

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## LOCAL BUSINESS PAGE-6



High operational costs, decreasing fish prices affect fishing boats offshore Taninthayi Region

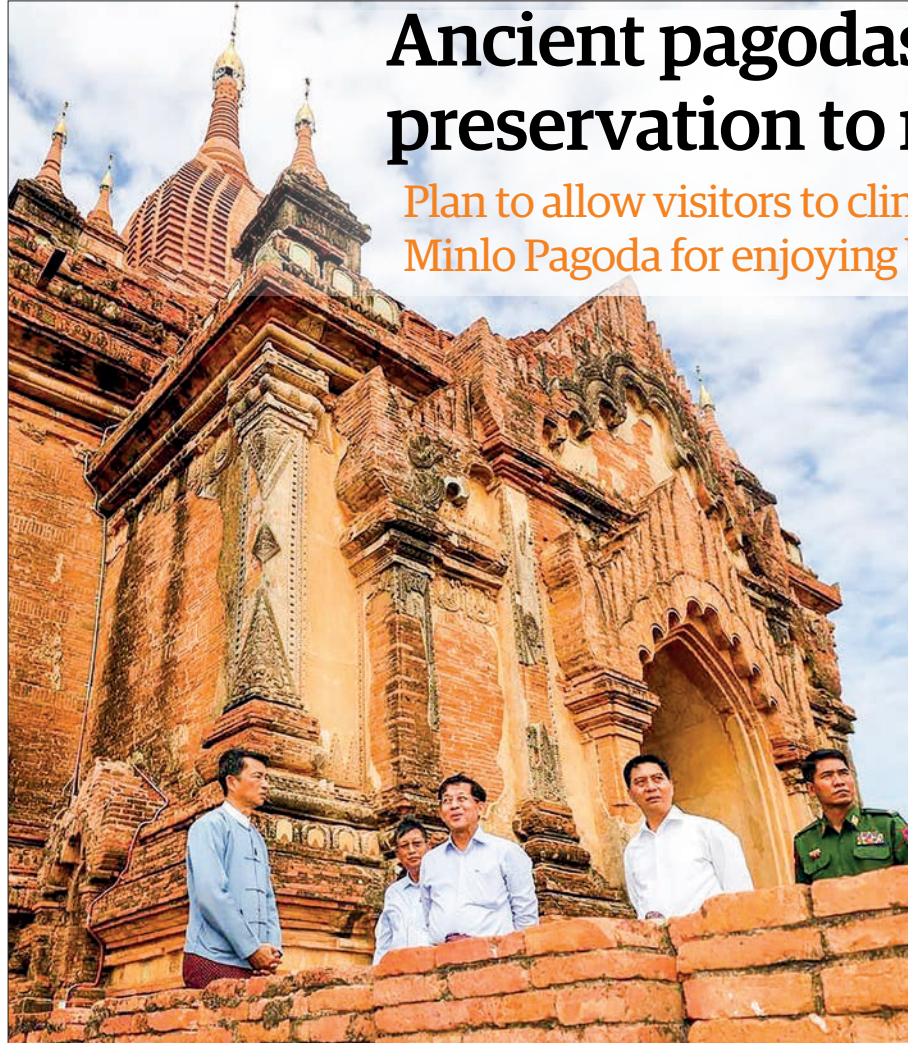
## CURRENT AFFAIRS PAGE-7



184 Myanmar citizens return from Thailand

## Ancient pagodas under preservation to resist disasters

Plan to allow visitors to climb upper terrace of Htilo Minlo Pagoda for enjoying beauties of Bagan



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects maintenance works of Htilo Minlo Pagoda in Bagan on 27 August 2023.

As visitors can view ancient stupas and temples as well as beauties of Bagan region from the upper terrace of Htilo Minlo Pagoda, it is necessary to consider for allowing limited number of visitors to climb the pagoda under limited time, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in inspecting maintenance for damaged parts in inundation in Bagan ancient cultural region yesterday morning.

In inspecting maintenance of the precinct of Ananda Temple, the Senior General stressed the need to systematically preserve invaluable ancient architectural works with more plans to make necessary preparations to protect these works against impacts of natural disasters. He instructed experts to discuss the measures to keep ancient stupas and temples including Ananda Temple under

**SEE PAGE-3**



The specialist and health staff make medical checkup for the patient.

## Specialists conduct medical outreach in Pyay, Bago Region

A specialist team from North Okkalapa and Thingangyun General Hospitals in collaboration with medics from Pyay General Hospital performed medical treatments on residents in Pyay

Township, Bago Region on 26 and 27 August.

During their two-day visit, the medical team provided treatments to 121 patients with heart diseases, 47 patients with chest

conditions, 63 gastroenteritis patients, 142 neurological patients, four neurosurgical patients, 29 patients with liver disease, 16 patients with hematologic disorders, **SEE PAGE-2**

## CDA at the Timor-Leste Embassy ordered to leave Myanmar

On 25 August 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar issued a Diplomatic Note ordering the Charge d' Affaires of the Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste in Yangon to leave not later than 1 September 2023.

The Ministry has observed that despite the repeated warnings and demands of the Government of Myanmar, the Government of Timor-Leste has conducted engagements with terrorist group so-called National Unity Government (NUG) which has been encouraging and committing terrorist and violence acts in Myanmar.

The Ministry recalled the fact that the Counter-Terrorism Central Committee of Myanmar has officially declared the unlawful associations — the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), the National Unity Government (NUG), People's Defence Force (PDF) and all their subordinates — as terrorist groups by its Notification No 2/2021 on 8 May 2021 in accord with the Counter-Terrorism Law of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Such irresponsible actions of the government of Timor-Leste are not only harming the bilateral diplomatic relations between the two countries but also encouraging the terrorist groups to further committing their violations in Myanmar. The Ministry also strongly protests against the government of Timor-Leste's actions and remarks which are inconsistent with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. — TC

# NATIONAL

## Specialists conduct medical outreach in ...

### FROM PAGE-1

73 patients with urological and nephrological conditions, 173 patients with bone and nerves conditions, 403 patients with physiological conditions, 54 patients with eye conditions, 13 obstetrics and gynecology patients, 165 orthopaedic patients, 45 surgical patients, 31 patients with ear, nose and throat conditions, four dental patients, two cancer patients and 17 children, totalling 1,402.

The specialist team made medical examinations for the patients with the aid of respective diagnosis machines. Apart from patients in Pyay, those

from 10 townships of western Bago Region and three townships of Magway Region were also benefitted from the treatment of mobile specialist team.

Professor Dr Thuzar Thin, Head of Urology and Nephrology Department, Universtry of Medicine (2) Yangon and the leader of the specialist team, talked with local people about kidney diseases and recommended lifestyles and foods to be able to avoid such diseases.

In addition, arrangements were made for the transfer of four patients who needed treatment for liver, three patients needing cardiac surgery and



The medical specialist team examines the patient during medical trip in Pyay.

three patients who needed bronchoscopy procedures to North Okkalapa General Hospital.

The specialist team has treated three times in Sittway, Rakhine State and similar programmes have already been

conducted in Patheingyi, Taunggyi, and Magway. And this initiative will cover other regions and states. — MNA/TH



A Myanmar official explains a visitor at booth displayed with Myanmar's traditional crafts, cultural products and lacquerware at the ASEAN Fest 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

## Myanmar's arts, culture, lacquerware on display at ASEAN Fest 2023 in Indonesia

MYANMAR displayed its traditional crafts, cultural products and lacquerware at the ASEAN Fest 2023 held in Jakarta of Indonesia, according to Myanmar Embassy to Indonesia.

The ASEAN Fest 2023 that highlights the arts and culture of ASEAN countries was held at Jakarta Convention Centre from 22 to 25 August.

The Myanmar Embassy and the Office of Permanent Representative of Myanmar to ASEAN showed off Myanmar's arts and culture including lacquerware at the event, and shared knowledge about Myanmar to the visitors to booths of Myanmar.

The event was organized by the Bank of Indonesia in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia as side event to the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Ministers of Finance and Governors of the Central Bank (AFMGM) meeting. The event presented traditional dances of ASEAN countries and quiz games.

It was also held in commemoration of 56<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Day and 43<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit and helping people learn about ASEAN cultures.

The embassies of ASEAN member countries in Jakarta participated in the event with each country's icons, including their culinary variety. — ASH/KTZH

## Myanmar plans to participate in Colombo-ASEAN film festival

FOUR Myanmar films have been submitted to show at three-day Colombo-ASEAN film festival scheduled to convene in the second week of September in Colombo, Sri Lanka, according to U Chan Thar Kyi Soe, the information officer of the International Relations Committee under the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization.

The Film Promotion Division selected an English sub-titled movie called "Saung Nilay Tahtae" (A Red Blanket) directed by film Director Tin Aung Soe (Panmyotaw) and three short films — "The Beauty of San Yit Wine" (The Beauty of a Round Hairdo), "Manet Phyan" (Tomorrow) and "Kyuntaw Luhwetlaik Pyi" (I Have Converted to a Layman Life) — for the festival, he said. "We have submitted the four films online. The organizers will show the submitted films during the festival," said U Chan Thar Kyi Soe.



Films made in Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam are also scheduled to be shown during the festival convened to exchange cultural values between ASEAN nations. — ASH/TH



Photos show the posters of Myanmar films "The Beauty of San Yit Wine" and "A Red Blanket".

# NATIONAL



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round maintenance of Culamani Temple in Bagan ancient cultural region on 27 August 2023.

**FROM PAGE-1**

quality coated paint to have resilience of weather impacts and infiltration of water. As long term existence of these ancient works depends on maintenance and preservation, modern technologies should be applied in preservation without harming the original works.

The Senior General viewed round maintenance of Culamani Temple flooded in heavy rains and filling of soil in the precinct. In his guidance, the Senior General stressed the need to systematically calculate the plans to allot drains in the precinct not to face further inundation in heavy rains. He gave guidance to gradually excavate the original terrace of the temple and cover the mural paintings for long term existence.

On arrival at Htilo Minlo

## Ancient pagodas under preservation to resist disasters

Pagoda, the Senior General inspected maintenance of the damaged parts in and out the pagoda and the upper terrace, the Senior General pointed out that as visitors can view ancient stupas and temples as well as beauties of Bagan region from the upper terrace of Htilo Minlo Pagoda, it is necessary to consider for allowing limited number of visitors to climb the pagoda under limited time.

While in Bagan ancient cultural region, the Senior General and wife made cash donations at Ananda Temple, Culamani Temple and Htilo Minlo Pagoda.

### Salient points in speeches by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in inspecting ancient pagodas in Bagan

- Experts to discuss to paint ancient stupas and temples to have resilience of weather impacts and water infiltration
- Modern technologies should be applied in preservation without harming the original works
- Officials need to consider for allowing limited number of visitors to climb the pagoda under limited time

In May this year, heavy rains caused inundation at ancient stupas and temples such as Shwezigon, Dhammayangyi, Culamani and Dhammarazaka pagodas, Sinbyushin Complex,

Kheminga, Thabeikhmauk, Htilo Minlo and Laymyethna pagodas, Hsinpaung brick monastery, Baganhmyaw, Ywahaunggyi and Shwenanyin Taw pagodas. Some damaged parts in inundation are being maintained and preserved as quickly as possible without losing ancient works.

In the evening, the Senior General paid homage to Maravijaya Buddha Image in the precinct of Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township.

At the office of the image board of trustees, the Senior General instructed officials to manage convenient obeisance of the pilgrims to the image and maintain the religious edifices for long term existence.

The Senior General viewed round the terrace of the image, Gandakuti chambers and stone plaque chambers. — MNA/TTA



Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe leaves Yangon for the People's Republic of China yesterday to attend the 2023 China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week Ceremony.

## Union Education Minister to join China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week Ceremony

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe left Yangon for the People's Republic of China yesterday morning to attend the 2023 China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week Ceremony.

The ceremony will be held in Guiyang, Guizhou province from 28 August to 2 September.

The event will be attended by ministers of education, university rectors, high-ranking officials, academics, diplomats, youth and representatives from the Silk Road countries from China and ASEAN countries.

The ceremony will strengthen the educational exchange and cooperation between Myanmar and the People's Republic of China. — MNA/KZL

### COVID-19 report, 27 August 2023

NEW TESTS	3,291
NEW CASE	1
CASUALTIES	0

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# NATIONAL



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing talks about regional development with townsenders from Bagan and departmental officials from NyaungU, Pakokku, Myingyan, Minbu and Magway districts at Bagan Cultural Museum in Bagan yesterday.

He pointed out that everybody needs to be friendly with legal affairs and so, universities teach law and economic subjects to the students for having economic outlooks.

Residents reported on development of Bagan ancient cultural region, betterment of transport and communications, electrification, and landing of international flights at NyaungU airport.

In his response, the Senior General explained that number of tourist arrivals is still lesser due to some sanctions politically imposed with various reasons. Electricity should be generated from solar energy as much as possible for electrifying Bagan region. As aeroplanes from international flights are difficult to land in Bagan-NyaungU airport due to its location in ancient cultural region, a plan is underway to upgrade Pakokku Airport as the international airport for long term convenience. Water from Ayeyawady River can be treated to sufficiently supply it to the people from Bagan through the

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing talked about regional development with townsenders from Bagan ancient cultural region and departmental officials from NyaungU, Pakokku, Myingyan, Minbu and Magway districts at Bagan Cultural Museum in Bagan yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General unveiled the government reviews that limited number of pilgrims and visitors arriving at Bagan ancient cultural region will be allowed to climb the upper terrace of Htilo Minlo Pagoda to pay homage to stupas and temples in the region and enjoy scenic beauties of Bagan region in limited time.

He noted that agriculture, livestock and technical high schools have been opened in districts to turn out necessary human resources. Moreover, he disclosed that preparations are being made to establish more agriculture, livestock and technical institutes as well as universities for learning advanced subjects. He urged officials to strive for boosting agriculture and livestock farms and raising number of educated persons in Bagan region.

## Govt is serving national cause but politics

Peaceful and stable regions will have development whereas armed insurgency causing instability of the region will hamper regional development measures

### Salient points in the speech of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in the meeting with town elders and departmental officials in Bagan

- Limited number of pilgrims and visitors arriving at Bagan ancient cultural region will be allowed to climb the upper terrace of Htilo Minlo Pagoda
- Preparations are being made to establish more agriculture, livestock and technical institutes as well as universities for learning advanced subjects
- A plan is underway to upgrade Pakokku Airport as the international airport for long term convenience
- Mandalay and Magway regions have to meet the cotton demand of the country
- Peaceful and stable regions will have development whereas armed insurgency causing instability of the region will hamper regional development measures

solar-powered river water pumping station. The Senior General urged all to increase yield of agriculture and livestock products in order to reduce commodity prices.

Officials need to encourage local growers to cultivate long staple cotton to produce threads. The Senior General stressed that Mandalay and Magway regions have to meet the cotton demand of the country.

The Senior General highlighted that the government is serving the national cause but politics, urging all people to join the development of the nation for the cause of the country. He underscored that peaceful and stable regions will have development whereas armed insurgency causing instability of the region will hamper regional development measures. — MNA/TTA

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# NATIONAL

## SAC member donate essential offerings to venerable Sayadaws in Nyaungdon, Maubin

A member of the State Administration Council Mahn Nyein Maung visited the Ponnamarama Zay monastery in Ward 4, Nyaungdon, yesterday morning. He presented Waso robes and offerings to Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Osadha Bhivamsa.

He also donated Waso robes and offertories to abbot of Sasanadhaja Monastery in Thaikkon Village-tract of Maubin Township State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Nanadipa, Dhammayon Shwegyin Monastery Sayadaw of Ward 2 in Maubin Agga Maha

Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Cintamani, Myole Monastery abbot in Ward 4 Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Lakkhana, Presiding Patron of Nandayon Monastery in Ward 11 member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Jagara, Presiding Patron of Hmanbin Monastery in Ward 11 Bhaddanta Candavara and administrator of the monastery Bhaddanta Nandamala respectively.

He visited Shwephonemyint pagoda in Ward 3 and made cash donation there. — MNA/KZW



Member of the State Administration Council Mahn Nyein Maung presents Waso robe and offerings to a Sayadaw in Ayeyawady Region yesterday.



Workers sort quality avocados at a farm before transport to the markets.

## Avocados export to meet foreign market demand

U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for Commerce, said that it is necessary to be able to grow and produce high quality avocados and increase the yield, expand the market, and export more abroad.

He gave this instruction while attending a discussion on the development of Shan State's local product production and increasing exports at the office of the Shan State (South) Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Taunggyi on 27 August.

An acre of avocado trees can produce two to five tonnes of fruits. Fruits ripen within a week if kept at 27°C and after a month if kept at 5°C.

"Shan state is encouraging and promoting the production of avocados and coffee that are compatible with its climatic conditions of the state," the Union Minister said at the discussion.

The Myanmar Avocado Growers and Ex-

porters Association announced that the avocado farmers in Hopong Township, southern Shan State will jointly build an avocado processing plant, the first kind in Myanmar at a cost of over K800 million. In addition to border trade, Myanmar exports avocado through land borders and shipping. This year, 50 tonnes of fruits was shipped to Malaysia by air.

In the previous FY 2022-2023, the output of Myanmar avocados was 3,000 tonnes, and in the coming years, during the season of Myanmar avocados, officials are working to increase the production to 5,000 tonnes.

The association is aware that there are negotiations to the export of Myanmar avocados to Thailand as well as China through the G to G system. — Hun Htun (GNLM)/KZL

## SAC orders Charge d' Affaires and party of Timor-Leste Embassy to leave Myanmar by 1 Sept

THE State Administration Council has informed the Charge d' Affaires and members of the Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste in Yangon about leaving Myanmar not later than 1 September 2023.

"We will inform the Charge d' Affaires and members of the Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to leave Myanmar by 1 September, and the letter of information will be released soon," Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, Leader of the SAC Information Team, told a media.

"The main reason is that Timor-Leste openly interfered in Myanmar's internal affairs. This is an act of encroachment

on sovereignty of the State. They also make attempt to bring down the prestige of Myanmar. Moreover, they always make the statement that they will consider whether or not to join ASEAN if ASEAN fails to solve the affairs of Myanmar. It is a reverse statement. In order to join ASEAN, all 10 ASEAN countries must have unanimous agreement under the entire ASEAN charter. All countries need to agree on this matter. They cannot be recognized as members of the ASEAN countries without Myanmar's representation at the meeting. They are just finding an excuse for this," he stated. — TC/CT

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

# LOCAL BUSINESS

## High operational costs, decreasing fish prices affect fishing boats offshore Taninthayi Region



Fishing trawlers seen in Myanmar water offshore Taninthayi Region. PHOTO: MYINT OO (MYEIK)

FISHING boats operating offshore Taninthayi Region are experiencing high production costs and declining fish prices.

The fishing season in the Myanmar sea has been open for catching fish since July. At the beginning of the season, fishing boats are facing high costs due to elevated fuel prices.

“When the weather is bad, costs are incurred, and with high oil process and low fish prices, businessmen face challenges in sustaining their operations due to the increased business costs,”

stated an entrepreneur.

Many buyers in Thailand are purchasing fish from the Myanmar sea at lower prices. Entrepreneurs have reported facing challenges due to fluctuation in the baht price.

Due to lack of standard fish market in Myanmar, fish caught in Myanmar’s waters are primarily sold in the Thai market.

Reportedly, there are approximately 1,500 offshore trawlers in Taninthayi Region. — Myint Oo (Myeik) (IPRD)/KZW

## Price of pigeon peas fluctuates hard

THE price of pigeon peas slumped to K3.45 million per tonne at the Yangon beans market on 26 August.

It gradually increased from K3.085 million on 9 August to K3.675 million on 19 August. The price dropped again after that and stood at K3.5 million per tonne for four days, from 22 to 25 August. The price on 26 August fetched K3.45 million per tonne.

The price fluctuation for a tonne of pigeon peas is around K600,000, while that of black gram RC is about K200,000. The lowest price of black gram was K2.315 million per tonne on 9 August and the highest price was K2.497 million per tonne on 19 August.

The Indian market speculates that there remain 25,000 tonnes of pigeon peas and 0.35 million to 0.4 million of black gram in the Myanmar market. It is also estimated that 0.65 million to 0.7 million new black grams and 0.25 million to 0.3 million new pigeon peas will be produced in Myanmar this year.

India mainly imports black gram from Myanmar and pigeon peas from Myanmar and Africa. Due to such demand in the Indian market, black gram and pigeon peas reached new record prices in 2023 in the history of the Myanmar bean market. — TWA/CT



A pigeon pea plantation thriving in dry region of Myanmar.

## Sudden drop in prices of rice, palm oil may occur

RICE and oil traders have predicted that the prices of rice and edible oil may suddenly fall on the opening day of the commodity depots on 28 August.

The price of rice per bag and the price of palm oil per viss rose by around K100,000 and K10,000 in August, respectively. Consumers are complaining that they have to spend more money on daily purchases of rice and oil.

A bag of Pawsan rice variety and low-grade rice per person with a citizenship scrutiny card is being sold for one month at a low price at the Wadan Depot and the Bayintnaung Depot on 7 August 2023. The prices are K110,000–K120,000 for a bag of Shwebo Pawsan variety, K94,000–K97,000 for Ayeyawady Pawsan variety, K65,000 for 10 per cent broken Aemahta variety, and



The rice and edible oil sales counter of a shopping centre.

K60,000 for 25 per cent broken Aemahta variety.

A total of 42 rice outlets in 17 townships of Yangon have been selling low-grade rice at a rate of K2,500 per pyi since 25 August.

It is known that 20,000 bags of

Pawsan rice variety, 100,000 bags of 90-day rice variety, and 50,000 bags of Aemahta variety, for a total of 170,000 bags of rice, will be sold at a low price in August. However, according to the daily rice price statements, the price

of most of the rice commodity depots increased every Monday in August, when rice was being sold at a low price.

Rice dealers are closely monitoring the prices of rice that will be released on 28 August at the

rice commodity depot.

In the palm oil market, the wholesale price reached over K10,000 per viss in mid-August, an extreme price. However, according to Mandalay edible oil price reports, the price of palm oil fell to K8,000 per viss on 27 August, whereas rice and edible oil prices have been under strict guidance since 19 August.

As the wholesale reference price of palm oil is only K4,065 per viss, the oil dealers are expecting that the market price will fall further. Similarly, the opening price of the rice commodity depot on 28 August (today), the rice traders said, is likely to drop significantly.

If the price of rice and oil, which has been rising, falls again, consumers will be able to buy it at a lower price and reduce their daily food expenses. — TWA/CT

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Incentives required for businessmen fostering national economic development

WHEN 100 per cent of export earning was deposited, there were almost no complaints. However, the number of complaints has risen to 65 per cent and further increased to 50 per cent, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting of the Economic Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 25 August.

He remarked, "While some individuals prioritize personal gain in their business endeavours, some businessmen actively contribute to the country's economic development. As such, the State should provide incentives to the latter group."

### Initiatives underway to revitalize Myanmar's economy

DURING the ASEAN Health Ministers' meeting held at Hotel St Regis in Jakarta of Indonesia on 25 August, Dr Thet Khaing Win, the Union Minister for Health, announced that a plan is being developed to restore the country's socio-economic condition impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and to establish an economic environment conducive to sustainable development and economic prosperity.

### No investigation conducted over UAB Bank

THE information team of the State Administration Council has clarified that the reports spreading on social media about United Amara Bank (UAB) being investigated are untrue. They confirmed that these were just fake news. On the other hand, UAB issued a press release on 27 August, stating that it decided to prosecute those spreading the misinformation and fake news against it under the law.

### Continued support for export sector development

DEPUTY Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Zeya stated on the morning of 25 August that support for the export sector's enhancement, including the dissemination of food production technologies to MSMEs through the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund Project 2020, as well as the provision of research and technologies essential for improving standards, will persist. He made this announcement during a ceremony aimed at providing MSME entrepreneurs with the technologies to produce agricultural produce in compliance with standards.

### Myanmar's trade deficit surpasses more than US\$ 720 million from 1 Apr to 18 Aug

DURING the period from 1 April to 18 August this financial year, the export value reached US\$5,930.936 million. The import value stood at \$6,651.821 million, resulting in a total trade volume of \$12,582.757 million. In the first four and a half months of the financial year 2023-2024, Myanmar's foreign trade sector incurred a trade deficit exceeding \$720 million, as reported by the Ministry of Commerce.



Traffic police educate drivers to know new traffic rule in Mandalay in 2020.

## Traffic rule offenders to face legal action from 1 September

UNDER the Quick Win plan for traffic safety, action will be taken against those who do not follow the traffic rules starting from 1 September, as announced by the National Road Safety Council.

National road safety and hazards are being addressed in accordance with Myanmar's Road Safety Council's National Road Safety Action Plan (2021-

2030), which aims to reduce casualties and the traffic accidents. A set of five Quick Win measures has been established to raise drivers' awareness and encourage them to comply with the traffic rules.

With regard to the five Quick Win measures, vehicle drivers and passengers are required to wear seat belts while driving. Motorcycle rid-

ers, both drivers and passengers have to wear high-quality motorcycle helmets and secure them with a chin strap. Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is strictly prohibited.

It is stated that using mobile phones while driving and exceeding the specified speed limit are prohibited. — TWA/KZW

## 184 Myanmar citizens return from Thailand



Officials collect data from returnee Myanmar citizens in Myawady on 24 August.

A total of 184 Myanmar citizens who wished to return home for various reasons arrived back through the Myawady-Mae Sot Bridge II.

The departmental officials not only welcomed them on 24 August but also collected the necessary data related them.

Out of them, those from the Bago region,

Mon state and Taninthayi region will stay at the 10-township quarantine centre in Mawlamyine of Mon state for 10 days.

Those from other regions and states will be monitored at the Shwe Myawady quarantine centre in Myawady of Kayin state for 10 days.

— TWA/MKKS

# OPINION

## Inflation's impact based on unprecedented price surge

The current surge in commodity prices is unleashing far-reaching consequences on the socioeconomic fabric of communities. Strategic essentials like fuel, cooking oil, medicines, construction materials, and agricultural inputs have all seen escalating costs due to the significant devaluation of Myanmar's currency against stronger international currencies.

In early 2021, the foreign exchange rate was positioned at over K1,300 per US dollar. Presently, while the official reference rate set by the Central Bank of Myanmar is K2,100 per US dollar, the unauthorized market registers trades around K2,500 per US dollar, marking the highest grey market exchange rate in foreign exchange history.

In Yangon, fuel stations continually adjust their price boards for octane and diesel, reflecting daily hikes. Such increments are overshadowed by even more staggering price surges – three to

four times higher – in areas marked by instability and poor transportation infrastructure. Indeed, fuel prices play a pivotal role in shaping food production, commodity transportation, and food manufacturing. Consequently, prices of essential goods such as rice and cooking oil, which rely on transportation, are grappling with alarming escalations. The domestic market witnesses elevated prices of imported goods, some of which are temporarily suspended from sale.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the countries experiencing the most severe inflation in 2022 included Zimbabwe, Venezuela, Sudan, Turkiye, Argentina, Sri Lanka, Lithuania, Estonia, Ukraine, Moldova, Suriname, Ghana, Haiti, Sierra Leone, Angola, Nigeria, Malawi, Iran, Yemen, and Ethiopia. Zimbabwe topped the list with an astronomical inflation rate of 284.94 per cent, followed closely by Venezuela at 220 per cent. In Myanmar, the Central Statistical Organization reported an inflation rate of 27.51 per cent for the first quarter of 2023.

The skyrocketing prices of commodities present formidable challenges to people's socioeconomic well-being. While some entrepreneurs channel their surplus funds into real estate, hard currencies, and gold ingots, those from the lower-income strata grapple with limited resources to meet daily household needs.

Inflation rates can trigger both positive and negative effects that entire people unavoidably suffer, but elevated inflation particularly harms consumer demand. If a nation fails to rein in soaring inflation, the value and utility of its currency can plummet significantly. Hence, it's incumbent upon both the government and the populace to proactively address the risk of extreme inflation, safeguarding the stability of the country's economy to avoid possible dangers to society.

Amidst the clamour of societal expectations, I found solace in the notion of embracing my own timeline. Growing up, I was constantly bombarded with the achievements and milestones of my peers. It seemed as though everyone was following a set script, and I felt the pressure to conform.

However, as I journeyed through life, I realized that my path was destined to be different. It was during my university years that I truly began to understand the value of carving my own unique journey. While my friends were diving headfirst into internships and career preparations, I took a different route.

Passionate about exploration and self-discovery, I decided to take a gap year after graduation. I wanted to see the world, immerse myself in diverse cultures, and gain a deeper understanding of life outside the classroom. This decision was met with scepticism from many, including well-meaning family members who feared I was deviating from the expected path.

During my year of travel, I learned invaluable lessons about adaptability, resilience, and the beauty of embracing uncertainty. I met individuals from all walks of life, each with their own story to tell. These encounters enriched my perspective and fueled my desire to live life on my own terms.

Upon returning home, I faced the familiar pressures to find a stable job, settle down, and start climbing the career ladder. However, the echoes of my travels still

resonated within me. I realized that my journey was about more than just a checklist of achievements; it was about crafting a life that aligned with my values and aspirations.

I chose a career that allowed me to incorporate my passion for travel and cultural exchange. While some questioned the sustainability of my choices, I knew deep down that I was living authentically, in harmony with my own timeline. As my friends celebrated promotions and acquisitions, I celebrated my personal growth, the connections I had made, and the experiences that had shaped me.

Over the years, I've seen the wisdom of my decision play out. The people who once questioned my choices now admire the diverse experiences I've accumulated. My journey has led me to unexpected opportunities and collaborations that I wouldn't have encountered had I rushed to meet societal expectations.

### Learning from Famous Timelines

Consider the timeline of Vera Wang, the celebrated fashion designer who began her career as a figure skater before transitioning to fashion journalism. It wasn't until the age of 40 that she ventured into designing wedding gowns, eventually establishing her own brand. Her story defies the societal norm that success should be achieved in the early stages of life. Wang's unique path not only rejuvenated the fashion industry but also underscores

# Your Timeline, Your Rules, No Rushing Others' Fools!

By Dots



Embracing your personal timeline isn't solely about liberating yourself from external expectations; it's also about extending compassion to those around you. **ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAYSS**

that innovation and ingenuity can't be confined to a predetermined schedule.

In another inspiring instance, we find Colonel Harland Sanders. He didn't achieve his groundbreaking success until the age of 65 when he founded the globally recognized fast-food chain, Ken-

tucky Fried Chicken (KFC). This illustrious example showcases that age is no impediment to entrepreneurship and that dreams can be pursued and fulfilled at any stage of life.

### The Paradox of Age and Success

The paradoxical relationship between age and success challenges common perceptions. Youth is often associated with rapid success and innovation, but history is replete with examples that counter this notion. Renowned musician Jimi Hendrix, an icon in the realm of electric guitar, trag-

ically passed away at the age of 27, leaving an indelible legacy that continues to inspire. His early brilliance was juxtaposed with a life cut short, showcasing the fragility of life's timeline.

Conversely, numerous individuals have achieved remarkable milestones in their later years.

## Participants in adult education have lower risk of dementia: Study

Researchers have found adult education reduces the risk of fluid intelligence and visuospatial memory by 19 per cent for middle-aged and elderly people within five years.

The findings were published in *Frontiers in Ageing Neuroscience* by researchers from Tohoku University in Sendai, Japan's Institute of Development, Ageing, and Cancer.

"Here we show that people who take adult education classes have a lower risk of developing

dementia five years later," said Dr Hikaru Takeuchi, the study's first author.

"Adult education is likewise associated with better preservation of nonverbal reasoning with increasing age."

### Genetic Insights Unveiled

Dr Ryuta Kawashima, a professor at the same institution and Takeuchi's co-author, examined information from the UK Biobank, which has the genetic, health, and medical details of al-

most 500,000 British volunteers, of whom 282,421 individuals were examined for this study.

These individuals, who ranged in age from 40 to 69, had registered between 2006 and 2010. By the time of the current study, they had been monitored for an average of seven years.

Participants received an individual predicted "polygenic risk score" for dementia based on their genotype at 133 significant single-locus polymorphisms (SNPs) in their DNA.

The authors focused on data from the enrollment visit and third assessment visit, between 2014 and 2018. At those visits, participants were given a battery of psychological and cognitive tests, for example for fluid intelligence, visuospatial memory, and reaction time.

Takeuchi and Kawashima's research revealed that participants who were enrolled in adult education programmes at the time of enrollment had a 19 per cent reduced risk of dementia

than those who were not. Both Caucasians and people of other races experienced this.

### Robust Findings Hold

Importantly, when people with a history of diabetes, hyperlipidemia, cardiovascular illnesses, cancer, or mental illness were eliminated, the results remained the same. This indicates that the observed lower risk was not solely attributable to participants' inability to continue their adult education because of the symptoms of these well-known co-morbidities.

The findings also demonstrated that participants who participated in adult education classes maintained their fluid intelligence and performed better on tasks requiring nonverbal

thinking than their non-participating peers. However, adult education had no impact on the maintenance of visuospatial memory.

"One possibility is that engaging in intellectual activities has positive results on the nervous system, which in turn may prevent dementia. But ours is an observational longitudinal study, so if a direct causal relationship exists between adult education and a lower risk of dementia, it could be in either direction," said Kawashima.

Takeuchi proposed that a randomized clinical trial be done to prove any protective effect of adult education.

SOURCE: ANI

The Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir "Angela's Ashes," penned by Frank McCourt at the age of 66, illuminates the transcendent power of storytelling, which is bound neither by age nor time.

Stan Lee, the creative genius behind Marvel Comics, is another embodiment of creativity that transcended age. Responsible for iconic characters like Spider-Man, Iron Man, and the X-Men, Lee's contribution continued to evolve well into his later years. His legacy exemplifies that innovation remains boundless and that age should never hinder the pursuit of creativity.

These stories underscore the paradox while young achievers often captivate with their rapid brilliance, their time among us may be tragically brief. In contrast, older individuals continually contribute, innovate, and inspire beyond societal expectations. This paradox highlights the necessity of embracing one's unique timeline and recognizing that the journey toward success is not constrained by age, but rather fueled by determination, passion, and resilience.

### Cultivating Compassion

Embracing your personal timeline isn't solely about liberating yourself from external expectations; it's also about extending compassion to those around you. As you deserve the space to evolve and flourish at your own pace, so do others. The quest should shift from judgment and comparison to fostering an environment that nurtures growth

devoid of criticism.

By refraining from superimposing our own timelines on others, we foster a culture of empathy and respect. This culture, in turn, encourages diverse paths, ultimately nurturing creativity and innovation. Take, for instance, Oprah Winfrey, whose path to becoming a media mogul was dotted with numerous adversities. Her journey, shaped by a challenging upbringing and initial setbacks, serves as a reminder that embracing one's own timeline leads to unparalleled success.

### Rule Your Timeline, No Rush in Others' Rhyme!

In a world often preoccupied with societal benchmarks, accomplishments, and comparisons, it's crucial to remember that every individual dances to their own rhythm in life. Embrace patience and self-acceptance as you navigate your journey, resisting the urge to conform to others' expectations. Your path's value isn't determined by how closely it aligns with someone else's timeline.

Like stars in the sky, each person's journey shines uniquely. By embracing your timeline and encouraging others to do the same, you become a source of inspiration, guiding them to find their own pace in the symphony of life. Just as remarkable individuals before you have defied conventions, your journey has the power to blaze a trail of authenticity and empowerment for all to follow. Own Your Timeline, Set Life's Beat, No Rush in Others' Feet! ■



One possibility is that engaging in intellectual activities has positive results on the nervous system, which in turn may prevent dementia. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**



## TECH/ENVIRON WORLD

# China's Huawei renews patent licensing deal with Ericsson

The agreement enables both companies to continue utilizing each other's technologies, fostering collaboration and innovation in the telecom sector.



Huawei, a major Chinese telecoms company, has announced the renewal of a licensing agreement with Ericsson, a leading global telecommunications technology provider. **PHOTO: AFP**

CHINESE telecoms giant Huawei said Friday it had renewed a licensing agreement with Ericsson to use each other's technologies, in a rebuff to US warnings about the risk of espionage by Beijing.

Huawei has been at the centre of an intense technological rivalry between China and the United States, which suspects the company of spying for Beijing — accusations Huawei denies.

US sanctions on Huawei since 2019 have cut off the firm from global supply chains for American components and hobbled its smartphone arm, forcing it to pivot towards other forms of growth.

Washington has also pres-

sured its allies to ban the use of Huawei gear in their 5G telecoms networks, arguing that Beijing could use the equipment to spy on other countries' communications and data traffic.

Despite those tensions, Huawei and Ericsson — based in Stockholm — have signed a “long-term” global agreement to licence each other's patents, the Chinese company said in a statement Friday.

The deal covers patents essential to 3G, 4G and 5G cellular technologies as well as both companies' “respective sales of network infrastructure and consumer devices”, Huawei said. — AFP

## Paper straws contain more ‘forever chemicals’ than plastic, study finds

MULTIPLE states, including New York, California, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont and Washington have banned plastic straws, in addition to several cities like Washington, DC, and Atlanta. Multiple restaurant chains have also decided to stop using plastic straws voluntarily.

A new study has implied that plastic straws may not be as eco-friendly as previously thought and in some ways, they may be worse for the environment and consumers than their plastic counterparts.

The Thursday-published study examined straws made from different materials from 39 different brands and found that PFAS [Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances] chemicals, com-



Paper straws were the worst offenders, with PFAS being found in 90 per cent of the straws tested during the study. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

monly called “forever chemicals” due to their extremely long half-life and ability to travel up the food chain, are more frequently found in so-called “eco-friendly” straws made out of paper and bamboo.

Paper straws were the

worst offenders, with PFAS being found in 90 per cent of the straws tested during the study. Bamboo came in second with PFAS being found 80 per cent of the time. Meanwhile, plastic straws were found to have PFAS 75 per cent of the time. — SPUTNIK

## China testing world's most powerful coil gun – Reports

CHINA is testing the world's largest coil gun that is capable of accelerating a projectile weighing over 100 kilogrammes (220 pounds) to a speed of 700 kilometres per hour (435 miles per hour) in less than 0.05 sec-

ond, Chinese media reported on Friday.

The coil gun, also known as a Gauss gun, or a magnetic accelerator, is reportedly equipped with a number of coils arranged along its bar-

rel and energized one after another to create a magnetic field capable of propelling projectiles. The 124-kilogramme projectile is said to be the heaviest ever used in such an experiment. — SPUTNIK

## Meta faces backlash over Canada news block as wildfires rage

META is being accused of endangering lives by blocking news links in Canada at a crucial moment, when thousands have fled their homes and are desperate for wildfire updates that once would have been shared widely on Facebook.

The situation “is dangerous”, said Kelsey Worth, 35, one of nearly 20,000 residents of Yellowknife and thousands more in small towns ordered to evacuate the Northwest Territories as wildfires advanced.

She described to AFP how “insanely difficult” it has been for herself and other evacuees to find verifiable information about the fires blazing across the near-Arctic territory and

other parts of Canada.

“Nobody's able to know what's true or not,” she said.

“And when you're in an emergency situation, time is of the essence,” she said, explaining that many Canadians until now have relied on social media for news.

Meta on 1 August started blocking the distribution of news links and articles on its Facebook and Instagram platforms in response to a recent law requiring digital giants to pay publishers for news content.

The company has been in a virtual showdown with Ottawa over the bill passed in June, but which only takes effect next year. — AFP



Community members load supplies onto to boats to move across Shuswap Lake for high alert and evacuated community areas that don't have road access as the Bush Creek East fire continues to burn in Blind Bay, British Columbia, 21 August 2023. **PHOTO: PAIGE TAYLOR WHITE / AFP**

# Japan's 1<sup>st</sup> new tram in 75 years starts operating north of Tokyo

JAPAN'S first new tram system in 75 years began operating north of Tokyo on Saturday, with features designed to make it easy to access for the elderly and wheelchair users as Japan's society grays.

The so-called next-generation tram system in Tochigi Prefecture runs between the east side of JR Utsunomiya Station and the nearby town of Haga, covering the 14.6-kilometre route in 48 minutes.

The train, with yellow stripes, has been dubbed the "Lightline" after the frequent lightening observed in Utsunomiya that has earned the capital of Tochigi the nickname "thunder capital".

Running on renewable energy, the train cars are designed

The tram system has been designed with features that cater to the needs of the elderly and wheelchair users, keeping in mind Japan's aging society.



A Haga Utsunomiya Light Rail Transit train runs in Utsunomiya on 26 August 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

with low floors and reduced vibration for ease of access.

Utsunomiya Mayor Eiichi Sato said at an opening ceremony that he hopes the new transit network will contribute to "exchanges among people and bring energy to the local area".

A special train commemorating the start of the service left the Utsunomiya Station East stop, carrying children and others, while many people cheered and watched the departure.

The Haga Utsunomiya Light Rail Transit, which has cost 68.4 billion yen (\$467 million), was initially planned to open in March 2022, but the schedule was postponed twice due to a delay in construction work. During a trial operation in November, a derauling accident occurred. — Kyodo

## In Colombia, a community wins fight to protect a slice of paradise

IN the remote west of Colombia, where virgin rainforest and pristine beaches collide, a group of politicians and businessmen dreamed of building a massive port on the Pacific.

It took almost two decades, but a small community managed to sink the project, betting on a different development model to preserve their slice of paradise.

In June, UNESCO declared the Gulf of Tribuga a biosphere reserve, putting a definitive end to plans to build a deepwater port and some 80 kilometres (50 miles) of highway through the untouched jungle.

The remote region, with no roads linking it to the interior, boasts a bounty of plant species, while its warm Pacific waters are a breeding ground for humpback whales and turtles.

In a region where unemployment stands around 30 per cent, and poverty affects some 63 per cent of inhabitants, the project promised "a lot of jobs,"

recalls Marcelina Morena, a 51-year-old Colombian of African descent.

"But on the other hand, it was going to bring us destruction of the mangroves, the land, everything. So we said no to the port."

Wearing rubber boots and gloves, she clammers through thick mangrove branches in search of pianguas, a mollusk considered a delicacy in Ecuador and Mexico.

She says the Gulf of Tribuga "is going to be for the children, so that in the future they have something to live on."

"We will not allow anyone to destroy it, because it is a natural heritage."

### Benefits to a few

The project was first proposed in 2006 by a group of around 30 local officials and businessmen.

It progressed at a snail's pace until Ivan Duque, elected president in 2018, made it a priority. — AFP

## Tourism boom promotes revitalization of intangible cultural heritage

VISITORS asked questions and expressed praises for the handmade cloth tigers as they gathered around an intangible cultural heritage products stall in a scenic area in Licheng County, north China's Shanxi Province.

The Lihou Tiger, a national intangible cultural heritage, originated from the folk custom of using tigers as totems in the Shang and Zhou dynasties (1600 BC-256 BC) and gradually evolved into its present form, intertwining elements of storytelling, straw weaving, embroidery, paper-cutting, calligraphy, and painting.

"It carries cultural connotations like blessings, protecting the house and wealth crea-



Visitors take photos on the ancient city wall in Datong, north China's Shanxi Province, 8 June 2023. PHOTO: YANG CHENGUANG/XINHUA

tion," said Li Linyu, a shopping guide at the stall.

In recent years, the rapid growth of China's tourism

sector has injected new vitality into the promotion, inheritance and development of intangible cultural heritage. — Xinhua

## Tropical forests nearing critical temperatures thresholds

GLOBAL warming is driving leafy tropical canopies close to temperatures where they can no longer transform sunlight and CO<sub>2</sub> into energy, threatening total collapse

if the thermometer keeps climbing, according to a study Thursday.

A tiny percentage of upper canopy leaves have already crossed that thresh-

old, reaching temperatures so high — above 47 degrees Celsius — as to prevent photosynthesis, the study published in Nature reported. — AFP

# ECONOMY WORLD

## India will become 3<sup>rd</sup> largest economy in few years: WEF president

WORLD Economic Forum (WEF) president Borge Brende voiced optimism that India will be the third largest economy in the world in a few years and it is important for the country to continue reforms, build better infrastructure and invest in education.

Speaking at the B20 Summit in the national capital on Friday, Brende also highlighted that countries should be allowed to be competitive and buy what is most relevant for their business.

Brende was delivering his address at a session on “Inclusive GVCs (global value chains) for Resilient Global Trade and Investment” at the B20 Summit India 2023 organized by the industry body CII.

“There is a lot of optimism in India, which is also the basis of India’s Presidency of G20. India has been the fastest-growing

Brende emphasized the importance of India’s ongoing commitment to economic reforms. These reforms play a critical role in creating a business-friendly environment, attracting investments, and enhancing overall economic competitiveness.



India has been actively focusing on infrastructure development to support its rapidly growing economy, improve connectivity, and enhance the quality of life for its citizens. **PHOTO: ANI**

economy for three years in a row, in the middle of sluggish global growth.

India will be the third largest economy in the world in a few years, a 10 trillion Dollar

economy in a decade and larger than Germany and Japan in a few years.

It is important for India to continue reforms, build better infrastructure, and invest in education”, said Brende, President, of the World Economic Forum, in Switzerland.

Indian economy is currently ranked fifth and is behind the US, China, Japan, and Germany. In 2014 when Narendra Modi was sworn in as the Prime Minister, India was the 10<sup>th</sup> largest economy. In 2022, India became the fifth-largest economy overtaking the UK. “Future prosperity and poverty eradication will be based on open trade and strong Global Value Chains. Global Value Chains are at the core of future growth, which have to be inclusive and adjusted for climate change,” he said. The theme of B20 Summit India is ‘RAISE — Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable and Equitable Businesses’. — ANI

## China’s State Council stresses high-quality development of pharmaceutical, medical equipment industries



A staff member works on the production line of medical injections at a pharmaceutical company in Rizhao Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone. **PHOTO: GUO XULEI/XINHUA/FILE**

CHINA’S State Council has deliberated and adopted work plans on promoting high-quality development of the pharmaceutical and medical equipment

industries in the 2023-2025 period, according to a State Council executive meeting chaired by Premier Li Qiang on Friday.

Efforts should be made to

enhance the supply capacity of more sophisticated, high-quality medicines, key technologies and pharmaceutical materials, as well as accelerating the pace of shoring up China’s weak links in high-end medical equipment, said the meeting.

Measures should be taken to offer full-chain support to pharmaceutical research and development, while encouraging and guiding leading medical enterprises to develop and expand, in a bid to enhance the sector’s industrial concentration and market competitiveness, it said. — Xinhua

## Wildfires burn 60,000 hectares in Italy this year: industry association

WILDFIRES have so far burned more than 600 square kilometres (60,000 hectares) of land in Italy, more than in all of 2022, Coldiretti, the country’s main agricultural association said on Friday.

It said that the past two unusually dry and hot summers have left water levels in rivers and lakes low, contributing to dry conditions in wooded areas. The areas impacted most by the fires are the islands of Sicily and Sardinia, but other parts of southern Italy also experienced

uncontrolled blazes. Most recently, fires torched the eastern part of the Tuscan island of Elba.

The total area impacted by fires is more than three times the size of the city of Milan in northern Italy. Even though the summer of 2022 was affected by drought and heatwaves, the weather this year has been even more extreme with record high temperatures in many parts of the country. The back-to-back heatwaves have also had a cumulative effect, leaving forests more vulnerable. — AFP



Photo taken on 13 July 2022 shows a low level of Lake Como in Como, Lombardy region, Italy. **PHOTO: STR/XINHUA**

## Powell says US Fed could ‘raise rates further,’ but urges caution

THE US Federal Reserve is prepared to raise interest rates higher — and hold them there — to bring down above-target inflation, but will proceed “carefully” going forward, chairman Jerome Powell said Friday.

“We are prepared to raise rates further if appropriate, and intend to hold policy at a restrictive level until we are confident that inflation is moving sustainably down toward our objective,” he told the Jackson

Hole Economic Symposium in Wyoming. After 11 rate hikes in less than 18 months, the US benchmark lending rate now sits at a range between 5.25 and 5.5 per cent — its highest level in 22 years. — AFP

## Squeezed out: Bulgaria lavender oil makers fear EU laws

AS a successful harvesting season yielding several hundred tonnes of lavender oil wraps up in Bulgaria — the world’s top producer — the industry’s future looks more grey than purple.

With a global production glut already weighing on prices, Bulgarian distillers now fear new EU regulations will further crimp business.

While the European Union has offered to pause the implementation of the bloc’s revised regulations restricting harmful chemical substances, the clock is ticking.

Nikolay Nenkov, head of Galen-N distillery — one of the biggest in Bulgaria — is worried that he will soon have to affix health warning labels featuring off-putting slogans to his vials of lavender oil.

“We fear that such measures will lower consumption, curb production and (thus) the sector might disappear in some regions, which is very bad considering it’s a long-standing tradition,” he told AFP. — AFP



Lavender oil is an essential oil derived from the flowers of the lavender plant (*Lavandula angustifolia* or *Lavandula officinalis*). It is known for its pleasant aroma and a wide range of potential therapeutic uses. PHOTO: AFP

## London businesses weary as vehicle pollution toll zone expands

DAYS ahead of the controversial expansion of London’s road charging scheme for the most polluting vehicles, businesses in the British capital remain wary despite the mayor unveiling further subsidies.

The extension of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) to all of Greater London on Tuesday has sparked a wider public backlash as Britons grapple with a cost-of-living crisis fuelled by decades-high inflation and low economic growth.

Alongside that, a third of London businesses are

concerned that the £12.50 (\$16) daily toll set to be applied across the city will have a negative impact on their employees, according to the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI).

Around 40 of those based in the suburbs — where the scheme is being expanded to — believe it will increase their costs, it found.

“We’ve been urging the mayor of London to do a lot more so that businesses, particularly small businesses, are not hammered,” James Watkins, of the LCCI, told AFP. — AFP

## Driverless cars cruise the streets of San Francisco



This 25 August 2023, screen grab shows a Waymo car in San Francisco, one of the driverless vehicles residents in the US city are starting to use get around town. PHOTO: AFP

THIS California summer, passersby on the streets of San Francisco can be divided into two camps: blase locals who are used to a parade of moving cars with no drivers or gobsmacked tourists fumbling for their smart-

phones to capture this long-promised vision of the future.

Katherine Allen climbs into a white Jaguar, which then pushes out carefully into the traffic in a busy neighborhood crisscrossed by

jaywalkers and cyclists.

The 37-year-old lawyer has been voluntarily testing Waymo’s robot cabs since the end of 2021. At first, there was always an employee of this subsidiary of Alphabet (Google’s par-

ent company) on board, there to grab the wheel if needed.

And then one night with very little warning, the car came to her unchaperoned.

“I was really nervous the first time, but not too nervous that I didn’t want to take it. I was excited too,” she said.

“For the first two thirds of the trip, maybe 20 minutes or so, I was freaking out and then all of a sudden it just sort of felt normal, which is weird, because it wasn’t normal!”

The vehicles in San Francisco are operated by Waymo and General Motors owned Cruise and earlier this summer both operators received permission by a California regulator to operate 24/7 across the city except on freeways. — AFP

## China’s int’l trade in goods, services tops 3.77 trln yuan in July

CHINA’S international trade in goods and services in July exceeded 3.77 trillion yuan, or 526.5 billion US dollars, official data showed on Friday.

Exports of goods neared 1.83 trillion yuan and imports surpassed 1.44 trillion yuan, resulting in a surplus of 385.5 billion yuan, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange

said. Services exports totaled 183.8 billion yuan last month, and services imports were at 315.3 billion yuan, resulting in a trade deficit of 131.5 billion yuan. — Xinhua

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (202N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (202N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-8-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINE**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3314S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3314S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-8-2023** 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.

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Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE**

# ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

## Iran wants more maritime cooperation with Russia, China to bust through sanctions

Iran aims to enhance maritime cooperation between itself, Russia, and China as a means to overcome the impact of Western sanctions. The strategy involves boosting maritime capabilities, trade, and military presence, using international corridors and networks.



On 16 February 2021, Iran and Russia's armed forces started a joint naval exercise in the northern Indian Ocean to improve the security of maritime trade. **PHOTO: KREMLIN.RU/FILE**

THE Islamic Republic has ramped up cooperation with Russia and China dramatically in recent years, signing a 25-

year cooperation pact with Beijing in 2021, and putting the finishing touches on a similar agreement with Moscow

earlier this year. Iran joined the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in July, and acceded to the BRICS bloc on Thursday.

Closer maritime cooperation between Iran, Russia and China will help Tehran break through the West's "cruel sanctions" blockade, Yahya Rahim Safavi, a senior Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commander and advisor to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has said.

"In order to counter the cruel sanctions imposed by the US and its allies, Iran must promote the strategy of sea-oriented economy and boost its maritime power with the presence of its trade and military fleet in the oceans and seas and by using the network of South-North and East to West corridors in cooperation with the Russian Federation and China," Safavi said, speaking at a national conference on maritime affairs.

"We need to connect the maritime and ground geostrategic domains. This is a new strategy as Iran's geographical location gives us such a capacity," the official said. — SPUTNIK

## Biggest Loch Ness monster search in decades gets underway

THE biggest search for the Loch Ness Monster in five decades got underway in the Scottish Highlands Saturday, as researchers and enthusiasts from around the world braved pelting rain to try to track down the elusive Nessie.

The expedition deployed drones with thermal scanners, boats with infrared cameras and an underwater hydrophone to try to unravel a mystery that has captivated the world for generations.

"There's not a corner of the globe you can go to where people haven't heard of Nessie, but it is still one of our biggest questions — what is the Loch Ness Monster," said Paul Nixon, general manager of the Loch Ness Centre told AFP.

"I don't know what it is. All I

know is that there is a big something in Loch Ness. I have seen sonar scans of objects the size of transit vans underneath the water moving."

Tatiana Yeboah, 21, a tourist from France, whose visit coincided with the search, said it had been a lifelong dream to visit Loch Ness.

The searchers believe the thermal scanners could prove crucial in identifying any strange anomalies in the murky depths.

The hydrophone will allow the searchers to listen for unusual Nessie-like underwater calls.

Stretching 23 miles (36 kilometres) and with a maximum depth of 788 feet (240 metres), the freshwater loch is the UK's largest lake by volume. — AFP

## Zimbabwean president Mnangagwa re-elected

ZIMBABWEAN President Emmerson Mnangagwa has been re-elected for a second five-year term, after garnering 52.6 per cent of the total votes cast in the Aug. 23-24 elections, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) announced on Saturday.

Mnangagwa beat 10 other presidential contestants after polling 2,350,711 votes, ZEC chairperson Priscilla Chigumba said.

Mnangagwa's main challenger and opposition Citizens for Coalition Change (CCC) leader, Nelson Chamisa, got 1,967,343 votes or 44 per cent of the valid votes cast, Chigumba said.

According to Zimbabwean law, a presidential winner must get 50 per cent plus one vote of the total valid votes cast.

"Mnangagwa Emmerson Dambudzo of ZANU-PF party is declared duly elected presi-



Supporters of Zimbabwe's ruling party ZANU PF wave their party flag during a rally addressed by party president Emmerson Mnangagwa, in Harare on 9 August 2023. **PHOTO: JEKESAI NJIKIZANA/AFP**

dent of the Republic of Zimbabwe with effect from 26 August 2023," Chigumba said.

According to the ZEC, Mnangagwa's ruling ZANU-PF party has won the majority of the 210 parliamentary seats.

Zimbabweans voted on Wednesday and Thursday, with a voter turnout of 68.9 per cent, to choose a new president, members of parliament and representatives of local governments. — Xinhua

# SPORTS

## Messi comes off bench to score as Miami win at Red Bulls

LIONEL Messi came off the bench and scored as Inter Miami began their push for the Major League Soccer playoffs with a 2-0 win at New York Red Bulls on Saturday.

After a week in which Miami won the Leagues Cup and reached the final of the US Open Cup, Messi was left on the bench by coach Gerard "Tata" Martino but came into the game on the hour mark.

The Argentine World Cup winner had limited involvement after entering with former Barcelona team-mate Sergio Busquets but made his mark on his regular season debut with an 89th minute goal.

Jordi Alba acrobatically hooked the ball into the box to Messi who twisted and turned then slipped a sublime pass with the outside of his foot to Benjamin Cremaschi whose low first-time cross was tapped in by the seven-times Ballon d'Or winner.

Messi has now scored 11 goals in nine appearances in all competitions since joining Inter Miami.

"He's unbelievable, every day it's something new, on and off the field," said Miami's 19-year-old defender Noah Allen. — AFP

## Myanmar's Lethwei championship launched with thrillers



Two Lethwei fighters exchange punches with each other in Myanmar Lethwei Championship on 27 August. PHOTO: BALA SOE

Under the supervision of Myanmar Lethwei Federation, a traditional Lethwei championship was held at Shwelinpan Industrial Zone, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region, yesterday. The championship features nine bouts behind the close door.

In the five-round bouts, Thant Sin (Tawwin Ayeya) tied at Saw John (Naga Marn). Next the bouts of Naing Aung Shin (Lethwei Warrior) vs Maung Zaw (Hanthawadytha) and Kyel Sin Tun (Lethwei Warrior) vs Ye Lin Oo (Smart Fight) ended at draws. In the four-round bouts, Salai Thang Khwi Shein (Kyar Manaing) beat Aung Htun Bo (Doh Yoya) in the second round with knee strikes.

In the three-round bouts, Than Lin Aung (Ray) fought to a draw against Saw J Dee Dee (YFC) while Moe Thauk Kyel (Lonchaw Club) vs Tun Lin Aung (Doh Yoya) fight also ended with a tie.

Next, Saw Htee (Kyar Manaing) beat Aung Aung (Doh Yoya) in the second stanza and Saw Kyaw Htoo (YFC) defeated Ye Lin Naing (Smart Fight) in the second round.

Meanwhile, Rain Kywe Naw (Python MMA) struck off Ye Lin Zaw (Smart Fight) in the second stanza of the bout. After the fights, the vice president and CEO of the Myanmar Lethwei Federation presented the best fighter award and bout awards to the winners. — Bala Soe/KZL

## Norway's Hovland grabs six-shot lead at PGA Tour Championship

VIKTOR Hovland shrugged off severe heat and a storm delay to seize a six-stroke lead after Saturday's third round of the US PGA Tour's season-ending Tour Championship. The 25-year-old Norwegian fired a four-under par 66 to stand on 20-under after 54 holes at East Lake in Atlanta with American Xander Schauffele a distant second. "I can't remember (when) I've led by that many shots," Hovland said. Temperatures soared near 100 degrees (37.7 Celsius) before a late-round storm stoppage, but neither weather nor rivals could slow fifth-ranked Hovland, who won last week's BMW Championship and became the man to beat for the \$18 million top prize. — AFP



Norway's Viktor Hovland fired a 66 to seize a six-stroke lead after three rounds of the US PGA Tour's season-ending Tour Championship. PHOTO: AFP



Myawady FC players are seen celebrating after achieving the championship trophy for the Myanmar Women's League 2023. PHOTO: MWL

Myawady FC won the Championship title of the 2023 Myanmar Women's League following the 1-1 draw against ISPE FC in the final game yesterday.

The two teams running for the championship met in the final game of the season. Myawady won with a draw that they needed for the championship. The ISPE team, which has won the championship twice in a row, will be able to defend the championship title if they win

## Myawady crowns Championship title for 2023 MWL

this match, but they lost the big chance due to a draw.

The Myawady team won the MWL championship, which was away for two consecutive seasons, and won the championship for the third time.

As it was the deciding match for the championship, both teams came out with core players and competed against each other in the midst of heavy rain.

Nant May Thazin took the lead for ISPE at the 25 minute, but San Thaw

Thaw equalized for team Myawady at the 41 minute. In the second half, ISPE tried to score a goal, but Myawady managed to keep the score tied. Myawady secured the championship title with 26 points from eight wins, two draws and no loss while ISPE took the first runner-up with 23 points and Thitsar Arman garnered the second runner-up with 19 points.

Yangon United gained 10 points and Sports and Physical Education Team earned nine points during the tourney.

Young Lionesses team has no win and no point. The best player awards went to San Thaw Thaw from Myawady and Khin Marlar Tun from ISPE who respectively scored 16 goals along the championship.

The winner of the championship Myawady team got K15 million with individual medals while the first runner-up ISPE FC picked K12 million and the second runner-up Thitsar Armah earned K10 million. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Iran wants more maritime cooperation with Russia, China to bust through sanctions

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# STOP FUNDING UKRAINE WAR WORLD

## London's Met police on alert after IT 'hack'

LONDON'S Metropolitan Police force said Sunday it was taking security measures after "unauthorised access to the IT system of one of its suppliers", following data breaches at other forces.

The company in question had access to the names, ranks, photos, vetting levels and pay numbers for officers and staff, but not addresses, phone numbers or financial details, it said. The Sun on Sunday newspaper reported that "cyber crooks penetrated the IT systems" of the firm which reportedly prints identity cards and staff passes for the Met, the UK's biggest police force. Scotland Yard said the force was now working with the company to understand if there had been any security breach relating to its data. According to a spokesman, it was unable to say when the breach occurred or how many personnel might be affected. "Security measures have been taken... as a result of this report," the force said in a statement.

The Metropolitan Police Federation, which represents rank and file officers, said the breach would "cause colleagues incredible concern and anger". "We share that sense of fury... this is a staggering security breach that should never have happened," said vice chair Rick Prior. — AFP



A demonstrator holds a slogan during the anti-war rally in Washington, DC, the United States, 19 February 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

## No, Biden can't wage forever war in Ukraine

Some experts, like David T Pyne, a former US Department of Defense officer, believe that the US and NATO might not have sufficient weapons and ammunition to support Ukraine in a prolonged conflict against Russia beyond a certain point.

BIDEN administration officials appear to be fixing for a new "forever war" in Ukraine, as per the US mainstream press. Does Washington have enough resources for a protracted conflict?

The US mainstream media has hinted at the possibility of a new Ukraine counteroffensive next year. Reportedly, Biden administration officials are privately bracing for a "war of attrition" that will last well into next year.

According to The Wall Street Journal, "military strategists and policymakers

across the West are already starting to think about next year's spring offensive" while preparing for a protracted conflict.

Having analyzed the publications, one DC-based think tank, the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, has raised the question whether the White House is going to unleash a new "forever war" in Ukraine.

"I do not believe the US and NATO have sufficient weapons and ammunitions to help Ukraine fight Russia until next spring and beyond," David T Pyne, an EMP Task Force scholar and former

US Department of Defence officer, told Sputnik.

"Credible US media reports earlier this year stated that the Biden administration had informed the Ukrainian government that it lacked the ability to support Ukraine militarily at a high rate past summer 2023. There is nothing that has been done to increase US munitions or weapons production since those reports came out that would allow the US to arm the Ukrainian military to enable it to fight Russia at the same intensity level beyond that timeframe.

The main problem is munitions, specifically heavy artillery shells. This increasing artillery shell shortage will only serve to increase Russian superiority over Ukraine in terms of missiles, rockets, and artillery systems if the war continues beyond September." — SPUTNIK



People believed to have been transported by a car arranged by the North Korean Embassy in Beijing are seen heading to Beijing Capital International Airport on 22 August 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

## Citizens of N Korea allowed to re-enter with 1-week quarantine

NORTH Korea's citizens abroad will be allowed to re-enter the country with one week of quarantine, state media said Sunday, as Pyongyang eased its strict COVID-19 border controls in place since early 2020.

The State Emergency Epidemic Prevention Headquarters announced the measures Saturday based on its decision "to adjust the anti-epidemic degree in reference to the eased worldwide pandemic situation", the official Korean Central News Agency said.

North Korea recently resumed international passenger flights, with state-run carrier Air Koryo operating services linking Pyongyang and Beijing from Tuesday as well as the capital and Vladivostok in the Russian Far East from Friday.

Tens of thousands of North Korean laborers have remained in China and Russia due to the border closure. Sources familiar with the country's situation said, however, foreigners are still not allowed to enter North Korea. — Kyodo