

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Sino-Myanmar bilateral trade skyrockets to US\$2 bln in H1 this FY

Myanmar's border trade with China in the first half of the 2023-2024 Financial Year was up by \$733.95 million compared to that of the year-ago period.

THE value of border trade between Myanmar and a major trade partner China grew to US\$2.015 billion in the first half of the current financial year 2023-2024 from \$1.28 billion recorded in the corresponding period last FY 2022-2023, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's border trade with China in H1 was up by \$733.95 million compared to that of the year-ago period. Myanmar conducts cross-border trade with the neighbouring country China via Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti and Kengtung. Muse border saw a majority of the trade worth \$1.28 billion.

The trade value stood at \$632.8 million via Chinshwehaw, \$59.89 million via Kampaiti, \$35.485 million via Lweje and \$3.618 million via Kengtung respectively.

Myanmar has been carrying out border trade with the four neighbouring countries China, Thailand, Bangladesh and India via the border posts.

Export items are agricultural products, livestock products, fisheries products, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods and other goods, while capital goods, intermediate goods, manufacturing goods and raw materials by CMP enterprises are imported.

SEE PAGE-7



Squid fishing boats prepared for business in the upcoming open season, in Myeik, Taninthayi Region.

Taninthayi squid fishing businesses gear up as Thadingyut approaches

The squid fishing boats normally run in the open season from Thadingyut (late October) to the Thingyan Festival (mid-April).

WITH the Thadingyut Festival approaching, the squid fishing boat operators are gearing up for the resumption of the businesses in the sea, squid fishing businesspersons said.

The squid fishing boats normally run in the open season from Thadingyut (late October) to the Thingyan Festival (mid-April).

"Usually, the squid fishing season happens between the Thadingyut and Thingyan festivals. Some businesses operate until May. The fishers calculate the dark moon cycles to catch

squid. Some boats even leave for the sea. The squid fishing suspends in monsoon season and resumes in open season," highlighted a squid fishing boat operator.

There are about 300 registered squid fishing trawlers and 5,00 squid boats in Myeik District, Taninthayi Region, according to Myeik District Squid Fishing Entrepreneurs Association.

"We still cannot evaluate the market. The diesel price declines yet the price has not returned to normal rate. The cost of running a squid

boat is pretty high. The squid fetches K250,000 per 10-viss tray. We cannot predict the market price yet", said a squid boat owner.

The close season for fishing in the Myanmar Sea is set between April and June. Therefore, squid fishing trawlers also stopped operation. The Fisheries Department, however, eased the rules on five coastal areas, according to a notification dated 2 May 2023. Thus, squid fishing boats in some regions and states were given the green light to restart the fishing in May. — Myint Oo/EM

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NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 97/2023

11th Waning of Tawthalin 1385 ME
10 October 2023

Appointment and Duty-Assignment of Chief Justice of Magway Region High Court

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned Daw Mi Mi Maw to the duties of Chief Justice of the Magway Region High Court under Section 419 of the State Constitution.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant -General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 98/2023

11th Waning of Tawthalin 1385 ME
10 October 2023

Appointment and Duty-Assignment of Judge of Magway Region High Court

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned Daw Khin Hnin Htut to the duties of Judge of the Magway Region High Court under Section 419 of the State Constitution.

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Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant -General
Secretary
State Administration Council

MOFA's view regarding ongoing situation in Middle East

MYANMAR is concerned about the ongoing violence in the Middle East region and is closely monitoring the situation. In order to prevent further escalation of the conflict and to reduce the ongoing tensions, Myanmar urges the relevant parties to exercise restraint and to resolve the issue peacefully. — MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of U Nay Lin as Director-General of the Union Government Office on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

MraukU storm Mocha renovation nears completion



ACCORDING to U Maung San Win, Deputy Director of the Department of Archeology and National Museum (MraukU Branch), renovations for the damage caused by the Mocha storm in

the MraukU cultural area in Rakhine State have reached the final stage.

As for the buildings that need to be repaired urgently, the renovation started last June, and the repair work

has reached the stage of completion at the end of September.

“Most of the ancient stone-hewn buildings in the MraukU cultural area were not damaged by the Mocha storm. However, some old renovated building parts and walls have been damaged.

All preparations have reached the final stage. A stone temple located on a mountain about two miles away from the MraukU cultural area was destroyed and collapsed, so the necessary information for reconstruction is still being collected. Calculations are being made to prepare for the next fiscal year. That’s the only thing left,” said U Maung San Win.

Some of the ancient buildings in the MraukU cultural area that were damaged by the Mocha storm have been restored changing original designs. Most of them were minor damage, so they were repaired with funds approved for the current financial year. — ASH/KZL



Some buddha images in MraukU cultural area are seen (left photo) and volunteers collect garbage in the MraukU cultural area in Rakhine State (right photo).

NATIONAL

76th Anniversary of Independence Day celebration to meet five national objectives

THE 76th Anniversary of Independence Day 2024 will be observed in accord with five national objectives including the point to strive for holding a free and fair election under the law and for enabling the people from all parts of the nation to cast votes.

To so do, the first coordination meeting of the 76th Anniversary of Independence Day Organizing Central Committee took place at the office of the State Administration Council Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon with an address by Chairman of the Central Committee SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

The Vice-Senior General confirmed that the commemorative day will be marked in line with the five national objectives: to maintain Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereign-



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Premier Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the first coordination meeting of the 76th Anniversary of Independence Day Organizing Central Committee yesterday.



ty — dubbed as the national interests and national politics, to enhance the comprehensive education sector which can turn out well-versed human resources in building the Union based on modern, developed democratic system and federalism, to make efforts for holding a free and fair

election under the law and for enabling entire people from all parts of the nation to cast votes, to make collaborative efforts for ceasing all terrorists, forging peace and stability and ensuring firmness for the multiparty democratic system, to encourage MSME businesses based on

agriculture and livestock farms. He continued that this year's Independence Day celebration will regularly take place with a flag-hoisting ceremony in the morning, handing honorary titles in the afternoon and hosting a dinner in the evening. Despite marking the Independ-

ence Day ceremony as usual, as it is a national-level ceremony, all need to cooperate with each other in organizing the ceremony, he added.

Officials of the relevant subcommittee reported on the progress of preparations for the ceremony. — MNA/TTA

Court Martial adjudicates and sentences ex-Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun and ex-Brig-Gen Yan Naung Soe

EX-LT-GEN Moe Myint Tun took personal benefits against the State's foreign exchange policy, essential goods policy and other economic policies while serving the duties of the member of the State Administration Council, the Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission, the Chairman of the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee and Central Committee for Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, and committed betrayal to the State treason violating the roadmap and objectives adopted by the State. Although the Central Bank of Myanmar sold US dollars for importing palm oil to be sold at the reference price, he intentionally failed to take action against the persons who raised the price of palm oil rather than the reference price set by the government. Moreover, he par-

took in the case, taking bribes given by companies applying his rank and authority, illegally keeping foreign exchange currencies in hand, and participating in civilian businesses by breaking directives related to the military disciplines. Hence, he was indicted under relevant sections of laws and the Court Martial charged him under relevant laws and adjudicated his cases and sentenced him to suffer transportation for the term of a 20-year term equal to a life sentence. Furthermore, ex-Brig-Gen Yan Naung Soe serving the duties of Joint Secretary of the Central Committee for Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods took personal benefits against the economic policies of the State and committed betrayal to the State treason together with ex-Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun with failure to violate the roadmap and

objectives adopted by the State by violating doing in conformity with foreign exchange policy, essential good policy and other economic policies. He also exchanged foreign currency with Myanmar kyats for businesspersons by applying his rank and authority, accepted foreign currency and Myanmar kyats from businesspersons, created connections between businesspersons with ex-Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, illegally kept foreign currencies in hand, and participated in the civilian businesses with violation against directives related to the military disciplines. As such, he was indicted under relevant sections of laws and the Court Martial adjudicated his cases, charged him under the relevant laws and sentenced him to suffer transportation for the term of a 20-year term equal to a life sentence. — GNLM

Electricity transmission to be enhanced in Yangon

UNION Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun stated plans to expand power production to meet the Yangon Region's electricity demand.

The Union minister made these remarks during a business coordination meeting aimed at reducing power loss to stabilize and enhance the power system in the Yangon Region at the meeting hall of the Yangon Region

Electricity Supply Corporation headquarters, on 10 October. During the meeting, district electricity managers and engineers in the Yangon Region discussed actions to be taken in the future.

Finally, the Union minister focused on increased transmission of electricity and enhancing the balance between reducing power loss and improving power system stability. — MNA/KZW



YESC staff members working at the substation in Hline Township.

NATIONAL

MoE UM engages in technical discussions with ROSGEO

UNION Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin led a delegation to the Sixth Russian Energy Week International Forum (REW) in Moscow, Russia. During the forum, the delegation engaged in discussions with Mr Alexander, Head of the International Operations Department at ROSGEO, the state-owned geoscience exploration and research organization of the Russian Federation.

Mr Alexander, Director of International Operations at ROSGEO, provided insights into ROSGEO's extensive geoscience research and exploration activities, including oil and mineral exploration, geophysics studies, mining, offshore site analysis, gravity surveys, geological surveys, and measurement research



Union Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin discusses with Mr Alexander from ROSGEO in Moscow, Russia.

and analysis. ROSGEO, wholly owned by the Russian Federation, collaborates internation-

ally and boasts 64 subsidiary companies.

The discussions primarily

revolved around the utilization of artificial intelligence (AI) technology for extracting oil

from low-potential layers in old oil wells. Additionally, there were talks about collecting and analyzing data related to geological valleys (Sedimentary Basins) to identify new oil fields. The ability to conduct 2D and 3D site surveys and evaluate the obtained data to identify potential oil and natural gas reserves, as well as the capacity to construct 3D geological models, were also explored.

The Union minister expressed keen interest in leveraging modern technologies to reduce losses and risks, particularly in light of declining oil production in Myanmar. He expressed a strong desire to cooperate further with the ROSGEO team on these technical fronts. — MNA/TS

CBM discusses international non-profit money transfers, border trading banking, and illegal transfers



A meeting on remittance to Myanmar by international non-profit organizations, the use of the banking system for border trading and taking action against illegal money transfers in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

A meeting on remittance to Myanmar by international non-profit organizations, the use of the banking system for border trading and taking action against illegal money transfers was held at the Central Bank of Myanmar yesterday.

The meeting was organized by the Working Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism.

During the meeting, Working Group Chairperson Central Bank of Myanmar

Governor Daw Than Than Swe discussed the fast verification of remittance of international non-profit organizations, not delays, measures to ensure the banking system instead of cash at border trade camps and to take actions against the illegal money remittance.

Similarly, the meeting focused on drafting a report based on the discussion of the Asia-Pacific Joint Group (APJG) on the 9th Myanmar AML/CFT implementation progress report, sectoral

risk assessments of six supervisory groups reported to the central group by National Strategy 3 Against Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism Supervisory Committee, findings, weakness and future work plans.

Moreover, the members who attended the Plenary Session of APJG in India on 7 and 8 September reported on their experiences to the meeting and the progress report to be submitted to APJG in November 2023. — ASH/KTZH

MNHRC inspects Maubin Prison to ensure rights

THE inspection team, led by Commissioner U Kyaw Soe from the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, inspected the Maubin Prison in Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 10 October 2023 under Section 43 and Section 44 of the MNHRC Law.

The inspection team inspected the Maubin Prison according to the MNHRC law and procedures whether the prisoners and detainees enjoy fundamental rights, including appropriate food supply, healthcare and adequate purified water. They enquired

about the prisoners to ensure that they get their personal items and items sent by families and whether there were human rights violations and torture cases in the prison.

The inspection team also viewed the dormitories, clinic, library, kitchen, food storage, water purifier, and water sanitation system of the prison.

Besides, MNHRC donated 50 books for the prisoners. MNHRC will send recommendations to relevant departments for the necessary action based on the findings during the inspection. — MNHRC



Commissioner U Kyaw Soe from the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission meets prisoners and detainees in the Maubin Prison in Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Region during his inspection tour on 10 October 2023.

NATIONAL

Photo News

Aid for flood-affected residents in Hlegu

THE Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided K2,520,000 in food support to 1,200 flood-affected individuals from 369 evacuated households temporarily residing in the Hlegu Education Degree College's academic hall. — MNA/KZW

PHOTO: MNA



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.

40 acres of farmland, village homes submerged as Kalihtaw main canal breaches



The water is overflowing at the Kalihtaw canal near Innkantlant Village, east of Kyarinn Village.

DUE to heavy rains on 7 October, the main canal of Kalihtaw Dam in Hlegu Township suffered a breach, and about 40 acres of agricultural land and homes from nearby villages, including the Kyarinn (East) Village, were flooded.

At around 3 am that day, 3.39 inches of rain fell, and

the overflow from the spillway of the Kalihtaw Dam, as well as the water released from the dam's drain pipe and the water flowing in from the surrounding area, exceeded the design flow rate of the main canal and caused the canal to break. The breach was about 35 feet in length and 10 feet in

depth, from water-level indicator 16+500 feet to 16+535 feet of the Kalihtaw main canal.

The Yangon Region chief minister inspected the repair work of the breached area with 3 backhoes and 3 dumpers on the afternoon of 8 October.

In addition, the chief minister also instructed responsible persons to check whether the spillways and embankments in the Ngamo-eyeik Dam are strong or not, inspect whether the water has reached the high-water mark and is overflowing, and check the water control towers. If the water rises due to continuous rain, the officials must take action to relocate the homes that may be in danger and also to install water barriers to report the rise and fall of the water in a timely manner. — TWA/CT

Trucks stuck on old Yangon-Mandalay road allowed to pass through expressway

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Highway Freight Service Operators Association, among the large trucks that are stuck on the old Yangon-Mandalay road due to the flooding in Bago, large trucks carrying perishable goods have been allowed to pass through the expressway.

Among the large trucks that were stuck on the previous Yangon-Mandalay Road due to the rise in Bago River, the six-wheeled and twelve-wheeled large trucks carrying the perishable goods will be allowed to leave for Yangon Region via the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway starting at 11 am on 10 October.

Since the morning of 8 October, many vehicles carrying seafood and kitchen appli-

ances coming to Yangon have been blocking the road. Large trucks loaded with perishable goods have been allowed to pass through the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway (39 miles) starting at 11 am on 10 October.

Currently, trucks going up to 39 miles from zero miles of Yangon are not allowed. Due to the condition of the expressway, trailers are not yet allowed," said U Aung Moe, secretary of the Myanmar Highway Freight Service Operators Association.

Currently, floods have occurred due to the rise of the Bago River, and large trucks and small cars have been parked on the former Yangon-Mandalay Road (39 miles) Phayagyi Road to DaikU Road intersection. — ASH/KZL



This photo shows a queue of trucks loaded with perishable goods stranded on the former Yangon-Mandalay Road.

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NATIONAL

Bago flash floods disrupt Yangon freight, spike onion and potato prices

The transport difficulties triggered by the flooding on certain roads reduced the supply of onions and potatoes on 9 October.

A continuous rainfall in Bago Region from 5 to 8 October resulted in flooding and wreaked havoc on transport. The flash flood from torrential rain caused negative impacts on the commodity supply in Yangon's Bayintnaung wholesale centre, as per the truck's arrival information.

The transport difficulties

triggered by the flooding on certain roads reduced the supply of onions and potatoes on 9 October. The volume of goods inflow dropped by half compared to that of last week. Between 2 and 7 October, 690,000 visses of onions and 336,000 visses of potatoes flowed into the Bayintnaung market.

The opening price of po-

tatoes rose to K23,000 per viss on 9 October from K2,000 on 7 October. Similarly, a decrease in onion supply also drove the prices up, Ko Aung, a trader from Nyaungpinlay market who daily buys onions and potatoes at Bayintnaung market, told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The onion prices increased to K2,000-3,250 per viss in Yangon's wholesale market on 9 October. The markets in regions outside Yangon also showed a price rise of around K200 per viss on 9 October.

The potato price was also up by K500 per viss on 7 October compared to that recorded on 2 October.

The chilli pepper and garlic prices remained unchanged. Meanwhile, the wholesale price of sugar dipped to K3,770-3,790 per viss from K3,800-3,820 on 9 October. — TWA/EM



The photo shows a worker unloading onion sacks from a hand-driven cart at a warehouse in the Bayintnaung area.



A patient with conjunctivitis shows her eye.

MoH releases health rules for conjunctivitis

Viral conjunctivitis usually lasts from five to seven days.

THE Ministry of Health issues the health rules to be followed so as not to suffer or spread conjunctivitis or pink eye.

Viral conjunctivitis usually lasts from five to seven days. The symptoms can include intense redness of the eye, itching and watering of the eyes.

It can spread through close contact with the infected person or touching the objects.

from an infected person to others through touching the objects. It should avoid close contact, it said.

It must not share the per-

sonal items used by an infected person. It must use tissue instead of a handkerchief, wash the clothes separately, clean the eyes of patients by applying lubricating eye drops, also known as artificial tears three or four times a day and wash the hands with soap carefully before and after using eye drops.

The patients should go to the nearest hospitals, clinic and eye treatment department if they do not fully recover, and they should wear glasses during their infection, it added. — TWA/KTZH

Kayin State welcomes 112,000 domestic visitors, 300 tourists in Jan-Aug

MORE than 112,000 domestic visitors and more than 300 tourists visited Kayin State in the first eight months of this year, according to Kayin State Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

Fifty-eight licensed hotels in operation offer thousands of rooms in Kayin State. It earned K2158.52 million between January and August 2023. Moreover, a many Thai people visited the Kayin State through the Myawady Friendship Bridge which was reopened on 12 January 2023 after the outbreak of COVID-19.

The Kayin State government announced 22 destinations in the state for local and foreign travellers at Visitkayin.com Website. Moreover, it will establish a nature-based travel city and arrange tour packages for Thai travellers, the department said.

Kayin State provides a variety of mountainous terrain amidst the beaches and seas of Southern Myanmar. The state is encircled by karst limestone peaks that soar above the lush green paddy fields. Interspersed with incredible caves, Kayin offers a stunning view of the western mountainous area of Myanmar. The city itself is beautiful, surrounded by limestone peaks on all sides. A typical Kayin landscape is characterized by lush green farms which make way for lush green mountains.

Kayin State is famous for its tea and coffee production. Tourists have a lot to explore in Kayin State including Mt. Zweekabin, Lumbini Garden, Thandaung, Sadan Cave and other things. From lively festivals to cultural dance shows, tourists will be pampered by the range of things Kayin has to offer. — TWA/KTZH



The photo depicts some travellers walking near the entrance of Saba Cave.

PHOTOS: THU YA OO



The picture captures tourists relaxing at Seittathukha Lake of Kawtkathang in Kayin State.



The photo shows tourists passing the Kawtkhamate bridge.

Sino-Myanmar bilateral trade skyrockets to US\$2 bln in H1 ...

FROM PAGE-1

Myanmar sees steady growth with China via the border presently, with approximately 200 trucks flowing in and out of the Muse trade zone.

Myanmar daily delivers rice, broken rice, pulses, rubber, wa-

termelon, mango, onion, fishery products, chilli pepper and other food commodities to China and building materials, electrical appliances, pharmaceuticals, equipment and food products are imported into the country. — NN/EM

Tachilek border records trade volume of US\$83.049 mln this FY

THE Ministry of Commerce reported between April and September of the 2023-2024 financial year that trade volume at Tachilek on the Myanmar-Thailand border in eastern Shan State amounted to US\$83.049 million, as per the Trade Policy Division of the Trade Department.

Myanmar exported goods worth \$31.174 million and imported goods worth \$51.875 million, resulting in a total trade volume of \$83.049 million during this period.

Through the Tachilek border, regular exports include corn kernels, rice, rubber, dried tea, shrimp bran, metal and old cardboard and paper, plastic, cans and bottles.

Regularly imported items at the Tachilek border include

fuel, construction materials like cement, car tyres, chemical materials, iron and steel products, plastic raw materials, kitchen appliances, electricity distribution and installation equipment and sports equipment.

The Tachilek border in Shan State (East) facilitates trade with various neighbouring countries. Trade is conducted between Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge 1 and 2 in Thailand, Tachilek-Kengtung-Wan Taping (Mongla) to China, Tachilek-Mongphyat-Mongyaung Mongyu -Special Region 4 (BP 240) to China, Tachilek (Wangpon) to Suvplui port (Special Region-4)-Mongla to China and Tachilek to Talay (Kenglat) to Laos. — ASH/KZW



Lorries laden with export cargoes are seen at the Tachilek border.

Octane 92 price rebounds to over K2,000 per litre



The Octane 92 price was below K2,000 per litre from 5 October. The prices gained to K2,015 per litre of Octane 92, K2,115 for Octane 95, K2,310 for diesel and K2,350 for premium diesel on 10 October. The picture shows the petrol station in Yangon.

OCTANE 92 price bounced back to K2,015 per litre in the domestic market on 10 October after a five-day fall.

The Octane 92 price was below K2,000 per litre from 5 October. The prices gained to K2,015 per litre of Octane 92, K2,115 for Octane 95, K2,310 for diesel and K2,350 for premium diesel on 10 October.

The price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in southeast Asia, influences the domestic fuel prices, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

Last August 2022, the oil prices hit the highest of K2,605 per litre for Octane 92, K2,670 for Octane 95, K3,330 for premium diesel and K3,245 for diesel.

The committee is therefore steering the fuel oil storage and distribution sector effectively so as not to have a shortage of oil in the domestic market and to ensure price stability

for energy consumers.

The Petroleum Products Regulatory Department, under the guidance of the committee, is issuing the daily reference rate for oil to offer a reasonable price to energy consumers. The reference rate in the Yangon Region is set on the MOPS's price assessment, shipping cost, premium insurance, tax, other general costs and health profit per cent.

The rates for regions and states other than Yangon are evaluated after adding the transportation cost and the retail reference rates daily covered on the state-run newspapers and are posted on the media and official website and Facebook page of the department daily starting from 4 May.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations whether they are overcharging or not. The authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found over-

charging rather than the set reference rate.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. The domestic fuel price is highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss between the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices compared to that of Myanmar. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies and the prices are about 60 per cent cheaper than that of Myanmar. Every country lays down different patterns of policy to fix the oil prices. Myanmar also levies only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. — NN/EM

Myanmar's honey export volume exceeds 1,200 MT in H1

MYANMAR shipped 1,253 tonnes of honey with an estimated value of over US\$1.8 million to foreign trade partners in the first half (April-September) of the current financial year 2023-2024, according to the Apiculture Division under the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

Myanmar exports honey to

the Republic of Korea, Japan, the US and Singapore. Myanmar's beekeeping businesses are mostly found in Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Magway Region and Shan State.

Myanmar produces sesame honey, jujube honey, niger honey, sunflower honey, lychee honey and flower honey.

Honey is utilized as traditional medicine in the country, while it also generates foreign income from exports.

There are some state-owned beekeeping stations with 6,200 beehives in 31 townships and over 950 private beekeeping businesses operating with nearly 200,000 beehives.

Moreover, two million acres of crops yearly contribute to bee pollination every year. The beekeeping businesses near the crop fields contribute to the successful yield of the crop as well as quality bee production.

Myanmar annually produces about 7,000 tonnes of honey, with a production capacity of 70 pounds

per beehive. Over 1,900 tonnes of honey were shipped to external markets in the 2022-2023 FY (April-March), with an estimated value of over \$2.8 million.

Myanmar exported 1,853.74 tonnes to foreign markets by sea and 63.44 tonnes to neighbouring countries via cross-border. — NN/EM

OPINION

Prepare for natural disasters to save lives and property

THROUGHOUT the first ten days of October this year, Myanmar experienced overcast skies and incessant rainfall due to the slight influence of tropical storm Koinu, lingering over the South China Sea. This tropical disturbance unleashed heavy downpours across the nation, causing widespread flooding in low-lying regions and states.

According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, Tropical Storm “Koinu” is likely to slowly move in a west-southwest direction from currently situated over the South China Sea, with the likelihood of downgrading into a tropical depression. The weather in the Northeast Bay of Bengal is characterized by scattered clouds, while the monsoon remains weak over the Andaman Sea and the broader Bay of Bengal. The monsoon trough stretches across the Deltaic and Gulf of Mottama areas in Myanmar.

With the spectre of natural disasters hanging over Myanmar, it is vital for its residents to proactively prepare for these challenges. By staying informed about weather conditions and devising survival plans, they can protect themselves and their communities from the hardships that often accompany such events. The resilient spirit of the people of Myanmar shines through, ensuring that they are better equipped to face the trials that nature may bring their way.

As these forecasts suggest, the possibility of flooding in several areas looms large. In response, the compassionate people of Myanmar are extending a helping hand to one another; as volunteer youths from auxiliary fire brigades and Red Cross societies collaborate with local authorities to evacuate flood victims to safer locations. Additionally, residents in unaffected regions are generously donating food and essential items to aid the flood victims, while relevant government departments are dispatching relief supplies to the affected areas.

Myanmar residents are also bracing for the impacts of El Niño, making it imperative to prepare for adverse weather conditions. Instead of idly passing their days, they must remain vigilant and take measures to safeguard their well-being. This includes stockpiling basic necessities that can sustain them during times of natural disasters such as floods, heavy rains, and landslides.

With the spectre of natural disasters hanging over Myanmar, it is vital for its residents to proactively prepare for these challenges. By staying informed about weather conditions and devising survival plans, they can protect themselves and their communities from the hardships that often accompany such events. The resilient spirit of the people of Myanmar shines through, ensuring that they are better equipped to face the trials that nature may bring their way.

“ရာဇဝင်ကို ချွေးနှင့်ရေရမည်ဆို တော့ ငန့်ဖြူနေတာပေါ့။ ထို့ကြောင့် ဂျဝန် တို့လက်ထက် တွင် ဗမာတတွေ ကမ္ဘာမကျေ အောင်ရသော လွတ်လပ်ရေး၏ အရသာမှာ င တာအဖို့ ငန့်ဖြူဖြစ်လေသည်။ အကြောင်းကို ဆိုသော် ချွေးတပ်သားအတွက် ဝါးကွပ်ပျစ် တန်းလျားပေါ်တွင် မနပ်ဘဲနှင့် ပြနေ သော ထမင်းပုံကြီးတေး၌ ဖုန်မှုန့်ရောသော ငါးပိ တုံးများမှာ ဆားပွင့်၍နေလေရာ ချွေးမှပင် မ စားသော အစာကို မနေသာ၍ ဆာဆာနှင့် စားလိုက်တိုင်း ပါးစပ်ထဲတွင် ဆားခွက်နေ သောကြောင့် ဖြစ်လေ သည်။” (a short excerpt from ‘ငတ’ by မောင်ထင်, published in 1991.)

Its original translation is: — “People say that history is written in sweat: if so, will not history have a salty taste? The taste of freedom Myanmar obtained under the Japanese ‘to endure till doom’s day’ at least is salty to Nga Ba’s taste. The reason is this. The Sweat Force is fed rice, over-boiled yet not properly cooked. This messy rice is heaped on the bamboo flooring to be eaten by the sweat Force. By the side of heaps of rice are lumps of dried-up fish paste smeared with dirt. Salt in the fish had already crystallized. Even dogs disdain to eat such a mess. Nga Ba driven by hunger, gulps it down. The salt crystals leave a salty taste in Nga Ba’s mouth.” (a short excerpt from ‘Nga Ba’ by Maung Htin, published in 1991.)

Please have a taste of this excerpt. As for me, it gives me a taste for reading satire. I strongly believe that if one reads it, one cannot help singing the praises of Sayagyi Maung Htin’s style of writing on satire. Some say that the works of Maung Htin are satire. Others assume that he was a highly gifted writer who could vividly depict the life of people from all social strata struggling from womb to tomb. However, he presented the natures of his characters satirically. It is true. In his Introduction to “Varieties of Thoughts” Saya Maung Htin frankly confess, “I’m very fond of satire in English Literature and Yagan in Myanmar Literature. That’s why most of my works are influenced by satiric outlook.” That was why he translated ‘Gulliver’s Travels’ which was assumed to be the greatest work of satire in the English language. Because of his masterly translation into Myanmar, the book became the winner of the National Literary Award in 1981. Saya Maung Htin, indeed, was a rare writer who wrote what he spoke.

“Hey guy...read at least a book a day. If you do so, you may

Sayagyi Sithu Maung Htin — the Second Recipient of the National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement

By Maung Hlaing

live a longer life. But if you fail to do so, you may live a shorter life. Without reading, although you may live a longer life, your life will be as dead as a doornail.”

He said so on 23 December 2003 when he was presented the National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement. He received the award at the age of 93. In accordance with what he spoke, he devoted all his efforts to the literary arena and immersed himself in reading and writing up to the age of 97.

Actually, the National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement is the highest literary award in the modern history of Myanmar’s literary world. It is presented in recognition of the lifetime outstanding and excellent performance of a man of letters (veteran writer or literary scholar) who has contributed much to the development of Myanmar literature.

Sayagyi Maung Htin deserved such highest literary award as he was well-efficient and well-read in both Myanmar and English literature. He wrote novels, plays (Pyazat), poems, essays, travelogues, science fiction, articles on research and social affairs, criticism and so on. Although we cannot say that all of his works are classic, literary critics say that most of his novels are classic.

Saya Maung Htin was born to landowner U Tayaung and Daw Sein Pwint in Labutta, Ayeyawady Region on 21 March 1909. His real name was U Htin Fatt. Besides his penname ‘Maung Htin’, he used such names as ‘Htin Fatt’, ‘LHF’, ‘HF’, ‘Po Tay’ and ‘Nga Ba’ for his literary works. He pursued his primary education at Saya U Khant’s Myanmar Vernacular school and at Saya U Po Tun’s Myanmar Vernacular school in Labutta.

He continued his studies at the Anglo-Myanmar Vernacular Middle School in Myaungmya in 1920. In that year, the national movement, which was also known as the ‘Students’ Boycott’ in the



Sayagyi Sithu Maung Htin.

history of Myanmar, emerged. Consequently, when the National High School was established in Myaungmya, he continued to pursue a middle school education at that school.

Then, he moved to Yangon and continued his studies at the Myoma High School from 1923 to 1926 and passed the High School Final Examination.

Afterwards, he joined Rangoon University (now Yangon University) and took science combination but he was not eligible for the medical institute. So, he took English literature and Myanmar literature with a combination of oriental history. He obtained a BA degree with a Gold Medal in Myanmar literature in 1933.

In 1935, Saya Maung Htin served as a Senior Assistant Teacher at the National High School in Myaungmya. Then he

the Director.

While he was serving as Director of the Information Department in 1948-49, he also had to serve as Commissioner of the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Department for Rakhine Division (now Region). After resigning from the Information Department, Saya Maung Htin worked as an Executive Editor for the ‘Rangoon Daily’ (ရန်ကုန်နေ့စဉ်သတင်းစာ) from 1950 to 1955.

The life of Saya Maung Htin was quite interesting. Although he was on the move until he resigned from the government service, he performed his duties with professionalism while he was in service. And, at the same time, he could produce various kinds of literary works (masterpieces) including classic novels.

The activities that he carried out for the improvement of the literary world of Myanmar were many and varied. He led the first Myanmar journalists’ delegation to Japan in 1952 and to Paris and London in 1954. On behalf of the Myanmar Writers Association, he attended the 20th ceremony for Lu Xun’s memorial held in Beijing, the People’s Republic of China, in 1956. As the head of the Myanmar delegation, Saya Maung Htin attended the Conference on Book Publishing held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 1961.

The tasks Sayagyi undertook for the development of Myanmar literature were gigantic. From 1955 to 1958, he worked as a consultant in compiling the Sarpay Beikman Encyclopaedia. Although he had retired from government service, he served as a freelance journalist for the ‘London Time’ from 1954 to 1977. Saya Maung Htin was elected as Chairman of the Myanmar Naing-Ngan Writers Association in 1954 and became Chairman of the Myanmar Naing-Ngan Journalists Association in 1959.

While he was writing novels and articles in various magazines, he gave a helping hand in Pitaka Translation works. That was why he was appointed as an editor

for the Pitaka Translation works. In 1987, Saya Maung Htin was appointed to the Myanmar Language Commission and worked as a member of the Committee for Compiling Authentic Facts on Myanmar History of the State Law and Order Restoration Council.

Sayagyi began to write in the ‘Wun-tha Yuwa’ magazine, using the penname of ‘Maung Htin Fatt’ while he was studying at Myoma High School. As for English articles, he began to

Among the 49 books written by Saya Maung Htin, ‘Nga Ba’, a Myanmar self-style classic, has been published many times as it has been appreciated by readers. Besides, it has been translated into Chinese, Indian, Japanese and Russian languages and published in these countries.

Sayagyi was professionally qualified to be a writer, a literary scholar or a researcher. Apart from writing novels, he compiled ‘Reference Books on World Literature’ for the benefit of posterity.

“ Sayagyi Maung Htin deserved such highest literary award as he was well-efficient and well-read in both Myanmar and English literature. He wrote novels, plays (Pyazat), poems, essays, travelogues, science fiction, articles on research and social affairs, criticism and so on. Although we cannot say that all of his works are classic, literary critics say that most of his novels are classic. ”

write an article for the Rangoon University Annual Magazine (1932-33). He used the penname ‘Maung Htin’ for the magazine. In combination with U Nyo Mya (mostly known as Oway U Nyo Mya), Saya Maung Htin wrote ‘Mi Chaw’ play (Pyazat) in the ‘Oway Journal’ of January 1936 issue and a bit of satire on the political situation of those days. Under the penname of ‘Po Tay’, he wrote ‘Kyon-lay Bon-pway’ episode in a series in the ‘Hanthawady’ newspaper from 1949 to 1969. He wrote over 300 poems and articles including translated and self-style works and 45 books. The first published book of Saya Maung Htin was a collection of short stories titled ‘Ko Daung’ that appeared in 1937. He won the National Literary Award for his translated book ‘Gulliver’s Travels’ in 1981. He became the recipient of the Lifetime Literary Award Founded by Pakokku U Ohn Pe in 1994. In 2003, the State conferred the ‘Medal of Outstanding Performance in Arts (First Class)’ on him.

These works were histories of literature of Arab, China, India, Iran, Japan, Hebrew, Greece, Rome, Britain, America and France, translated from English to Myanmar. These books are literary heritage beneficial not only to scholars and researchers but also to new up-and-coming generations who are to go in for world literature.

Before I conclude, may I reproduce the eulogy and criticism mentioned by well-known literary critics? “Maung Htin is like a puppeteer when he creates the movement of his characters. A puppeteer has to move, shake and control his puppets when he performs with them. He also has to sing, cry and talk. Then the puppeteer’s style becomes vivid...” (Writer and critic Dagon Taya).

“The works of Maung Htin are satire. That is why he is regarded in the literary world as a satirist. Indeed, it will not be wrong to say that Maung Htin alone is able to produce the works

of satire in the literary world of Myanmar...” (Literary critic Maung Swan Yi).

Such a person who was well-efficient, well-read and well-thought-of in both government and literary circles was none other than ‘Maing Htin’.

Sayagyi Maung Htin earned his peaceful rest on 29 January 2006 at the age of 97. U Htin Fatt is dead. But ‘Maung Htin’ is still alive. As long as his satiric works are produced again and again throughout the successive eras, the nom de plume ‘Maung Htin’ will never ... never disappear from the Myanmar literary world.

Because of his outstanding performance, the title of ‘Sithu’ was conferred on him posthumously in 2012.

In the last episode of ‘Ko Daung’, Sayagyi satirically wrote

‘Ko Daung is dead. Long live Ko Daung!’

Likewise, may I exclaim that ... “U Htin Fatt is dead. Long Live Maung Htin!”

Reference:

- (1) အမျိုးသား စာပေ တစ် သက် တာ ဆု စာပေပညာရှင်များ၏ စာပေနှင့် ဘဝ အကြောင်း တစ်စုတစ်စောင်း (၂၀၀၀-၂၀၁၃)၊ စာပေဓမ္မနိ၊ ၂၀၂၁
- (2) ဘာ၊ မောင်ထင်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်း လုပ်ငန်း၊ ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ စကားသမအကြိမ်၊ ၁၇၉၁။
- (3) NGA BA, by Maung Htin, News and Periodicals Enterprise, First Printing, 1991.
- (4) Through the Window of Sarpay Beikman, by Maung Swe Ngae, First Printing, 2021.

Note: -

The author of this article joined the Sarpay Beikman in 1980 and worked as Assistant Editor, Editor and Chief Editor. Although he retired in 2007, he is still working for Sarpay Beikman by participating in literary teams organized by the State.

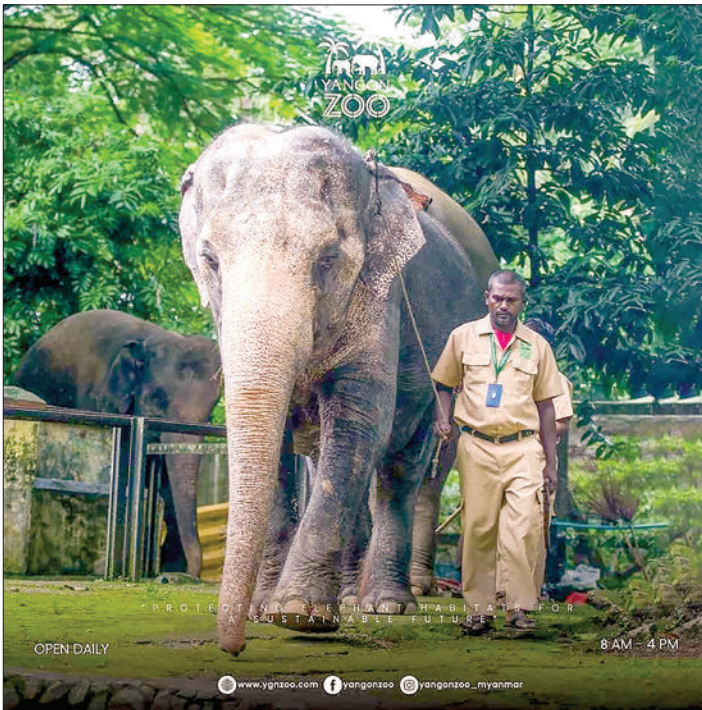
NATIONAL

Yangon Zoo's beloved elephant Momo to celebrate 70th birthday in late October

MOMO will celebrate her 70th birthday in the last week of October. It has been reported by the Yangon Zoo administrator that Momo receives weekly healthcare every Wednesday.

The 69th birthday celebration for Momo, the well-known elephant at Yangon Zoo, took place from 28 October to 30 October 2022, spanning three days of festivities.

Every year, Momo the elephant's birthday is celebrated, and last year's celebration included fairs and festivals, along with fun game programmes for children. — ASH/KZW



The picture captures Momo, the well-known elephant of the Yangon Zoo, and his mahout.



File photo shows that some ethnic troupes perform at the entertainment programme at the Union National Races Village (Yangon) in Thakayta Township, Yangon.

Union National Races Village (Yangon) to resume entertainment programmes

THE Union National Races Village (Yangon) in Thakayta Township, Yangon Region, will resume entertainment with traditional ethnic dances starting the month of Thadingyut in the Myanmar calendar, U San Hlaing, a deputy director of the Department of Ethnic Literature and Culture under the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs said yesterday.

The entertainment programmes usually perform free of charge at Pyihtaungsu Hall of the village has been halted during the rainy season.

“Usually, every week on Saturday and Sunday, there is a free performance with ethnic folk songs and dances. During the rainy season, there are few visitors, so it is usually stopped temporarily. This program will start again on 29 October during the weekend. During holidays in Thadingyut, there is a special program for the visitors, such as a multi-traditional ethnic dance festival,” U San Hlaing said.

The Union National Races Village (Yangon), located

on the bank of Bago River, in Thakayta Township, has landmarks of prominent places related to different ethnic groups and the construction works of a jetty that cruises can dock at the village via Bago River has completed.

With the completion of the jetty, a new program that allows visitors to arrive at the village via cruises and an activity that lets visitors prepare and consume traditional ethnic foods on their own will launch during the upcoming tourist season. — ASH/TH

CRIME NEWS

Illegal consumer goods, industrial materials, foodstuffs and vehicles confiscated

THE Customs teams under the supervision of the Customs Department conducted inspections on 6, 8 and 9 October and nabbed three kinds of goods worth K3.96 million including 72 remote-control toy cars that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a container and 700 sets of gasoline engine worth K59.5 million that were not declared in the ID from three containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, 15,000 kilogrammes of cement ceiling board worth K3.8 million from a vehicle at the Myawady

Trade Zone, a Sein Tun MPV and a Nissan Caravan (approximately K50 million), headed to Yangon from Myawady, carrying 640 sets of laser toner cartridge worth K5.12 million without official documents at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint and six kinds of goods worth K7,065,450 including 210 kilogrammes of Fancy lady wallets that were not declared in the ID from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 7 October, an on-duty

team confiscated an Isuzu Giga truck and a Dongfeng tractor head with a trailer (estimated value of K135 million), travelling from Myawady to Yangon, carrying two kinds of goods worth K37,944,345 including 250 pairs of shoes and 6,875 kilogrammes of Super colour hair shampoo that were not declared in the ID near Zero Mile on Yangon-Mandalay highway road. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The combined team captured a Toyota HiAce (estimated value of K20 million), headed to Myawady from Za-

thapyin, carrying eight kinds of goods worth K3.255 million including 84 boxes of Choco Pie snack and 600 bottles of C-Vitt energy drink without official documents near Kyakalay village on Kyakalay-Zathapyin-Mawlamyine road on 8 October. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

As a result, a total of 16 arrests were made on four consecutive days from 6 to 9 October, with an estimated value of K325,644,795, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

COVID-19 report, 10 October 2023

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UNESCO mission in Libya to inspect damaged heritage sites

EXPERTS from the United Nations cultural agency on Monday arrived in Libya to inspect ancient sites hit by last month's flooding that devastated parts of the country's east.

Extreme rainfall from hurricane-strength Storm Daniel hit eastern Libya on 10 September, flooding the city of Derna and other neighbouring towns and regions.

UNESCO experts are expected to visit Cyrene, a World Heritage Site that is threatened with collapse after the flooding sent water circulating around its foundations.

They will carry out "an initial survey of the flood damage and the structures in need of rapid reinforcement", according to a statement from the agency.

Other sites of rich archeological heritage in Libya will also be inspected, notably the "Ancient City of Ptolemais and The Haura Fteah Cave, both of which are on the national World Heritage Tentative List, as well as the ancient city of Apollonia".

Storm Daniel caused serious damage and created a high risk of collapse in Cyrene, one of the five cities of the Hellenic period which gave its name to Libya's eastern



Water flows through the ruins at the site of the ancient Greco-Roman city of Cyrene (Shahhat) in eastern Libya, about 60 kilometres (37 miles) west of Derna on 21 September 2023 in the aftermath of a devastating flood. The immediate damage to the monuments of Cyrene, which include the second century AD Temple of Zeus, bigger than the Parthenon in Athens, is relatively minor but the water circulating around their foundations threatens future collapses, the head of the French archaeological mission in Libya, Vincent Michel, told AFP. **PHOTO: AFP**

province, Cyrenaica.

In the framework of this mission, requested by Libya, UNE-

SCO intends to examine how to contribute to "helping rebuild the affected areas".

Among these zones is the city of Derna, which was the worst hit by the flooding. — AFP

China Now Music Festival ends with tribute to three generations of composers bridging US, China



Prominent pipa virtuoso Wu Man (R, Front) performs with members of the Bard East/West Ensemble during the opening concert of the sixth annual China Now Music Festival at Rose Theater at Jazz at Lincoln Centre in New York, the United States, on 4 October 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE sixth season of the China Now Music Festival culminated in a grand finale on Sunday in a spellbinding concert at Jazz at Lincoln Centre in New York City, paying homage to three generations of composers bridging the United States

and China.

Titled "The Orchestra Now Celebrates the Music of Chen Yi and Zhou Long," the concert featured major symphonic works by this legendary couple, two of the most influential Chinese-American compos-

ers and their renowned teacher at Columbia University, Chou Wen-chung, who passed away at the age of 96 in 2019.

With the addition of two pieces by their young students — Zhou Juan, a student of musical arts from University of Missouri-Kansas City and Li Shaosheng, a composer in residence at the China National Symphony Orchestra and Guangxi Symphony Orchestra, the programme linked three generations of composers to highlight the generational musical bridge that Chen and Zhou have built between the United States and China.

Chen Yi and Zhou Long, both born in 1953, embarked on their musical odyssey during the 1980s at Columbia University under the tutelage of composer Chou Wen-chung, whose compositions, characterized by their deep connections to both Eastern and Western traditions, left an indelible mark on Chen and Zhou. — Xinhua

'Dear Jinri' bears witness to late K-pop singer's truth

A new documentary featuring a late K-pop star's final interview unveils complex truths about South Korea's notoriously brutal music industry while highlighting her defiance of pressure to conform to societal norms.

"Dear Jinri", which premiered at the Busan International Film Festival, revolves around singing star Sulli's last Netflix project, an unfinished film that included an in-depth interview.

Born Choi Jin-ri, Sulli took her own life in 2019 at age 25, af-

ter a long struggle with online bullying. The interview in the film — raw, powerful and heartbreaking — has never been previously seen. What Sulli shares in that conversation raises "many critical issues in our society," director Jung Yoon-suk said after the film's BIFF screening Saturday evening. "These can be seen as issues related to women, or they could be problems concerning the vulnerable in our society, or related to matters of equality," he said. — AFP



In this photo taken on 7 October 2023, South Korean actor Jung Yoon-suk (L), director of 'Dear Jinri', answers questions during a guest visit event, after a screening of the film at the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) in Busan. **PHOTO: AFP**

ECONOMY WORLD

IMF keeps 2023 global growth outlook unchanged as regions diverge

THE IMF on Tuesday left its top-line global growth forecast for 2023 unchanged, despite significant underlying differences between regions, while lifting its inflation outlook for the next couple of years.

The updated World Economic Outlook (WEO) report, released as the International Monetary Fund holds its annual meetings in Marrakesh, maintains a global growth estimate of 3.0 per cent for this year while cutting the 2024 assessment to 2.9 per cent, down 0.1 per cent from the previous forecast in July.

Inflation, which has fallen sharply since last year, is predicted to remain elevated at 6.9 per cent this year, up slightly from July, and 5.8 per cent in 2024, up 0.6 percentage points.

Higher inflation could force central banks to keep interest rates higher for longer, which would likely have a knock-on effect for global growth.

The global economy has shown “remarkable” resilience as it continues to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, and the cost-of-living crisis, the IMF said in the WEO.

However, the report also noted that “growth remains slow and uneven, with growing global divergences”. — AFP



Photo taken on 10 October 2023 shows signs of (from L) Resona Bank, MUFG Bank and Mizuho Bank in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Japan payments clearing system disruption impacts 11 banks

JAPAN'S payments clearing network suffered a system problem Tuesday, disrupting some fund transfers at 11 banks including MUFG Bank and impacting their customers, the network's operator said.

Japanese Banks' Payment Clearing Network said it was unclear what went wrong and when the problem would be fixed. It is the first time that bank customers have been impacted by a system problem since the network was launched in 1973.

Resona Bank and JPMorgan Chase Bank were among those hit, the operator said.

Both Mizuho Bank and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. said they were experiencing delays in transferring money to and from

some banks.

MUFG Bank said money transfers to other banks via ATMs, including those at some convenience stores, and online banking could not be processed. The Japanese megabank added it was also unable to receive funds transferred from those banks.

Resona Bank said funds could not be transferred to other banks, warning it was possible such transactions not be completed Tuesday.

Most Japanese banks are connected to the key payment network, known as the Zengin system, which processes an average 6.5 million transactions and over 12 trillion yen (\$81 billion) a day. — Kyodo

Development of China, US should become each other's opportunities: minister

THE development and progress of China and the United States should become each other's opportunities rather than challenges, China's Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao said Monday.

Wang made the remarks when meeting with a bipartisan delegation of the US Senate led by Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, according to a state-

ment released by the Ministry of Commerce on Tuesday.

The complementarity of the two economies far outweighs their competition, and the bilateral economic and trade relations are mutually beneficial in nature, Wang said, noting that cooperation is the only right choice for the two countries.

During the meeting, the two sides held rational and

pragmatic discussions on China-US economic and trade relations and issues of common concern.

China does not evade competition, but maintains that competition should be fair and healthy and be based on international economic and trade rules, Wang said, calling on the US side to accurately define security boundaries and avoid

overstretching the concept of security and politicizing and instrumentalizing related issues.

Upholding the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, China is ready to work with the United States to create a sound environment for business cooperation and promote bilateral trade and investment, Wang said. — Xinhua

Markets cheered by Fed rate hopes, oil eases after surge

EQUITIES mostly rose Tuesday after top Federal Reserve officials suggested the recent spike in US Treasury yields could act as a substitute for further interest rate hikes.

The big gains came as oil pared the previous day's surge, which had been fuelled by supply worries after Hamas launched a deadly weekend attack on Israel. Traders are hoping the crisis does not spread to the wider, crude-rich Middle East.

Despite growing geopolitical

tensions, traders have enjoyed a positive start to the week, helped by Friday's forecast-busting US jobs report that also showed wage gains slowing—a so-called “Goldilocks” scenario in which the data was neither too weak nor too strong. The upbeat mood was boosted Monday after Fed Vice-Chair Philip Jefferson said the recent spike in US Treasury yields to multi-year highs could provide the necessary restraint on credit that would be achieved by higher interest rates. — AFP



A man walks in front of an electronic board showing numbers of the Tokyo Stock Exchange along a street in Tokyo on 10 October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

China land port handles over 2,500 China-Europe freight train trips

ERENHOT Port in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region has handled over 2,500 China-Europe freight train trips so far this year, local railway authorities said on Tuesday.

Since the port launched its China-Europe freight train service

in 2013, it has handled more than 13,000 China-Europe freight train trips.

The land port has been providing a green channel for China-Europe freight trains since the beginning of this year, improving the service's operational efficiency.

Erenhot Port is the largest land port between China and Mongolia. Currently, 69 China-Europe freight train routes run through the port, mainly exporting products with high added value such as new energy vehicles, machinery and household appliances. — Xinhua

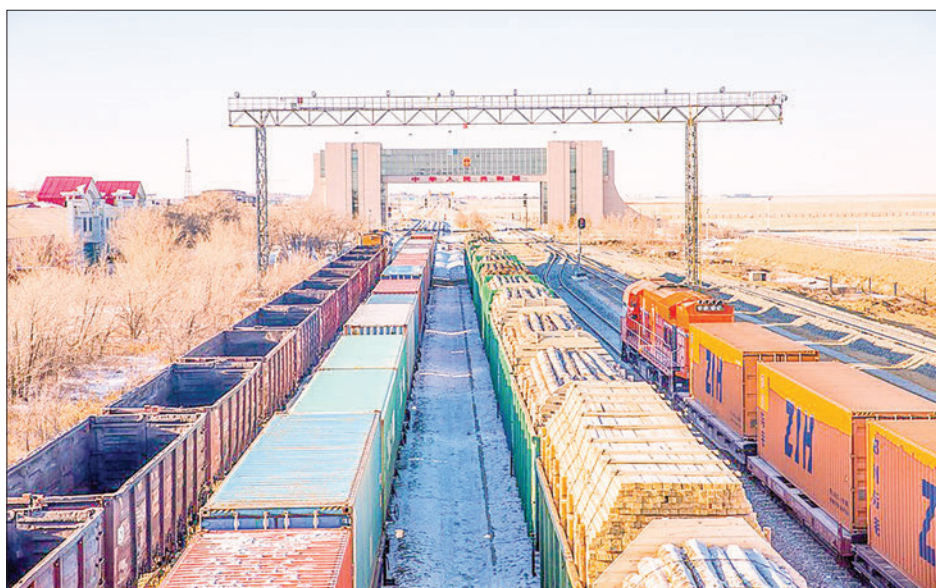


Photo taken on 8 January 2021 shows freight trains at Erenhot Port in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

UK Labour party's new love affair with British business

AFTER years of disenchantment, British business leaders flocked to this week's Labour conference, signalling a reset in relations between the centre-left party and a corporate community scalded by the economic policies of the ruling Conservatives.

Several hundred business bigwigs met and talked to opposition leader Keir Starmer on Monday at a business forum that was sold out at the annual gathering in Liverpool, northwest England. "If we do come into government, you will be coming into government with us," Starmer said in front of



Britain's main opposition Labour Party deputy leader and Shadow Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Secretary Angela Rayner (centre L) and Britain's main opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer (C) applaud Britain's main opposition Labour Party Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves after she addressed delegates on the second day of the annual Labour Party conference in Liverpool, northwest England, on 9 October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

representatives from Microsoft, Ikea and energy supplier Octopus, among

others. The 61-year-old, whose party is well ahead of the Tories in opinion

polls ahead of a general election expected next year, talked up the idea of a "partnership" between the business world and Labour. Starmer has brought his party back to the centre since succeeding left-winger Jeremy Corbyn as leader in 2020 following a landslide defeat to the Tories at the last election in December 2019.

Since then, pandemic lockdowns, Brexit and the Ukraine conflict sent shockwaves through the British economy, with stagnating growth and high inflation triggering a cost-of-living crisis for Britons. — AFP

S Korean financial institutions' overseas real estate investment rises in H1

SOUTH Korean financial institutions' overseas real estate investment rose in the first half of this year, financial watchdog data showed Tuesday.

The outstanding alternative investment in overseas real estate by local financial institutions, including banks, insurers and brokerages, came in at 55.8 trillion won (41.3 billion US dollars) at the end of June, up 3.7 per cent from a year earlier, according to the Financial Supervisory

Service (FSS). It accounted for 0.8 per cent of the total assets in the domestic financial sector amounting to 6,762.5 trillion won (five trillion dollars).

Investment in the North American real estate market ranked first with 35.8 trillion won (26.5 billion dollars), followed by investment in Europe with 11.0 trillion won (8.1 billion dollars) and Asia with 4.2 trillion won (3.1 billion dollars). — Xinhua

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သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာခံချိန်ခွဲ ပို့ဆောင်လိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
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ကြော်ငြာခွင့်နှင့် ကြော်ငြာခေ့ဂျင်စီများ ကြော်ငြာ ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက ထိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ် ဆွေးနွေးနိုင်ပါတယ်
09 974 424 848

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC YUANMING VOY.NO. (2318S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC YUANMING VOY.NO. (2318S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-10-2023** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV46E1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV46E1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-10-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



Afghan residents clear debris as they look for victims' bodies in the rubble of damaged houses after the earthquakes in Kashkak village, Zende Jan district of Herat province on 8 October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Afghan rescuers still digging as hope fades for quake villagers

RESCUE workers scabbled through rubble Tuesday for villagers buried in their homes by a series of earthquakes that killed more than 2,000 people in rural western Afghanistan, but hope of finding survivors was fading fast.

Volunteers have worked non-stop with spades and pick-axes in Herat province since Saturday's deadly magnitude 6.3 quake struck — followed by a series of powerful aftershocks — but some were turning to digging graves instead.

Afghanistan is frequently hit by deadly earthquakes, but

the weekend disaster is the worst to strike the impoverished country in more than 25 years.

Strong tremors were still shaking the area on Monday.

"There are families who don't have anyone left alive," said 50-year-old Ali Mohammad in Nayeb Rafi village, once home to 2,000 people.

"No one is left, not a woman nor a child... no one."

In nearby Siah Ab, a mass funeral ceremony was held Monday for more than 300 victims collected from nearby communities.

White-shrouded bodies were unloaded from a fleet of vehicles and laid in ranks as a crowd of men solemnly crossed their arms in Islamic prayer.

"I thought I must have been dreaming; all the places were razed," said 30-year-old Ismail, who goes by only one name.

The United Nations says "100 per cent" of homes were destroyed in 11 villages of rural Zenda Jan, a hard-to-reach district just 30 kilometres (19 miles) northwest of Herat city, the provincial capital. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

18 Thais killed in Israel-Gaza conflict: government

EIGHTEEN Thais have been killed in the conflict between Israel and Hamas militants, the kingdom's government said Tuesday, raising the previous toll of 12.

Jakkapong Sangmanee, Thailand's deputy minister of foreign affairs, gave the updated toll and said the government was working to evacuate thousands of Thais away from the conflict, which erupted on Saturday. A foreign ministry spokeswoman said separately that nine Thai citizens had been wounded and 11 taken hostage.

About 5,000 Thai nationals had been evacuated from high-risk areas to safety, Jakkapong said.

"There are more than 3,000 people asking to return to Thailand," he added.

The foreign minister had been in touch with his Israeli counterpart, the ministry said, and had made a formal request to Israel to help secure the release of the hostages. The foreign ministry also said Israeli police were using facial recognition technology to find missing people. — AFP

Two Ukrainian defence ministry officials held for 'embezzlement'

UKRAINE said Tuesday that it was holding two senior defence ministry officials on suspicion of embezzling \$7 million earmarked for buying bulletproof vests.

The announcements came as President Volodymyr Zelensky intensifies his anti-corruption drive, firing officials accused of graft in a bid to reassure Western allies sending wartime aid.

The State Bureau of Investigation said the two officials, which it did not name, ordered "low-quality body armour" from

abroad.

"This led not only to the loss of 250 million hryvnia of budget funds, but also to the undermining of the country's defence capability and a threat to the lives and health of army personnel," it said.

Both were currently in custody, it added.

Several corruption scandals have rocked the defence ministry in recent months, prompting the resignation of wartime defence minister Oleksiy Reznikov in September. — AFP

WFP resumes food aid delivery in Ethiopia

THE World Food Programme said Tuesday it had partially resumed distributing food aid in Ethiopia, after halting assistance over the diversion of supplies.

The UN agency said the aid was intended only for the country's almost 900,000 refugees living in camps. The WFP and US agency USAID halted food aid to Africa's second most populous country in June after discovering supplies were not reaching those in need, raising fears millions of Ethiopians would be left in desperate straits. Around 17 per cent

of the country's 120 million people depend on food aid.

Last week USAID said it had resumed food aid to refugees in around 30 camps. Most refugees in Ethiopia are from Somalia, Eritrea, and South Sudan. Around 35,000 have fled the conflict in neighbouring Sudan in recent months. "Families living in refugee camps across five regions, including new arrivals who have fled from Sudan, are receiving food parcels for the first time since WFP paused food distributions in June," the WFP said.

It followed "a full revamp of the safeguards and controls in its refugee operations", the WFP added. "Refugee food security has deteriorated in the past months, leading to increased malnutrition, heightened tensions around the camps and even unsafe journeys back across the border," it said.

"Food is a lifeline for refugees living in unimaginably hard conditions, and it's a relief that we now have measures in place to resume vital support," said WFP assistant executive director Valerie Guarnieri. — AFP



Boxes of super cereal funded by the French government are seen at a World Food Programme (WFP) warehouse in Adama, Ethiopia, on 12 January 2023. **AMANUEL SILESHI / AFP**

SPORTS

Marozsan stuns Ruud to reach Shanghai Masters last eight

THE shocks kept coming at the Shanghai Masters on Tuesday as the 91st-ranked Fabian Marozsan gave himself a belated birthday present by beating eighth-seeded Casper Ruud to reach the quarter-finals.

The unseeded Marozsan won 7-6 (7/3), 3-6, 6-4 and will face Poland's 16th-seeded Hubert Hurkacz or home player Zhang Zhizhen in the last eight.

Marozsan was joined in the quarter-finals by the 26th seed Sebastian Korda, who fended off a late fightback from the 20th seed Francisco Cerundolo of Argentina to go through 7-5, 7-6 (8/6).

Marozsan sealed the deal against the more fancied Ruud in two hours and 38 minutes with a stinging forehand down the line on his second match point.

He called his maiden Masters quarter-final the perfect present, having turned 24 on

Sunday.

"This is just only my second Masters tournament, so it's kind of a new tournament series for me," said the Hungarian, who beat Carlos Alcaraz at the Italian Open in May.

"I'm really enjoying this, I'm very proud for this one," added Marozsan, who is playing in Asia for the first time.

The Shanghai event, which is back on the ATP calendar for the first time since the Covid pandemic, has witnessed several shocks.

Korda, who faces fellow American Ben Shelton or inform Jannik Sinner in the quarter-finals, dumped out second-seeded Daniil Medvedev on Sunday.

Stefanos Tsitsipas, the fourth seed from Greece, lost on Monday to France's 32nd seed Ugo Humbert in a three-set battle that stretched beyond mid-



Hungary's Fabian Marozsan hits a return to Norway's Casper Ruud during their men's singles match at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament on 10 October 2023. PHOTO: AFP

night. The upsets have paved the way for top seed Alcaraz, who

faces 18th seed Grigor Dimitrov in the last 16.

World number one Novak Djokovic is not in China. — AFP

Philippines seeks to send Pacquiao to Paris Olympics

THE Philippines has made a "special request" to the International Olympic Committee to let Manny Pacquiao box at the Paris Games despite the former world champion exceeding the age limit, a Filipino official said Tuesday.

Pacquiao, 44, retired from professional boxing in 2021 to make a failed tilt at the Philippines presidency.

The age limit for Olympic boxers is 40.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Abraham Tolentino told AFP he sent a letter to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) two weeks ago seeking a "universality place" for Pacquiao.

Universality places are given to athletes from countries that struggle to secure slots in the Olympics through normal qualification channels.

The IOC said there were nine universality places for boxing in Paris, with five for women and four for men. The spots will be confirmed on 7 June.

"He's physically fit, better

than other athletes," Tolentino said, describing Pacquiao as an "icon of boxing" who could help the image of the sport. Tolentino said the "special request" for Pacquiao would not affect the chances of other Filipino boxers qualifying for Paris.

Fighting in Paris would be a chance to realize his life-long dream of winning an Olympic

gold medal, Pacquiao told AFP on Tuesday.

Pacquiao, the winner of multiple world titles, has never competed at the Olympics.

He insisted he was "not too old" to take on younger boxers, saying he felt like he was "30 years old or 28 years old".

"It's the secret of Manny Pacquiao," he said. — AFP



(FILES) Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines reacts after fighting against DK Yoo of South Korea during their exhibition boxing match in Goyang, northwest of Seoul, on 11 December 2022. The Philippines has made a "special request" to the International Olympic Committee to let Manny Pacquiao box at the Paris Games despite the former world champion exceeding the age limit, a Filipino official said on 10 October 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Belgian football star Eden Hazard announces retirement

BELGIAN attacking midfielder Eden Hazard announced his retirement on Tuesday after failing to find another club following his release by Real Madrid.

The 32-year-old endured an injury-plagued spell at Real Madrid after his 89-million-pound (103 million euros, \$110 million) move from Chelsea in 2019, playing just 76 matches in all competitions across four seasons.

"You must listen to yourself and say stop at the right time," Hazard wrote on Instagram. "After 16 years and more than 700 matches played, I have decided to end my career as a professional footballer."

Hazard had a far happier time at Chelsea, winning both the Premier League title and Europa League twice as well as the FA and League Cup from 2012-2019. He was also integral to Belgium's impressive run to the 2018 World Cup semi-finals, beating Brazil in the quarter-finals but bowing out to eventual champions France in the semi-final.

However, he was unable to rouse himself for last year's

World Cup finals when along with fellow stars Kevin de Bruyne and Romelu Lukaku, Hazard and a below-par Belgium bowed out in the group stage.

Nevertheless Hazard — who also won a Ligue 1 crown with Lille and two La Liga titles with Real and picked up a Champions League winners' medal as an unused substitute in 2022 — was in grateful mood as he signed off.

"I was able to realize my dream, I have played and had fun on many pitches around the world," he said.

"During my career I was lucky to meet great managers, coaches and teammates — thank you to everyone for these great times, I will miss you all."

He thanked his clubs and the Belgian federation as well as friends, family and advisors "who have been close to me in good times and bad".

"Finally, a huge thank you to you, my fans, who have followed me for all these years and for your encouragement everywhere I have played," he added. — AFP



WHO calls for humanitarian corridor into Gaza Strip



Palestinians evacuate a wounded man following an Israeli airstrike on the Sousi mosque in Gaza City on 9 October 2023. PHOTO: AFP

THE World Health Organization called Tuesday for a humanitarian corridor to be established into and out of the Gaza Strip, which has been placed under total siege by Israel.

Israel has cut off the water supply, food, electricity and other essential supplies as it bombed targets in the crowded Palestinian enclave in response to the Hamas surprise assault it has likened to the 9/11 attacks.

The WHO said its supplies in the Gaza Strip were already running out, as it said patients in the territory's hospitals desperately needed those supplies.

Health facilities must be protected and safeguarded, the UN health agency said.

"WHO is calling for an end to the violence... a humanitarian corridor is needed to reach people with critical medical supplies," WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic told a press briefing in Geneva.

"We need supplies to come in: hospitals cannot run without fuel, without electricity.

"The supplies that we have pre-positioned are already running low so we need those supplies to come. — AFP

Israeli, Palestinian FMs set to address EU meeting

EUROPEAN Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said he has invited the top diplomats from Israel and the Palestinian Authority to address an emergency meeting Tuesday of the bloc's foreign ministers.

Borrell said Israel's Foreign Minister, Eli Cohen, and his Palestinian counterpart, Riyad al-Maliki, were asked to participate in the hybrid video and in-person talks after the surprise Hamas assault.

The EU has strongly condemned the attack by the Islamist militants on Israel but has sent out mixed messages over the future of its development aid to the Palestinians.

Brussels rowed back comments from neighbourhood commissioner Oliver Varhelyi on Monday that the 27-nation bloc was immediately suspending "all payments" to the Palestinians.

The EU's executive arm

said it was reviewing hundreds of millions of euros (dollars) of development aid from the EU, the biggest donor to the Palestinians, but that payments were not suspended.

The European Commission said it was checking if the funding was indirectly enabling "any terrorist organization to carry out attacks against Israel".

Emergency humanitarian aid continues to flow to the Palestinians, the bloc said.

EU nations are split over development aid for the Palestinians.

Economist powerhouse Germany has already said it has temporarily suspended its own development aid to the Palestinians, while France said it was opposed to halting EU funds.

Borrell and a number of foreign ministers are currently in Oman's capital, Muscat, for a long-planned meeting with Gulf counterparts. — AFP

Lavrov says UN Charter should become foundation for new world order

A new world order should be based on a solid foundation, namely principles of the UN Charter, as most countries across the globe want to exist in conditions of multipolarity, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Tuesday.

"There is a foundation for building a new world, and it is solid — this is the UN Charter. The main thing now is to prevent its destruction as a result of opportunistic selective jug-

gling of statutory principles, to achieve their implementation in their entirety and interconnection with all countries," Lavrov said in his article.

Only if international law is observed, "will humanity have a chance to overcome the harmful legacy of the unipolar era," the Russian foreign minister stated, adding that preparations for the UN Summit of the Future planned for 2024 would show how every-

one was realizing their own as well as collective responsibility for the destiny of this world. The top Russian diplomat also said that responsibility for the current crisis in international relations lies with Western powers, which are pursuing an "aggressive and self-serving" policy.

"It is necessary to ensure that the spirit of multipolarity enshrined in the UN Charter is realized. An increasing number of countries of the global majority are seeking to strengthen their sovereignty and defend national interests, traditions, culture and way of life. They do not want to live under anyone's dictation, they want to be friends and trade with each other and with the rest of the world only on equal terms and for mutual benefit, within the framework of an objectively emerging multipolar architecture," Lavrov said. — Sputnik



In this handout photo released by the Russian Foreign Ministry, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov talks to the media after the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting (G20 FMM), in New Delhi, India. PHOTO: SPUTNIK