

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## EAO leaders converge in Nay Pyi Taw for NCA 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**T**HE Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony will be held on 15 October at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw.

Ethnic armed organizations that have signed the NCA and ethnic armed organizations that have not yet signed the NCA have been invited to the ceremony. Kayin ethnic leader Saw

Mutu Say Poe, General Yawd Serk Chairman of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS), Lahu Democratic Union- LDU Chairman Kyar Solomon, Leaders of NCA Signatory EAOs U Khun Okkar, U Khine Soe Naing Aung, U Myo Win and invited representatives from EAOs arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. **SEE PAGE-2**



Market showcase: Diverse rice selection at Yangon's rice retail outlet.

## Non-premium rice prices drop by K2,500-13,000 in two weeks

**T**he prices of non-premium rice continued to decline in the domestic market, indicating a decrease of K2,500-13,000 per sack depending on the rice varieties, according to the Myanmar Rice Traders Association (Wahdan rice depot).

The prevailing prices of non-premium rice move in the range between K60,000-88,000 per sack depending on varieties (Pawkywe, Kunni, Ngasein, Aemahta and Thipu and rice grown under intercropping system). The prices dropped from K68,000-98,000 per sack recorded in September.

Meanwhile, the prices of high-grade

Pawsan rice from the Pyapon and Dedaye areas also declined to K96,000-98,000 per sack in mid-October from K100,000 per sack recorded at the end of September.

Nonetheless, the prices of high-grade Pawsan from Myaungmya, Patheingyi and Shwebo stayed the same at K100,000-125,000 per sack.

MRF, in cooperation with affiliated associations, rice companies, millers and traders, are offering the rice at a fairer price through respective sales programmes; sales for civil staff and factory workers, sales at rice depots, distribution plan to regions and states, mobile market scheme and selling rice at tax free

markets in some townships.

The MRF launched a subsidy scheme for Pawsan and Aemahta rice varieties on 7 August at Wahdan and Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Centres. Each consumer is entitled to buy a sack of Pawsan rice and a sack of Aemahta rice per month, presenting the citizenship scrutiny card.

The rice prices are set at K110,000-120,000 per sack of Pawsan from the Shwebo area, K94,000-97,000 for Pawsan from Ayeyawady, K65,000 for Aemahta (10 per cent broken) and K60,000 for Aemahta (25 per cent broken) respectively. — NN/EM

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# NATIONAL

## EAO leaders converge in Nay Pyi Taw for NCA 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



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Members and officials from the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, ethnic people from the Department of Fine Arts, officials from relevant departments, and locals, who want peace, holding small flags, placards such as “Achieving durable peace is the true aspiration of

the entire people, achieving peace is the wish of all citizens, let’s meet and talk about the peace of the Union,” welcomed EAO leaders at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

Representatives of various ethnic armed organizations have come to Nay Pyi Taw from various regions and states to attend the NCA eighth anniversary celebration. — MNA/KZW



(Top & above photos) : Snapshots of EAO leaders and representatives arriving in Nay Pyi Taw to commemorate the 8<sup>th</sup> NCA Anniversary.

### MRTV to broadcast NCA 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration live

THE 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) will be held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw at 9 am on 15 October.

The anniversary will be broadcast live on MRTV-HD Channel, MRTV-News Channel, MRTV Farmers’ Channel, MRTV Sports Channel, MRTV Parliament Channel, MRTV-NRC Channel, MITV and MWD-HD Channel, MWD Variety-HD Channel, Channel LIGHT Channel, Sky Net Tine Yin Thar Channel, Reader’s Channel and MOI Website, MOI YouTube, MRTV App and aired live on Radio Myanmar, Padamyar FM, Cherry FM, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, FM Bagan, Star FM and Thazin FM. — MNA

### LOI forged by University of Medicine 2 with ROK’s Raphael International



The exchange of LOIs underway yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE Letter of Intent ceremony took place at the Department of Human Resources for Health in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, signifying a five-year collaboration between the University of Medicine

2 under the Ministry of Health and Raphael International of the Republic of Korea in various subject areas.

During the event, Professor Dr Aye Aye Khin, Rector of the University of Medicine 2, and Ms Sunghae Kwon, Director of Raphael International from the Republic of Korea, signed and exchanged the letter.

According to the letter, both universities will cooperate to provide training on human resources development in the medical field, research programmes in curing diseases, modern treatment methods and the introduction of medications. — MNA/KZW

<b>COVID-19</b> report, 13 October 2023	<b>NEW TESTS</b>	<b>NEW CASES</b>	<b>CASUALTIES</b>
	2,688	2	0

# NATIONAL

## Full-dress rehearsal for NCA 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary held

**S**AC Member Union Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae presided over the full-dress rehearsal for the upcoming 8<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebration of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). This event, which is set to mark a significant milestone, saw the participation of various prominent figures, including Union ministers, the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, and deputy ministers. The rehearsal took place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II (MICC II) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Additionally, the chairman of the Steering Committee on the Eighth Anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and his delegation closely

viewed the full-dress rehearsals. The programme included elements such as the opening ceremony, exhibitions from various ministries, ethnic traditional cultural troupes from regions and states, as well as performances by dance troupes from the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. Furthermore, he coordinated with officials necessary measures.

The grand celebration of the eighth anniversary of the National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) is scheduled for 15 October at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw. It promises to be a noteworthy occasion filled with political essence. — MNA/TS



SAC Member Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae greets the ethnic traditional cultural troupes at the full-dress rehearsal yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.



The inaugural event of the language courses for MoFA staff members in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

## Language courses for MoFA staff opened

**T**HE opening ceremony of language courses for staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which was jointly conducted by the Strategic Studies and Training Department and the Yangon University of Foreign Languages, was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The opening speech was delivered by U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs. MoFA staff will learn UN official languages: English,

Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish languages and other languages like Thai, Korean, German, Japanese and Italian in these language courses. Moreover, Dr Kyi Shwin, Rector of Yangon University of Foreign Languages, also conveyed a welcoming speech during the ceremony.

These language courses will be conducted by the Yangon University of Foreign Languages for the staff of the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs via online system and in person respectively starting from 13 October 2023.

Altogether 194 trainees from the Union Minister's office as well as departments concerned from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will participate. During the language courses, participants will be trained to develop skills for the proficient and effective use of the respective languages in their practical fields. — MNA

## MIFER holds 33<sup>rd</sup> Friday Talk

**T**HE Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MIFER) hosted the 33<sup>rd</sup> Friday Talk of Knowledge Sharing Programme (KSP) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, delivered the opening remarks by Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw.

The Union minister underscored that the holding of the Knowledge Sharing Programme every Friday for nearly eight months, today's topic China's 10-year-old 'Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)', its formation with 150 countries, its connection with China to European countries to enhance the regional integration, trade facilitation, liberalization, economic growth, the implementation of the five priors such as Policy Coordination, Physical Connectivity, Undisturbed Trade, Financial Integration and People to People Connectivity through the two passages especially over land and maritime, and the formation of international organizations like Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and

BRICS for broader economic integration since 2000s.

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw urged all staff to keep abreast of the world, realize not only the current situation of the world but also the matters on trade facilitation and liberalization as well as the future connectivity of the world and Peoples Republic of China, and actively discuss today's topic.

Daw Theingi Tun, Staff Officer from the Union Minister's Office presented the topic "Knowledge Sharing of Seminar on Economic and Trade Cooperation for the Belt and Road Countries" which was gained from the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) programme organized by the People's Republic of China. The attendees then raised the questions, queries and discussions.

The deputy minister, the director-general, senior officials and 80 staff members joined the programme. — MIFER



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw opens the 33<sup>rd</sup> Friday Talk of Knowledge Sharing Programme yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

# NATIONAL

## 103<sup>rd</sup> Myanmar Motion Picture Day, 46<sup>th</sup> respect-paying ceremony celebrated

THE 103<sup>rd</sup> Myanmar Motion Picture Day and 46<sup>th</sup> respect-paying ceremony to aged film artistes were held at the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization yesterday.

It was attended by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, and patrons and artistes of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization.

During the event, the patrons and executive committee members of the organization received K35.7 million donated by the State Administration Council, Ministry of Information, Yangon Region government and donors, Forever Group Co Ltd and the film industry, and K16.3 million worth a six-month package of



The 46<sup>th</sup> obeisance-paying ceremony to honour elderly film artistes takes place at the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization in Yangon yesterday.

Sky Net DTH and DTH device donated by the Sky Net.

Speaking at the ceremony,

the Union minister highlighted the efforts of the elderly who serve the interests of the coun-

try, regions and the public with their outstanding performance, resuming of Myanmar film in-

dustry that is almost suspended due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

He also talked about holding of discussion with the organization to hold the Academy Award presentation ceremony for 2023 in Nay Pyi Taw. Moreover, he said the government and the public love art and so the artistes should cooperate in their respective fields to emerge creative artworks in the future.

Next, the Yangon Region chief minister said words expressing sympathetic joy. The 13 October 1920, the day on which the film "Metta Hnint Thu Rah" screened at the cinema, was designated as the Myanmar Motion Picture Day, and this year marks the 46<sup>th</sup> respect-paying ceremony to aged film artistes. — MNA/KTZH

## Energy UM leads delegation to Gazprom's Moscow Oil Refinery



Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin (C) is pictured during his observation tours in Moscow.

UNION Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin and his delegation travelled to Moscow, Russia, to attend the 6<sup>th</sup> Russian Energy Week International Forum (REW). During their visit, they explored Gazprom's Moscow Oil Refinery in the Russian Federation.

At the Moscow Oil Refinery, the delegation observed the production facilities, held discussions on fuel production, and outlined plans for building a new oil refinery in Myanmar and upgrading existing ones.

They aim to meet Petrochemical Complex standards and diversify petroleum product output. They also sought technical assistance from Gazprom and explored investment opportunities in Myanmar's oil refinery construction and maintenance. The parties expressed mutual interest in offering courses on oil refinery technology and refining techniques.

The visit included a tour of the factory control room, laboratory, green area, and the petroleum product production process.

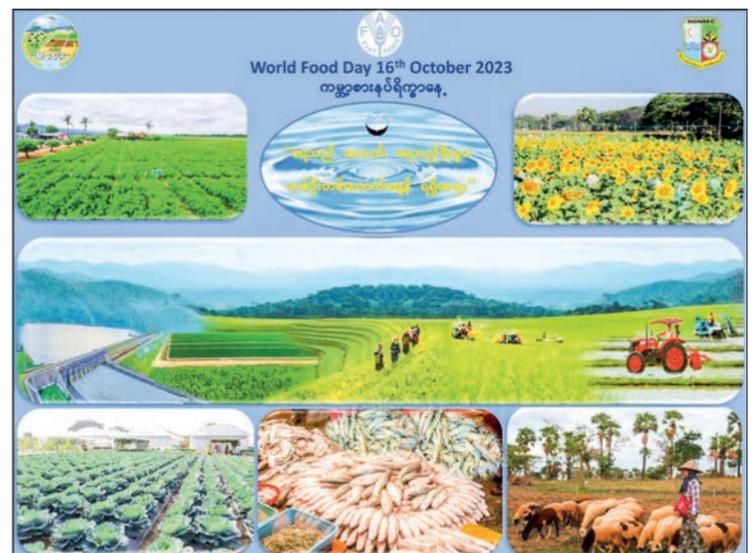
The Moscow Oil Refinery, established in 1983 in Moscow, has evolved into a globally recognized facility capable of processing 12.5 million metric tonnes of crude oil annually. It produces and distributes more than 30 petroleum products, including high-quality gasoline and diesel. The refinery's notable achievement is producing finished products equivalent to 99.5 per cent of the raw materials, thereby reducing environmental impact in the oil refining process. — MNA/KZW

## Political parties allowed to be established continue applying for registration

THOSE who want to establish a political party are applying to the Union Election Commission by stating the name of the party they want to establish.

To date, 14 groups have applied for the right to establish a party. Among the groups that applied, ten political parties have been allowed to be established.

Among the ten political parties allowed to be established, the Labour Party led by U Myint Than applied to the Commission yesterday to register as a political party under the Registration of Political Parties Rule 7 within 30 days from the date of approval for the establishment of the party. Of the 10 political parties that applied for registration permission, seven parties were allowed to register. The Union Election Commission is processing the verification. — MNA/KZL



## Mahamuni Buddha Image's affiliated building renovated with K8,000 mln cost

RENOVATION works are underway for the ordination hall of Mahamuni Buddha Image located in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State for K8,000 million.

U Nyo Tha Hla, chairman of the Mahamuni Buddha Image Board of Trustees, said that 65 per cent of the renovation work has been completed. Led by MraukU Sayadaw Ashin Var-aminda, the main building and related buildings were completed last year in 2021 with donations of about K5,000 million. It has been under renovation since February.

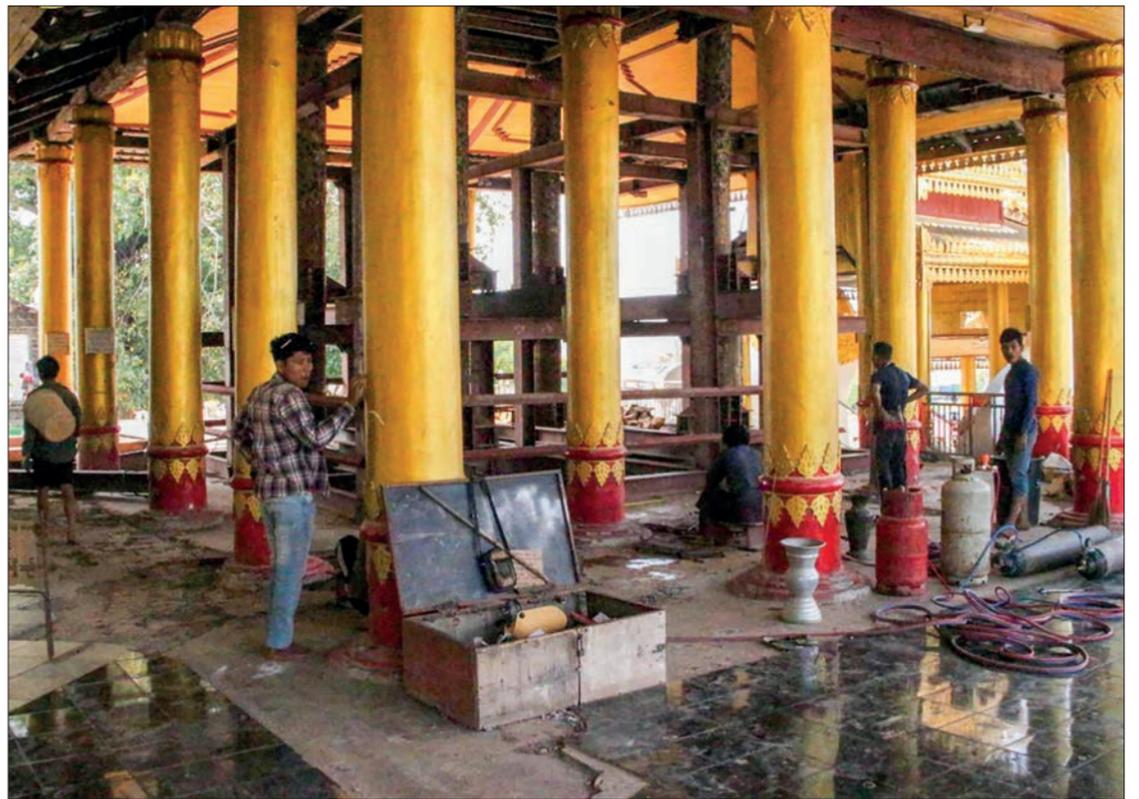
The roof of the building, including the related areas, was built about 30 years ago and is currently deteriorating.

"Currently, 65 per cent has been completed. The main building was roofed before the storm Mocha hit. We have to do everything because the main

dormitory was destroyed by the storm Mocha. Also, due to the storm, the roof of the temple tilted, so the whole thing will have to be demolished and repaired.

This year, the number of pilgrims from the city and from far away has decreased. People from the city and people from far away donated to the construction. Donations are low, so there is a delay in repairing the temple. All will be prepared for K8,000 million," said U Nyo Tha Hla.

In this renovation, the 48 pillars of the big building are being repaired with reliefs, including the image of Lord Buddha preaching to King Sanda Thuriya during the Danyawady period of Rakhine, with stone carvings and flower carvings, and the pillars of four related buildings are being repaired as concrete pillars. — ASH/KZL



The renovation work underway at the ordination hall of the Mahamuni Buddha Image.

## Mekong-Lancang Fruit Festival 2023 (Myanmar) planned in November



The display of fruits at the previous festival.

THE Mekong-Lancang Fruit Festival 2023 (Myanmar) will be held in Kunming, city of China's Yunnan Province from 17 to 19 November, where Myanmar fruits will be displayed and sold, according to Daw Naw Mu Takapaw, the Director-General of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce.

"Since this festival is held in cooperation with the Mekong-Lancang Economic and Trade Development Promotion Centre we will be able to sell more Myanmar fruits to the Chinese market," said Daw Naw Mu Takapaw. In the festival, an opportunistic

event for Myanmar to penetrate the Chinese fruit market, Myanmar entrepreneurs will display and sell butter, pineapple, macadamia, grapefruit, watermelon, cucumber, mango, mangosteen, rambutan, durian, passion fruit, walnuts, konjac, tea, coffee and black cardamom produced in Myanmar.

Market promotion talks about Myanmar's potential fruits are scheduled to be conducted followed by a PowerPoint presentation about fruits produced in Myanmar and business-to-business meetings to be able to end up in signing trade contracts. — ASH/TH

## Actress Hsaung Eaindray Tun, friends donate cash to hospital, flood victims in Bago

ACTRESS Hsaung Eaindray Tun and her friends made cash donations to Bago Region General Hospital (500-bed) and Shwe Nantha relief camp for flood victims on 12 October.

They donated a total of 2.7 million — 700,000 to flood victims at the Shwe Nantha relief camp in Kyunthaya ward of Bago and K2 million to General Hospital (500-bed).

"I think they (victims) might have enough food as there are many donors. When I donate cash, they can use it for their needs. If they get K10,000, they can have meals the next day. I comforted the victims at the



Donations in action for Bago's flood victims.

Shwe Nantha relief camp in person.

All my friends came along with me to a 500-bed hospital to donate alms to monks and patients and we comforted

them," said Hsaung Eaindray Tun. Designer Arkar Hein, actor Min Myat Soe San and donors participated in the donation trip of Hsaung Eaindray Tun. — ASH/KTZH

# NATIONAL

## 254 MGMA membership terminated for failure to pay annual fees until 2022



The picture captures the entrance to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association held in May 2023.

THE Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association has issued a notice that 254 members who failed to pay their annual dues have been terminated.

The membership of MGMA members who failed to pay their annual fee until 2022 was terminated on 9 October after repeatedly notifying them of paying their annual dues.

The notification stated that the MGMA has 819 members as of 30 September 2023, and some of the member factories and companies have failed to pay their annual dues and have not contacted the association.

If members who have been terminated as members want to rejoin the MGMA, they must re-pay the arrears of the annual fee and apply again as new members.

The Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association has already informed the member factory companies that do not communicate with the association and the factory companies that have yet to pay annual dues until 2022 that they will be terminated as members under Number 9, Clause (b), Paragraph 21, Chapter 4 of the Constitution of the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association.

Currently, 254 members have been terminated, so there will be 565 member factories left in the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association. — TWA/CT

## FDA announces 19 kinds of unsuitable food for public

THE Department of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under the Ministry of Health announced a list of 19 varieties of food that should not be consumed by the public on 12 October.

The FDA authorities found the use of unpermitted preservatives, dye and extreme use of permitted food additive chemicals that can affect the health of customers after examining these 19 varieties of food via the markets and school canteens.

These foods should not be consumed long-term, which could damage the stomach, liver,

and kidneys and cause cancer.

These products are being sold at the shops in Magway Region, Shan, Kayin and Rakhine states.

Moreover, the FDA warned food manufacturers and distributors not to use the prohibited dye and preservatives in the foods at all, and to use the permitted food additive chemicals only within the prescribed amount.

If they fail to follow the instructions, they will face legal action under Section 28 (a) of the National Food Law. — TWA/KTZH



FDA examines food at four markets in Magway on its mobile lab vehicle in 2019.

## Yellow line stickers on both sides mandatory for city taxis in Yangon

ACCORDING to the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC), city taxis operating in the Yangon Region must be attached to yellow line stickers on the sides of the vehicles to make them visible and without similarity to other vehicles.

It is reported that stickers will be put on city taxis starting on 1 November.

More than 59,000 taxis are operating in the Yangon Region, and over 53,000 city taxis are registered at YRTC.

The YRTC has instructed city taxis to use stickers

or paint for the yellow line, which will be put on the sides of vehicles.

According to Section 96 of the Vehicle Safety and Mo-

tor Vehicle Management Law, fines will be applied to vehicles that do not attach side sticker lines within the specified period. — TWA/CT



The sample of the yellow sticker line that must be drawn or attached to the sides of city taxis.

## Yangon River to experience exceptionally high tide on 15-18 October

MYANMA Port Authority has issued a warning that the Yangon River will experience an exceptionally high tide from 20.11 feet to 20.37 feet above the datum and the people living near the river bank have been warned to make preparations in advance.

The Yangon River experienced an exceptionally high tide at 20 to 20.05 feet above the datum in early October 2020 and the water level in the Yangon River reached 22 feet above the baseline in 2014-2015. The warning stated that there was no cause for concern. — TWA/MKKS

## CAD seeks Expressions of Interest for CTQM laboratory services joint venture

THE Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce calls for Express of Interest (EOI) to form a joint venture partnership to accomplish laboratory activities of the Commodity Testing and Quality Management Centre (CTQM).

The CTQM Centre under the Consumer Affairs Department was located by the roadside of the Yangon-Bago road, Kyunkalay village in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region.

The laboratories of the Centre, which issues test reports for the quality of imported and locally produced edible oil and agricultural produce designated for exports, are planning to make joint venture partners with domestic and foreign-owned companies to step up the achievement of ISO/IEC certification, assist in laboratory testing and develop models for commercialization.

Starting from 20 October, those interested companies can send the EOI form by post to the Consumer Affairs Department located in Nay Pyi Taw (Office 52) by 15 November or send an email to [itqmconsumer@gmail.com](mailto:itqmconsumer@gmail.com). The form can be downloaded via [www.doca.gov.mm](http://www.doca.gov.mm).

The following attachments must be included with the EOI; a letter of interest revealing the project details; company registration with validity; if the proposed company is a local company with a foreign partner for technology transfer, information of foreign company must be submitted; the recommendation from the government departments or institutions for those investment companies with experiences in collaborating with those institutions; financial statement of the interested investment company and audit report in the past three years; and company information including contact person, position, citizenship scrutiny card, passport, address of the company, phone number and email address.

For further details, please contact the Consumer Affairs Department via Ph: 067 343459, 067 3430510. — NN/EM

## Diesel price slashes K120/litre as Octane 92 falls below K2,000 mark



A car is seen refuelling at a petrol station in Yangon.

ON 12 October in the Yangon retail fuel market, the price of diesel dropped by K120 per litre compared to the price on 10 October, and Octane 92 fell below K2,000 per litre, according to fuel prices.

Although the price of Octane 92 plummeted under K2,000 per litre on 7, 8, and 9 October, the price went up above K2,000 on 10 and 11 October. However, the price dropped back to below K2,000 on 12 October.

A litre of diesel was priced at K2,225 on 7, 8, and 9 October, K2,310

on 10 October, and fell to K2,295 on 11 October and K2,190 on 12 October.

It is reported that the rate of foreign crude oil rose slightly from US\$83 per barrel on 6 October to \$85.87 on 9 October.

The authorities are selling dollar currency for the import of edible oil and fuel. Singapore's MOPS price changes weekly on Monday evening. Based on the new fuel prices, domestic wholesale and retail reference fuel prices are notified through national newspapers every Tuesday.

Since there was no new oil price in Singapore on Saturday and Sunday, the price of domestic fuel did not change on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. The reference price of fuel oil changes five times a week, and the reference price of edible oil changes only once on Monday.

It is easy to purchase fuel according to the retail reference prices in the domestic fuel market. Thus, the drop in diesel price, which is commonly used in freight transportation, is more than the drop in octane between 10 and 12 October. — TWA/CT

## Strong foreign demand elevates sesame seed price



Myanmar's sesame seeds are also exported to China through land borders. Snapshot of thriving sesame plantation above.

THE sesame seed prices are moving up in the Mandalay market on the back of strong foreign demand.

The prices stood at K340,000 per 45-viss bag of black sesame (Samone variety), K365,000-370,000 per bag of white sesame, K280,000 per bag of brown sesame, K310,000 for red sesame and K200,000 for Niger seed on 1 October. The prices increased to K365,000 for black sesame, K385,000-390,000 for white sesame, K290,000 for brown sesame and K320,000 for red sesame, showing an increase of K10,000-25,000 per bag. Niger seed price remained unchanged.

At present, newly harvested sesame from the central areas of Myanmar is flowing into the market. Chinese buyers are steadily purchasing Japanese white sesame and black sesame

(Samone). Consequently, the prices rose slightly.

Myanmar's sesame seeds are also exported to China through land borders. In April 2022, the world's top palm oil exporter Indonesia, which is one of the main oil suppliers to Myanmar, declared an export ban on cooking oil export to reduce domestic shortage. Consequently, Myanmar's Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce temporarily suspended exports of oil crops (peanut and sesame) from 9 May to ensure oil self-sufficiency.

Exports of Myanmar's edible oil crops resumed as the world's top palm oil exporters returned to normalcy, according to a notification dated 5 July 2022 released by the Trade Department. — NN/EM

# OPINION

## Beware of cyberattacks impacting daily work processes

**C**YBERATTACKS have become a pervasive threat, wreaking havoc not only in cyberspace but also causing significant disruptions in various sectors, including business, politics, military, security, technology, and social affairs across nations. Cyber adversaries relentlessly target their opponents' digital networks in their quest to breach confidential defences.

In the 21st century, the realm of science and technology is undergoing an unprecedented transformation. The world is witnessing the emergence of cutting-edge technologies alongside unpredictable dangers. The rapid advancement of information and technology is reshaping the daily routines of people worldwide.

Some powerful nations have even established dedicated hacker forces composed of skilled individuals. Meanwhile, countries with less technological prowess are diligently preparing for potential cyberwarfare scenarios, investing substantial resources in bolstering their cyber capabilities.

On a global scale, countries are enhancing their cyber capacities, not only for defensive purposes but also for offensive cyber operations, espionage, information manipulation, and propaganda to gain control over mass communication channels.

In essence, cyberwarfare involves one nation's attempt to disrupt or destroy another country's computers and networks. Presently, corporations, terrorist organizations, political groups, extremist factions, and criminal elements employ cyber power for destructive purposes to further their interests.

Recent data from the Cybersecurity reports indicate that approximately 2,200 cyberattacks occur worldwide each day. The FBI's Internet Crime Report underscores the alarming increase in cybercrime losses, which surged by 64 per cent in 2018. Consequently, the global community has recognized that cyber security is a paramount national security concern in the 21st century.

In response to this escalating threat, October has been designated as Cyber Security Awareness Month since 2004. The primary aim is to disseminate knowledge about the dangers of cyberattacks and underscore the importance of cybersecurity. Cyber users must remain vigilant, as they can encounter digital threats online at any given moment, often stemming from the actions of unscrupulous individuals.

Hence, individuals and organizations alike must prioritize the security of their digital infrastructure, which stores sensitive information. Building a secure digital environment necessitates a deep understanding of cyber best practices, including automatic updates, multi-factor authentication for account protection, regular backups, strong passwords, and encryption methods. Expanding one's knowledge in the realm of cybersecurity is essential for developing a swift response plan and effectively repairing any damage caused by cyberattacks in daily work processes.

In conclusion, the ever-evolving landscape of cyber threats demands a proactive and vigilant approach to safeguarding digital assets and ensuring the continuity of daily operations. Cybersecurity awareness and preparedness are paramount in today's interconnected world.

# In honour of NCA 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## Ethnic organizations aspire to 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NCA with political essence

**E**THNIC organizations are aspiring to the emergence of the 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) which will take place with full political essence in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 October.

On 15 October 2015, the NCA was signed by those from the government, the Hluttaw (Parliament), the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed organizations in the presence of diplomats from China, India, Japan and Thailand including the United Nations and local witnesses.

"Primarily, what is the essence of NCA for ensuring full political essence? NCA creates chances not only for ceasefire in the entire nation but political dialogues. From then on, NCA opens the way for nation-building endeavours with sustainability and durability. To do so, it is necessary to hold the ceremony to mark the NCA anniversary with full essence as part of efforts to prove that NCA is an official accord. There will be something special to be created at this celebration. A request was made at the meeting between five groups from PPST and six Generals from the State Peace Talks Team from the State Administration Council in Nay Pyi Taw from 29 to 31 August to organize the anniversary with the full political essence.

"Such a request was officially made at the meeting. The State Administration Council on its part extended invitations in order to hold the anniversary with the full political essence. So, SAC may shape their situation firmly at the celebration. It is a measure for NCA signatories to strive to review the NCA to be firm and legitimate by inviting diplomats and international witnesses. They have to do it on a self-reliant basis. Otherwise, they will have nothing," said Colonel Khun Okkar, Leading Patron of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO).

Reportedly, the State Administration Council has extended invitations to individuals who participated in the signing of the NCA, representatives from the NCA signatories and other organizations, those who participated in the implementation of the peace processes, some 60 international diplomats and those from India, Thailand, Japan, some European Union countries and the United Nations to join the 8th Anniversary of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA.

Greater efforts have been made to organize the 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Signing

NCA this year, said Saw Kyaw Nyunt, the secretary-cum-spokesperson of KNU/KNLA (PC).

He continued, "KNU/KNLA (PC) will attend the 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NCA celebration. In my view will the ceremony bring a brighter future or fulfill the anticipation? The brighter future from the anniversary celebration will be practical. With regard to fulfilling the anticipation, I think now is the time to try hard to hold the political dialogues with the participation of stakeholders, rather than forging peace in the Union as well as building the Union based on democratic and federal systems. As such, I think if we talk about the possibility of a brighter future rather than the anticipation, it will be more practical."

The current situation is seen with unprecedented difficulties in the history of the political landscape the whole country faces. Now is some three-year period of passing the irregular political landscape, said Secretary Saw Kyaw Nyunt.

"After 1 February 2021, all peace processes of NCA and political landscapes halted. Moreover, unprecedented armed conflicts are happening in all corners of the country rather than in the past. I would like to continue my talks that the framework of military affairs is very large within the period of more than two years. At the same time, the framework of political talks is narrower and narrower, and it is too far future for all to implement the political dialogues with the participation of all stakeholders in order to shape the peace of the Union I expected and to build the Union based on democratic and federal systems I wished.

"I understand that there will be many difficulties and challenges to holding the political dialogues with the participation of all stakeholders at the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NCA. But, it is a compulsory situation for forging peace of the Union and for building the Union to be based on democratic and federal systems. As such, I have an aspiration for how we can initiate the solution for paying a way through the 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Signing NCA.

"NCA is an accord signed in the time of President U Thein Sein. In this regard, all nation-builders have to meet with each other to talk about how to build the nation to fulfil the wishes of ethnics. The government on its part

should have a situation to have complied with the wish of ethnics. Moreover, we have a desire to discuss things for the country to have a progressive situation more than now. NCA did not emerge easily. Stakeholders took one year and nine months period of talks to emerge NCA. Such talks did not waste time. We are attending the meetings without aimless. The purpose of our talks is not set for a single person or a single group but for the whole nation.

"The country is unstable. If so, the country will lose a large number of human resources. So, the country will face loss. All organizations lose human resources," said Daw Saw Mra Raza Lin, Chair of the Arakan Liberation Party (ALP).

A series of meetings should be held in the post-period of the 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NCA to be held on 15 October, and it is necessary to emphasize organizational campaigns to lure new organizations for their participation, U Yan Kyaw, Myanmar's political analyst, commented.

"All should extend their organizational measures for participation of new members to the talks. All stakeholders in the talks for the State to forge durable peace have always to consider that they all are holding talks for the restoration of peace and for ensuring peace and prosperity of the country. It is a talk but a battle. In the battle, if one side fires a bullet to kill one person from this side, the former will have a victory. Reciprocally, if this side fires to kill one person from the other side, this side will have success. It is a fighting style. As now is a meeting, for example, even though they discuss ten points, it is impossible to agree ten all points. One or two of ten all points may be agreed. From then on, we have to march towards all agreements gradually.

"It should not be totally done that we should not halt the talks from the points we did not agree. For one more point, the development gap among the strata of people is not distinct in this country yet but such a gap will be very obvious in the coming 10, 15 and 20 years. Especially, the number of children attend the government's schools in the education sector but some children attend private schools and international schools as well as learn education abroad. So, the qualifications of children will be different. If so, such a trend will be a hindrance to the development of the country. Espe-

cially, it will be a challenge to improve border regions. I think it is a point to be considered for narrowing the margin of development as much as possible.

"If the country cannot restore peace, such a country cannot have political stability. If so, the country will have no basic factor to develop. That is why everybody needs to start their work processes with a sound foundation," he said.

Some ethnic armed organizations said rootless criticisms that the NCA has annually due to serving State responsibilities by the Tatmadaw.

However, the State Administration Council has released statements, saying that all ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) are openly welcome to join the peace talks.

The statements mentioned that if they wish to meet with delegations of the Tatmadaw in the peace talk measures, arrangements will be made to hold talks at relevant military command headquarters.

"SAC Chairman has given a remark that NCA non-signatories wishing to restore peace have to attend the anniversary celebration so as to pave a path of peace for all. Moreover, he noted that if they hold hate in doing things, the country will face loss. The State Administration Council pledged to keep moving forward as much as it can and it will do to have success. As the SAC Chairman has urged all to work without suspicion and grudge, they all will meet the aim smoothly. As such, it is true that EAOs have to hold talks about peace issues discarding hate in the post-period of the 8th Anniversary of NCA," an observer over the peace process noted.

The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA comprises 33 paragraphs in seven chapters, aimed at upholding the non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, based on liberty, equality and justice in order to build the Union based on democratic and federal systems with full guarantees of democracy, national equality and rights of self-administration aligned with the results from the political dialogues.

In the NCA, all signatories agreed on 10 points such as to establish a new political culture of resolving political conflicts through dialogue instead of force of arms in order to restore a dura-

ble peace for the creation of equal rights for all, hold inclusive political dialogues attended by all relevant stakeholders in accord with the aspirations and desires of all ethnic nationalities, military affairs to be abide by both sides for firmly implementing the ceasefire and necessary measures to protect the people, and coordination to be held between both sides to provide humanitarian aid to internally displaced persons (IDP) and victims of conflicts.

Reportedly, some NCA signatories violate some principles of NCA provisions.

"At present, there are some provisions for engagements, for example, protection of civilians and cooperation with international organizations in providing humanitarian aid. If they follow NCA, they can do all things under these provisions. KNU, CNF and ABSDF of ten NCA signatories are still fighting, and seven remaining organizations are maintaining a ceasefire process under the NCA," said a member of the ethnic armed organization.

After the State Administration Council took the State responsibilities on 1 February 2021, KNU, RCSS, CNF, ABSDF and MNSP submitted letters of resignation to the Peace Process Steering Team-PPST comprising 10 NCA signatories and reduced their participation.

On 15 October 2015, eight ethnic armed organizations namely the Karen National Union (KNU), Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS), Arakan Liberation Party (ALP), Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA), Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army-Peace Council (KNU/KNLA-PC), Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNO), Chin National Front (CNF), and All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA.

At that time, those from the government, the Hluttaw (Parliament), the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed organizations signed the NCA in the presence of diplomats from China, India, Japan and Thailand including the United Nations and local witnesses and it was approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Two more organizations such as New Mon State Party (NMSP) and the Lahu Democratic Union (LDU) also signed the NCA on 13 February 2018.

By May Ngai

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 13 October 2023)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy over the Northeast Bay and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal. Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 14 October 2023:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Magway, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States and widespread in Mandalay Region and Shan State with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Continuations of thundery activities in Southern Myanmar areas.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 October 2023:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 October 2023:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 October 2023:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Regions.

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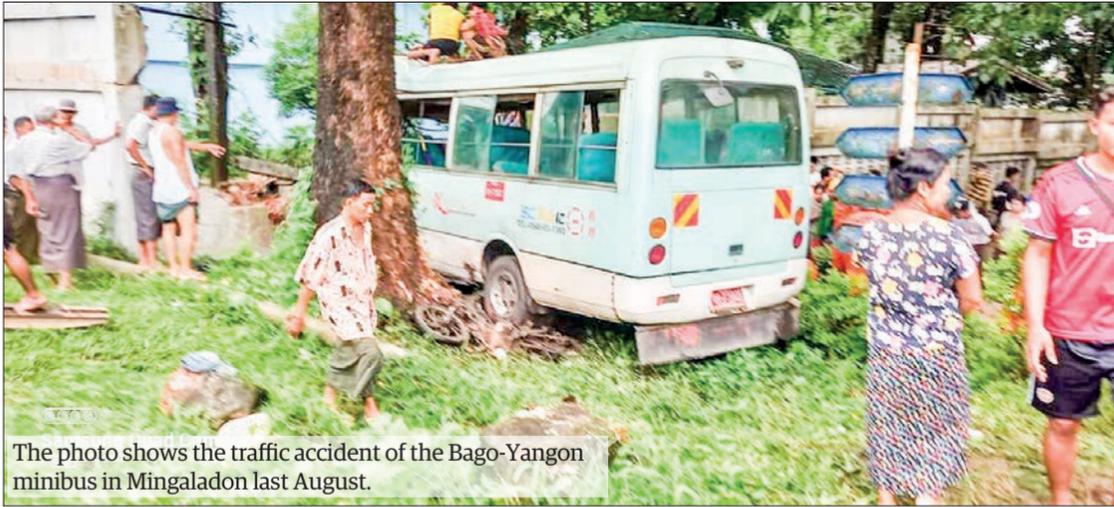
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# NATIONAL

## Bago-based passenger buses with right-hand steering, left doors restricted from entering Yangon



The photo shows the traffic accident of the Bago-Yangon minibus in Mingaladon last August.

THE Bago-based passenger buses with right steering and left door will not be allowed to enter the Yangon Region starting from 19 October as non-compliance with the right-hand drive system, according to the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC).

These passenger buses must go back to Bago if they enter the Yangon Region and will only be allowed to enter until the right doors have been opened.

In addition, not only the two routes will be designated for Yangon-Bago passenger buses but also a bus station will be built on the designated routes between the Khayaybin junction and the Danyingon junction to continue their running to Dagon Ayeya Highway Terminal.

Vehicles which do not conform to the right-hand drive system cause traffic jams and traffic accidents. — TWA/MKKS

## Confiscation of illegal items: Timbers, foodstuffs, consumer goods, motorbikes and vehicles



Seized illegal goods (above and below photos).



THE unregistered vehicle seizure team of the No 2 Traffic Police branch conducted inspections on 10 October and captured an unregistered Toyota Caldina (approximately K3.5 million) in front of FMI housing on Yangon-Pathein road in Hlaingthaya township (East). The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

The combined teams made inspections on 12 October and captured two unregistered motorbikes – Follow Me 125 motorbike and Cyclone 110 motor-

bike – in Nyaungpintha and Uyinsu villages in Pyinmana township, four kinds of goods worth K40,540,800 including 22,788 litres of Dutch Mill without official documents at the warehouses in Mahaaungmyay and Amarapura townships and seven kinds of goods worth K49,875,000 including 825 sets of Redmi phone display and 600 sets of Realme phone display that were smuggled and piled up by the side of road over Sinphyu checkpoint in Muse township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law and Customs procedures.

On the same day, the Customs on-duty teams nabbed 1,962 sets of Baby Walker worth K29.43 million which exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from four

containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port, four kinds of goods worth K28.57 million including 49 bottles of various perfume from luggage at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk) and a Nissan Condor and a Shwechan express bus (estimated value of K55 million), headed to Yangon from Myawady, carrying 990 litres of Prawn Hornet palm oil and 3,000 packs of Wai Wai instant rice vermicelli worth K5.65 million without official documents at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The combined teams seized a total of 4.076 tonnes of illegal teaks and 0.485 tonnes of illegal hardwoods worth K2,169,740 in Bago and Thayawady districts and an unregistered Honda Fit (approximately K3 million) near Thapyaygon village in Waw township on 13 October. The action was taken under the Forest Law and the Export and Import Law. A total of 17 arrests were made on 10, 12 and 13 October, with an estimated value of K219,135,540, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

## Traffickers sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for human trafficking

THE Thingangyun District Special Court sentenced the traffickers to 20 years imprisonment each with labour under Section 38(A) of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law on 15 September.

After concerned officials rescued seven Myanmar women including Ma..., aged 22 in early August as one of them went live on Facebook asking for help as they got into trouble in Dubai, UAE, the Tamway Police Station prosecuted Naw Thawwsae (aka)

Mie Mie from Tamway township, Mayphone (aka) Htet Htet (aka) Kay Thi Myint from North Okkalapa and Swe Swe Myint (aka) Athaylay of Lanmadaw under Section 35/44 of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law.

The traffickers persuaded the victims by saying that they had to work as maids and had been sent to Dubai. After that, the traffickers planned to exploit the victim's wages by confining them in the room. — MNA/MKKS



Two offenders are pictured alongside seized drugs.

## Over K1.2 bln worth of Happy Water captured in Thazi township

OVER K1.2 billion worth of Happy Water was captured in Thazi township of Mandalay Region, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a passenger express bus near Kywaltatson village in Thazi township at 10 pm on 7 October and captured over K1.2 billion worth of 10.17 kilogrammes of Happy Water from the luggages of Ma Htoo Myat Nay Thwe and Ma Hnin Wai Phy. The offenders admitted the drugs to be trafficked from Shan State to Yangon Region. Legal action has been taken against the offenders and an investigation is underway to identify others involved in the criminal chain. — MNA/MKKS

## PlayStation unveils controller for disabled gamers



Melanie Eilert tries out the new Playstation Access controller at a demonstration event in London on 5 October 2023. **PHOTO: HENRY NICHOLLS / AFP**

*Sony is launching a new PlayStation controller from December, designed to make gaming easier for people with disabilities.*

WITH large buttons arranged in a circle and a joystick on one side, Sony is launching a PlayStation controller from December, designed to make gaming easier for people with disabilities.

The gaming giant has been under pressure to address an issue seen as long neglected by the industry despite rivals bringing similar products to market in recent years.

"I wouldn't be surprised to

see able-bodied people using it" said impressed gamer Jeremy Lecerf, aka Gyzmo.

Sitting in a wheelchair, the Frenchman specialising in video games and disability was invited by Sony to London to test its new device, which overturns the design of traditional controllers.

He suffers from myopathy and is an ambassador for the French association HandiGamer, which supports disabled gamers.

The new controller "is extremely well thought-out", according to Lecerf, because the company has tried to make it accessible to people with a range of disabilities.

"It's good to see that the industry is really taking the plunge" on the issue of accessibility, added the 39-year-old, as he tested the "access controller" on "Stray", an adventure video game in which the player takes on the role of a cat. — AFP

## 'Cuter in real life': South Korea names its twin panda 'treasures'

*The names "Rui Bao" and "Hui Bao" were chosen via online voting by half a million panda lovers.*

SOUTH Korea got its first up-close look at its new pair of baby giant pandas Thursday at a name-revealing ceremony that doubled as an early celebration of the 100 days since their birth.

The female cubs — named Rui Bao, or "wise treasure", and Hui Bao, "shining treasure" — were born at the Everland theme park near the capital Seoul on 7 July, and have since been showered with an outpouring of excitement and affection.

Some half a million pan-

da lovers helped choose their names via online voting, the zoo said, with a handful of lucky fans invited to Thursday's ceremony.

Lee Da-young, a 20-year-old university student in attendance, said it was her third visit to the zoo in two months to see the pandas.

"I've always liked pandas, so I came to Everland last week and also a month ago," Lee told AFP. "But I'm honoured to have come again on such a great opportunity. — AFP



Panda cubs Rui Bao (left) and Hui Bao (right) at Everland Amusement and Animal Park in Yongin on 12 October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Nigeria art-house movie challenges Nollywood's glitz



The film is like art: actors in white paint, shells in their hair, and patterns on loincloths, all for a black and white effect. **PHOTO: AFP**

A Nigerian black-and-white art-house movie that won a Sundance award is quietly gaining an audience in a country better known for glitzy Nollywood blockbusters.

Written and directed by Nigerian CJ Obasi and now in cinemas nationwide, "Mami Wata" is a dream-like dive into a West African village "frozen in time", on the Atlantic coast.

In the village of Iyi, the inhabitants worship sea goddess "Mami Wata", through their priestess Mama Efe and her two daughters, who bring

prosperity and health.

No need for schools, hospitals or police, "when we get Mami Wata" says the priestess.

But while the Mama Efe loses her healing powers, residents -- torn between a desire for modernity and the preservation of traditions -- begin to question their beliefs.

The sudden arrival on their beach of a mysterious stranger changes the fate of the village forever.

The film appears like a work of art: actors fac-

es marked by white paint stains, hairstyles enhanced by ivory-coloured shells, the patterns printed on the loincloths and the moon reflected on the rough waves of the Atlantic -- everything was built "in service to the black and white", the director told AFP. "This folkloric tale" is "an intoxicating, visual experience", noted the jury of the prestigious Sundance independent film festival in the United States, which awarded it the prize for best cinematography in January 2023. — AFP

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Israel-Hamas war a 'new cloud' over world economy: IMF



A woman walks past the emblem of the 2023 IMF and World Bank annual meetings situated at the entrance of the venue in Marrakech on 8 October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE war between Israel and Hamas has cast a shadow over the IMF-World Bank annual meetings in Morocco, with warnings Thursday that it has darkened the outlook for an already sluggish

Global lenders are having a meeting in an Arab country for the first time in 20 years. It's a gathering of finance ministers and central bankers from around the world.

global economy.

The global lenders are holding their gathering, which brings together finance ministers and central bankers from around the world, in an Arab country for the first time in 20 years.

The conflict, which erupted when Palestinian militant group Hamas launched a bloody attack on Israel from Gaza on Saturday, has raised concerns about its potential impact on the world economy. Speaking at a press conference in Marrakech, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said the International Monetary Fund was "very close-

ly monitoring how the situation evolves" and how it is affecting oil markets. She said it was "too early" to assess the impact of the conflict, but "this is a new cloud on not the sunniest horizon for the world economy -- new cloud, darkening this horizon." Georgieva noted that the IMF's World Economic Outlook, which was released earlier this week but drafted before the conflict broke out, already showed weak global growth. The global economy's recovery from the Covid pandemic has been hit by Ukraine war, elevated inflation and high interest rates. — AFP

## Egg shortage leaves supermarket shelves empty in S Africa

Last month, South Africa faced both H5N1 and a new strain, H7N6, of the virus, according to the South African Poultry Association.



The avian flu outbreak in South Africa has led to government to look into creating a temporary rebate on poultry meat import duties. **PHOTO: SHIRAAZ MOHAMED/AFP**

SUPERMARKET retailers in South Africa said on Thursday they were grappling with an egg shortage triggered by a major bird flu outbreak that has seen shelves going empty across the country in recent weeks.

Grocery store chains said they have been forced to hike prices and ration eggs, as producers contend with the disease, which has caused the loss of millions of chickens since

April.

"We have implemented a limit on whole egg purchases in all... stores and online to six eggs per customer," retailer Woolworths said.

The company was working with its farmers "to ensure regular supply returns soonest".

Only two lonely six-egg cartons were left on the shelves of one of the retailer's stores in an affluent Johannesburg suburb on Thursday morning.

Shoprite, another major supermarket chain, told AFP it had also been affected.

"We continue to work closely with our egg suppliers, securing as much stock as possible and utilising our supply chain to transport it to regions experiencing shortages," it said.

One of the continent's major poultry producers, South Africa reported the first bird flu cases in commercial farms in April, according to an industry group. In some stores prices have doubled, impacting cafés and restaurants and families.

"(The) cost of eggs has risen to extreme levels," said Blessing Bomani, a manager at Coco Safari, a small French-style café in Johannesburg.

Last month, the South African Poultry Association (SAPA) said the nation was contending with two different strains of the virus, the infamous H5N1 and a new strain identified as H7N6. — AFP

## Kenya court blocks lifting of logging ban

A Kenyan court on Thursday barred the government from lifting a ban on logging but allowed the felling of several thousand hectares of mature forest.

In July, President William Ruto ordered the lifting of the near six-year moratorium despite the concerns of environmentalists, saying it was aimed at creating jobs.

The Environment and Land Court ruled Thursday that the order was "null and void" as there was no public participation before it came into force.

"Petitioners and the members of the public are entitled

to participate in the making of laws, regulations and guidelines to govern logging activities," ruled judge Oscar Angote.

The Law Society of Kenya had filed the case after Ruto's announcement, saying the government had not made the scientific case for lifting the ban nor adequately consulted the community about its impact.

Angote however gave the go-ahead for the harvesting of 5,000 hectares (12,355 acres) of mature trees "in strict compliance" with an environment impact assessment report and relevant regulations.— AFP



Forestry and logging contributed 1.6 per cent to Kenya's economy last year. **PHOTO: TONY KARUMBA/AFP**

## Microsoft, 'Call of Duty' maker set to seal tie-up

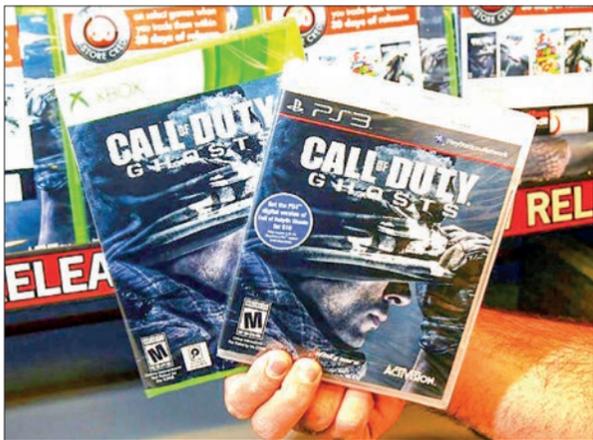
XBOX-MAKER Microsoft and Activision Blizzard, whose video games include "Call of Duty" and "Candy Crush", are set to seal one of the biggest

technology tie-ups after overcoming final hurdles Friday.

British regulators have approved Microsoft's \$69-billion takeover,

having blocked the deal in April over competition concerns. The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) said in a statement Friday that it had cleared "the new deal for Microsoft to buy Activision without cloud gaming rights" after concluding "it would preserve competitive prices and better services".

Activision Blizzard chief executive Bobby Kotick said the two companies had "all regulatory approvals necessary to close (the deal) and... look forward to bringing joy and connection to even more players around the world". — AFP



Microsoft will finally get its hands on Activision, the publisher of popular video game Call of Duty. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## China's e-commerce logistics index up in September

CHINA'S e-commerce logistics index, an indicator of logistics operations in the e-commerce sector, stood at 112.3 points in September, up 1.2 points from a month earlier, according to the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing.

The sub-index tracking total business volume last month stood at 123.9 points, marking an increase of 2.5 points from August, the organization said. The satisfaction rate sub-index stood at 101.5 points in September, up 0.2 points from August, continuing an upward trend for the fourth con-



Commodities from South Korea are transported to a warehouse under full-time tracking at a cross-border e-commerce supervision center in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, 3 June 2020. **PHOTO: LI ZIHENG/XINHUA**

secutive month, the data showed.

Overall, the demand for e-commerce logistics has improved significantly, and the supply capacity and efficiency of logistics enterprises have steadily increased, it added. — Xinhua

## Mysterious rise in US Treasury yields perturbs markets

THE surge in US treasury yields has sparked much anxiety among investors, in part because there is no easy explanation for the rise.

On Friday, the yield on the 10-year US Treasury note climbed to 4.88 per cent for the first time since 2007, while the 30-year offering reached 5.05 per cent, also a 16-year peak.

Both have edged back in recent days, due mainly to elevated geopolitical risk, analysts say, although yields remain high.

The most oft-cited justification for the rise has been expectations that monetary policy will stay hawkish in response to the resilient US economy.

"The Fed expectations have been shifting," said John Canavan, analyst at Oxford Economics. — AFP

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA RUKUN VOY.NO. (0117N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA RUKUN VOY.NO. (0117N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-10-2023** 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.

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**Shipping Agency Department  
Myanmar Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KHARIS PEGASUS VOY.NO. (10-4339)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-10-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **YIGTL** 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.

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**Shipping Agency Department  
Myanmar Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD**



### IX Saint Petersburg International Cultural Forum - "United Cultures Forum"

A global cultural event is planned for November 16-18, 2023 in Russia - the IX St. Petersburg International Cultural Forum - "United Cultures Forum".

Within the framework of the Forum, leading cultural figures and government officials will exchange ideas, discuss trends and current issues in the development of the modern cultural environment. The heads of delegations were invited to consider the possibility of speaking as speakers at dialogue events in the main thematic areas:

- "Learning History through Culture";
- "Artificial Intelligence – a Threat or a Boon to Culture?";
- "Traditional Culture as the Foundation for Building a Civilized Society."

The forum will create a unique opportunity for a professional exchange of views, reaching agreements on joint creative initiatives aimed at preserving and popularizing the best examples of world cultural heritage and developing international cultural dialogue on the principles of mutual understanding and respect.

Top management of the Russian Federation is expected to participate in the events. One of the key events will be a meeting of ministers of culture of foreign countries and heads of international organizations. Based on its results, it is planned to adopt a declaration.

This document will be important in terms of confirming the interest of the international community in the further development of international cultural and humanitarian cooperation.

The draft declaration reflects the provisions of a number of multilateral documents that were previously adopted by the UN (including UNESCO), the G20, and the Russia-Africa summits and BRICS.

In particular, the project is based on the definition of culture as a concept that includes not only art and literature, but also a way of life, a system of values, traditions and beliefs, emphasizes the need to recognize culture as a global public good, confirms that culture is the most important factor in national development, shaping the will of peoples to freedom, independence and sovereign choice of development model.

The document is intended to confirm the unifying agenda of the St. Petersburg International Cultural Forum - "United Cultures Forum", the importance of depoliticized dialogue in the field of culture. In this context, foreign partners are invited to participate in the formation of a common international infrastructure necessary to support the national sectors of culture and art of the Forum participating countries, as well as ensuring the development of their multifaceted cultural cooperation.

More information of the Forum can be obtained through the official website: <https://culturalforum.ru/en>

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# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD



In this handout photo released by the Russian Foreign Ministry, participants attend a meeting of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Foreign Ministers Council, in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

## CIS summit kicks off in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

*The event will focus on discussing important topics like enhancing cooperation in trade, the economy, culture, and humanitarian efforts.*

THE Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) summit is taking place on 13 October in the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek, under the chairmanship of Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov.

Sputnik is live as the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States Summit takes

place in Bishkek.

During the event, key issues such as strengthening cooperation in trade, economy, culture, and humanitarian efforts will be discussed.

Russian President Vladimir Putin will attend the summit of the CIS Council of Heads of State. During the summit, the CIS leaders will

sum up the results of the interaction within the organization in 2023, identify key goals for the future, and exchange views on the latest global and regional developments.

The Russian president will also brief his counterparts on the priorities of Russia's CIS chairmanship in 2024. — SPUTNIK

### CHOKEHOLD AND KETAMINE INJECTION

## US jury convicts white police officer over death of Black man

A US jury on Thursday convicted a white police officer in the 2019 death of a Black man who was put in a chokehold and injected with ketamine during his arrest.

The jury in the western state of Colorado found Aurora police officer Randy Roedema guilty of criminally negligent homicide in the death of Elijah McClain, in a case that sparked public outrage.

Roedema's colleague Jason Rosenblatt was acquitted.

McClain died several days after a struggle with police, and after being injected with ketamine — a powerful sedative — by attending paramedics. The case prompted a celebrity-backed online petition calling for justice when the details came to light.

Police had responded to a call about a "suspicious" Black male "acting weird" in the street and wearing a ski mask.

One officer said McClain, who was unarmed, had reached

for another officer's gun.

No evidence was produced to support this claim.

McClain's family told media he had been out buying iced tea, and often wore the mask to stay warm because he suffered from anemia.

McClain's death occurred months before the killing of another Black man, George Floyd, in Minneapolis in May 2020, triggered a nationwide reckoning over racism and police brutality. — AFP

### THE COLLISION NEAR MARMARA ISLAND

## 2 ships from Ukraine, Russia collide in Türkiye's Marmara Sea: media

TWO ships departed from Ukraine and Russia crashed in Türkiye's Marmara Sea on Friday, local media reported.

The Haberturk Daily, citing the General Directorate of Coastal Safety, said on its website that the accident, which occurred near the Marmara Island of the Balıkesir province, caused damages to the ships. According to Haberturk, the 130-metre-long dry cargo ship "Haje Halimeh",

loaded with wheat, was sailing from the Ukrainian port of Izmail to Valencia, Spain.

It added that the other ship, the 169-metre-long bulk carrier "Asomatos," loaded with grain, was en route from the Russian port of Kavkaz to Ashdod in Israel. Marine Traffic, an online vessel tracking platform, said Haje Halimeh was sailing under the flag of the Comoros while Asomatos was with the Panama flag. — Xinhua

## Czech lawmakers pass tax hikes to rein in public finance gap

*Heavily dependent on car production and exports to the eurozone, the Czech economy has slowed down remarkably since the pandemic hit in 2020.*

THE Czech parliament on Friday passed an austerity package raising taxes in a bid to heal ailing public finances hit hard by the pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

The centre-right governing coalition pushed the package through the 200-seat parliament with 108 votes.

The extensive package is designed to cut the public finance deficit from 3.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) this year to 1.8 per cent in 2024

and 1.2 per cent in 2025.

Lawmakers approved sizeable cuts in subsidies and wages in the government sector.

They also raised the corporate income tax rate to 21 from 19 per cent and increased the property tax and the excise tax on tobacco, alcohol and hazard.

The legislation, which has yet to be approved by the senate and signed by the president, is expected to take effect on 1 January next year. — AFP



The Czech Republic has a significant car production industry. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

# SPORTS

## Dimitrov marches into Shanghai Masters semi-finals

GRIGOR Dimitrov marched into the Shanghai Masters semi-finals with a 7-6 (7/2), 6-4 defeat of Chile's Nicolas Jarry on Friday to close on a first ATP title in six years.

The 18<sup>th</sup> seed from Bulgaria will play Russia's Andrey Rublev or Ugo Humbert of France for a place in Sunday's final.

Ranked seventh, Rublev is the only player from the world's top 10 still in the draw after a series of shocks saw the leading seeds all ousted.

There was little to choose

between Dimitrov and 22<sup>nd</sup> seed Jarry in the first set but the Bulgarian upped the ante in the tie break, racing into a 5-1 and then 6-2 lead.

The 32-year-old, who is pursuing a first ATP title since winning the ATP Finals in 2017, sealed the deal on the first set point when Jarry poked a tentative backhand into the net.

Dimitrov, who stunned top seed Carlos Alcaraz in the last 16, broke Jarry in the seventh game of the second set before requiring brief treatment on his right shoulder. — AFP



Grigor Dimitrov is into the semi-finals in Shanghai. PHOTO: AFP



Team Myanmar is seen celebrating for the victory. PHOTO: MFF

## Team Myanmar qualifies for AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2024

THE Myanmar national team participated in the AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2024 Qualifiers in Group E and advanced to the championship with second place, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation.

Along with team Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam also secured their places in the next

stage.

Japan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Bahrain, South Korea, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Australia and China have sealed their spot in the tourney.

The AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2024 will be conducted in Thailand from 17 to 28 April. — KZL

## Cricket approved by IOC for 2028 Los Angeles Olympics

CRICKET'S more than 100-year Olympic exile moved closer to ending after the sport was approved for inclusion at the 2028 Los Angeles Games by the International Olympic Committee's executive board.

IOC president Thomas Bach, speaking after Friday's second day of an executive board meeting in Mumbai, said officials had accepted a proposal by LA organizers for Twenty20 cricket to be included as one of five new sports together with baseball/softball, flag football (non-contact American football), squash and lacrosse.

But the final choice of which sports are on the 2028 programme will be voted on Monday at the IOC session in Mumbai, one of the hotbeds of cricket, as India hosts the men's 50-over Cricket World Cup.

"For the IOC, it is a great

*Officials approved adding Twenty20 (T20) cricket along with four other new sports: baseball/softball, flag football, squash, and lacrosse, to the 2028 Los Angeles Games.*



opportunity to engage with new athlete and fan communities," said Bach.

"We see the growing popularity of T20 cricket and we look forward to welcoming the world's best players to the US

in 2028," he added.

Los Angeles chiefs have proposed a six-team event, in both men's and women's T20 cricket, with the United States set to field sides as the host nation. — AFP

## Brazil held by Venezuela as Argentina stay 100 per cent

A stunning 85<sup>th</sup>-minute equalizer from Eduard Bello earned Venezuela a rare draw at Brazil while world champions Argentina made it three wins out of three in South American World Cup qualifying with a hard-earned 1-0 win over a determined Paraguay on Thursday.

Darwin Nunez struck a stoppage time penalty as Uruguay fought back for a 2-2 draw with Colombia in Barranquilla while Ecuador got their first points with a last gasp 2-1 win at Bolivia and Chile beat Peru 2-0.

A third-minute goal from Nicolas Otamendi was just enough for Lionel Scaloni's Argentina, with Lionel Messi coming off in the bench in the second half and hitting the woodwork twice.

Brazil have never lost to Venezuela in a competitive fixture and have only once before, in 2009, failed to beat the Vinotinto in World Cup qualifying, but they

were left frustrated after Bello's brilliant late leveller.

Brazil took the lead when Neymar had a shot pushed wide in the 49<sup>th</sup> minute and from the resulting corner, taken by the striker, Arsenal defender Gabriel rose at the near post to angle home a fine header. The goal forced Venezuela into a more adventurous approach and Wilker Angel flashed a header just wide from a 62<sup>nd</sup>-minute corner.

Rodrygo then found himself in a great position in the box but the Real Madrid winger blasted his shot into the side netting.

With five minutes left, the home crowd in Cuiaba were left stunned when Jefferson Savarino whipped in a cross and Bello leapt acrobatically to blast a spectacular overhead kick past Ederson. The result leaves Brazil in second place in the 10-team qualifying standings, two ahead of Colombia and two behind Argentina. — AFP



## Russia is ready to mediate in Palestinian-Israeli settlement - Putin

*The aggravation of the situation in the Middle East is the result of the failed policy of the United States, which was not concerned with finding a compromise in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the Russian leader said.*



Artillery shells are lined up next to an armoured vehicle as Israeli soldiers take positions near the border with Gaza in southern Israel on 9 October. **PHOTO: AFP**

**R**USSIAN President Vladimir Putin said at a meeting of the CIS Council of Heads of State that Moscow is ready to mediate in the Palestinian-Israeli settlement.

“Collective efforts are more than needed in the interests of an early cease-fire and stabilization of the situation on the ground. I would like to emphasize that Russia is ready to coordinate with all constructively minded partners. We proceed from the belief that there is no alternative to resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict through negotiations,” Putin said.

Commenting on the current situation in the region, the president said that civilian casualties in the conflict will be completely unacceptable.

“Well, the most important thing is that civilian casualties will be absolutely unacceptable ... The main thing now is to stop the bloodshed,” Putin said.

The United States attempted to solve the political Palestinian-Israeli problem with the help of certain economic incentive measures, Russian President Vladimir Putin said. The aggravation of the situation in the Middle East is the result of the failed policy of the United States, which was not concerned with finding a compromise in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the Russian leader said.

“The Middle East Quartet of international mediators was not used. Under far-fetched pretexts, the United States actually blocked this format, which was unique and, by the way, had a mandate approved by the relevant UN resolution. An attempt was made, with the help of certain economic incentive measures, to solve a political problem, an underlying problem, and namely the creation of an independent Palestinian state,” Putin said at a meeting of the CIS Council of Heads of State in a narrow format. — SPUTNIK

## Israel army drops flyers warning Gazans to flee ‘immediately’: AFP

THE Israeli military on Friday dropped flyers on Gaza warning residents to flee “immediately” to the south, AFP correspondents in the Palestinian territory said.

“Evacuate your homes immediately and go south of Wadi Gaza,” read flyers dropped by drones and seen by AFP.

A map featured on the flyers showed an arrow pointing south across a line in the central Gaza Strip. The message signed by the Israeli military ordered residents to “evacuate public shelters in Gaza City”. Some 423,000 Gazans have been displaced in recent days, 60 per cent of whom are taking shelter with the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA). — AFP

## North Korea decries port visit by US nuclear-powered carrier

PYONGYANG on Friday slammed a South Korean port visit by the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, saying it showed Washington had reached “the most serious phase” of preparations for a potential nuclear war.

The nuclear-powered carrier is currently docked in the southern port city of Busan following a joint two-day maritime exercise conducted alongside ships from South Korea and Japan earlier this week.

State media outlet KCNA called the drills, which simulated the interception of North Korean smuggling vessels, an “undisguised military provocation”. — AFP



This picture taken on 12 October 2023 shows the US Navy aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan arriving at a South Korean naval base in the southern port city of