

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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MNA launches Yangon-Kunming cargo and passenger flights

Myanmar National Airlines launched a maiden international flight, Yangon-Kunming-Yangon, from Yangon International Airport (Terminal 1) by Boeing 737-800 NG aircraft starting 5 November; with plans to fly three days a week — Monday, Friday and Sunday.

The flight from Yangon International Airport to Kunming will depart at 10:20 am local time, while the flight from Kunming to Yangon will depart at 3:15 pm Chinese standard time. One-way tickets cost US\$279 and round-trip tickets cost US\$464.

In addition, Myanmar National Airlines launched the Yangon-Kunming-Yangon cargo flight from Yangon International Airport on 3 November with a Boeing 737-400 Freighter and plans to provide daily flights.

Similarly, MNA will also operate a domestic flight, Yangon-Myeik-Yangon, starting from 4 November and scheduled to fly on Monday, Thursday and Saturday with Boeing 737-800 NG.

Passengers on this trip will be entitled to baggage allowance of 30 kg for business class, 25 kg for premium economy class, 20 kg for economy class and 7 kg for hand-carry baggage. — MNA/TH



Myanmar National Airlines launches a maiden international flight, Yangon-Kunming-Yangon, from Yangon International Airport (Terminal 1) by Boeing 737-800 NG aircraft.



The photo shows that Myanansankyaw Golden Palace in Mandalay is the pride of Myanmar.

Myanansankyaw Golden Palace to display ancient royal utensils

The Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Mandalay Branch) is currently arranging to exhibit ancient royal utensils at Myanansankyaw Golden Palace in Mandalay. They have invited to the public, as well as monasteries, to donate these utensils with proper evidence, according to the person in charge of the ancient Royal Palace.

Visitors to the palace will be able to view authentic royal utensils instead of historical paintings. The purpose of these activities is for the Myanmar people to take pride, preserve and appreciate Myanmar cultural heritage.

“We are arranging to display the royal utensils that were once used by the monarchs such as goglets, betel boxes and royal couches in the king’s bedroom of royal glass building. We encourage those who possess these historic items used by ancient kings to donate them,” said the curator. **SEE PAGE-3**

NATIONAL



An official from Bagan Archaeological Museum explains artefacts to the children and visitors inside the gallery of museum. **PHOTO: DIPALINN**

Bagan Archaeological Museum earns nearly K25 mln in seven months of this FY

THE Bagan Archaeological Museum in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, collected entrance fee K24,895,500 from a total of 47,325 local and foreign travellers who visited the museum during the seven-month period of this financial year, according to officials from the Department of Archaeology and Museum Department (Bagan Branch).

The museum set the entrance fee at K500 each for local visitors and K5,000 each for foreign visitors.

During the period from April to October this year, the museum admitted 47,051 local visitors and 274 foreign tourists, collecting K23,525,500 from homegrown visitors and earning K1,370,000 from foreigners.

The museum offers free admission to Buddhist monks, nuns and child under 10, as stated by Deputy Director Daw Khet Khet Hla, the curator of the museum in Bagan Branch of Department of Archaeology and Museum Department. — Dipa Linn/KZL

Yangon Zoo stages Clever Animal Shows on weekends and public holidays

ACCORDING to Yangon Zoological Gardens warden U Kyaw Ye Thiha Pe, clever animal shows are performed on weekends and public holidays, particularly on Sundays at Yangon Zoo in the Yangon Region. The clever animal show is held every weekend, including Sundays and public holidays. It temporarily suspends programmes during the rainy season and resumes them at the end of monsoon.

“Yangon Zoo resumed an entertainment programme featuring well-behaved animals, offering families a chance to relax. This programme includes clever elephants, monkeys, and snakes. Additionally, magic shows

are staged. Yangon zoological gardens arrange a variety of small animals, including bears, birds, and falcons, and provides opportunities for visitors to take photos with them. We also offer educational programmes for families visiting the zoo on weekends, explaining zoological knowledge and information about the small animals here, explained U Kyaw Ye Thiha Pe.

Plans have been made for families visiting Yangon Zoo to take relaxation safely and peacefully. On Sundays and public holidays, approximately 2,500 visitors come to relax, while on weekdays, around 1,000 people visit there for the same purposes. — ASH/KZW



A visitor poses for a photo with birds at Yangon Zoological Gardens.

Emphasis needed to be placed on breeding rather than capturing fish resources

TO enhance the production and export of Myanmar's aquatic products, promote private sector investment, and address the agricultural needs, Dr Aung Gyi, the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, made field trips in the Yangon Region on 4 November.

The Deputy Minister inspected processing of crab and shrimp products at the cold storage of Gallant Ocean Trading Co Ltd in Hlinethaya Township. The inspection fo-



Workers seen at shrimp processing of cold storage in Hlinethaya, Yangon.

cused on ensuring the safety of consumers, and discussions were held regarding the strict adherence to export standards.

They also visited the VMS Sub-Control Centre in Insein Township. The deputy minister instructed officials to supervise installation of VMS at offshore fishing vessels and use of TeDs at offshore trawlers is necessary. He also urged officials to lecture VMS instructions to offshore fishermen courses.

At the office of the Myan-

mar Fisheries Federation in Insein Township, Yangon, the deputy minister met with federation officials.

They discussed sufficiency of fish and meat, conservation and expanded farming of domestic fish species, seeking a robust domestic market, and the expansion of overseas markets. Furthermore, they focused on emphasis to be placed on farming tasks rather than capturing fish resources. — MNA/KZW

NATIONAL

The Myanmar motion picture outstanding awarding ceremony for 2019, 2020 and 2022 revitalized the film industry to normalcy, said Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn at the second coordination meeting for Myanmar motion picture awarding ceremony for 2023 at the film promotion branch of the Information and Public Relations Department in Bahan Township of Yangon yesterday afternoon.

He continued that as film academy awards are dream for artistes of the film industry, they have to actively participate in preparations for the ceremony.

The meeting coordinated sending letters to those serving the State defence duties and providing assistance to them. Moreover, meeting participants discussed entertainments of artistes to those serving the State defence duties and families at an opportune time.

Chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization U Kyi Soe Tun and patrons of the or-



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn speaking at signing of agreements between MRTV and Borderless Broadcast Co Ltd and Hey Play Co Ltd yesterday.

Myanmar Motion Picture Organization urged to take responsibility for selecting the outstanding motion picture awards

ganization gave suggestions to successfully hold the academy awarding ceremony for 2023.

In the afternoon, the Union minister attended the signing of agreements on mutual cooper-

ation between MRTV and Borderless Broadcast Co Ltd and Hey Play Co Ltd at Melia Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road.

In the presence of the Union Minister, MRTV Director

General U Ye Naing and the Chairman of Borderless Broadcast Co Ltd signed the DTH cooperation agreement. The director general also signed one more agreement with Hey

Play Co Ltd Managing Director U Htet Khaing Win on cooperation in channel rebranding for MRTV Farmers' Channel and Sports Channel.

The ceremony was also attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and officials from TV and FM broadcasting media.

MRTV channel was launched in 1980 through analogue system. It was extended with 18 channels through DVBT2 (Digital) system in 2013 and DTH system in 2022.

Borderless Broadcast Co Ltd (Myansat) is the fourth DTH broadcaster in Myanmar apart from Forever Group Co Ltd (Canal+), Shwe Thanlwin Media Co Ltd (Sky Net) and MRTV DTH.

MRTV and Hey Play Co Ltd broadcast knowledge and entertainment programmes from MRTV Farmers' Channel and MRTV Sports Channel on test starting from 1 August 2023. Now, they initiate the advanced channel rebranding measures. — MNA/TTA

Union Labour Minister meets Chinese delegation for labour affairs



Union Minister for Labour U Myint Naung arrives back at Yangon International Airport yesterday from China.

A Myanmar delegation led by U Myint Naung, Union Minister for Labour, attended the ASEAN-China Forum held in

Nanning, the People's Republic of China on 3 and 4 November.

The Union Minister met with officials

from Dehong Dai and Baoxian in Kunming, the People's Republic of China, and discussed the issues of Myanmar migrant workers yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they mainly discussed preparations for signing the labour cooperation agreement between Myanmar and China regarding migrant labour issues. They had a friendly and open discussion about the rights of Myanmar workers to legally live and work in China and the benefits of Myanmar migrant workers under China's foreign worker law.

After that, the Union Minister and party returned to Yangon by air from China in the evening, and officials from the Ministry of Labour welcomed back the delegation led by the Union Minister at Yangon International Airport. — MNA/KZL

Myanansankyaw Golden Palace to display ancient royal utensils

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Currently, the museum in charge added, they are using vinyl to exhibit pictures of the utensils.

The museum is planning not only to display the king's utensils as material objects from the historic paintings and photos but also to provide the honorary documents and honouring awards to well-wishers who donate the royal utensils with evidences.

The Myanansankyaw Golden Palace in Mandalay attracts a substantial number of local and foreign visitors who are keen to explore the abundant ancient heritage and culture of the Yadanabon period. The historic palace, build in 1221 Myanmar Era by the King Mindon last 160 years ago, is located near Mandalay Hill, Aungmyethazan Township Mandalay Region. — Maung Aye Chan/KZL

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

COVID-19 report, 5 November 2023

NEW TESTS

2,557

NEW CASE

One

CASUALTIES

Nil

NATIONAL

Myanmar, People's Republic of China explore collaborative technology and innovation projects



Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw visits International Science Cooperation and Exchange Centre, Jinfeng Laboratory and Western Science City Intelligent Connected Vehicle Innovation Centre during his trip in China.

UNION Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw met with Professor Yin Hejun, the Minister of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China yesterday. The meeting, held at the Wyndham Chongqing Yuelai Hotel in Chongqing, focused on science and the collaborative implementation of technology and innovation projects.

Afterward, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar's Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperative technology and innovation procedures.

Pursuing endeavours related to the production of

high-quality, safe, and nutritious high-value food technology and chemical technology innovation, as well as collaborating on research in metallurgy and materials science. Additionally, discussions were held regarding student and teacher exchanges.

The Union Minister visited the International Science Cooperation and Exchange Centre in Chongqing, including the Jinfeng Laboratory. In the evening, they also visited the Western Science City Intelligent Connected Vehicle Innovation Centre. Chongqing Mayor Hu Henghua hosted a dinner attended by the Union minister together with regional science and technology ministers. — MNA/KZW

Korean artistes leave Yangon after friendship programme

THE Korean artistes who participated in MRTV's Friday Night Live Show as part of the Myanmar-Korea Musical Show programme left Yangon International Airport by air yesterday morning.

The group includes Korean K-Pop male artistes Moon Geontak and Haro, actresses Nam Young Joo, female artistes Henny and Jeong deul Le Rejen, supervisors, managers and support teams.

The Korean artistes performed at MRTV's Friday Night Live Show on Yangon's Pyay Street, including internationally famous K-Pop songs and dances, Korean folk music, Trot and Ballade, and classical music on the night of 3 November.

Next, they also visited Shwedagon Pagoda, Inya Lake, Bogyoke Market, and Junction City Shopping Mall in Yangon, and observed the Yangon-Dala River Bridge, which is being built as a symbol of Korea-Myanmar friendship, and took on a cruise in the Yangon River. — MNA/KZL

2023 Bamar-Vietnam Trade Fair on grand scale



The Bamar-Vietnam Trade Fair 2023 jointly organized by Bamar Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association and Vietnam Trade Office in Myanmar, is convened at Yangon Junction City from 1 to 3 November.

THE Bamar-Vietnam Trade Fair 2023 jointly organized by the Bamar Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association and the Vietnam Trade Office in Myanmar, took place at the Yangon Junction City Promotion Area from 1 to 3 November.

At the opening ceremony held at the trade fair, U Ye Min Aung, Vice President of the UMFCCI, delivered a speech of honour, and the Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar

Ly Quoc Tuan extended greetings.

A business matching area was set up for bilateral business discussions and to promote Vietnamese products. Additionally, it provided opportunities for Made in Myanmar products to penetrate into foreign markets.

One of the objectives of the Bamar Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association is to connect ethnic entrepreneurs in Myanmar and foster connections with local and foreign entrepreneurs to expand their businesses.

Trade fairs was organized to enhance the value of local products and facilitate their entry into international markets.

This marked the third edition of the trade fairs organized by the association in 2023. These trade fairs are expected to stimulate trade, attract increased investment, and generate employment opportunities.— 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

University admission list to be announced on 7 November



The front wing of Yangon University of Medicine (1).

THE Ministry of Education will announce the first-year university admissions list on 7 November.

The list of first-year university day course admissions will be posted at the respective universities and degree colleges, the Ministry of Education's website www.moe.gov.mm, and the Department of Higher Education's website www.dhe.gov.mm.

According to the press release, day courses from the first year to the master's levels at all universities will commence on 23 November, with enrollment starting on 16 November.

This year, all applicants who have passed the matriculation examination and have been admitted to arts and science universities can apply for a change of university. However, the details of this process will be announced only after the universities open. — TWA/KZW

Over 20,000 City Taxis equipped with yellow sticker line by 3 November

AS of 3 November, around 20,000 city taxis have been equipped with yellow stickers, as reported by the Yangon Region Private Transport Committee (YRTC).

Following the guidance from the Yangon Region Government to ensure the clear distinction of city taxis from other vehicles and enhance traffic safety, 5-inch wide yellow sticker line have been installed

on the sides of city taxis to align them with international taxi standards.

In 2023, the process of affixing yellow stickers to city taxi vehicles will commence. Starting from 1 November 2023, an educational period has been established, extending until 31 January 2024. Any non-compliance beyond this period will result in appropriate actions. —TWA/KZW



A City Taxi with a yellow sticker lines seen on both sides.

Kyaikmaraw to mark cultural events on full moon of Tazaungmon

A ceremony to pay homage to Shin Uppagutta statue will take place in conjunction with setting the alms-bowl adrift to the water as annual festivals in Kyaikmaraw Township of Mon State on the full moon of Tazaungmon, according to the event organizer Daw Mi Shwe Zin Thein. These events are held on the banks of the Attaram River on the morning of Tazaungmon full moon. They are usually held in the morning, and not only the local Mon ethnic people but also those from nearby townships come to enjoy the ceremonies.

"The ceremony of setting alms-bowl adrift into the river is dedicated to Shin Uppagutta, who lived at the bronze tier-roofed chamber in the South Ocean in the myth. It is a traditional Mon ethnic festival held every year. On the same day, the Mathoe robe-offering ceremony will be held at Sutaungpyae Pagoda in Kyaikmaraw. — ASH/KZL

Garlic prices reported to decline dramatically



Bags of Kyukok garlic were seen at a commodity depot.

THE prices of garlic varieties dramatically declines nearly K3,000 per viss as considerable number of the commodity flew to the Bayintnaung market yesterday, according to Ko Thein Myint, seller of potato and garlic from Yeta-ma Street of the market told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

Nearly 6,000 visses of garlic entered the Bayintnaung market on 3 November and the prices of Shan garlic were set between K12,000 and K15,000 per viss depending on the varieties and quality before the price ranges declined to K11,000 and K12,500 on 4 November when 24,000 visses of garlic flew to the market. Similarly, the price of Kyukok garlic were K16,000 and K17,000 on 3 November and decreased to K13,000 and K14,000 on 4 November.

However, Ko Htun from South Okkalapa Township told the GNLM that he bought a viss of Kyukok garlic at the price of K17,500 per viss.

Shan garlic prices used to fluctuate with the changes of Kyukok garlic price.

The prices of garlic were around K4,000 per viss and rose to nearly K7,000 when new garlic was about to hit the market in the previous years. In 2020, there were periods when a viss of garlic went under K2,000.

Ko Swe Aung, a potato and garlic seller from the Nyaungbinlay market in Lanmadaw Township, anticipates more declines in the price of garlic due to the possibility of additional Kyukok garlic entering the market on 6 November. — TWA/TH

NATIONAL

Funds provided to members of 26 cooperative societies

A total of K532.53 million is estimated to be allocated to 703 members of 26 cooperative societies to run livestock breeding farms in the country, according to the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

The government arranged to provide 703 members of 26 cooperative societies in 24 townships of 11 regions and states to run livestock breeding businesses, said Deputy Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Myint Soe at the meeting of cooperative development and loan supervisory central committee recently held in Nay Pyi Taw.

Moreover, agricultural inputs worth K200,000 per acre for 130,100 acres will be provided to 28,610 members of 1,066

cooperative societies in 178 townships of 13 regions/states using the State Economic Promotion Fund for monsoon paddy project, State economic promotion fund for regions and states, budget and cooperatives fund.

Similarly, over K13 billion was provided to 14,363 members of 354 societies from 86 townships of 11 regions and states and three self-administered regions using the State Economic Promotion Fund to run the Emerald (Myaseinyaung) Project.

Moreover, it is estimated to provide 1,056 members of 22 societies in 20 townships of 12 regions and states using the K556.07 million budget of cooperative societies as a pilot project. — ASH/KTZH



The aerial photo shows the area of fish farms operated by cooperative societies.

MSF advises seafarers to avoid brokers for SID applications

THE Myanmar Seafarers Federation (MSF) has issued a notice advising its members to apply for SID cards through middlemen, urging new applicants not to engage with brokers.

Online booking must be done to apply for SID, and only a small number of people will be accepted during the trial period.

Weaknesses in the process were revealed during this test. According to the report, after fixing the defects, up to 300 SIDs can be issued per day.

In addition, when applying for SID, it is advised not to engage with any brokers or intermediaries concerning the withdrawal process.

In the current scenario, there is a noticeable trend of brokers publicly declaring their intention to assist seafarers in applying for the SID card. Additionally, there have been reports indicating that these brokers are demanding a service fee that exceeds the value of the SID card by at least twice.

“It is quite difficult to apply for SID Online Booking. Since



The office of the Myanmar Seafarers Federation.

it is a trial period, 50 applicants each are accepted in the morning and afternoon section, totalling 100. Now, I saw that the SID department has issued a letter to submit online bookings for the next week starting at 4 pm on Friday. There is no difficult in doing it yourself, and it is quick to take only the necessary documents for office

matters. Applicants do not need to spend K28,000 on all processes. Some brokers say they pay around K50,000 but except for the online booking and filling out the form, the rest is lined up by myself,” Ko Aung Naing, a sailor who applied for the SID himself, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM). — TWA/KZW

Personal bank account disclosure mandatory for Korean job applicants

THE Public Overseas Employment Agency has announced that Korean job applicants are required to disclose their personal bank accounts.

Those who have passed the Special EPS-TOPIK test in Korea must include a bank account when submitting their job application.

It has been notified that for state-owned job applications, the applicants must submit a copy of their personal bank account book opened in

any private bank under the same name as the applicant's passport. Additionally, job applications must be submitted on 13 and 14 November.

Out of 1,697 candidates who took the Special EPS-TOPIK test, 1,495 passed the test, and those who passed the health test will be offered employment at the government's foreign employment agency in Dagon Myothit (North) Township in November. — TWA/KZW



Those who queue at the public overseas employment agency seen in Dagon Myothit (North) Township for submitting applications.

Registration on MyRO required for grain storage facilities

THE Ministry of Commerce notified that grain storage facilities need to be registered on the online registration platform – Myanmar Rice Online (MyRO) www.myro.com.mm, starting 3 November 2023, intending to ensure rice self-sufficiency, systematic export, price stability and systematic registration for grain storage and implementing warehouse receipt

ceremony for the Myanmar Rice Online (MyRO) Website and a meeting regarding the MyRO registration platform for grain storage facilities at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 November.

At the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein remarked that this meeting highlighted the implementation of the work processes of Myan-

to bring greater harmony plays a pivotal role in the development of the State's economy.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn stated that the ministry is joining hands with the private sector to benefit the farmers, make a reasonable profit for millers and traders, lessen the burdens of the consumers, ensure self-sufficiency and enhance exportation. Following the Myanmar Rice Conference 2022, the ministry achieved to carry out the 43 prioritized work processes. A workshop was held to implement the Warehouse Receipt Financing System and decided on 12 work processes for further activities.

Under the approval of the SAC, a task force to implement a warehouse receipt financing system was formed. Drawing up further plans, laying down policies, rules, regulations and standards, creating a separate fund, conducting pilot projects and supporting domestic and foreign businesspersons who want to invest in warehousing will be effectively implemented. The pilot project is planned to kick off in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Bago and Mandalay regions. The MyRO will disseminate information for those stakeholders in the rice industry including farmers, merchants, rice millers, exporters, experts and consumers and facilitate the registration process. Thus, all the stakeholders in the industry are encouraged to cooperate in this effort, U Tun Ohn elaborated. — NN/EM



Ministry of Commerce notifies that grain storage facilities need to be registered online registration platform - Myanmar Rice Online (MyRO) www.myro.com.mm, starting from 3 November 2023.

financing system.

The owners of the grain storage facilities for above 5,000 baskets of paddy and 1,000 rice bags (over 50 tonnes) are included in seeking this registration. For further details on registration, the Department of Consumer Affairs can be reached at phone numbers 067 3430563, 067 3430131 and Myanmar International Trade Centre through the phone number 01 385323 and address No 622/626, Merchant Street, Pabedan Township, Yangon.

The Commerce Ministry, in cooperation with the Myanmar Rice Federation, held a Go-Live

mar Rice Conference 2022 such as the crop insurance system for farmers and the enhancement of the rice sector. This MyRO system is aimed at facilitating the registration of grain storage facilities, exporter licences and rice mill registration through digital platforms. It will provide an easy, quick and efficient registration system like company registration. This ceremony is intended to be a first step for the rice sector to move forward to digital transformation. The State will help provide policy stability to ensure an enabling environment for investment. Public-Private Partnership



The photo shows stocks of tamarind and areca nuts at the brokerage.

Traders of tamarind, areca nut end up losing on low price

THE prices of tamarind and areca nut stayed low despite high prices of kitchen goods this year, breaking the expectations of those traders who kept the stocks in hand, according to the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market.

The traders forecast possible price rise of tamarind, and the majority of them from the tamarind producing areas stored the tamarind fruits, U Aung Soe, a tamarind trader from Mahlaing-Taungtha area told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM). The tamarind prices move in the range between K1,150-K2,500 per viss on 3 November depending on the different varieties and quality. The prices were rarely changed this year from the harvest season.

Reportedly, new tamarind will flow into the market in late December. The tamarind prices have been on the low side for three consecutive years including that of 2022.

Those involved in the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market expected a low chance of price rise, unlike traders from other regions.

Tamarind is mostly produced in Kyaukpadaung, Popa, Pakokku, Yamethin, Shan State and Rakhine State, central Myanmar regions, Pyay, Myanaung, and Kyangin areas.

A tamarind tree is offered up to K100,000 depending on tamarind pods and tamarind-producing areas. Tamarinds are stockpiled in the market owing to low exportation of tamarind, low usage in the food industry and regular consumption in the domestic market. Supply surpassed demand.

Similarly, the areca nut price continues dropping on the weak foreign demand this year, U Thein Win, a trader who buys areca nuts from delta regions to be sold in Yangon, told the GNLM. The prices of areca nuts peaked at K5,300-K6,200 per viss in 2022. This year, the prices touched a low of K2,800-K3,700 per viss in 2023.

Areca nut is primarily grown in Taninthayi and delta regions. Fresh area nuts are dried to be stored. The areca nut warehouses were mostly seen in the Bayintnaung market since before 2000s. — TWA/KK

DICA: 750 companies fail to file AR in October 2023

A total of 750 companies failed to submit annual returns (AR) on the online registry system in October 2023, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA has notified any registered company which fails to file its AR on MyCO is to be struck off the register from the date of the directive, under Section 430 (F) of the Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA's notification.

This year, 500 companies in January, 400 each in February and March, 200 in April, 550 in May, 750 in June, 600 in July, 750 in August and 450 in September did not

file the AR on the MyCO, totalling 5,350 in past ten months, according to the DICA.

Additionally, 5,000 companies failed to submit AR in 2022, the DICA stated.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018 under the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

All registered companies need to submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation) under Section 97 of the law.

Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar

Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thousands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/EM

OPINION

Look towards a war-free future for children

When wars erupt, the people living in conflict zones find themselves compelled to flee their homes in search of safety for their lives and property. This mass exodus leaves no one untouched, with adults abandoning their workplaces and farmlands, children being deprived of their educational opportunities, and the elderly and infirm unable to access essential healthcare services.

Tragically, among these individuals, children and the elderly who bear no guilt for the conflict are often the ones who suffer the most. This reality forces us all to contemplate the morality of fueling such conflicts.

As everybody needs to examine regional conflicts around the world, they are confronted with the grim statistics of the toll on children. In the ongoing armed conflict in the Middle East, many thousands of children have lost their lives, and more than one thousand children remain missing. The aftermath of these conflicts still burdens children, with many left orphaned as a result.

Whenever wars break out throughout the world, thousands of innocent children lose life and limbs to the ravages of conflict. These children bore no responsibility for the turmoil that engulfed their lives. Alarming data from UNICEF reveals that more than 250 million children are currently residing in conflict zones or areas prone to natural disasters, and a staggering 150 million children have become orphans.

In light of these distressing realities, the responsibility falls on the shoulders of global leaders to contemplate the future of these children, who are the prospective builders of their respective nations. Leaders must act promptly to halt the perpetuation of war for the sake of these innocent lives. Rather than pursuing armed conflict, they should earnestly engage in peace talks with the genuine intention of restoring tranquillity. Such actions would not only preserve hundreds of thousands of lives but also signify a visionary shift towards prioritizing the welfare of children and ending their suffering due to conflicts initiated by adults.

a visionary shift towards prioritizing the welfare of children and ending their suffering due to conflicts initiated by adults.

Children without families are among the most vulnerable individuals worldwide. Conflicts, wars, racial tensions, and resource competition have pushed countless children into the plight of orphanhood. It is only by setting wars and conflicts aside that everybody needs to create an environment conducive to sustainable peace and a brighter future for children emerging from the shadows of conflict. In this vision of a future free from war, children can thrive, and their potential can be fully realized.

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS ARTICLE

Our group arrived at Beijing railway station to leave for Hangzhou on the morning of 15 September. A ticket for a Beijing-Hangzhou high-speed train costs 663 Yuan (over K300,000). Hangzhou is the capital city of Zhejiang Province in China, which was established 2,200 years ago.

Hangzhou is the political, economic, social, cultural, educational and transportation hub of Zhejiang Province. Hangzhou is famous for its unique characteristics such as natural sightseeing, green surroundings, tea culture and the Home of Silk. Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal is the longest man-made canal in the world. Earlier, it linked the north to the south of China. Hangzhou has a population of over 11 million. We stayed at Zhongshan West Lake Hotel in Hangzhou.

In the evening, we visited Alibaba company, a Chinese multinational technology company specializing in e-commerce, retail, internet and technology, and the largest e-commerce platform in China. Jack Ma founded the Alibaba e-commerce website in 1999. China is the world's second-largest

economy and Alibaba is one of the largest companies in China. In addition to expansion in e-commerce, Alibaba invested in the banking and entertainment industries. Alibaba's representatives showed video and archive photos related to servers, arrays of computing services, and building international networks to offer the digital marketplace and AI robotic service in their technology room.

Afterwards, we walked around the popular Wulin Night Market, also known as Wulin Road Fashion Street. The Wulin Night Market is located in the downtown area of Hangzhou and is one of the important main roads. The market is crowded with shoppers and foreigners. On the morning of 16 September, we visited a prominent landmark of Hangzhou "Leifeng Pagoda", an octagonal five-storey tall tower. It is the oldest pagoda in China. Leifeng Pagoda tower collapsed on 25 September 1924 and the foundation of a new tower was laid on 26 December 2000. The construction was finished on 25 October 2002. The entrance fee to Leifeng Pagoda is 40 Yuan per person (over K18,000). One can enjoy a panoramic view of the West Lake and Hangzhou from

Media trip to China: Exploring Capital Beijing, dreamy Hangzhou and bustling Shanghai

Dreamy Hangzhou with quaint charm and modern businesses

By NN



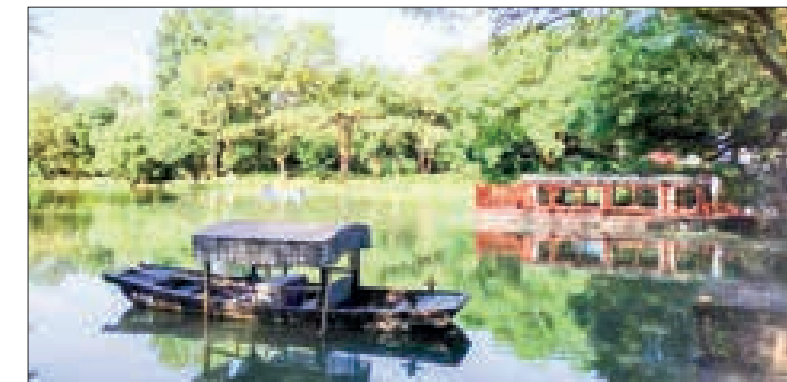
Main Media Centre (MMC) for the Asian Games.

the top of the Pagoda.

West Lake in Hangzhou is 2.5 square miles wide. It's one of

the top ten scenic views in China, listed by UNESCO as a cultural heritage site in 2011. One can take

a splendid journey on a boat and enjoy the views of the West Lake. A boat ride costs 55 Yuan (over



Xixi National Wetland Park in Hangzhou.



Alibaba, China's top e-commerce and technology giant.

K25,000). We continued our trip to Xixi National Wetland Park, which is three miles away from the West Lake.

Xixi National Wetland Park is the only National Wetland Park in Hangzhou, combining urban life, farming and culture. It's famous for stunning natural views and rich biodiversity. The ticket to Xixi National Wetland Park including an electric boat ride and entrance fee is 150 Yuan (over K68,000). We enjoyed an opera show in Wetland Park with a ticket valued at 320 Yuan (approximately K150,000). The show combined high technology and traditional culture. Audiences have to move three places by themselves with the stages and dramas changing. The remaining two stages and seating configuration were set up and moved automatically. We are so delighted with acts of service and opera performances.

On 17 September, we explored the Main Media Centre (MMC) in full swing for the Asian games to be held in Hangzhou, poised to welcome international media outlets, providing facilities such as health, technology, official language, transportation, food and services.

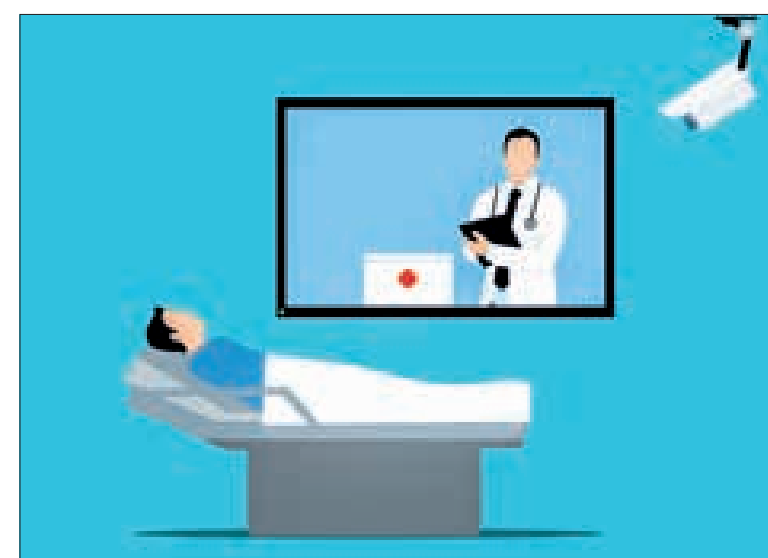
TO BE CONTINUED

Let's Promote Community Centred Approach in Healthcare Delivery Services

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

Ministry of Health, Myanmar, laid down the two objectives, to enable every citizen to attain full life expectancy and enjoy longevity of life, and to ensure that every citizen is free from diseases. To realize these objectives, all health activities are implemented in conformity with the succeeding strategies; widespread dissemination of health information and education to reach the rural areas, enhancing disease prevention activities and providing effective treatment of prevailing diseases. To do that, promoting a community-centred approach in healthcare delivery services is crucial for improving overall health outcomes and ensuring healthcare services are responsive to the specific needs of the community.

Promoting a community-centred approach in healthcare delivery services is a crucial step



Promote telehealth accessibility, particularly in remote or underserved regions, by offering support, resources, and training to empower community members to utilize telehealth services effectively. ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY

toward improving healthcare outcomes and fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility within local communities. This approach emphasizes collaboration, inclusivity, and engagement, aiming to create a healthcare system that truly meets the needs of the people it serves. The following are some key principles and strategies

to promote a community-centred approach in healthcare delivery services;

Community Involvement

Engage the community in healthcare planning, decision-making, and implementation. This can involve forming community health committees, conducting regular village meetings, and seeking input from community members on healthcare priorities.

Assess community needs: Initiate by conducting a comprehensive assessment of the community's healthcare needs, taking into account factors such as demographics, prevalent health issues, and socioeconomic conditions.

Engage the community: Organize community meetings, town halls, or focus groups to

engage community members in open discussions about their healthcare needs, concerns, and priorities. Encourage active participation and feedback.

Create community health committees: Establish community health committees comprised of community members, healthcare providers, and local leaders. These committees can serve as a platform for decision-making, planning, and advocacy.

Develop community-specific health plans: Collaborate with the community health committees to develop healthcare plans tailored to the unique needs of the community. This might involve expanding services, creating new programs, or improving access to care.

Training and Education:

Provide training and educational programs to empower community members to understand healthcare options, preventive measures, and their rights within the healthcare system.

Community Health Workers (CHWs): Provide training and educational programs to empower community members to understand healthcare options, preventive measures, and their rights within the healthcare system. Healthcare providers should receive cultural competency training to understand and respect the cultural, linguistic, and religious diversity of the community.

Collaborate with Local Organizations: Partner with local non-profit organizations and other community organizations to enhance healthcare initiatives and outreach.

Access to Telehealth Services: Facilitate access to telehealth services, especially in underserved or remote areas.

Provide resources and training to help community members use telehealth effectively.

Patient Advocacy: Encourage community members to advocate for their healthcare needs. This can involve raising awareness about available resources, promoting health literacy, and participating in decision-making processes.

Feedback Mechanism: Establish mechanisms for collecting feedback from the community about their healthcare experiences. Regularly review and act upon this feedback to improve services.

Preventive Care and Health Promotion: Prioritize preventative care and health promotion programs, such as wellness and nutrition workshops, fitness classes, and vaccination campaigns.

Health Screenings and Outreach: Conduct regular healthcare, screenings, and outreach events within the community to provide essential healthcare services and

information.

Holistic Care: Promote a holistic approach to healthcare that considers not only physical health but also mental, social, and environmental factors. This could involve integrating mental health services, and social support, and addressing environmental determinants of health.

Community Resources: Make use of community resources, such as local organizations and volunteers, to complement healthcare services and address social determinants of health.

Data-Focused Decision Making: Use data and health metrics to guide healthcare delivery decisions and continuously adapt programs to meet evolving community needs.

Community Empowerment: Empower community members to take ownership of their health by involving them in the planning and

SEE PAGE-10

SCI/ENVIRON/ARTICLE

Chinese scientists develop super-efficient all-analog photoelectronic chip

Chinese researchers at Tsinghua University have unveiled a groundbreaking all-analog photoelectronic chip that outperforms conventional digital chips in terms of speed and energy efficiency for computer vision tasks.

CHINESE researchers from Tsinghua University have developed an all-analog photoelectronic chip that can process computer vision tasks with greater speed and energy efficiency than existing chips.

The research team's findings, which provide an alternative to existing technologies based around analogue-to-digital conversion, have been published in the

journal Nature.

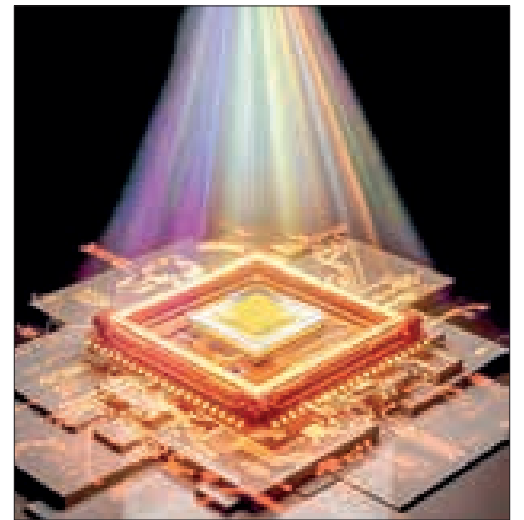
Analog and digital signals are two types of signals carrying information. Analog signals vary continuously, as with the rays of light forming an image, while digital signals are non-continuous, as with binary numbers.

In vision-based computing tasks like image recognition and object detection, signals from the environment are analog, and they

need to be converted into digital signals for processing by AI neural networks, systems trained to recognize patterns and relationships in a data set. However, the analog-to-digital conversion is time- and energy-consuming, limiting the speed and efficiency of the neural network's performance. Photonic computing, which uses analog light signals, is one of the most promising

approaches to addressing the issue.

In the new study, the researchers designed an integrated photoelectronic processor to harness the advantages of both light, in the form of photons, and electrons, as found in electric currents, in an all-analog way. The result is called an "all-analog chip combining electronic and light computing," or ACCEL. — Xinhua



This rendering shows an all-analog photoelectronic chip developed by Chinese researchers from Tsinghua University. **PHOTO: TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

Sri Lanka cancel World Cup practice in toxic Delhi smog

Sri Lanka canceled their training session in Delhi, India, just days before their World Cup match against Bangladesh, citing the city's toxic smog as the likely reason.

SRI Lanka cancelled Saturday's training session in India's capital with a pall of toxic smog engulfing the megacity just days before it hosts their World Cup clash against Bangladesh.

An official at the local cricket association in Delhi confirmed to AFP that Sri Lanka had not staged their scheduled practice session.

"They haven't shared any reason for cancelling their training," the official told AFP.



Smog danger: A metro train rides over a river in New Delhi on Saturday. **PHOTO: AFP**

But the cancellation comes a day after Bangladesh also called off their own training in Delhi, citing health risks from the smog.

"Some of us developed

coughing, so there's a risk factor," Bangladesh team director Khaled Mahmud said Friday.

"We don't want to get sick. We don't know if things will improve," he added. — AFP

THE REALM OF GENERATIVE AI

Musk teases AI chatbot 'Grok,' with real-time access to X

ELON Musk on Saturday unveiled details of his new AI tool called "Grok," which can access X in real time and will be initially available to the social media platform's top tier of subscribers.

Musk, the tycoon behind Tesla and SpaceX, said the link-up with X, formerly known as Twitter, is "a massive advantage over other models" of generative AI.

Grok "loves sarcasm. I have no idea who could have guided it this way," Musk quipped, adding a laughing emoji to his post.

"Grok" comes from "Stranger in a Strange Land," a 1961 science fiction novel by Robert Heinlein, and means to understand something thoroughly and intuitively.

"As soon as it's out of early beta, xAI's Grok system will be available to all X Premium+ subscribers," Musk said.

The social network that Musk bought a year ago launched the Premium+ plan last week for \$16 per month, with benefits like no ads.

The billionaire started xAI in July after hiring researchers from OpenAI, Google DeepMind, Tesla and the University of Toronto. — AFP

FROM PAGE-9

implementation of healthcare programs.

- **Equity and Inclusivity:** Ensure that healthcare services are provided equitably, without discrimination, and that they address the specific needs of vulnerable populations within the community.
- **Transparency and Account-**

ability: Ensure transparency in healthcare operations and hold healthcare providers accountable for delivering quality care that meets community expectations.

- **Collaboration:** Foster collaboration between healthcare providers, local governments, community-based organizations, and other

stakeholders to create a seamless and integrated healthcare system.

- **Research and Evaluation:** Continuously assess the impact of community-centred healthcare initiatives through data collection and analysis. Use this information to refine and improve the services provided.

In addition, promoting a community-centred approach in healthcare delivery services fosters a sense of community ownership, and improves healthcare outcomes. It is a collaborative effort that requires ongoing engagement and commitment from both healthcare providers and the community itself. By implementing these strategies and

promoting a community-centred approach in healthcare, we can create a more responsive, patient-focused, and effective healthcare system that empowers individuals to take control of their health and well-being while addressing the unique needs of diverse communities.

■

All aboard Thailand's 'floating train'

The "Rot Fai Loi Nam" service, which marked the end of the rainy season, was the State Railway of Thailand's inaugural journey from Bangkok to Pasak Jolasid Dam on Saturday.



A tourist (C) travelling aboard the popular "Floating train" taking photographs along the railway tracks during a stop in the middle of Pasak Jolasid Dam, Thailand's biggest reservoir in Lopburi province. PHOTO: AFP

A lone boatman watched the spectacle of Thailand's so-called "floating train" as selfie-seeking passengers soaked up the water views after disembarking from carriages stopped on a narrow bridge.

Railway adventures are gaining popularity in the kingdom with tourists seeking off-the-beaten-track travel experiences away from the hordes visiting temples and beaches.

Saturday was the State Railway of Thailand's first Bangkok to Pasak Jolasid Dam service "Rot Fai Loi Nam" marking the end of the rainy season.

Hundreds of bleary-eyed

passengers boarded the train at Bangkok's century-old Hua Lamphong Station before sunrise. Lotus ponds, jungles, temples and rice paddies zipped by as tourists in third class hung out the window and took pictures while enjoying the natural air conditioning.

Greying Thai aunties boarded at Ayutthaya, the ancient former capital of Siam — to sell fairy floss and pad krapow, a famous stir-fry basil dish.

Three and a half hours after chugging out of Bangkok, the refurbished Japanese train pulling more than a dozen carriages crossed the Pasak Jo-

lasid reservoir over a series of viaducts and stopped for 20 minutes of selfie time.

For most of the year, cattle graze underneath the bridge "but from October to January, the water is high on both sides which gives the impression that the train is floating on water," said long-time British expat, train enthusiast and travel blogger Richard Barrow.

"I have done it many times and I am already booked to do it three more times this season."

Barrow lamented the trip was only publicised in Thai language and not English so not many foreigners know about the unique experience. — AFP

Thousands flock to Day of the Dead parade in Mexico City

THOUSANDS of people lined the streets of Mexico City on Saturday to enjoy a colorful parade in celebration of Day of the Dead, one of the country's most important holidays.

As part of the festivities, dozens of dancers dressed as skeletons or wearing traditional costumes made their way down Paseo de la Reforma, one of the capital city's most prominent streets. Day of the Dead has become an internationally recognized symbol of Mexican culture.



People take part in the Day of the Dead Parade in Mexico City. PHOTO: AFP

From November 1-2, people across the country normally decorate their homes, streets

and relatives' graves with candles, colorful skulls and flowers — especially marigolds. — AFP

Bleu Royal diamond set to dazzle in Geneva jewels sale

THE exceptionally rare Bleu Royal gem is set to become one of the most expensive diamonds ever sold by auctioneers Christie's when it goes under the hammer on Tuesday.

The Bleu Royal is the star lot in a series of sales in Geneva this month which feature items from movie history including pearls worn by Audrey Hepburn and Marlon Brando's self-engraved watch.

Weighing 17.61 carats, the Bleu Royal is the largest internally flawless fancy vivid blue gem ever to appear for sale in auction history. The stone is expected to fetch \$35 million to \$50 million in Christie's Magnificent Jewels auction.

"It's going to be one of the top 10 jewels sold at Christie's ever, in terms of value," Rahul Kadakia, Christie's international head of jewellery, told AFP.

The diamond, set in a ring, has been in a private collection for 50 years.

Kadakia said lots of modern coloured diamonds had a modified cut to enhance the colour.

In the Bleu Royal's case, "the rough material itself was so rich that they were able to cut it into a classic brilliant faceting style," he said.

"It checks all the boxes — really top of its class."

Fancy vivid blue diamonds weighing more than 10 carats are exceptionally rare. Since Christie's was founded in 1766, only three such stones have appeared for sale — all in the last 13 years.

The Bulgari Blue sold for nearly \$15.8 million in 2010; the Winston Blue fetched \$23.8 million in 2014, and the Oppenheimer Blue realised \$57.5 million in 2016. — AFP



The Bleu Royal diamond weighs 17.61 carats. PHOTO: PIERRE ALBOUY/AFP

7 Cuban officials punished over Hitler Halloween costume

SEVEN Cuban officials with state-run music organizations have been punished after helping organize a Halloween party last week where an Adolf Hitler costume won first prize, officials said.

The deputy director of the Cuban Rock Agency was removed from his job and two other employees were fired from the organization over the Halloween celebration held in Havana on 28 October Cuban Institute of Music in a press release on Friday.

The agency's director and three top officials at the music

institute who were "responsible for the approval, evaluation and control of cultural programming" also faced unspecified disciplinary measures, the press release said.

According to a report by the pro-government media outlet Cuba Debate, the Nazi leader's costume received the top award at the party to "applause and ovations", triggering a storm of public criticism.

Closed after the incident, the Maxim Rock cultural center that hosted the Halloween party was set to reopen Saturday. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Support for Fumio Kishida Cabinet at record-low 28% as tax cut not hailed

THE support rate for Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's Cabinet fell to a fresh low of 28.3 per cent, a Kyodo News survey showed Sunday, with more than 60 per cent of respondents not satisfied with a tax cut recently announced as part of his economic stimulus package.

The approval rate dropped from 32.3 per cent marked in October, the previous record low, while the disapproval rating rose to a record high of 56.7 per cent, according to the three-day nationwide telephone survey.

For an administration led by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, it is the first time since 2009 that the Cabinet support rate has fallen below 30 per cent. The LDP lost the governing position in a general election that year.

In an attempt to turn around

the flagging approval rating, Kishida, who became prime minister in October 2021, is now banking on the latest stimulus package to help mitigate the impact of rising inflation on households.

But the survey showed 62.5 per cent saying they do not support a key feature of the package, a one-off tax cut of 40,000 yen (\$268) per person. The stimulus also included 70,000 yen in payouts to low-income households exempt from paying income and residential taxes.

Of those who were not satisfied with the stimulus measures, 40.4 per cent said they are rather preparing themselves for the upcoming tax hikes the government has already planned in a bid to secure funds for almost doubling the nation's annual defense spending. — Kyodo



People walk across a scramble crossing in Tokyo's Shibuya district on 28 June 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

China, Qatar energy firms sign 27-year agreement

CHINA'S state-owned energy firm Sinopec and QatarEnergy on Saturday signed a cooperation agreement on a 27-year liquefied natural gas (LNG) sales and purchase deal as well as equity participation in a joint venture.

According to a statement from Sinopec, under the agreement, QatarEnergy will supply 3 million tonnes of LNG to Sinopec each year from the North Field South (NFS) expansion project.

Under the agreement, QatarEnergy will also transfer a 5 per cent interest to Sinopec in a joint venture company that owns the equivalent of 6 million tonnes per annum of LNG



A liquefied natural gas carrier is berthed at Sinopec's Tianjin LNG receiving station for unloading operations on 21 October 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA

production capacity in the NFS project. The agreement was signed in Shanghai at a special ceremony.

Qatar is one of the world's leading LNG export-

ers. According to Sinopec, the NFS expansion project will build two new LNG production lines with a production capacity of 16 million tonnes per year. — Xinhua

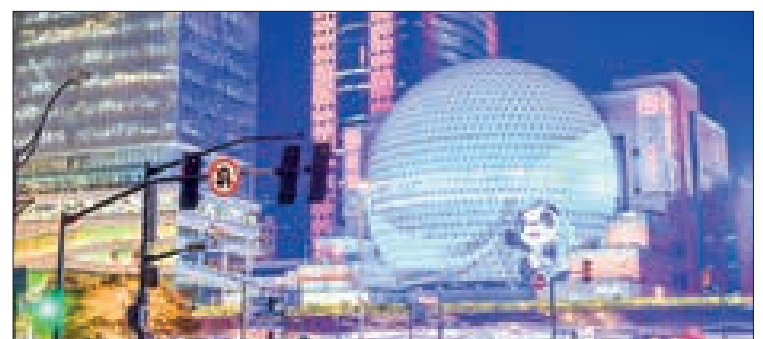
Serbia sees CIIE as great opportunity for business, bilateral ties, officials say

Serbia's top government officials, including the prime minister and various ministers, along with many businesspeople, will participate in the CIIE, a massive global trade event, to boost Serbian companies and strengthen economic ties between Serbia and China.

THE Serbian delegation sees the upcoming China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai as a key gateway for Serbian businesses to the Chinese market, especially bearing in mind the fruitful cooperation between the two countries within the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the recently signed free-trade agreement (FTA).

Ahead of their trip to China,

members of Serbia's high-level delegation Tomislav Momirovic, minister of Domestic and Foreign Trade, and Mihailo Vesovic, director of the division for strategic analyses, services and internationalization at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, shared their expectations for the CIIE and the success of China-Serbia trade ties. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 3 November 2023 shows an electronic poster of the 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Xuhui District of Shanghai, east China. PHOTO: MENG TAO / XINHUA

Half of all Afghan population living in poverty: World Bank

IN its latest monthly report known as the "Afghanistan Economic Monitor", the World Bank has noted that half of all Afghans are living in poverty, as reported by Tolo News on

Thursday.

According to the report, total exports amounted to USD 1.3 billion from January to September 2023, marking a slight decrease of 0.5 per cent

compared to the same period in 2022. Pakistan remains Afghanistan's largest export market, accounting for 55 per cent of total exports, followed by India at 29 per cent. — ANI

Canton Fair concludes with 22.3 bln USD export deals inked offline

By Friday, the fair had attracted overseas buyers from 229 regions, with almost 198,000 in attendance - a 6.4% increase compared to the 126th Canton Fair in 2019.

THE 134th China Import and Export Fair (Canton Fair) concluded Saturday in Guangzhou, the capital of southern Guangdong Province, with export deals worth 22.3 billion U.S. dollars in total signed offline.

The value is 2.8 per cent higher than that in the previous Canton Fair, said Xu Bing, a spokesperson for the fair.

The participating enterprises signed deals totaling 12.27 billion U.S. dollars with their business partners from Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) countries, up 2 per cent compared with the previous fair, Xu said.

As of Friday, overseas purchasers from 229 countries and regions attended the fair online or offline. The fair saw nearly 198,000 overseas purchasers offline, 6.4 per cent more than the number in the 126th Canton Fair held in 2019.

"More overseas purchasers attended the Canton Fair this year and placed orders actively, which has further enhanced the confidence of enterprises in foreign trade next year," said Xu.

In terms of import, 650 enterprises from 43 countries and regions participated in the import exhibition of the fair, of which 60 per cent were from



Visitors select goods during the 134th Canton Fair in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province, 4 November 2023. The 134th session of the China Import and Export Fair, also known as the Canton Fair, closed here on Saturday. **PHOTO: LU HANXIN/XINHUA**

the BRI partner countries, according to Xu.

Launched in 1957 and held twice yearly, the fair is consid-

ered a major gauge of China's foreign trade. — Xinhua

Landowner vows to seek understanding over Jingu redevelopment

THE major landowner in a redevelopment project in one of Tokyo's greenest neighborhoods said it will continue efforts to gain public support for the controversial plan, which is set to see the loss of hundreds of trees.

"We'd like to proceed with the project while obtaining understanding through careful explanations," an official of the religious corporation running Meiji Jingu shrine, which owns a large part of the Jingu Gaien area in central Tokyo, said in a recent interview with Kyodo News.

"Our efforts to transmit information have been insufficient," Nobuyuki Naruse said, referring to calls to scrap the redevelopment plan from famous musicians and writers as well as civil organizations and a UNESCO advisory body.

The shrine is comprised of the inner park where the shrine is located and the outer park, which houses sport facilities that chalk up some 80 per cent of its revenues, according to

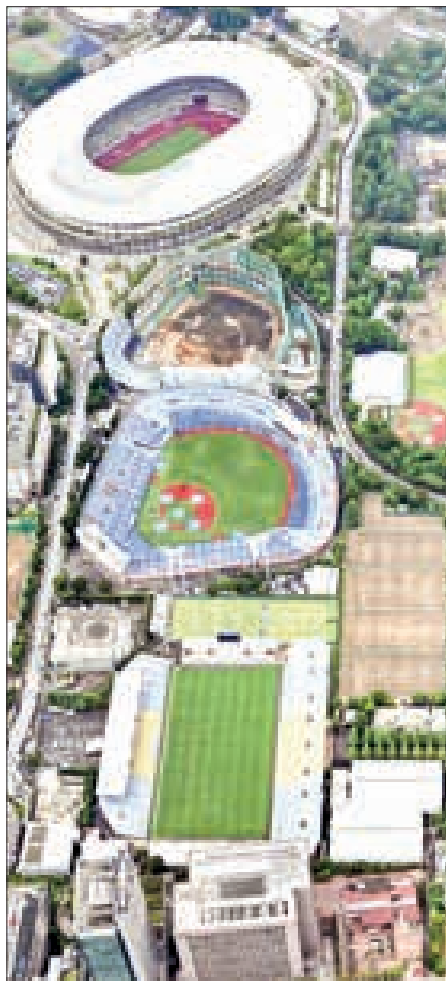
Meiji Jingu.

Income from Jingu Stadium has accounted for nearly 70 per cent of such revenues, but the 97-year-old structure is aging and lacks separate pedestrian and vehicle traffic lines as well as sufficient barrier-free accessibility, according to the shrine. The stadium and Prince Chichibu Memorial Rugby Ground are both set for demolition.

"The facilities need to be updated for the next generation," Naruse said, arguing that revenue from the outer park is essential in order to maintain the inner and outer parks.

Under the redevelopment plan led by major real estate company Mitsui Fudosan Co., 743 trees are set to be cut down.

In addition, the relocation of a new stadium close to the landmark Jingu Gaien Ginkgo Avenue has stirred concerns among activists that it could adversely affect the roots of the avenue's trees. — Kyodo



File photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on 30 June 2023, shows Tokyo's Meiji Jingu Gaien area, which includes an iconic tree-lined avenue. The area is subject to a controversial redevelopment plan that would see hundreds of trees uprooted. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Quebec broadcaster TVA laying off 31% of workforce

CANADIAN media giant Quebecor announced Thursday it will slash the workforce at its broadcaster TVA by nearly one-third and wholly restructure its news division as losses deepened.

The company's broadcasting segment reported in the third quarter a year-to-date loss of nearly Can\$13 million (US\$9 million), compared with Can\$1.6 million for the same period last year.

"The deficit TVA Group is currently running is simply no longer sustainable," said Pierre Karl Peladeau, president of both TVA and its parent Quebecor.

The restructuring of its operations in Quebec province will see 547 job cuts, a consolidation of newsrooms for its various broadcast, newspaper and digital publications, and the end of in-house production of entertainment content.

This follows TVA's elimination of 140 jobs earlier this year.

Quebecor said in a statement it was "a time of crisis for the global media industry." — AFP

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Russia's nuclear-capable submarine test-fires Bulava ballistic missile

The R30 3M30 "Bulava," known internationally as the RSM-56, is a Russian intercontinental ballistic missile, designated for use on future nuclear submarine strategic missile carriers.



The Emperor Alexander III, executed a successful test launch of the Bulava ballistic missile in the White Sea. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

RUSSIA'S state-of-the-art nuclear-powered submarine, the Emperor Alexander III, executed a successful test launch of the Bulava ballistic missile in the White Sea, the Russian Ministry of Defence reported on Sunday.

Official reports confirm that the "Bulava" missile can carry a number of individually targetable hypersonic nuclear warheads and is expected to be the lynchpin of Russia's strategic nuclear forces until 2040-2045.

Submarines with Bulava are aimed to empower Russia's nuclear triad. This ship lurks below the surface of the seas and oceans, making their detection impossible until the nuke is fired – thus the possibility of pre-emptive strike by enemy becomes significantly lower.

After the Emperor Alexander III's final test, the Russian Ministry of Defence is set to decide on the sub's inclusion into the Navy. — SPUTNIK

UK government defends proposals to restrict homeless tents

Home Secretary Braverman faces criticism for her desire to address issues caused by homeless people setting up tents in public areas.

BRITAIN'S government on Sunday defended proposed legislation that aims to restrict charities from providing homeless people with tents, after facing fierce criticism.

There has been a sharp rise in the number of people sleeping on the streets with UK mortgage rates and rents soaring since decades-high inflation fuelled the worst cost-of-living crisis in a generation.

Deputy Prime Minister Oliver Dowden told the BBC Sunday that the government was looking at legislation aimed at preventing "tent cities".

"We shouldn't allow these kind of tent cities and other things to spring up and that's why we are looking at the kind of legislation that might be necessary to address that," he said.

Britain's Home Secretary Suella Braverman sparked outrage from opposition politicians and homeless charities after she said Saturday that she wants to put a stop to the "nuisance and distress" caused by homeless people pitching tents on public streets.

"We cannot allow our streets to be taken over by rows of tents occupied by people, many of them from abroad, living on the streets as a lifestyle choice," she wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter. — AFP



A report on homelessness said there had been a 26 per cent rise in the number sleeping rough. **PHOTO: TOLGA AKMEN/AFP**

Latest developments in the Israel-Hamas war

HERE are key developments from the past 24 hours:

Blinken meets Abbas

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas in a surprise visit to Ramallah on Sunday, as concern grows over rising violence in the occupied West Bank.

The top US diplomat's tour of the region took him to Jordan Saturday, where he faced a rising tide of anger in meetings with five Arab foreign ministers, following Israel rejection of his efforts to secure humanitarian "pauses" in its war to destroy Hamas.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, whose country has been acting as the sole conduit for foreigners to escape Gaza and for aid to get in, called for an "immediate and comprehensive ceasefire".

Israel says struck 2,500 targets in ground op

The Israeli army said Sunday its forces had "struck over 2,500 terror targets" since ground troops entered the Palestinian territory late last month.

"IDF (army) troops are continuing to eliminate terrorists in close-quarters combat" and to direct aircraft to hit Hamas targets, the army said, including a "military compound" hit overnight.

"During the combined activities of ground, air and naval



This photo released by Israel Defence Forces on 2 November 2023 shows Israeli troop conducting ground operation in Gaza Strip. **PHOTO: ISRAEL DEFENCE FORCES/XINHUA**

forces in the Gaza Strip, over 2,500 terror targets have been struck."

Refugee camps hit

The Hamas-run health ministry said at least 45 people were killed in an Israeli strike on the Al-Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza late Saturday. An Israeli military spokesperson said they were looking into whether its troops had been operating in the area at the time.

West Bank violence

Three Palestinians were killed Sunday by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank, where violence is flaring since the start of the Israel-Hamas war, the Palestinian health ministry said.

Two Palestinians, aged 22 and 20, were killed in Abu Dis, a suburb of east Jerusalem, while another was killed in Nuba to the south, the ministry said. — AFP

SPORTS

IKO Karate Championship held in Yangon

IKO MYANMAR (International Karate Organization Myanmar) launched the International Karate Organization-IKO Weright Category Championship at MCC Hall in Yangon yesterday, featuring various categories for men and women fighters.

"The championship is intended chance for above 18-year-old fighters. This competition started in 1989 until 1996, the competition has been held twice or thrice a year. Later on, there were some difficulties, and the last competition was held in 2012 and 2018. It resumed again in 2023. From here, the players who won at the junior level are preparing to compete in Japan. Those winners are prepared to go to Japan

and compete in more championships. The competition has gained momentum. We will do our best to make it convenient where we can't get a field for the tourney," said Shihan U Min Lwin who is a chairman of the International Karate Organization Myanmar.

Athletes competed in the men's 60-kilo and 70-kilo events and women's 50-, 55- and above 55-kilo events. The IKO karate tournament was held from 1989 to 2008 and resumed in 2023. — Bala Soe/KZL

Men athletes are competing in the men's 50-kilo event. **PHOTO: BALA SOE**



Pegula reaches WTA Finals title match but Swiatek-Sabalenka halted by rain

JESSICA Pegula beat Coco Gauff on Saturday to reach the WTA Finals title match but continuing weather woes saw Aryna Sabalenka's clash with Iga Swiatek suspended by rain.

World number one Sabalenka and number two Swiatek had played just three games when rain blew in, halting a match between players fighting for the year-end number one ranking.

If Australian Open champion Sabalenka wins, she'll finish the year atop the rankings, but if French Open champion Swiatek advances and goes on to claim the title she will regain the number one spot. Whoever wins will have to get past a red-hot Pegula, who has not lost a set on the outdoor hardcourts in Cancun. Pegula shook off a late rain delay and windy conditions to dispatch US Open champion Gauff, her doubles partner, in an hour. "I executed what I wanted to do really well," Pegula said. "In the windy conditions, I think it worked even better.

"I was just trying not to get frustrated with my serve or returns or any funky kind of points that we had and just to keep my feet moving." There was no respite for Sabalenka and Swiatek from the weather that has wreaked havoc all week at the tournament.

They were on serve with Swiatek up 2-1 in the opening set when showers started, the players remaining on the court wrapped in towels amid hopes they would get underway again soon. — AFP



American Jessica Pegula makes a return in her semi-final triumph over compatriot Coco Gauff at the WTA Finals in Cancun, Mexico. **PHOTO: AFP**

'Even easier to play with Kane than I thought' says Bayern's Musiala

Kane's hat-trick takes his total to 15 goals in 10 games for Bayern since his summer transfer from Tottenham, with five assists as well.



Harry Kane (L) scoring his hat-trick goal against Borussia Dortmund. **PHOTO: AFP**

BAYERN Munich forward Jamal Musiala is surprised by the budding chemistry up front in the German champions' forward line, after his side won 4-0 at Borussia Dortmund on Saturday.

"I expected high (standards) but not as high as he's delivered so far," Musiala told reporters after the win. "It's even easier to play with him than I thought."

Kane scored three in the dominant display and now has 15 goals in 10 matches for Bayern since moving from Tottenham in the summer, while also chalking up five assists in that time.

Musiala said: "I feel very comfortable with Harry, he plays amazing passes." "I can run in behind and he'll find me."

The 20-year-old Musiala, who grew up in England but plays for Germany, said he hoped the chemistry between the two would improve "the more games we play". — AFP

Inami wins LPGA Japan Classic after Hataoka collapse

Inami, Olympic silver medalist, expressed her recent struggles before the LPGA event co-sanctioned by JLPGA Tour.

TOKYO Olympics silver medallist Mone Inami got her game together at just the right time to win the LPGA Japan Classic on Sunday, as overnight co-leader Nasa Hataoka imploded.

Inami, who beat New Zealand's Lydia Ko in a playoff to finish second behind American Nelly Korda at the Tokyo Games two years ago, said

she had been "struggling" heading into the LPGA event co-sanctioned by Japan's JLPGA Tour.

She began the final day one shot behind Hataoka and Japanese compatriot Shiho Kuwaki and steadily worked her way into the lead with four birdies and a bogey in a three-under-par round of 69. — AFP



This photo taken on 17 September 2023 shows a view of the automated container terminal of Shanghai Yangshan Deep Water Port in east China's Shanghai. The sixth China International Import Expo (CIIE) is scheduled to take place from 5 November to 10 November in Shanghai. With the sixth CIIE just around the corner, preparations are in full swing. **PHOTO: XINHUA/WANG YIMING**

Dialogue and cooperation in the interests of Australia, China: Australian PM

Traded goods and services have nearly doubled since the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement came into force in 2015, making more and more high-quality Australian products available to consumers in China and providing key inputs to Chinese businesses.

IT is in the interests of Australia and China to have a relationship through dialogue and cooperation, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said here on Sunday.

Albanese made the remarks during his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the sixth China International Import Expo and the Hongqiao International Economic Forum.

This is his seventh visit to China,

and his first as prime minister of Australia, said Albanese.

This year Australia and China mark three important anniversaries: the establishment of Australia's first embassy in China, the signing of the first trade agreement between the two countries, and the first visit by then Australian Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, which all happened 50 years ago, he said.

The prime minister added that China-Australia relations are mature with a complementary nature.

For instance, traded goods and services have nearly doubled since the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement came into force in 2015, making more and more high-quality Australian products available to consumers in China and providing key inputs to Chinese businesses, he said. — Xinhua

ARMED ASSAILANT BREACHES AIRPORT SECURITY

Hamburg airport flights halted over 'hostage' situation

AIR traffic at Hamburg airport remained suspended Sunday over a suspected hostage situation on the tarmac involving a child, local authorities said.

A gunman rammed his car through the security area onto the apron where planes are parked on Saturday evening, firing two shots in the air and flinging two burning bottles out of the vehicle, police said.

On Sunday morning the airport management posted on X, formerly Twitter, that efforts to negotiate with the driver of the vehicle were still ongoing.

"The police operation continues, air traffic remains suspended until further notice," posted the management of the northern German airport. Police spokeswoman Sandra Levgrun told the regional channel of public television NDR that it is believed a father and his child are in the car.

Authorities have said a "custody dispute" is believed to be the cause of the incident, with the wife of the driver placing an emergency call alerting police to the abduction of her child. The daily Bild newspaper reported that the driver is 35 years old and of Turkish nationality, and that the child is a girl aged four years old. — AFP

New eye-catching railway inspection train to debut in Japan

The new train operates efficiently as it's self-driving, unlike the older inspection train used before Japan's railway privatization in 1987.

A Japanese railway operator has developed a new inspection train, Big Eye, featuring headlights that resemble a pair of eyeballs, aiming to streamline its maintenance work with digitalized functions.

Kyushu Railway Co will hold test runs from this month through next March in southwestern Japan before its full-fledged debut to evaluate the equipment's durability, accuracy of data measurement and for building a system for data analysis, it said. While the conventional maintenance

relies largely on visual inspection, the Big Eye is equipped with laser sensors and cameras to detect track distortions while utilizing big data collected by devices, JR Kyushu said.

The new train can be operated more efficiently, as it is capable of self-driving without a locomotive to pull it, it said, unlike the current active inspection train that has been in use since before 1987 when the state-owned Japanese National Railways was privatized. — Kyodo



Kyushu Railway Co unveils track gauging car Big Eye to the media in Kitakyushu, Fukuoka Prefecture, southwestern Japan, on 19 October 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**