dioxide than sedans — but global sales of SUVs have "more than doubled" over the past decade.

Volkswagen SUV sales have soared by 270.5 per cent over the last 10 years, while Toyota SUV sales have risen by 158.1 per cent and Hyundai-Kia sales by 152.4 per cent, the group said.

Sales of SUVs for the South Korean automaker, which has pledged to use only renewable electricity by 2045, account for more than 52 per cent of total sales, Greenpeace added.

Greater CO2 emissions from SUVs stem not just from the tailpipe exhaust of those on the road but also from the "industry-wide carbon footprint by increased steel consumption" due to manufacturing bigger and heavier vehicles, the report said. — AFP

OECD trims global growth forecast, warns of conflict risk



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) on 15 November 2023 in New York City. **PHOTO: SPENCER PLATT/AFP**

THE world economy is likely headed for a soft landing next year, the OECD said Wednesday as it pared back its growth forecast, but warned the Israel-Hamas conflict could throw a spanner in the works.

In its latest economic outlook, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development trimmed its forecast for global growth this year to 2.9 per

cent, down from the 3.0 per cent it forecast in September.

The grouping of developed industrialised countries said it sees global growth slowing to 2.7 per cent next year, unchanged from its previous forecast, which the OECD noted would be the lowest annual rate since the global financial crisis, aside from the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic. — AFP

UAE to pump CO2 into rock as carbon capture debate rages

The process involves dissolving CO2 in seawater and injecting it underground to mineralize over months. This technology is part of efforts to reduce planet-heating emissions while still relying on fossil fuels, sparking controversy.

HIGH in remote mountains in the oil-rich United Arab Emirates, a new plant will soon take atmospheric CO2 and pump it into rock — part of controversial attempts to target planet-heating emissions without abandoning fossil fuels.

Using novel technology developed by Omani start-up 44.01, the solar-powered plant will suck carbon dioxide from the air, dissolve it in seawater and inject it deep underground, where it will mineralise over a period of months. The new site on the Gulf of Oman is funded by state oil giant ADNOC, whose CEO Sultan Al Jaber is president of the UN's COP28 climate talks and chairman of Masdar, a renewable energies company.



The ADNOC carbon capture facility in Fujairah in the UAE. **PHOTO: KARIM SAHIB / AFP**

The first CO2 injection is expected during COP28 which starts on Thursday in nearby Dubai, and where the debate over hydrocarbons will be a key battle between campaigners and the oil lobby. "We believe

this volume of rocks here in the UAE has the potential to store gigatons of CO2," ADNOC's chief technology officer Sophie Hildebrand told AFP during a tour of the facility this week. — AFP

Honda to invest \$3.4 bln on electric two-wheelers this decade

The world's largest two-wheeler manufacturer plans to introduce 30 new electric models by 2030, with a 50% reduction in the current cost of electric motorcycles.



"For the electrification of its motorcycles, Honda is investing 100 billion yen over the five-year period from 2021 to 2025, and will invest an additional 400 billion yen over the five-year period from 2026 to 2030," Honda said. PHOTO: HONDA

JAPANESE auto giant Honda said it plans to invest 500 billion yen (\$3.4 billion) in production of electric motorcycles and mopeds this decade.

The firm, the world's biggest makers of two-wheelers, also said it plans to launch 30 new electric models by 2030 and to reduce the current cost of electric motorcycles by 50 per cent.

"For the electrifica-

tion of its motorcycles, Honda is investing 100 billion yen over the five-year period from 2021 to 2025, and will invest an additional 400 billion yen over the five-year period from 2026 to 2030," Honda said in a statement on Wednesday.

It also hiked its global annual sales target for 2030 to four million units, up from its previous goal of 3.5 million announced last year. — AFP

Musk's latest gamble: Tesla Cybertruck set for debut

FOUR years after startling the car world with designs for the Cybertruck, Elon Musk is set Thursday to mark the arrival of Tesla's iconoclastic take on the American pickup.

Musk has scheduled an event at Tesla's Austin headquarters to mark the first deliveries to customers of the Cybertruck, whose design to some has evoked a futuristic, sometimes dystopian future akin to "Blade Runner" or "Mad Max".

The belated debut comes as other automakers have delayed capital investments due to slug-

gish demand for electric vehicles. Tesla itself has undertaken numerous price cuts, even as its share price has stayed lofty.

"This is an important launch for Musk and the Tesla brand," said Wedbush Securities analyst Daniel Ives in an email to AFP. The omnipresent Musk has faced even more scrutiny than usual following criticism that the billionaire entrepreneur and his social media platform X, formerly Twitter, have promoted a growing wave of anti-Semitism. — AFP

UK's RMT union members accept pay deal to end long-running rail strikes

THE RMT rail union on Thursday said its members have voted in favour of a pay deal to end more than a year of walkouts on the UK's strike-plagued rail network.

General Secretary Mick Lynch said members had spoken "in huge numbers", and that the final deal justified the long-running industrial action.

While the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT), which represents various types of rail workers, has accepted a deal, the Aslef union, which represents driv-

ers, has yet to come to an agreement.

A new series of rolling strikes across the country are scheduled to go ahead from this



The repeated strikes by rail staff have been mirrored across the public and private sectors in Britain. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

weekend.

Transport minister Mark Harper called the agreement "welcome news for passengers and a significant step towards

resolving industrial disputes on the railway".

He also urged Aslef to "follow the RMT's lead and give their members a say".

The RMT agreement includes a backdated 2022 pay rise for staff and job security guarantees.

The union has been in dispute with 14 train operating companies over salary and working conditions such as overtime.

Repeated strikes by rail staff have caused widespread cancellation of services and misery for travellers. — AFP

Ikea net profit surges in 2023 as sales rise

SWEDISH furniture giant Ikea saw a five-fold increase in net profit for its full-year 2023 which ended in August, boosted by rising sales, Ingka Group which owns most Ikea franchises said Wednesday.

Ingka's net profit was 1.5 billion euros (\$1.64 billion) for the year, up from 300 million euros in 2022 when earnings were hit by its pullout from the Russian market over the war in Ukraine.

Ingka called it a "good performance", despite the fact that "economic instability, geopolitical volatility, and the continued after-effects of the pandemic made for challenging moments in 2023."

Operating profit was stable, while Ingka's sales rose by 5.4 per cent to 44.3 billion euros.

Ingka accounts for more than 90 per cent of Ikea's sales, which totalled 47.6 billion euros in 2023. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY.NO. (W166)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (W166) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-12-2023 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
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S INTER ASIA LINES

The Global New Light of Myanmar

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Russia's Lavrov arrives in North Macedonia for OSCE Foreign Minister's Meeting

Spokeswoman Zakharova stated Lavrov's participation in bilateral and OSCE meetings at the summit. She also highlighted Moscow's concerns about Western attempts to hinder Russia's council involvement.

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has arrived in North Macedonia's capital, Skopje, to participate in the 30th Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), scheduled to be held from Thursday-Friday, a Sputnik correspondent reported.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Lavrov is expected to hold a number of bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the summit along with participation in the OSCE multilateral meetings. At the same time, Zakharova said Moscow was recording attempts by some countries of the West to interfere with Russia's normal participation in the council.

It is Lavrov's first visit to Europe since the beginning of Russia's special military oper-



OSCE foreign ministers and other officials are gathering in Skopje, North Macedonia, Thursday and Friday. PHOTO: SCANPIX/SAUL LOEB/AFP

ation in Ukraine on 24 February 2022.

Lavrov did not participate in a meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council last Decem-

ber in the Polish city of Lodz when Poland, as a then-chairing country of the OSCE, did not allow Lavrov to take part in the meeting as Warsaw said

it believed it was necessary to "absolutely isolate" Russia in the international arena amid its military operation in Ukraine. — SPUTNIK

Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger dies at 100

FORMER US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger died on Wednesday at home in Connecticut at the age of 100, Kissinger Associates, Inc said in a statement. As Secretary of State under presidents Nixon and Ford, Dr Kissinger "played central roles in the opening to China, negotiating the end of the Yom Kippur War in the Middle East, and helping to bring America's role in the Viet Nam War to a close," said the statement. Dr Kissinger has written 21 books on national security matters, it said. "Considered one of America's great statesmen, Dr Kissinger was regularly consulted by American presidents of both political parties and scores of foreign leaders after he finished government service in 1977."

Fifty-two years ago when China and the United States were at a crucial inflection point, Chairman Mao Zedong, Premier Zhou Enlai, President Richard Nixon and Dr. Kissinger, made the right decision for China-US cooperation and launched the process of normalizing the China-US relationship. — Xinhua

Kenya speaker gives lawmakers a dressing down on attire

THE speaker of Kenya's parliament has cracked down on what he described as inappropriate attire worn by MPs, even banning traditional African dress and safari-style suits favoured by President William Ruto.

Moses Wentang'ula told lawmakers on Tuesday they must abide by the assembly's sartorial rules, lashing out at "emerging fashion trends that now threaten the established parliamentary dress code".

He said the so-called Kaunda suit made popular by late Zambian president Kenneth Kaunda, a safari-style outfit sometimes with a collarless jacket, was prohibited, along with "traditional and cultural attire".

Ruto often wears sharply

tailored formal suits but the Kaunda outfit is now frequently his garment of choice — and he wore them during the visit by King Charles III that wrapped up earlier this month.

According to the Speaker's Rules, "a proper dress for men means a coat, collar, tie, long-sleeved shirt, long trousers, socks and shoes or service uniform". — AFP



Kenyan President William Ruto wears a safari-style suit as he bade farewell to King Charles III and his wife Queen Camilla earlier this month. PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE

Hamas announces extension of humanitarian pause with Israel on Thursday

PALESTINIAN movement Hamas announced on Thursday the extension of the humanitarian pause in the Gaza Strip with Israel.

"An agreement was reached to extend the truce for the seventh day — Thursday," Hamas said in a statement.

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) announced early on Thursday that the humanitarian pause with Palestinian movement Hamas, which was about to expire, will continue in light of efforts to continue the release of hostages in the Gaza Strip.

"In light of the mediators' efforts to continue the process

of releasing the hostages and subject to the terms of the framework, the operational pause will continue," the IDF said on Telegram.

On Monday, Qatar announced that an agreement had been reached between Israel and Hamas on a two-day extension of the humanitarian truce in the Gaza Strip on the same terms as the previous one.

Last week, Qatar mediated a deal between Israel and Hamas on a four-day truce and the exchange of some of the prisoners and hostages, as well as the delivery of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip. — SPUTNIK

SPORTS

Man Utd on brink of Champions League exit, Arsenal and PSV into last 16



Galatasaray and Manchester United played out a thrilling 3-3 draw that leaves the English side on the verge of going out of the Champions League. **PHOTO: AFP**

MANCHESTER United are facing elimination from the Champions League in the group stage after squandering a two-goal lead to draw 3-3 with Galatasaray in Istanbul on Wednesday, while Arsenal and PSV Eindhoven se-

cured qualification for the last 16. Three-time European champions United needed a win in Turkiye, against opponents who beat them at Old Trafford last month, in order to keep qualification for the knockout rounds in

their hands.

Erik ten Hag's side appeared in control when Alejandro Garnacho's early opener was followed by a stunning strike by Bruno Fernandes on 18 minutes.

Hakim Ziyech pulled

one back with a free-kick, only for Scott McTominay to restore the visitors' two-goal advantage early in the second half.

Yet Galatasaray were again given hope when another Ziyech free-kick was fumbled into the net by United goalkeeper Andre Onana, and the hosts equalized thanks to a brilliant 71st-minute strike by Kerem Akturkoglu.

United have now conceded 14 goals in five European matches and this result, combined with FC Copenhagen's 0-0 draw away to already-qualified Bayern Munich, leaves the Premier League side bottom of Group A with one game remaining.

In order to go through they must now beat Bayern at home next month and hope Copenhagen and Galatasaray draw. — AFP

Schoolgirl leads women's Australian Open as Davis sets men's pace

A 16-year-old amateur schoolgirl stole the show and a share of the lead at the Australian Open on Thursday, while in the men's event Cameron Davis was a stroke ahead after a flawless nine-under-par 63.

Australian teenager Rachel Lee was a shock joint leader, upstaging major winners Shin Ji-yai, Minjee Lee and Hannah Green.

The qualifier fired a six-under-par 67 to accompany South Korea's Jenny Shin at the top of the leaderboard.

Former champion Davis sunk seven birdies and an eagle in front of big crowds at the DP World Tour event in Sydney to put the Australian one clear of US PGA Tour

player Patrick Rodgers. The mixed Australian Open involves men and women teeing off in alternating groups on the same courses.

The Jack Nicklaus-designed Australian

Golf Club is the main venue across all four days, with the nearby Lakes Golf Club co-hosting play for the first two rounds.

Australian Hayden Hopewell and Scotland's Connor Syme were tied

third in the men's tournament on seven-under.

"I know this place well, so I felt like I had plenty of good memories in the bank to go out there and play the course with," said 2017 winner Davis of the Lakes Golf Club.

Australia's Min Woo Lee, who won the Australian PGA Championship in Brisbane last week, continued his stellar form with a bogey-free 67 as he chases a fourth DP World Tour title.

"I felt like I left a couple out there at the end, but bogey-free, solid," said Lee, who has reached a career high 38 in the world rankings.

Japan's Rikuya Hoshino, who came second in Brisbane, carded 68. — AFP



Cameron Davis shot a nine-under-par 63 to lead the Australian Open. **PHOTO: AFP**

OBITUARY

Special Condolence Message

Teacher Maureen Lal (age 86 years)
M.E.H.S. (SHS 1 Dagon)

Teacher Maureen Lal not only taught us English but was also our class teacher at Methodist English High School. So, there was a more closer relationship between her and the students. She attended the annual MEOSA Reunions and she even requested for a gathering with her students. She contributed and supported to all welfare activities a concerning her old students. On 24th Nov 2023 we heard the sorrowful news of the passing away of our dear teacher. We share our deepest sympathy with the bereaved family for the demise and pray for her soul to rest in heavenly peace.

M.E.H.S.' 68 Batch
Old Students

QR codes, shut metros: Police outline Paris Olympics security

Laurent Nunez stated that residents near Olympic venues must apply for a QR code to bypass police barriers.



Some politicians are unhappy with tight security at the Paris Olympics. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE Paris police chief has outlined drastic security measures for next year's summer Olympics, sparking an outcry from politicians Wednesday who said they were an attack on civic freedoms.

Laurent Nunez told Le Parisien newspaper in an interview for Wednesday's issue that residents living near Olympic venues would need to apply for a QR code allowing them to pass police barriers.

People living in the restricted areas would also have to register any visitors who might want to watch the action from their balcony, window or rooftops,

or even houseboat.

"People entering a perimeter must be able to provide a valid reason for being there," Nunez said.

He said motorized traffic would be severely restricted for the duration of the Games.

Special rules will apply during the opening ceremony on 26 July, when high-security, or "red", perimeters will be "very large", Nunez said. "The only people getting through will be people with a valid reason, in other words people going to their hotel, or their home, or people with a ticket for the ceremony," he said.— AFP



Thailand's former prime minister Prayut Chan-o-cha. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Thailand's ex-PM Prayut appointed privy council member

THAILAND'S former prime minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has been appointed to the Privy Council, a small body of advisors to the powerful King Maha Vajiralongkorn, the Royal Gazette announced Wednesday.

The former general, a long-running fixture in Thai politics, took power in a 2014 coup but lost the 2023 election after heading up the United Thai Nation (UTN) party.

"Using the power of the Kingdom of Thailand's Constitution..., the King has appointed Prayut Chan-o-cha as a member of the Privy Council, effectively from now," the gazette said late Wednesday.

The notice added that the king had decided to "appoint more members of the privy council."

Prayut's UTN — which he joined to lead only weeks before the elections — failed to gain traction with voters in May's national polls, coming in a distant fifth place behind opposition parties Move Forward and Pheu Thai.

He announced his resignation from politics in July, but urged party members to protect "the institutions of nation, religion, and monarchy" — a reference to the previously untouchable three pillars of Thai society. — AFP

Trebling renewable energy by 2030 'ambitious but doable'

To achieve global carbon neutrality by mid-century, credible plans emphasize a substantial increase in renewable energies like wind, solar, hydroelectric, and biomass.



Transmission lines climb above the hills of Bangui Bay to deliver electricity generated by windmills in Bangui Bay, Ilocos Norte, northern Philippines. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ JOEL NITO / AFP / FILE**

HOST United Arab Emirates wants nearly 200 nations attending the COP28 climate summit starting Thursday to commit to trebling installed renewable energy capacity worldwide by 2030, a goal experts say is "ambitious but achievable".

If the UN forum sets that target in stone, it could become a key marker of COP28's success, especially if coupled with a pledge to draw down fossil fuel use.

Why trebling renewable energy?

In September, the G20 — accounting for 80 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions — broke new ground in endorsing the goal of trebling renewable energy capacity by the end of the decade.

The club of major economies remained silent, however, on the need to reduce fossil fuel use, which will also be on the table during the two-week meeting in Dubai. For Dave Jones, an expert with think tank Ember, the G20's statement

has helped push renewables back to centre stage. "We were too busy worrying about hydrogen and carbon capture," he told AFP. "Those technologies are going to help solve the problem, but they are not going to be the driving force behind the solution."

All credible pathways for achieving global carbon neutrality by mid-century depend on massively scaling up wind, solar, hydroelectric and other renewable energies, such as biomass. — AFP

LONG ISLAND" PROJECT

Singapore mulls artificial islands for coastal defence

SINGAPORE has said it is considering building artificial islands off its east coast to protect low-lying areas against rising sea levels caused by climate change.

Engineering and environmental impact studies for the "Long Island" project

will start in 2024 and take five years to finish, National Development Minister Desmond Lee said Tuesday.

Land reclaimed for the project could span 800 hectares (1,980 acres), giving the densely populated city-state more space

for homes, parks and industry, Lee said.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong warned in 2019 that rising sea levels posed a "grave threat" to Singapore, and coastal defences could cost around Sg\$100 billion (\$75 billion) or more over the

next 100 years.

Singapore's land-use planning agency, the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), has asked for public feedback on the project, which could take several decades to develop. — AFP