

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Vice-Senior General Soe Win calls for lending a helping hand to persons with disabilities under policy on leaving no one behind regardless of disabilities

In implementing the sustainable development goals which is the theme: United in action to rescue and achieve the sustainable development goals for, with and by persons

with disabilities to mark the 2023 International Day of Persons with Disabilities, it is necessary to uphold a policy on leaving no one behind for the rights of the persons with

disabilities, said Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

At the ceremony to mark the 2023 International Day of Persons with Disabilities held at the Myanmar International

Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, Chairman of the National Committee for the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities Vice-Chairman of the State

Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win delivered a speech on the rights of the persons with disabilities.

SEE PAGE-3



A building made of bamboo pieces. **PHOTO: AYE LIN TUN(ZEYAR)**

Bamboo furniture and accessories fetching good prices

Bamboo furniture and accessories are drawing buyer's attention in the domestic market, fetching good prices, according to U Kyaw Win, an official of the Myanmar Bamboo Society.

He also said that the use of bamboo-made furniture and accessories in buildings and restaurants becomes popular and the demand has been increasing.

"Young people seem to like natural

decorations, and in restaurants, you can see bamboo chairs and lamps are used as part of the decoration. As for the price, the price of even a small bamboo lamp ranges from K15,000 to K60,000," he said.

Arrangements are being made to attract hotels and restaurants to buy bamboo crafts like tables, chairs, cupboards, shoe racks, dish racks.

"Currently, bamboo accessories are

popular in the overseas market and local businesses should strive to export bamboo handicrafts abroad as they can win more markets," suggested a businessman.

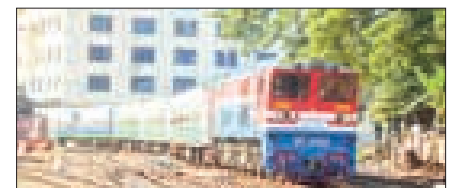
In order to penetrate foreign markets with bamboo accessories and furniture, availability of raw materials and skilled workers poses a challenge, according to the local bamboo businesses. — MT/TH

NATIONAL PAGE-2



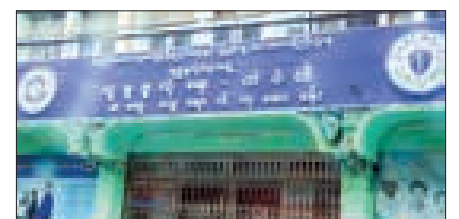
Deputy Health Minister inspects dental treatment, surgical operation on patients with cleft lips and palates

NATIONAL PAGE-5



Yangon-Mandalay train schedules changed commencing on 1 December

NATIONAL PAGE-6



52 contract clinics of SSB in operation meeting international standard

BUSINESS PAGE-7



A tonne of black gram price rises more K1.1 mln than that of similar period last year

NATIONAL

State economic promotion fund contributes to enhance livestock breeding farms



Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Gyi visits Hein Mahar broiler farm in Pantin Village in Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw on 2 December 2023.

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is trying to reduce the commodity prices and trying to maintain stability while striving for high production of meat, eggs, milk and dairy products. Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Soe and departmental officials met with the livestock farmers who operate their farms with the State economic promotion fund in Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the Deputy Minister discussed the taking care of bio-security in

livestock farms and to improve the market-based agricultural produce. Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Soe and officials also talked about the actions and processes of the livestock farming in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Then, they checked the progress of sugarcane research and technological development farm, sugarcane plantation, agricultural awareness raising activities for farmers. The Deputy Minister visited Hein Mahar broiler farm in Pantin Village and a fish farm in Thitkhaukhwa Village. — MNA/TRKM

Cyclonic Storm News, No 8, 2023

19:00 MST Today on 3 December 2023

Cyclonic Storm Condition

According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the Cyclonic Storm "MICHAUNG" over Southwest Bay of Bengal has moved North-westwards. It is centred at about 675 Nautical miles West-Southwest of Coco Island, 760 Nautical miles West-Southwest of Hainggyigyun (Myanmar), 130 Nautical miles East of Puducherry, 120 Nautical miles East-Southeast of Chennai, 180 Nautical miles South-Southeast of Nellore and 250 Nautical miles South-Southeast of Machilipatnam (India). It is not moving towards Myanmar coasts, the present stage of the Cyclonic Storm "MICHAUNG" is coded yellow stage.

Position of Cyclonic Storm "MICHAUNG", centre pressure and wind

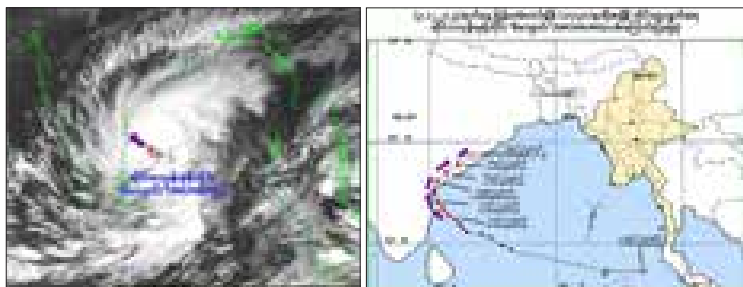
Cyclonic Storm "MICHAUNG" is located at Latitude 12.1 degree North and Longitude 82.0 degree East, centre pressure of Cyclonic Storm is 998 hPa and maximum wind speed near the center is 45 miles per hour at 5:30 pm MST today.

During next 60 hrs forecast

Cyclonic Storm "MICHAUNG" is likely continue to move Northwestwards, intensity further into a Severe Cyclonic Storm "MICHAUNG" and may reach Westcentral Bay of Bengal off South Andhra Pradesh and adjoining North Tamil Nadu coasts, India on 4.12.2023. Thereafter, it may move nearly Northwards almost parallel to South Andhra Pradesh coast and cross South Andhra Pradesh coast between Nellore and Machilipatnam, India on 5.12.2023.

Advisory

Due to the Cyclonic Storm "MICHAUNG" people should be aware rain or thundershowers with strong wind and domestic flight, trawlers, vessels and ships in off and along Myanmar Coasts. —DMH



Deputy Health Minister inspects dental treatment, surgical operation on patients with cleft lips and palates



Patients with cleft lips and palates are seen with their parents at Meiktila General Hospital on 2 December 2023.

DEPUTY Minister for Health Professor Dr Aye Tun inspected the University of Dental Medicine and the Orthopaedic Hospital in Mandalay yesterday.

He toured around the dental wards and gave instructions after meeting with the rector, professor and faculty members.

He also checked smart practice rooms, digital dentistry lab, scanning electron microscope room, molecular lab, histopathology lab, university library and a 50-bed

oral and maxillofacial surgery hospital.

At Mandalay Orthopaedic Hospital, the deputy minister visited the wards and comforted the patients. Then, he observed the status of the construction of a four-storey ward, inspected the musculoskeletal unit, laboratory and x-ray department, and talked with relevant specialists and staff.

On 2 December, the Deputy Minister oversaw the surgery of patients with cleft lips and palates at Meiktila General Hospital and provided

them with nutrition and cash assistance.

The operation was conducted by the Mandalay Region Department of Medical Services in collaboration with the University of Dental Medicine, Mandalay.

The surgical treatment is planned to be carried out from 1 to 4 December, with 29 patients being treated at Meiktila General Hospital while the remaining 11 are to be treated at the University of Dental Medicine, Mandalay. — MNA/NT/TH

NATIONAL

Vice-Senior General Soe Win calls for lending a helping hand to the persons with disabilities with policy on leaving no one behind regardless of disabilities

FROM PAGE-1

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General noted that the UN General Assembly adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 with the aim of overcoming challenges in social, economic and environmental affairs across the world, adding that of them, goals 1, 4, 8, 10, 11 and 17 are concerning with the affairs of those with disabilities.

He gave detail instructions for implementing these goals in Myanmar. He underlined that Myanmar signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 7 December 2011, and the country enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law in 2015 and the rules in 2017.

Moreover, he continued that the National Committee for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was formed in 2017, and it is implementing the five-year strategic plan 2022-27 for the rights of persons with disabilities in accord with the Myanmar's sustainable development plan and ASEAN Strategic Action Plan 2015.

The five-year strategic plan comprises all sectors such as health, education, jobs and employments, social protection, natural disasters and other emergency state, and accessible utilization for the persons with disabilities and the government will implement the action plans of five-year strategic plan, he added.

In reviewing each chapters of the strategic plan, it is connected with the Sustainable Development Goals. So, implementing the five-year strategic plan is equal to realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, he explained.

Vice Chair-1 of the national committee Union Minister Dr Soe Win clarified implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities.

The video message and the video clip to mark the 2023 International Day



Vice-Senior General Soe Win views round documentary photos related to the persons with disabilities at the ceremony to mark 2023 International Day of Persons with Disabilities in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Children from School for the Child with Disabilities (Yangon) perform traditional dances to audiences at the ceremony to mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities yesterday.

of Persons with Disabilities sent by the UN Secretary General was shown.

Chairman of the Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities U Thein Han spoke words of thanks.

The Vice-Senior General presented prizes to winners in the open article contest to mark the international day. Union Ministers General Mya Tun Oo, Admiral Tin Aung San and Dr Soe Win also presented prizes to winners in the commemorative occasions.

The Vice-Senior General and party viewed round books, handiworks and documentary photos related to the persons with disabilities displayed at the ceremony.

Myanmar has been marking the 2023 International Day of Persons with Disabilities since 1994 for ensuring qualification improvement of the persons with disabilities in Myanmar society, implementing the equal rights of those persons and recognizing the prestige and capability of the persons with disabilities.

The ceremony was also attended by SAC members, senior military officers, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, deputy ministers, representatives of international organizations, officials from the federation and guests. — MNA/TTA

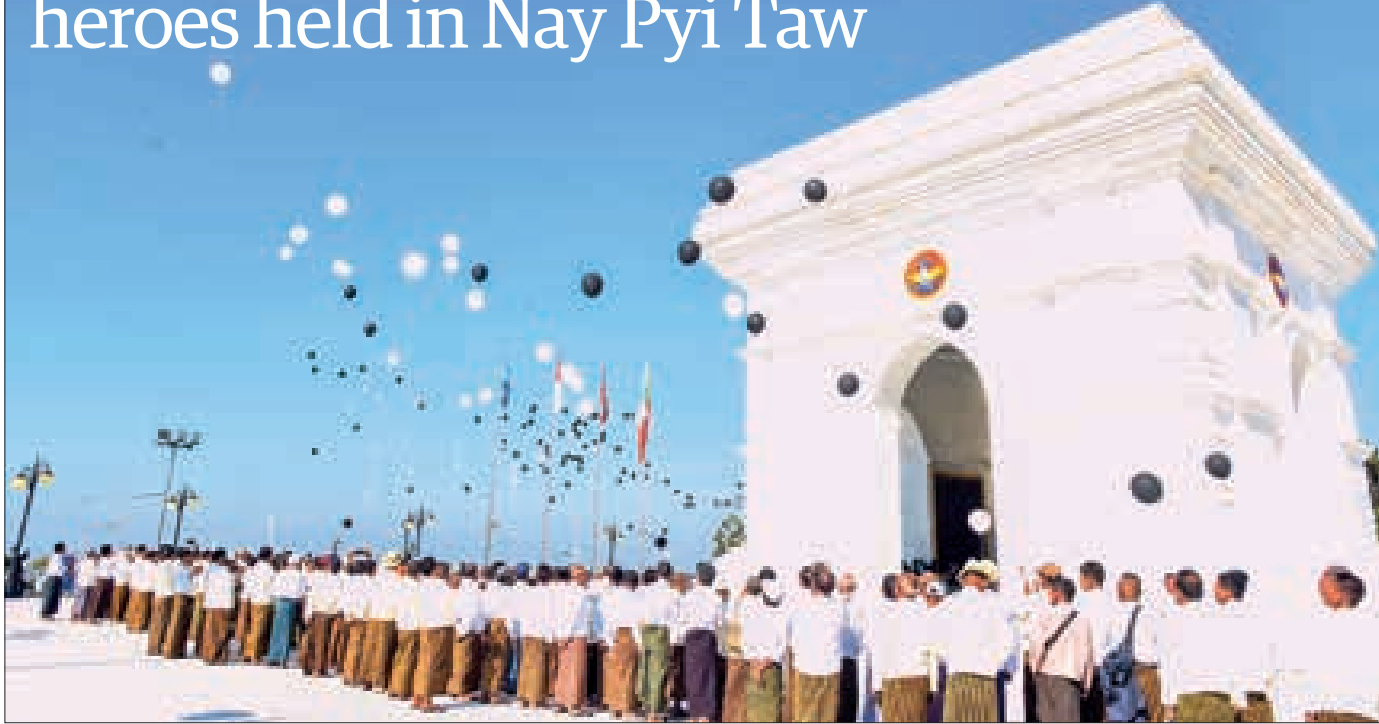
Salient points of the speech delivered by Vice-Senior General Soe Win in ceremony to mark 2023 International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2023

- Myanmar upholds a policy on leaving no one behind for the rights of the persons with disabilities.
- Myanmar signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 7 December 2011, and the country enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law in 2015.
- Myanmar implements five-year strategic plan 2022-27 for the rights of persons with disabilities.



NATIONAL

10th ceremony of paying tributes to fallen heroes held in Nay Pyi Taw



The event of paying tributes to fallen heroes takes place at the Memorial to Fallen Heroes (Nay Pyi Taw) in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE 10th ceremony of paying tributes to fallen heroes who sacrificed their lives for the State security, rule of law and sovereignty throughout the years took place at the Memorial to Fallen Heroes (Nay Pyi Taw) in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Lt-Gen Teza Kyaw of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Soe Min Oo, senior military officers, chairman of the Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central

Executive Committee Lt-Gen Sein Win (retired) and members, leaders of political parties, the Yaung Ni Oo and Friends charity organization, the Shwe Pyi Taw Thoh Sone Hmat charity organization, and Tatmadaw admirers attended the ceremony.

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the attendees sang the national anthem, saluted the State flag, paid tributes to fallen Tatmadaw members and recited four oaths.

Then, they observed a two-minute moment of silence for fallen heroes, released balloons, symbolizing the heroes' ascent to the heaven, and freed doves for ensuring the perpetual peace. They also laid wreaths for the fallen.

After the ceremony, the well-wishers offered dawn meals and alms to monks at the Thadayon Monastery in Pobbathiri Township dedicating to the fallen Tatmadaw members and shared their merits gained. — MNA/NT

AA terrorists forcibly take departmental vehicles in MraukU Township

WITH the aim of undermining the State stability and peace, and stopping the commodity flow, the terrorists are committing the attacks on the wards, cities, villages where civilians live and are not military targets, attacking the schools and religious buildings with heavy weapons and drop bombs, blowing up the public roads and bridges and forcibly taking the State property.

Moreover, the terrorists abduct and kill the innocent people and the government service personnel who live peacefully, for no reason.

The AA terrorists forcibly took two departmental vehicles from the district development supervision office in Tamariz Ward, MraukU, Rakhine State at around 5:40 pm on 26 November, three office vehicles from the world heritage management office of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum in Alezay Ward of MraukU at around 1:30 pm on 28 November, two vehicles from the Department of Rural Development at around 12:45 pm on 29 November, one vehicle from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture of MraukU District at about 8:45 am on 30 November and one vehicle from MraukU District Election Sub-commission Office, totalling nine.

Their violent actions disrupt the State Peace and stability in daily lives of local people. It is reported the security forces will continue to work together with the public to launch military operation against terrorism for ensuring peace and stability of the region. — MNA/TRKM

Illegal immigrants handed over to relevant authorities

THE government is focusing on national stability and law and order in all regions and states, including the border areas. As some foreign nationals are illegally entering and residing in Myanmar through land borders, administrative organizations conduct necessary checks

and repatriate them to relevant countries under the law.

A total of 168 illegal immigrants, comprising 158 males and 10 females, were repatriated to China through Chinese officials. Therefore, a total of 10,952 illegal immigrants, including 9,755 males

and 1,197 females, were repatriated to China from 31 October to 3 December.

The government will continue the process of screening and repatriation for foreign nationals who have illegally entered and resided in the border areas. — MNA/KZW

Drugs seized in South Okkalapa, Tachilek townships

DRUGS were seized in South Okkalapa and Tachilek townships, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

A combined team con-

sisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched the house of Aung Htun Lin (aka) Anteik in No 5 ward of South Okkalapa township at 1

pm on 1 December and seized 15,400 stimulant tablets and one kilogramme of marijuana.

At 11.30 am the same day, police searched a motorbike

driven by Maung Gyin on Hweye detour in Loitawkham Village-tract of Tachilek Township and seized 200,000 stimulant tablets.

The offenders are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS

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NATIONAL

Yangon-Mandalay train schedules changed commencing on 1 December



One of the Myanmar Railways' trains is seen approaching the station. PHOTO: SOE MYINT AUNG

ACCORDING to the information received from the Yangon Railway Station Superintending Office of the Myanmar Railways, the running schedules of Yangon to Mandalay and Mandalay to Yangon trains have been changed since 1 December.

This change reportedly has to be imposed because of the upgrading works of the railways being conducted and during which the trains have to use only one way direction; and therefore, in order to have

convenient train schedules between up and down trains, the operating timetables need to be adjusted.

According to the new schedules, No 5-Up airbag express train from Yangon to Mandalay commences its journey from Yangon at 3:30 pm whereas No 6-Down airbag express train from Mandalay to Yangon commences the journey from Mandalay at 3:30 pm respectively.

The report further states that No 3-Up express train from

Yangon to Mandalay starts at 4:45 pm from Yangon. Again, No 4-Down express train from Mandalay to Yangon starts running at 4:45 pm from Mandalay.

What is more, No 1-Up local train from Yangon to Mandalay departs for Mandalay at 9 pm from Yangon; and No 2-Down local train from Mandalay to Yangon leaves at 5:30 pm from Mandalay. The Myanmar Railways also notified that no tickets are sold via online at all. — ASH/TMT

MFF discusses matters on development of football sports

THE Myanmar Football Federation executive committee meeting 2/2023 was held yesterday at Novotel Max Hotel (Yangon).

At the meeting, U Zaw Zaw, President of the Myanmar Football Federation, gave an opening speech and discussed the proposals of the executive members in attendance.

Next, Dr Sai Sam Tun, Vice President of the Myanmar Football Federation, discussed that in order to achieve success in the national team competitions, they will try to increase income from sponsorship and broadcast media rights, along with accounting clarifications.

Afterwards, U Kyaw San, chairman of the Infrastructure Committee, discussed plans to build the Myanmar Women's Football Academy in Mandalay, High Performance Centre (HPC)

and Referee Academy, and support from FIFA and Asian Football Confederation.

Subsequently, the Myanmar Football Federation officials discussed the organization of youth competitions, the development of futsal sports, plans to open a futsal coaching course in contact with the Asian Football Confederation, implementation of the "Football for Schools Programme" sponsored by FIFA, the participation of national football teams in international tournaments in 2024 and launching of referee courses.

After that, the MFF Election Commission discussed the communication activities with the FIFA for holding the Myanmar Football Federation Congress. The Myanmar Football Federation Congress will be held on 30 December. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Confiscated illegal items: Teak, industrial materials, foodstuffs, consumer goods and vehicles

DURING inspections on 1 December, customs on-duty teams supervised by the Customs Department impounded two kinds of goods worth K36.71 million, including a National icemaker and refrigerator and 480 bottles of Sapporo Japan beer that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a container; 18 types of goods valued at K77,771,500 including 100 sets of capacitor start motors that were not declared in the ID and two kinds of goods worth K15 million including 150 electric rice cookers that were different from ID from a container at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint and a Higer express (approximately K30 million),

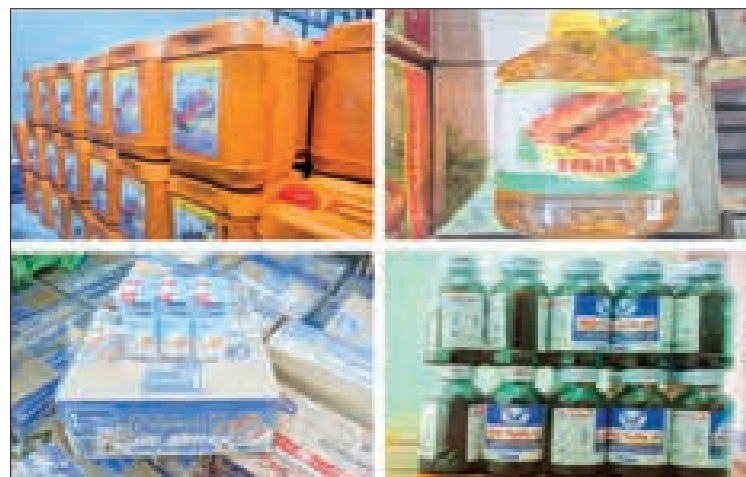
travelling from Myeik to Yangon, ten types of goods valued at K2.017 million including 200 kilogrammes of Aikoni motor oil without official documents. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The combined team seized seven types of goods valued at K129.704 million, including 1,300 jerrycans of One Shrimp brand (18 litres each) and 200 bottles of Two Shrimp brand (five litres each) without official documents at the Mibamyitta convenience store near Shwegyin Tollgate on Madaya-Mandalay Road on 1 December. The action was conducted under Customs procedures.

On the same day, the combined team captured a Mitsub-

ishi Fuso tractor head with a trailer (estimated value of K90 million), heading to Yangon from Myawady, carrying 1,920 pieces of Waistcoat worth K4.8 million that were not declared in the ID at the Ywathagyi Dry Port. These actions were taken under Customs procedures.

On 2 December, combined teams nabbed a total of 11.212 tonnes of illegal teak worth K3,644,704 in Bago district and a Mitsubishi Canter (estimated value of K20 million), heading to Yangon from Mawlamyine, carrying three kinds of goods worth K1.25 million including 90 lady's purses without official documents at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray station. The action was



Palm oil containers and bottles and other illegal goods seized in Mandalay Region on 1 December.

taken under the Forest Law and Customs procedures.

A total of 17 arrests were made on 1 and 2 December,

with an estimated value of K410,897,204, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL



Some Chinese tourists at the Yangon International Airport.

Fam trip underway to woo Chinese visitors

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is planning a familiarization trip to attract more visitors

from China.

The ministry has scheduled the trip for January and will in-

vite about 40 guests from Yunnan Province, including tour companies, media, influencers and bloggers. The trip is planned to inform potential visitors about travel conditions in Yangon, Bagan and Mandalay, and clear misconceptions surrounding Myanmar. — TWA/NT

New installation fee of household electric meters risen on 1 Dec

AS the statement of the Ministry of Electric Power, new installation charge of household electric meters was increased starting from 1 December.

Former installation fee of AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) was rated at K120,000 per unit and now, it is rated K250,000 of the installation charge starting of 1 December 2023.

According to the press release, starting from 1 December, the costs for meter application registration fee, household meter installation fee, meter box, breaker, security deposit, wiring fee, power supply fee, supervision fee, totalled K250,000 and only the installation fee of household electric meters are changed and the other fees are still the same. — TWA/TRKM



Household electric metres installed in a contract building.

52 contract clinics of SSB in operation meeting international standard

A total of 52 contract clinics that have signed under an agreement with Social Security Board are operating in accordance with the international standards, according to Union Minister for Labour U Myint Naung.

The Union minister explained above statement during a meeting held on 1 December with officials of the contract clinic regarding the conditions of providing medical treatment for the insured workers at the clinics that have signed under an agreement with the Social Security Board.

In April 2018, contract clinics were opened using the internationally successful Provider Purchaser Split (Capitation Payment) system. At present, twenty-four capitation payment system con-



A clinic of SSB.

tract clinics and twenty-eight fee for service payment contract clinics have been opened. Due to the fact that female workers are

about two-thirds of the covered insured workers, additional services for obstetrics and Specialist OG OPD Care including mater-

nity services were provided with twelve contract clinics/labour rooms. The Union minister also urged all to make efforts to im-

prove the appearance of workers' hospitals and to improve service passionately.

SSB is providing two main processes of Providing Free Medical Care and Providing Cash Benefits, in order to fully meet the health service needs of insured workers, in addition to the workers' hospitals, township social welfare clinics owned by the SSB, contract hospitals/clinics have been opened in cooperation with the private sector.

Since 2015, SSB has been joining hands with Carewell Medical Co Ltd in operating group-owned clinics to provide medical services including medical management services, replenishment of necessary medical staff, drugs and medical equipment. — TWA/TKO

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A tonne of black gram price rises more K1.1 mln than that of similar period last year



A purchaser is observing the quality of black gram at a beans and pulses shop.

THE black gram prices in Yangon bean market has been slightly increasing while the prices of both domestic and free-on-board (FOB) of the pigeon peas are steadily decreasing this month.

A tonne of black gram RC was K2.78 million on 29 November; then, it rose up to K2.87 million on 1 December. Therefore, the price for one tonne of black gram was K90,000 higher in the market within four days.

Likewise, prices of the export-

ed FOB pulses are also soaring. In detailed, the price of a tonne of the black gram FAQ on 27-29 November was US\$980/1,000. However, it ranged between \$990 and \$1,010 during 30 November and 2 December.

The prices of new black gram in Mandalay market is ranging from K210,000 to K245,000 for a pack that weights a sixty visses of black gram while the price of old black gram was K275,000 and irrigated black gram price is ranging from K 210,000 to

K230,000.

In fact, a tonne of black gram price in Yangon market on 2 December 2022 was only K1,738,000. However, the price soars this year since it increases over K1,132,000 higher than that of last year on 2 December 2023.

Also, one basket of black gram price (approximately 32 kilogrammes of black gram) for one acre of productivity gets more K40,000 than that of same period last year.

The black gram is one of the summer crops that are grown in lower part of Myanmar to replace the rainy season crops. The summer crops usually involve chilli, black gram and green gram.

The new black grams are transported to Yangon bean market in lower Myanmar usually in February and March.

The black gram is usually grown in August in central Myanmar and starts arriving in market usually in early January. However, the new black gram from Mandalay are arriving in the market this year earlier than before; and therefore, the price for a pack of (approximately 96 kilogrammes) of black gram that weights 60 visses declines more K30,000.

Notwithstanding, beans and pulses prices this year are soaring than last year. Therefore, black gram growing farmers earn more income this year. — TWA/TMT



A vehicle is lining up for octane fuel.

Diesel used vehicles cost less than octane used vehicles

IN the domestic fuel market, the price of diesel is usually higher than octane, but at the beginning of this month, diesel is still three hundred kyats cheaper than octane per litre.

Truck terminal operator, U San Win told the GNLM that diesel vehicles (especially trucks) are much cheaper than octane vehicles and rental vehicles.

On 1 December, the price of 92 and 95 octane oil increased by K340 kyats per litre, but diesel only increased by K10 per litre. From 2 to 4 December, 92 octane is K2,510 per litre, 95 is K2,640 per litre, diesel is K2,210 per litre, and premium diesel is K2,305 per litre as per reports.

On 1 June 2015, the retail price of 92 octane was K730 for one litre and diesel was K690, but on 7 August, when the price of fuel oil fell in 2022, 92 octane was K1,615 per litre, and diesel was K1,970. On 31 August, the price of 92 octane was K2,605 per litre, and diesel was K3,245 per litre.

On 4 May 2023, the price of 92 octane was K1,905 per litre, and diesel was K1,795 per litre. However, on 5 May, one litre of 92 octane was K1,990, and diesel was K2,405 again. At the end of that period, the price of 92 octane was lower than diesel, and in early December, the price of 92 octane increased more than diesel.

Around 60,000 taxis operating in Yangon use octane as well as gas-powered vehicles, therefore, due to the increase prices of octane, most passengers choose gas-powered vehicles for their journey to cut cost. — TWA/TKO

Three invested businesses approved to generate 744 jobs in industrial, agricultural sectors

THE Myanmar Investment Commission approved three new investment projects that will create 744 local job opportunities in the industrial and agricultural sectors on 1 December.

In the meeting held at the office of the Union Government in Nay Pyi Taw, the Myanmar Investment Commission approved investments amounting to US\$0.180 million and more than K300 billion.

Till the end of October 2023, among 52 countries and regions that have invested in Myanmar, the largest investor countries are Singapore, China, and Thailand, respectively.

Among 12 kinds of businesses in Myanmar, 28.49 per cent of the total investment flowed into the energy sec-



The photo catches the archway of Thilawa Special Economic Zone, where numerous multinational companies engaged in investment and operations.

tor. The investments for oil and natural gas sector accounted for 24.44 per cent

and the industrial sector, 14.39 per cent, respectively. — TWA/KZW

OPINION

Foster workplace equality for a joyful society

In the pursuit of earning a livelihood, individuals encounter an array of challenges in the workplace. While some hurdles can be surmounted and problems set aside, the persistent spectre of discrimination, bullying, and stress remains a formidable adversary in professional environments.

Discrimination, particularly against different groups such as gender, can sow the seeds of disputes, controversies, and operational difficulties within workplaces. The repercussions of such discrimination extend beyond individual suffering, negatively impacting the efficiency of the workforce and jeopardizing the interests of employers. Consequently, the issue of discrimination becomes a concern that resonates throughout society.

Discrimination, defined as the unfair or prejudicial treatment of individuals based on their belonging to certain groups, classes, or categories, is a pervasive problem. Women, minorities, individuals of diverse sexual orientations, those who have undergone gender

reassignment, HIV patients, individuals with disabilities, and those suspected of infectious diseases often find themselves on the receiving end of discriminatory practices.

Despite the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaiming the entitlement of every individual to rights and protections without facing discrimination, the global landscape falls short of fulfilling this commitment. It is disheartening to note that discrimination is not only propagated by authorized individuals within organizations but is also perpetuated by colleagues, families, and members of society.

Discrimination based on gender, skin colour, personality, and unequal power dynamics can breed disunity among employees, triggering workplace bullying. Instances of teasing, assaults beyond constructive criticism, defamation of character, intimidation, and

excessive forced labour become prevalent, creating a toxic work environment.

Recognizing that workplaces serve as a second home for employees, it becomes crucial to foster environments where individuals are not only active but also happy. The alignment of employer and employee interests is paramount for the success of businesses. Building workplaces that emulate the unity of families ensures that the collective strength of both employers and employees can overcome challenges.

Consequently, the responsibility to eliminate discrimination does not rest solely on employers; employees must also contribute to fostering inclusive workplaces. Embracing diversity in gender, age, physical and mental capabilities, religious beliefs, educational backgrounds, economic status, personality, and relationship styles is imperative for creating a workplace that is not only harmonious but also conducive to individual and collective growth. By doing so, workplaces and societies can aspire to reach new heights of improvement and prosperity. ■

In October 2023, the city of Hanoi, for the first time at a state level, hosted the Forum of Foreign Graduates from Soviet and Russian Universities – representatives of the education and healthcare systems of Asian countries (Fig.1). This large-scale Forum, organized by Rossotrudnichestvo and Humanitarian Education and Testing Institute, was attended by representatives from 13 countries—Bangladesh, Vietnam, India, Indonesia, China, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand and Sri Lanka. After the Forum, the graduates of Soviet and Russian universities from different countries shared their thoughts on the future of relations between Russia and the countries of Southeast Asia.

Q1. What is your impression of the Forum?

Answers

Dr Hlaing Min Oo (Myanmar), “I would like to express my special respect and pride to the organizers for the invitation to take part in this sonorous Forum. I also thank all the forum participants for the topical problems discussed at the Forum and for your interesting experience in promoting education and healthcare. I received a lot of important and valuable information. Truly a wonderful and amazing Forum. Everything went at the highest level and made a strong impression. The sympathetic, warm attitude towards me from the organizers of this Forum will forever remain in my memory.”

Siviengphet Phetvorasak (Lao), “The Forum in Hanoi, in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, has become the most important platform for discussing problems related to the current state and development of education and healthcare in the Russian Federation and Asian countries. The Forum allowed participants to share opinions on current aspects of education and healthcare and get to know each other. In addition, the Forum contributed significantly to developing and strengthening friendship and cooperation between foreign graduates of Soviet and Russian universities and leaders of Russian universities. In short, the Forum in Hanoi has conquered the hearts of all participants, especially the delegation of Laos.”

Jainal Abedin (Bangla-

Exclusive Interview

Graduates from Russian universities meet in Hanoi: Reflections after the forum



Fig.1. Forum of Foreign Graduates from Soviet and Russian Universities - representatives of the education and healthcare systems of Asian countries



Fig. 3. Pavel Shevtsov, head of Rossotrudnichestvo Agency, presenting Dr Hlaing Min Oo with a certificate of advanced training and souvenirs.

desh), “This was a unique event for graduates of Soviet and Russian universities, which will remain forever in our memory. The Forum in Hanoi was very useful for developing relations between the Russian Federation government authorities and alumni associations of Asian countries.”

Dr Ratindra Nath (Nepal), “It was a wonderful experience because after a long break, we, graduates of Soviet and Russian universities from Asian countries, had an excellent opportunity to communicate with each other, as well as with senior officials of Rossotrudnichestvo

and leading Russian universities. We shared our experience about the functioning of education and healthcare systems in our countries. Everything was great, but two days were insufficient for such a large-scale event. Rectors of Russian universities spoke about university academic programmes and the latest achievements of Russian science and technology. They invited international students to their universities for higher education. As Russian university leaders want to increase the number of international students from Asian countries, they need

to understand that our education system differs greatly from theirs. They must adapt their training programs and internship systems to our national characteristics. We are ready to assist them in carrying out this work.”

Ravdanzhamts Urgamal (Mongolia), “I think that the Forum is a HOLIDAY not only for me but also for all graduates of Russian and Soviet educational institutions. Therefore, I would like to congratulate all participants, organizers, and guests of the Forum once again on this wonderful day of our meeting



Fig.2. Dr Hlaing Min Oo, a representative from Myanmar, attended the discussion.



Fig. 4. Siviengphet Phetvorasak (Lao), a graduate of Kyiv State Pedagogical Institute of Foreign Languages, Director of the Center for Open Education at the Lao National University, former Ambassador of Laos to the Russian Federation, PhD in Philology

on behalf of the Mongolian Association of Soviet and Russian University Graduates (MAVSUZ) and myself personally! And I want to thank the organizers, and from the bottom of my heart, I wish you all health, happiness, prosperity and prosperity! Thank you - Vietnam!”

Hasan Shahid (Pakistan), “The Forum was organized with the participation of 13 Asian countries, namely Bangladesh, Vietnam, India, Indonesia, China, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand and Sri Lanka. Thanks to the efforts of the Humanitarian

Education and Testing Institute and the Rossotrudnichestvo team headed by the Deputy Head of Rossotrudnichestvo Pavel Shevtsov, the Forum created an atmosphere for fruitful work and further cooperation.”

Q2- Which Forum events do you particularly remember?

Dr Hlaing Min Oo (Myanmar): “I have special memories about the grand opening ceremony of the Forum, during which the leaders of Rossotrudnichestvo, rectors and vice-rectors of Russian universities, and Forum participants from 13 countries

were represented. It was also interesting to listen to reports, state problems and exchange opinions expressed by famous people during discussions (round tables), and take part in an advanced training course for foreign graduates, “Management in Education and Healthcare”, which was conducted by experienced teachers.”

Siviengphet Phetvorasak (Lao): “My special memories are related to the round table “Development of cooperation in the sphere of education and healthcare between Russia and Asian countries”, which allowed

me and my colleagues from other Asian countries to discuss issues related to interaction with Russia in the field of education and healthcare, share experience, find common ground and attract attention of Soviet and Russian university graduates on the role of Russian as a foreign language in Asian countries. In addition, we exchanged up-to-date technologies with the representatives of Russian universities and received recommendations which were useful for the round table participants.”

Jainal Abedin (Bangladesh): “It was the second day when, within the framework of the sections, we could hear speeches from many representatives of the Russian delegation. There were also interesting speeches in Russian by graduates from different Asian countries.”

Dr Ratindra Nath (Nepal): “I really liked the plenary session, where the leaders of graduate associations from different Asian countries took the floor. They talked about their achievements in the fields of education and healthcare. Along with the leaders of associations, the Forum brought together successful graduates who have achieved significant career heights in science, education, and healthcare. One of the sections of the Forum was devoted to strengthening scientific cooperation and the implementation of joint scientific projects by scientists from Russia and Asian countries. Particular attention was paid to the proliferation of the Russian language, literature and culture in Asian countries, and the development of education in the Russian language.”

Ravdanzhamts Urgamal (Mongolia): “I liked all the Forum events. It was useful and interesting. What I remember most is the advanced training course for the graduates, where we worked in groups, got to know each other and discussed issues common to us related to teaching the Russian language in Asian countries. It means that a critical discussion took place at the Forum.”

Hasan Shahid (Pakistan): “This forum took me back to my days of youth when I met old friends from my university.”

TO BE CONTINUED

SCI/TECH WORLD

Nuclear power has role to play, atomic energy head tells AFP at COP28



Nuclear power plant in Tihange, Belgium. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/BELGA/ERIC LALMAND/AFP/FILE**

Rafael Grossi, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, emphasizes that dismissing nuclear power based on issues at a few projects would be an error. This suggests a nuanced view that takes into account the broader potential of nuclear energy.

It would be a mistake to reject nuclear power because of problems at a handful of projects, Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency said in an interview with AFP.

Grossi was speaking at the COP28 conference in Dubai, where 20 countries led by the United States called Saturday for nuclear power capacity to be tripled by 2050 to fight global warming.

Supporters of atomic power say it is an essential source

of reliable emissions-free energy.

But detractors point to the risks and high costs of massive nuclear projects at a time when the price of renewable energies continues to fall. "There is work to do," Grossi admitted, citing the financing needs of countries that wish to extend their nuclear plants, such as Brazil, Argentina, and South Africa.

Grossi said countries tempted to take the nuclear leap, including Morocco, Senegal, Kenya and the Philippines,

face similar challenges.

"There are statutes in some international lending organisations that exclude financing for nuclear," the Argentinian director general said.

"I think that is completely obsolete. It does not correspond to any scientific or technological criteria."

The World Bank, for instance, has not financed a nuclear project since 1959.

"I think, and I hope there will be an evolution" in their thinking, Grossi said. — AFP

Rise of the web's 'pay for privacy' model

USERS of Facebook and Instagram in Europe can now pay to opt out of the onerous data sharing obligations imposed by parent company Meta, which sells the data on to advertising clients.

Meta is the first major social media firm to try so-called cookie paywalls but the practice — which has sparked a slew of legal cases — is already widespread. **Why use paywalls?**

Idealists once dreamt of an open, free web where goods, services and ideas would flow unencumbered around the world.



In Europe, Facebook and Instagram users can pay to avoid Meta's data sharing requirements. **ILLUSTRATION: UNSPLASH/CCO PUBLIC DOMAIN**

But capitalism demands profits, and Google and Meta found that extracting personal information from their users and selling it on to advertisers was very profitable indeed. — AFP

Six exoplanets discovered in synchronised dance around star

The rare six-planet system is believed to have remained largely unchanged over at least four billion of years.

SIX exoplanets have been spotted in a perfectly synchronised dance around a nearby star, offering clues about the formation of our own Solar System, astronomers said on Wednesday.

The six planets orbit the bright star HD 110067 around 100 light years away from Earth. The star is visible from the Northern Hemisphere as part of the Coma Berenices constellation. The planets are so close to their star that all six would all fit into the orbit of Mercury and our Sun, Adrien Leleu, a researcher at the University of Geneva, told AFP.

All of the very hot planets

are somewhere between the size of Earth and Neptune, said Leleu, the co-author of a new study published in the journal Nature. All six have a similar make-up to Neptune — "a rocky body covered with a thick envelope of gas," he added.

None of these "sub-Neptunes" are thought to be far away enough from their star to host liquid water, a key ingredient for supporting life.

While not habitable, they are remarkable in another way: all six planets are precisely synchronised with each other in their orbit. — AFP



NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) first discovered two exoplanets orbiting the star in 2020. **PHOTO: NASA/FILE**

With outburst, Musk puts X's survival in the balance

ELON Musk's verbal assault on advertisers who have shunned X (formerly Twitter) threatens to sink the social network further, with the tycoon warning of the platform's demise, just one year after taking control.

"If somebody's gonna try to blackmail me with advertising, go fuck yourself," a visibly furious Musk told an interviewer in New York in front of an audience of the US business elite this week. Musk was lashing out at the advertisers who had abandoned his platform after Media Matters, a left-wing media watchdog group, warned big companies that their ads were running beside posts by neo-Nazis.

Walmart on Friday was the latest to join the exodus, follow-

ing the footsteps of IBM, Disney, Paramount, NBCUniversal, Lionsgate and others.

The latest controversy broke earlier this month when Musk declared a tweet exposing an anti-Semitic conspiracy theory as the "absolute truth".

Musk apologized for his tweet, even taking a trip to Israel to meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, but on Wednesday he targeted his anger squarely at advertisers.

"It doesn't take a social media expert to know that publicly and personally attacking the people in companies that pay X's bills is not going to be good for business," said analyst Jasmine Enberg of Insider Intelligence. — AFP

Erdogan weighs in on bank scam involving Turkish stars

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has warned Turks to steer clear of pyramid schemes amid a scandal involving Denizbank, a top bank accused of defrauding celebrities and football stars of millions of dollars.

PRESIDENT Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday urged Turks to steer clear of pyramid schemes as a scandal raged at a top bank that allegedly defrauded celebrities and football stars of millions of dollars.

Türkiye's media has been filled with headlines for days about the troubles at privately-owned Denizbank.

Court documents reported by Turkish media show that one of the bank's Istanbul branch managers orchestrated a \$44-million scheme that

promised 250-per-cent returns for those willing to hand over piles of cash.

The failed fund bore the name of Türkiye's legendary football coach Fatih Terim and allegedly defrauded stars such as former Barcelona midfielders Arda Turan.

Terim gained hero status by leading Istanbul's Galatasaray to the UEFA Cup title in 2000.

He has not said anything in public about the scandal.

The Istanbul branch bank manager who created the fund,



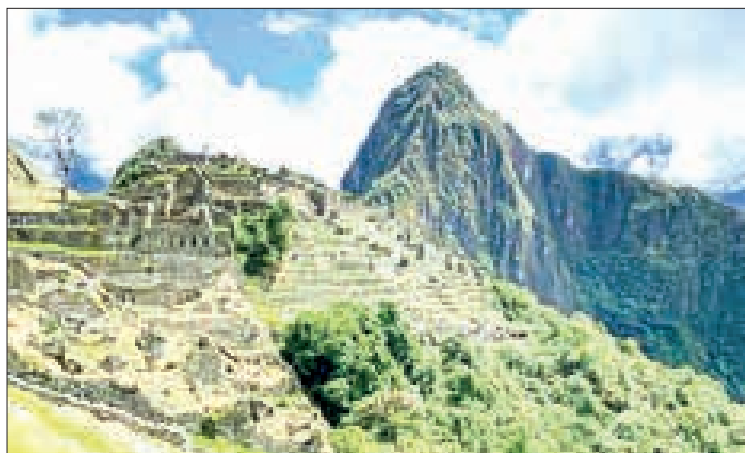
Legendary Turkish coach Fatih Terim led Galatasaray to UEFA Cup glory in 2000. **PHOTO: PHILIPPE HUGUEN/AFP**

and reportedly received bags full of dollars from celebrities and players, said that Denizbank managers knew about

the scheme. Denizbank has denied the claim and said it has launched an internal audit to investigate the fund's collapse.

Erdogan said Saturday that "investigations into the suspects mentioned in this case continue". — AFP

Peru boosts Machu Picchu access up to 5,600 visitors a day



The ancient Inca citadel of Machu Picchu was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1981. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The daily visitor limit for Machu Picchu has been raised to 4,500 individuals, with the possibility of further increases to 5,600 on specific dates starting from 1 January.

PERU is sharply boosting access to its top attraction Machu Picchu, officials said Saturday, in

an effort to revive tourism that has yet to rebound from the pandemic.

Access to the Inca citadel has been increased to 4,500 per day "and on very specific dates may be increased to 5,600" from 1 January, a Culture Ministry statement said.

The site currently allows 3,600 to 3,800 visitors per day. Last September Peru temporarily closed three sectors of Machu Picchu due to the impact of the heavy volume of visitors at the site.

Machu Picchu, 130 kilometers (80 miles) from Cusco, was built in the 15th century at an altitude of 2,500 metres (8,200 feet) on orders from the Inca ruler Pachacutec.

It is considered a marvel of architecture and engineering and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1981. — AFP

Heavy snow paralyses parts of southern Germany

HEAVY snowfall brought chaos to parts of southern Germany on Saturday, with air and rail traffic blocked in the Bavarian state capital of Munich.

After first suspending flights until noon Saturday (1100 GMT), Munich airport later said it would remain closed until 6:00 am (0500 GMT) on Sunday.

In total, 760 flights were affected, a spokesperson told AFP. More than 40 centimetres (16 inches) of snow fell overnight Friday to Saturday, according to weather services.

Authorities asked residents to stay home for their safety.

The winter weather also disrupted train traffic, with rail operator Deutsche Bahn saying

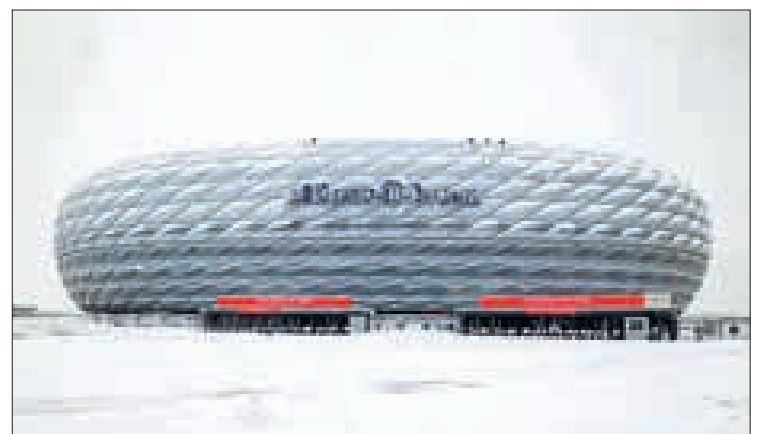
"The main Munich station cannot be served".

Deutsche Bahn said travellers should expect delays and cancellations throughout the region, and most buses, trams and suburban trains were not running in Munich.

Saturday's planned football championship match between Bayern Munich and Union Berlin has been called off.

Police in Lower Bavaria said they made 350 interventions linked to the weather Friday night, with five people slightly injured in car accidents.

Much of Germany has been subject to snow and freezing temperatures for several days. — AFP



A display reading "Stadium is closed" is seen in Munich on 2 December 2023. **PHOTO: ALEXANDRA BEIER/AFP**

Meditation supports wellbeing in older people

AN 18-month meditation programme can increase the well-being of older persons, according to a new randomised controlled trial led by an international team co-directed by UCL.

The findings, published in PLOS ONE, show that meditation can improve people's awareness, connection to others, and insight.

While the meditation training did not confer significant benefits on two commonly used measures of psychological wellbeing and quality of life, the researchers say their findings may reveal limitations in existing methods of tracking wellbeing. — ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

50 oil and gas companies pledge to cut operational emissions

FIFTY oil and gas companies representing 40 per cent of global production pledged to decarbonise their operations by 2050 at the UN's COP28 climate talks in Dubai on Saturday.

Saudi giant Aramco and ADNOC of the United Arab Emirates were among 29 national companies to sign a non-binding agreement that also envisaged zero methane emissions and eliminating routine flaring this decade.

Aramco, the world's biggest oil company, and ADNOC, whose CEO Sultan Al Jaber is president of COP28, had already announced similar CO2-reduction targets — which do not include emissions when their fuels are used by customers.

“Whilst many national oil companies have adopted net-zero 2050 targets for the first time, I know that they and others, can and need to do more,” Jaber said.

Unlike the Western oil majors, which are intensely scrutinised by the public, few large national oil companies had announced such targets.

PetroChina and Brazil's Petrobras also signed up to the new accord, named the Oil and Gas Decarbonization Charter.

The National Oil Company of Libya, Malaysia's Petronas and Sonangol of Angola were also among the signatories, along with France's TotalEnergies, US firm ExxonMobil, and Britain's BP and Shell. —AFP



A gas flare from a refinery in Ecuador. PHOTO: AFP

Nations rally behind renewables at COP28 climate talks



The COP 28 conference has kicked off in Dubai, with discussions scheduled to take place over the course of two weeks. PHOTO: AFP

The widespread use of renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydroelectric is crucial for achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

MORE than 110 nations pledged to triple the world's renewable energy within seven years at UN climate talks Saturday as the United States pushed to slash methane emissions and boost nuclear capacity.

With smoggy skies in Dubai highlighting the challenges facing the world, leaders at the COP28 conference threw their support behind voluntary pledges aimed at ramping up alternatives to fossil fuels. A massive deployment of solar, wind, hydro-

electric and other renewables is crucial to efforts to displace demand for planet-heating coal, oil and gas and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The nearly 200 nations negotiating a COP28 climate deal face tougher talks over the next two weeks on the fate of fossil fuels.

More than half signed up to a commitment to tripling global renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency by 2030, the COP28's Emirati presidency said.

But major oil producers including Russia, Saudi Arabia and Iran, and top consumer China were not on the list.

“I do need more, and I'm kindly requesting all parties to come on board as soon as possible please,” COP28 president Sultan Al Jaber told delegates.

“This can and will help transition the world away from unabated coal,” said Jaber, who also heads the UAE's national oil company and a renewable energy firm.— AFP

IMF to revise regional outlook over Israel-Hamas conflict

The IMF officials predict that tourism-dependent economies like Lebanon, which experienced a 45 percentage point decrease in hotel occupancy rates in October, will experience negative growth impacts.

THE IMF announced Friday that it will revise its economic outlook for the Middle East and North Africa region due to the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict.

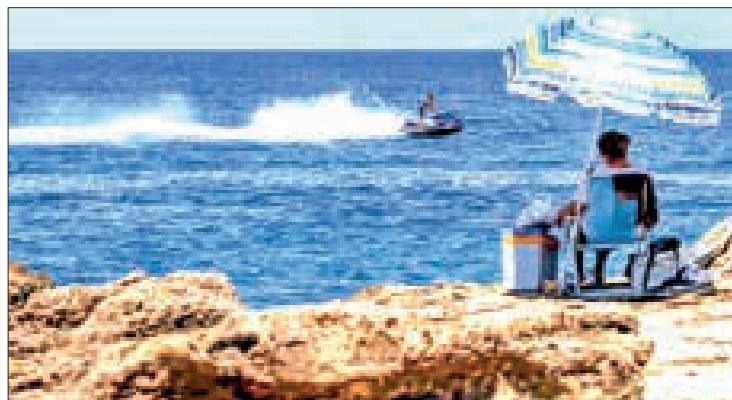
The conflict will have wide-ranging consequences for “both people and economies” in the region, although the extent of the impact remains “highly uncertain”, the International Monetary Fund staff wrote in a blog post.

It did not say if the revisions would be released ahead of its

next outlook publication, which is due in January.

“A large-scale conflict would constitute a major economic challenge for the region,” they said, calling on the international community to act to prevent further escalation.

In the event of a large-scale conflict, “what is certain is that forecasts for the most directly exposed economies will be downgraded and that policies to buffer economies against shocks and preserve stability will be criti-



A youth rides a personal watercraft (jetski) in the Mediterranean sea waters off Lebanon's northern coastal village of Kfarabida on 12 July 2023. PHOTO: JOSEPH EID / AFP

cal,” the post added.

Tourism hard hit

Israel resumed its deadly bombardment of the Gaza Strip on Friday after a fragile truce broke down, saying it had struck more than 200 targets in the

densely inhabited Palestinian territory despite international calls for a renewed pause.

In response, Israel announced it would destroy Hamas and began a relentless bombardment of the Palestinian territory.

More than 15,000 Palestinians, mostly civilians, have been killed across the Gaza Strip since then, according to the Hamas government's Ministry of Health, including at least 178 people on Friday alone.

Among the hardest-hit sectors in the region outside of Israel and the Palestinian territories has been tourism, which the IMF said accounted for between 35 per cent and almost 50 per cent of goods and services exports in MENA economies in 2019.

“Tourism-dependent economies like Lebanon, where hotel occupancy rates fell by 45 percentage points in October compared to a year ago, will see knock-on effects for growth,” the IMF officials said. — AFP

Syrian heritage display opens dialogue on Silk Road trade

A blue-and-white porcelain bottle from Syria reminds the audience at a north-western Chinese museum of the active civilizational exchanges along the ancient Silk Road.

Dating to the Mamluk Period (1250-1517), the ceramic bottle was made using Chinese techniques. It has pictures of a peacock, flowers and trees drawn in clear Chinese painting styles.

The bottle is strikingly similar in design to a Chinese counterpart at the Ningxia Museum: a brown glazed ceramic vase with flower patterns dating to the Western Xia Dynasty (1038-1227) and discovered in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

"The closeness of these ancient ceramics in Syria and Ningxia is one example of close exchanges between China and the West Asian region up to the Mediterranean in ancient times," said Wang Yi, head of the display department of the Ningxia Museum.

"Many relics unearthed here have also been proven to be imports from Persia, Iraq and Syr-



A blue-and-white porcelain bottle from Syria reminds the audience at a northwestern Chinese museum of the active civilizational exchanges along the ancient Silk Road. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

ia, and even the Eastern Roman Empire," said Wang.

At a parallel exhibition of ancient Ningxia heritage at the museum, one can see a long-necked glass bottle and a glass hanging bottle, believed to have been imported from West

Asia during the Sui and Tang dynasties (581-907).

"The earliest glass relic unearthed in Ningxia is a 6th-century glass plate from Persia," Wang said.

A total of 97 pieces or sets of cultural relics from Syria, including stoneware, bronzeware and statues,

are currently on display at the Ningxia Museum in Yinchuan, capital of Ningxia. Several cultural relics unearthed in Ningxia are also displayed to shed light on the cultural and trade exchanges between China and Syria in history. — Xinhua



File photo taken in December 2016 shows metal type at a printing company in Tokushima in western Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Japan firms pick kanji for "change" to describe turbulent 2023

THE kanji character for "change" was the top pick among Japanese firms to summarize 2023, a year that many saw as marked by turbulence, a research firm said.

The character, picked by nearly 60 firms, was followed by ones for "patience" and "endurance", according to Teikoku Databank, which conducted an online survey of almost 1,000 companies.

"There have been too many abnormalities this year, ranging from extreme weather and surging prices to (the war between) Russia and Ukraine and the Middle East situation. We had to change to cope with them," a wholesaler was quoted by the research

firm as saying.

While Japan's inflation accelerated at a much slower pace than in the United States and Europe, its peak of 4.2 per cent was a four-decade high, caused by surging fuel and raw material costs amid Russia's war against Ukraine. There have also been concerns about the Israel-Hamas war potentially spilling over to the Middle East, which has major oil producing nations. Japan's economy remained resilient for most of the year, helped by pent-up demand with the removal of anti-coronavirus curbs, though it marked the first negative growth in three quarters in the July-September period. — Kyodo

In the matter of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017
Capital Reduction of Noble Drilling (Myanmar) Limited
(Notice of the Special Resolution pursuant to Section 116(e))

Per Section 116 of the Myanmar Companies Law (MCL), Noble Drilling (Myanmar) Limited announces its decision to reduce its share capital. This reduction is part of the company's voluntary winding-up process, aimed at simplifying the capital structure for greater efficiency and reducing the unpaid-up share capital that surpasses the company's requirements. The total capital value to be reduced amounts to the unpaid shares of USD 25,000, equivalent to 25,000 ordinary shares.

A Special General Meeting (SGM) will be held on 28th December 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Company's registered address: No. 134/A, Than Lwin Road, Golden Valley Ward (1), Bahan Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar. The SGM will also be conducted electronically via Microsoft Teams, allowing members to participate remotely as per Section 116(c) of the MCL.

As per Section 116(e) of the MCL, the notice of the SGM and relevant documents regarding the share capital reduction has been filed with the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration on 24th November 2023.

For **NOBLE DRILLING (MYANMAR) LIMITED**

DFDL Myanmar Limited
 Chan Myae Khine
 Senior Manager – Corporate Compliance
 No. 134(A), Than Lwin Road, Golden Valley Ward 1,
 Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
 M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (103N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (103N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-12-2023** 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**

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Pakistani capital lit up by flower show

THE Pakistani capital of Islamabad has grabbed the attention of a multitude of visitors as the three-day autumn flower show kicked off in the city on Friday. Several types of seasonal chrysanthemums were on display, and people of all age groups immersed themselves in an undulating sea of colours. — Xinhua

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Japan mulls delaying launch of Mars moon probe from 2024 to 2026

JAPAN is considering postponing a project that aims to retrieve the world's first Martian moon surface samples from 2024 to 2026 due to issues with its new flagship H3 rocket, which is set to facilitate the probe's launch, sources close to the matter said Sunday.

The delay would inevitably crush plans for the probe from Martian Moons Exploration project, or MMX, to arrive in the Martian system during the 2025 World Exposition in Osaka and livestream detailed images to the expo venue, an envisioned highlight of the event.

The development comes following the failed inaugural launch in March of Japan's next-generation H3 rocket, under development by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., which also resulted in the loss of a key satellite it carried as its payload.

The second H3 rocket, equipped with measures to prevent a recurrence, is set to be launched by March 2024, but its payload has been modified as a precaution.

Plans to carry the MMX probe



Photo shows an artistic rendition of a probe heading toward the Martian moon Phobos (L). Mars is the celestial body on the right. **PHOTO: JAPAN AEROSPACE EXPLORATION AGENCY / KYODO**

and satellites on the third H3 rocket or later will depend on whether the launch of the second rocket succeeds.

The probe can only be launched to orbit around Mars around September 2024 due to variations in the distance of the red planet from Earth. The next suitable window will be around 2026, but rescheduling may prove difficult due to other satellite launches that are of higher priority.

The probe is currently scheduled to be launched in September 2024 and arrive in the Martian system around August 2025. It will then land on one of Mars' two moons, Phobos, to collect a surface sample and return to Earth around 2029.

Phobos is believed to have accumulated rocks that originated from Mars, with the sample expected to help shed light on the evolution process of the Martian system. — Kyodo



The attack close to the Eiffel Tower around 9:00 pm (2000 GMT) during a busy weekend came with the country on its highest alert, as tensions rise against the background of the war between Israel and Hamas. **PHOTO: AFP**

'Terrorist plot' probe after deadly Paris stabbing

A man known to French authorities for radical Islamism with mental health troubles stabbed a tourist to death and wounded two other people in central Paris late Saturday night before being arrested, with prosecutors opening an investigation into a suspected "terrorist plot".

The attack close to the Eiffel Tower around 9:00 pm (2000 GMT) during a busy weekend came with the country on its highest alert, as tensions rise against the background of

the war between Israel and Hamas.

Prosecutors specialising in terrorist incidents told AFP they had opened a probe into the attacker, named as Armand Rajabpour-Miyandoab, a French national born in 1997 to Iranian parents who was arrested soon after the knife and hammer attack.

They suspect him of murder against the 23-year-old dead man, identified as a German-Filipino citizen by a judicial source. — AFP

One killed, 11 missing in floods, landslides in Indonesia

ONE person died and 11 others were missing after flash floods and landslides hit Indonesia's North Sumatra province, Xinhua reported, citing officials.

The head of the Search and Rescue Office of the province, Budiono, said that the floods containing mud, big stones and wood came from higher grounds and hit houses and buildings in Simangulampe village of Humbang Hasundutan Regency.

Budiono, in a telephonic conversation with Xinhua, said, "Our personnel found one body today. We are still searching for the 11 other missing persons."

"Moreover, heavy machinery equipment has been used to remove mud from the scene where the victims were suspected to be buried, Budiono said, according to Xinhua.

Following the floods, up to 50 families were forced to evacuate as the disaster destroyed 12 houses, including one religious building and one school building, spokesperson for the National Disaster Management Agency Abdul Muhari said.

According to Muhari, heavy downpours had already been flooding the regency before flash floods and landslides happened, reported Xinhua. —Xinhua

Shanghai holds 2023 international friendship cities cooperation forum

THEMED "Deepening Friendship Cities Cooperation and Promoting High-Quality Development," the 2023 Shanghai International Friendship Cities Cooperation Forum was held in Shanghai on Friday.

Representatives of 13 of Shanghai's friendship cities, provinces or states attended the forum.

The event included two sessions — one centered

on smart city development and deepening cooperation between friendship cities, and another on economic and trade cooperation and the high-quality development of friendship cities. Shanghai established a sister city relationship with Dunedin in New Zealand about three decades ago. "We are here to create opportunities together, do business together and succeed together."



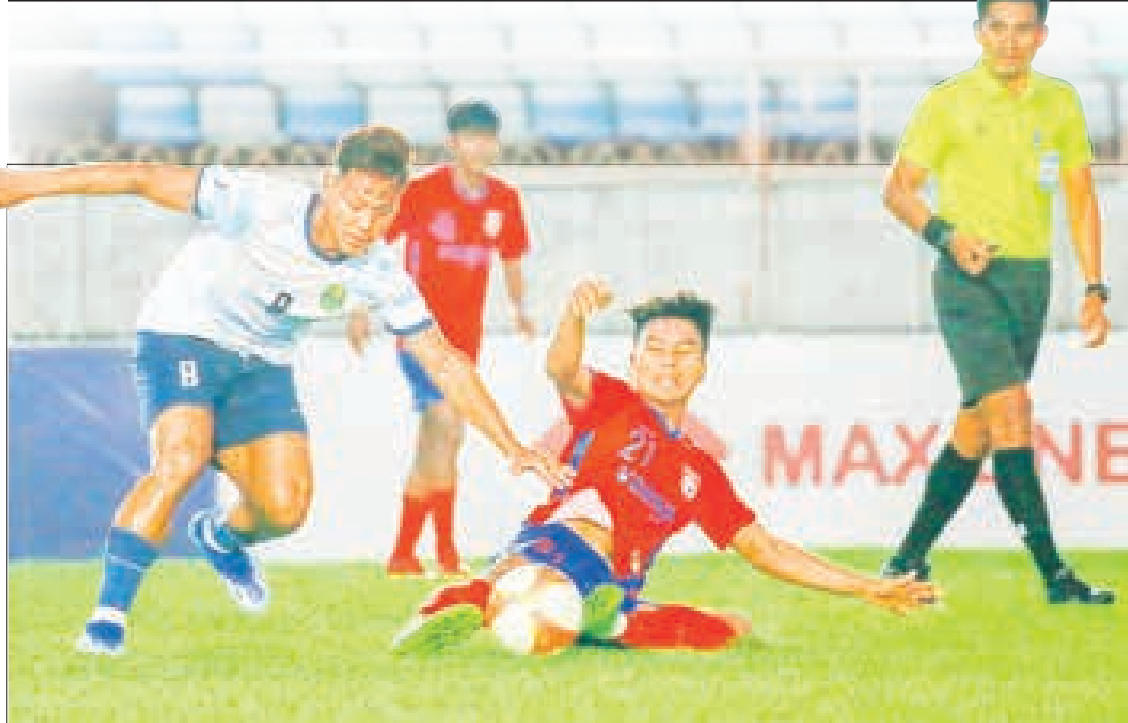
This photo taken on 3 November 2023 shows a city view of Shanghai at sunrise. **PHOTO: WANG XIANG/XINHUA**

er," Jules Radich, mayor of Dunedin, said during the event, noting that the sister-city relationship is full of potential. "The efforts we made today will bring great benefits for tomorrow."

Wajenda Chambeshi, director of international relations, policy and protocol of Los Angeles in the United States, announced during the event that Los Angeles has reached a cooperation agreement with Shanghai to build a green shipping corridor, with the common goal of achieving the decarbonization of shipping by 2030.

"Los Angeles and Shanghai are both important international shipping centers. By creating a partnership with Shanghai, Los Angeles is very committed to using smart technology to solve common problems such as climate change," he said. — Xinhua

SPORTS



GFA relegated with big loss to Dagon Star

Dagon Star player (white) attempts to pass the rival during the Week-21 match of the Myanmar National League against GFA FC at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 3 December 2023. **PHOTO:MNL**

GFA faced 1-4 defeat to Dagon Star FC in the Week-21 match of the Myanmar National League at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna in Yangon yesterday.

The GFA team has been relegated with two games left due to this goalless game. As

for the Dagon Star FC, they are able to move up to the 4th place and hope to be among the top five teams at the end of the season after the big win.

As both teams are hungry to save point, they came out with a full set of core players, and Dagon Star scored three

goals in the first half, and the answer came from the first half.

The winning goals for Dagon Star were scored by Nyi Nyi Aung at 22 and 35 minutes, Thet Paing Soe at 40 minute. Dagon Star led the first half by three goals.

The final and fourth goal

for Dagon Star was made by Wai Yan Phyo at 58 minute. The single or consolation for the GFA was scored by Hein Thet Phyo at 72 minute.

Nyi Nyi Aung won the best player award after the game. Dagon Star earned 28 points while GFA just collected 12

points and the team is in the relegation zone together with Kachin United.

Shan United will take on Yadanabon FC at Thuwunna Stadium and Myawady will face Maha United at Yangon United Sports Complex today. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

South Africa's Buhai hangs on to defend women's Australian Open crown

SOUTH African Ashleigh Buhai successfully defended her Australian Open title Sunday, overcoming late nerves to hold off charging fellow major winner Minjee Lee for a one-shot win.

In doing so, the 2022 British Open champion became the first back-to-back winner since Taiwan's Tseng Ya-ni in 2010-11.

The 35-year-old carded a three-over-par 75 to end at nine-under for the tournament, a stroke ahead of Lee whose 69 ensured a tense finale.

Buhai began a blustery day at the Australian Golf Club in Sydney with a three-stroke cushion over South Korean veteran Shin Ji-yai and seven clear of world number five Lee.

"To be honest, I wasn't feeling the pressure, I knew Minjee and Ji-yai would come at me today," she said.

"But the conditions were so tough, I just said hit it into your spaces, play par golf and make them catch you."

Shin birdied the first and the third to move within a shot of Buhai, before a bogey at the sixth again left her two adrift.

Two more dropped shots from Shin, coupled with the South African parring every hole on the front nine, sent Buhai to the turn with a four-stroke lead. But two-time major winner and playing partner Lee was in fine touch and reduced the deficit to three shots with six holes left. — AFP



South Africa's Ashleigh Buhai successfully defended her Australian Open title. **PHOTO: AFP**

Italy and Spain to meet in Euro 2024 group stage, England handed kind draw

The competition will be held in Germany from 14 June to 14 July, 2024.



Defending champions Italy will also face Spain, Croatia and Albania in Group B. **PHOTO: AFP**

REIGNING champions Italy were placed in the same group as Spain in Saturday's draw for Euro 2024, while France will come up against the Netherlands and England avoided any of the toughest opponents.

Gareth Southgate's much-fancied England side will meet Slovenia, Denmark and Serbia, with hosts Germany taking on Scotland in the

tournament's opening game on 14 June in Munich.

Italy, who beat England on penalties at Wembley in the final of the last European Championship in 2021, and Spain will also face Croatia and Albania in Group B.

Spain, victors over Italy in the final of Euro 2012, will take on 2018 World Cup runners-up Croatia in their opening match

in Berlin on 15 June.

Italy were always likely to face a difficult draw after being placed in the bottom pot based on their results in qualifying, when they scraped through with a 0-0 stalemate against Ukraine in their final match.

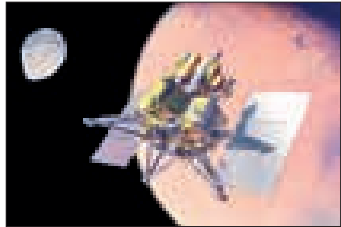
"When you're in the fourth pot you know that you have a lot of teams ahead of you, but you can't forget that you represent Italy and you have to play every match with pride," coach Luciano Spalletti told broadcaster RAI.

The meeting of France, the 2022 World Cup runners-up, and the Netherlands will be the other heavyweight tie of the opening phase.

They were in the same section in qualifying, with France winning both encounters. The two nations are in Group D along with Austria and a play-off winner, which will be one of Poland, Wales, Finland or Estonia. — AFP

Japan mulls delaying launch of Mars moon probe from 2024 to 2026

PAGE-14



PM Modi pays tributes to former President Rajendra Prasad on his birth anniversary



Prime Minister Narendra Modi. PHOTO: ANI/FILE

Dr Rajendra Prasad strongly backed Mahatma Gandhi and faced imprisonment by British authorities during both the Salt Satyagraha in 1931 and the Quit India movement in 1942.

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday paid tributes to the first president of India Dr Rajendra Prasad on his birth anniversary.

Remembering Rajendra Prasad on his 139th birth anniversary, PM Modi in a social media post said that Dr Rajendra Prasad's profound wisdom and steadfast leadership during pivotal moments in our history are a source of great pride.

"His endeavours as a champion of democracy and unity continue to resonate across generations. Tributes to him on his

birth anniversary," PM Modi posted on X.

Born in 1884 in Bihar, Rajendra Prasad was the first President of India from 1950 to 1962.

He was a politician and lawyer by training who joined the Indian National Congress during the Independence Movement.

He was an avid supporter of Mahatma Gandhi and was imprisoned by British authorities during the Salt Satyagraha of 1931 and the Quit India movement of 1942. — ANI

N Korea's spy satellite operation office begins work: KCNA

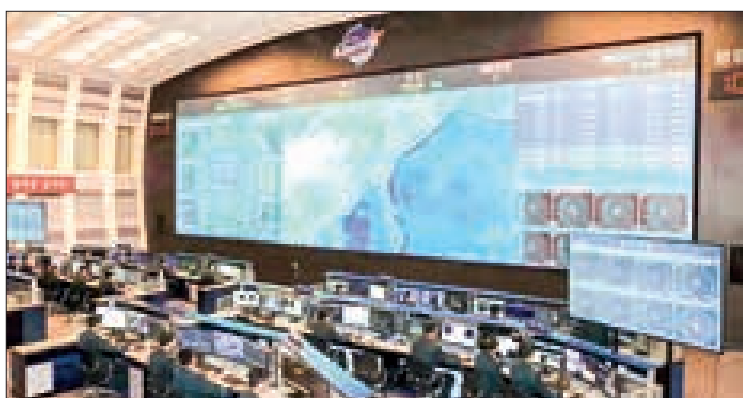
NORTH Korea began operating a satellite control office on Saturday, the official Korean Central News Agency said, after last month successfully launching a spy satellite into orbit.

The announcement indicates North Korea may officially have put its Malligyong-1 reconnaissance satellite into service in the wake of the 21 November launch. The office was set up at the Pyongyang General Control Centre of the National Aerospace Technology Administration, KCNA said Sunday.

The country's defense ministry "expressed expectation

that the war deterrence of the DPRK would assume more perfect military posture," the news agency said. DPRK is the acronym for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, North Korea's formal name.

The information acquired through the satellite will be reported to the relevant executive department of the Central Military Commission of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea and instructions will be given to major units and the General Reconnaissance Bureau of the Korean People's Army, it said. — Kyodo



This picture shows a view of the Pyongyang General Control Centre of the Korean National Aerospace Technology Directorate. PHOTO: KCNA/AFP

5th World Media Summit holds opening ceremony in Guangzhou



Fu Hua, executive chairman of the World Media Summit (WMS) and president of Xinhua News Agency, attends a signing ceremony of Xinhua News Agency and Foreign Media Organizations in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province, 2 December 2023. PHOTO: LIU BIN/XINHUA

The 5th World Media Summit (WMS), with the theme "Boosting Global Confidence, Promoting Media Development", has brought together more than 450 participants from 101 countries and regions.

THE 5th World Media Summit (WMS) held an opening ceremony Sunday morning in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province.

Themed "Boosting Global Confidence, Promoting Media Development", the 5th WMS

has gathered over 450 participants from 101 countries and regions, including representatives of 197 mainstream media outlets, think tanks, government agencies and diplomatic missions to China, and UN agencies and international

organizations.

The event, co-hosted by Xinhua News Agency and the provincial governments of Guangdong and Yunnan, runs from 2 to 8 December in the cities of Guangzhou and Kunming. — Xinhua