

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## National Defence and Security Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar holds meeting 3/2023



Pro Tem President U Myint Swe presides over the meeting 3/2023 of the National Defence and Security Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 8 November 2023 in Nay Pyi Taw and Senior General Min Aung Hlaing puts forward the explanation to the meeting.

**T**HE National Defence and Security Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held the meeting 3/2023 at the office of the State Administration Council Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Pro Tem President U Myint Swe, Vice-President U Henry Van Thio, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun

Naung, specially invited SAC Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe, Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, and Chairman of Kokang Self-Administered Zone U Myint Swe.

The Senior General first said that he would like to explain the current situations related to the events in Shan State (North). MNDAAs insurgent groups primarily attacked Chinshwehaw of the Laukkai region on 27 October. Such an event was ordinarily attacked by MNDAAs but it is related in history. In 2009, Special Region 1 led by Pheung Kya-shin was located in that area. They committed to producing and selling narcotic drugs and manufacturing arms and ammunition in the region. As such, Tatmadaw prohibited it from doing so.

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### Salient points from the National Defence and Security Meeting:

- MNDAAs insurgents wish to get profits from drug production and resume their influence, so these events happened. With regard to seizures of narcotic drugs in Laukkai and surrounding areas, there were 18 heavy drug cases from 2006, arresting 140 persons 82 times and seizing drugs worth K71.59 billion. Due to these benefits from drugs, the MNDAAs group is attempting to occupy the Laukkai region.
- MNDAAs made preparations in the Wa region and its main strengths were deployed to attack Chinshwehaw via Namtit Bridge on 27 October. In the morning, they passed Namtit Creek and deployed excessive strength to attack Chinshwehaw. Security camps in the Laukkai and Chinshwehaw regions served duties of local security but military operation camps. MNDAAs used a large number of drones and dropped bombs in attacks. In the incident, MNDAAs joined hands with KIA, TNLA and PDF terrorists.
- Such an event can harm relations between Myanmar and China. Officials from both sides solved the issue that bullets from Myanmar fell in China.
- Local people are not eager to participate in the events. But, due to forced recruitment, some of them followed the group. The majority of the people's militia is joining hands with Tatmadaw. Now, local people send information about MNDAAs to Tatmadaw to effectively respond to them.

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MoI Union Minister addresses 2023 WIC Wuzhen Summit

### NATIONAL

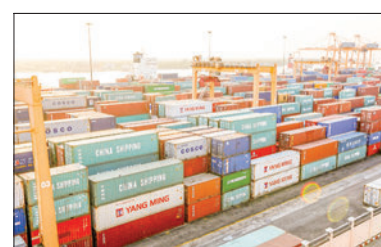
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Myanmar, China sign agreement to purchase electricity for three solar power plant projects

### BUSINESS

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Companies to face legal actions for failing to deposit export earnings from 17 November

# NATIONAL

Myanmar Gazette

## Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed U Aung Thu, Deputy Director-General of the Forest Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, as Director-General of the Dry Zone Greening Department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

## Myeik-Yangon ferry service slated to resume



The photo shows an express ferry docking at Myeik Port the previous time. **PHOTO: MYINT OO (MYEIK)**

EXPRESS ferry services for the Myeik-Yangon route are planned to restart ensuring smooth transport, as per the Taninthayi Region Private Ferry Service Operators Association.

Amid high airfare costs and difficulty in buying air tickets at travel peak times, coastal ferry service operators discussed resuming the operation to facilitate transport.

"Ferry departs at 6 am from Myeik and arrives at 5 pm in Yangon. It is a day-trip plan. If the ferry accommodates 300 passengers on board, we barely make profits owing to maintenance costs, staff wages and other costs. However, we target to provide fast and sound commuting," U Zaw Tun, secretary of the association.

In addition to the Myeik-Yangon ferry service, the Myeik-Kawthoung trip is also being arranged to ensure safe and sound travel for passengers.

"We contemplate in all aspects; safety, fuel price, number

of passengers. If we calculate the estimated cost of the prevailing fuel price, a ferry ticket will cost approximately K200,000. We are preparing to resume the ferry service," he elaborated.

Yangon-Myeik flights are fully booked and one has to buy the ticket 20 days in advance at least. The flight ticket is expensive, so low-income people cannot afford it. Furthermore, the public raised concerns over road safety. Express ferry service for Kawthoung-Yangon will also facilitate transport. At present, the Kawthoung-Myeik ferry runs only once a week, said a resident from Myeik.

The express ferry service running to and from Myeik-Yangon was operated ten years ago. After suspension, the service is aimed to resume in the open season. The flight ticket is K448,000 for the Kyawthoung-Yangon flight, K190,000 for Myeik-Kawthoung and K278,000 for Myeik-Yangon. — Myint Oo/KK

## 10-day Ngapali Beach autumn festival kicks off on 18 Nov



The Ngapali Beach autumn festival being held at Ngapali Beach in Thandwe Township of Rakhine State last year.

THE autumn festival will be held at Ngapali Beach in Thandwe Township of Rakhine State from 18 to 27 November, according to U Tin Tun Aung, director of the Rakhine State Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

The 10-day festival will be in the public area of Ngapali Beach and include a campfire, beach sports, sand arts, cycling, tug and greasy pole climbing competitions as well as the night market and funfairs.

The night market and funfairs will feature dishes of ethnic people, MSME booths and entertainment programmes.

"The Ngapali Beach autumn festival will be held in November. It is held yearly. The festival will include the events such as the sand pagoda festival and funfairs. It will also include Rakhine traditional wrestling, volleyball, cycling, racing and greasy pole climbing competitions," said U Tin Tun Aung.

The autumn festival aims to attract travellers and the first and second autumn festivals were held on 14 November 2021 and 22 November 2022. This year's festival will be held between 18 and 27 November.

Ngapali Beach is one of the most beautiful beaches in Myanmar and also the best-known beach in Asia. The beach hosted huge crowds of domestic and foreign travellers before the COVID-19 period. — ASH/KTZH

## Miss Tourism Myanmar competes in Miss Tourism International 2023 in Malaysia



Myanmar's Khisa Khin competing in the Miss Tourism International 2023 held in Malaysia in November.

KHISA Khin (alias) Khin Khin Moe Htet San will compete in the Miss Tourism International 2023 contest that will be held in November in Malaysia, according to the Miss.

The Miss Tourism Interna-

tional 2023 competition will be held from 10 to 11 November in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and beauty pageants from more than 50 countries, including Myanmar, will compete.

"I will gain a lot of experi-

ence. I will be competing with other international Misses, so I am excited. Myanmar has prepared a lot to be able to do something like this. There are things prepared, but the needs may be there. If there is a need, everyone can point me out. I am also prepared to make no mistakes. I am also proud of Ma Ni Ni (alias) Ni Ni Lin Eain, who made the country proud. I will work with confidence in the competition, so I think I will be able to do the best no matter what challenge comes," said Miss Khisa Khin.

Khisa Khin, representing Myanmar, won the Miss Earth Land Myanmar 2023 Winner Award and The Best Of Speak Out Award. — ASH/KZL

# NATIONAL

## National Defence and Security Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar holds meeting 3/2023

Tatmadaw has successfully regained control of the situation, dealing a significant blow to the MNDAA group. We are committed to taking the required actions to counter their acts of terror, stresses the Senior General.

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But, as they did not follow the prohibition, the Senior General recounted he led the drug eradication operations. At that time, drug refineries and arms and ammunition factories were occupied and a large volume of narcotic drugs were also seized. As Tatmadaw eradicated narcotic drugs, Pheung Kya-shin and his group withdrew from that area. U Pei Sauk Chein and his group were temporarily assigned there to restore the Kokang region.

After the 2010 election, U Pei Sauk Chein was assigned as the Chairman of the Kokang Self-Administered Zone Leading Body. Pheung Kya-shin lived in Mongla of Special Region 4 after retreating. Later, he requested the government to give a pardon for him to be free from suits due to bad health. Although the government granted his requests with farsightedness for peace, he always led to making attempts against the government and resumed his control in the Kokang region whenever he had an opportunity. Current events were led by Pheung Tah-shwin, son of Pheung Kya-shin.

They produce narcotic drugs and develop their strengths through earnings from the narcotic drugs. In 2016 before the NLD-led government took office, Tatmadaw could effectively prevent the danger of narcotic drugs in Shan State (North). After 2017, drug production and trafficking boomed again in the Laukkai region in addition to other illegal activities, especially gambling dens. In such doing, those from the other country invested in the gambling works. After COVID-19, these gambling dens transformed themselves into online gambling operations.

At that time, Pheung Kya-shin and groups requested to resume their resettlements in the Laukkai region as Special Region 1 with the aim of recontrolling the region. There are Pheung and Yan groups. Around 1998-1999, Pheung-Yan unrest happened there. Afterwards, clashes happened in the unrest and Yan Moe Lyian's group was allocated in some areas at home. After 2009, they were not satisfied with the appointment of U Pei

Sauk Chein and his group. So, they made preparations to launch attacks.

Primarily, Muse and Chinshwehaw are focal points for border trade. The Laukkai region is the city of Kokang Self-Administered Zone. MNDAA group launched attacks to resume their management. They started preparations for attacks in 2022. MNDAA group held talks with their allies several times to make preparations to attack. So, allies of the MNDAA group and all their friends knew it. The Senior General said he has invited all ethnic armed organizations to walk on the path of NCA, and Tatmadaw is walking on the path of NCA. While serving the State responsibilities, Tatmadaw emphasized solving the COVID-19



MNDAA understands that the Muse and Chinshwehaw regions are of importance in border trade between Myanmar and China. So, an arrangement has been made that the new Kunlong Bridge built with the assistance of China will be commissioned into service on 11 November. As such, it is seriously noticeable for attacks of MNDAA on that region. Such an event can harm relations between Myanmar and China.



problems and unrest. So, Tatmadaw lessened its emphasis on the Laukkai region. MNDAA insurgents wish to get profits from drug production and resume their influence, so these events happened. With regard to seizures of narcotic drugs in Laukkai and surrounding areas, there were 18 heavy drug cases from 2006, arresting 140 persons 82 times and seizing drugs worth K71.59 billion. Due to these benefits from drugs, the MNDAA group is attempting to occupy the Laukkai region.

In 2022, online scam cases boomed in the region. Such cases were committed by those from the hotels owned by citizens from the other country. A total of 153 hotels are located in Laukkai and

Chinshwehaw. Among them, 12 hotels were built under the permission of the Myanmar Investment Commission. The remaining 141 hotels were built under the arrangement of the Laukkai Region Administrative Body without permission. Most of the hotels were invested by those from the other country. After 2018, the 12-13-storeyed high-rise buildings were constructed. Within a year. Due to scrutiny, online scams and other illegal businesses are being done at these hotels. In taking action against these hotels, a total of 7,789 persons comprised 7,395 Chinese, 18 Vietnamese, 162 Thai, 32 Malaysian and two Laotians. Among them, 6,892 Chinese have been handed over to China. The remaining persons

incident, MNDAA joined hands with KIA, TNLA and PDF terrorists. Mainly, the attacks were committed by MNDAA and TNLA groups. They attacked Chinshwehaw, and at the same time, they penetrated Kunlong with the infiltrated troops. TNLA interrupted the communication route to Hsenwi and disturbed Lashio with firing. They interrupted the Mandalay-Lashio communication route near Nawngkhio. When MNDAA was attacking there, KIA deployed excessive strength in attacking a small camp on the communication route to Kachin State. Tatmadaw responded to them. At present, the Tatmadaw can control there. MNDAA group faces a large number of casualties. Tatmadaw will carry out necessary responses to them.

MNDAA understands that the Muse and Chinshwehaw regions are of importance in border trade between Myanmar and China. So, an arrangement has been made that the new Kunlong Bridge built with the assistance of China will be commissioned into service on 11 November. As such, it is seriously noticeable for attacks of MNDAA on that region. Such an event can harm relations between Myanmar and China. Officials from both sides solved the issue that bullets from Myanmar fell in China. Tatmadaw specially restricted military operations as that area is a border region. However, other organizations carelessly committed their acts and intentionally managed to cause the misunderstanding between the two countries. Moreover, they are causing injuries to ordinary civilians.

At a time when these events happened in Shan State (North), PDF terrorists attacked some areas of Sagaing Region. In this regard, PDF terrorists commit attacks together with KIA and AA groups. Such situations were submitted to the National Defence and Security Council. In Laukkai incidents in Shan State (North), MNDAA groups mainly used drones. These drones can be bought at the market and these drones are used for manufacturing in China. It can be seen that local people are not eager to participate in the events.

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## National Defence and Security Council of the Republic ...

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But, due to forced recruitment, some of them followed the group. The majority of the people's militia is joining hands with Tatmadaw. Now, local people send information about MNDAA to Tatmadaw to effectively respond to them. MNDAA group is attempting to influence over the Laukkai region and to get Kokang State. TNLA group also makes attempts to get Palaung State whereas Kokang also tries to get Kokang State. People have been giving a helping hand to Tatmadaw recently. People from the townships under the state government and Yangon, Mandalay and military command areas donated cash and kind for Tatmadaw members at the frontline. These donated materials are being sent to the Tatmadaw members at the frontline. Charity groups also cook meals to be sent to Tatmadaw members at the frontline. The Senior General pledged to cooperate with the people in necessary response to them in order to ensure forging sovereignty, the rule of law, peace and stability of the regions and protection of life and property of

the people.

Vice-President U Henry van Thio and Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat discussed peace and stability of the State, the rule of law, and providing humanitarian aid to displaced persons.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win reported on situations of clashes in Shan State (North), destructive acts of terrorist groups, and efforts of Tatmadaw to restore peace and stability in the regions.

Union Ministers for Defence, Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs and Border Affairs and specially invited guests discussed attacks of armed insurgents and terrorists on small military camps, police outposts and fire stations in Northern Command, North-East Command, South-East Command and North-West Command, setting fire to government buildings, roads and bridges, collection of extortion from people of villages in some townships of Sagaing Region by PDF terrorist groups under NUG, brutally killing the people, cooperation between the people and Tatmadaw in

effectively responding to terrorists and insurgents, promptly restoring the rule of law and peace and stability of the region, and opening of relief camps to protect the displaced persons.

In his clarification, the Senior General said that he underlined two main points on drug eradication and capacity enhancement for the Myanmar Police Force. Today's problem in Shan State (North) was triggered by narcotic drug problems. Earnings from narcotic drugs were spent on seizing power through the armed struggle. Such a plan was covered by drug production and trafficking. They committed illegal businesses such as gambling. So, it needs to totally eradicate narcotic drugs, the root cause of the problem. To do so, it is necessary to enhance the capacity of MPF to manage stability and the rule of law. In this regard, police forces can be classified as two forces. One is the police force emphasizing community peace and tranquillity and the rule of law and another one is the armed police. Tatmadaw is primarily responsible for defending the State, but

it participated in combatting internal insurgency according to the demand of the history of the country. So, it is necessary to improve the capacity of MPF. Coordination is being done to call back service personnel and people who evaded from the Chinshwehaw region. The Government pays attention to the China-Myanmar relations. Tatmadaw will continuously serve necessary security measures for ensuring peace and stability of the region, the rule of law and protection of life and property of the people.

Then, Pro Tem President U Myint Swe said that if the government does not effectively manage the incidents happening in the border region, the country will be split into various parts. So, it is necessary to carefully control this issue. As now is an important time for the State, the entire people need to support Tatmadaw. The stability can be restored to some extent due to the sacrifice of the lives of Tatmadaw in its defence duties. Today's discussions were put on record, and the meeting came to an end. — MNA/TTA

## MoNREC, MoCRD UMs received delegation of Fund RC Investments

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi received the delegation led by Mr Shatirov Alexander Sergeevich of Fund RC-Investments in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Both sides discussed geological mapping in Myanmar using advanced technology, mineral exploration and the collection and analysis of mineral data.

Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe also received Mr Shatirov Alexander Sergeevich of Fund RC-Investments in Nay

Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

They openly and friendly discussed matters of investment, construction of natural fertilizer factories in the Nay Pyi Taw Council area, Bago, Magway, Mandalay and Ayeyawady regions and future cooperation programmes. — MNA/KZW

Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi holds talks with the Russian delegation yesterday.



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# NATIONAL

## MoI UM addresses 2023 WIC Wuzhen Summit

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn attended the opening ceremony of the 2023 World Internet Conference WIC (Wuzhen Summit), held at the Wuzhen Convention Centre in China yesterday.

Chinese President Xi Jinping addressed the opening ceremony via video and the summit was attended by over 1,000 participants from more than 100 countries.

During the plenary session, the Union minister said the summit is held with the theme of "Creating an Inclusive and Resilient Digital World Beneficial to All - Building a Community with a Shared Future in Cyberspace" featuring various events along with 20 sub-forums.

He added that while creating a resilient digital world

beneficial to all, it will include various functions and there might be many requirements in making prosperity and progress for humanity. It should guarantee the access to digital world for all, create technology that is convenient for disabled people, and improve the digital literacy

Moreover, it should prioritize cyber security measures to prevent digital threats. It also needs to establish a firm digital infrastructure that is resilient to cyberattacks and natural disasters.

He also highlighted the need to develop technologies to support environmental conservation, and energy-saving hardware and to promote the awareness to dispose of the e-waste systematically, protect



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn delivers the speech at the 2023 World Internet Conference Wuzhen Summit at the Wuzhen Convention Centre in China yesterday.

the data of each country and promote the responsible use of data.

The Wuzhen Summit is the 10<sup>th</sup>-anniversary annual meeting of WIC and has been held in the

ancient town of Wuzhen in east China's Zhejiang Province since 2014. — MNA/KTZH

## Myanmar, Russia to deepen cooperation in power sector



Union Minister U Nyan Tun and the delegation led by Mr Alexander Sergeevich Shatirov, Director of Fund RC-Investments from the Russian Federation, discuss cooperation in power sector in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

UNION Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun received the delegation led by Mr Alexander Sergeevich Shatirov of Fund RC-Investments from the Russian Federation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed the synergy between the two countries, the support of Russia in developing the electricity sector of Myanmar, the cooperation of Russian companies in solar

energy and thermal power projects and bilateral cooperation with local companies in power projects.

Also present at the meeting were departmental heads and officials. — MHA/KTZH

## Union Energy Minister meets delegation from Russian Investment Fund

UNION Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin held discussions with a delegation led by Mr Shatirov Alexander Sergeevich of Fund RC-Investment of the Russian Federation yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

They talked about enhancing energy cooperation, oil and gas exploration, technical support, collaboration with Russian companies, coal bed methane extraction, oil refinery upgrades, and technical assistance.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister U Thant Sin, departmental officials, representatives from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, and officials from the Russian Investment Fund Group. — MNA/TS



Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin discusses energy cooperation with a delegation led by Mr Shatirov Alexander Sergeevich of the Fund RC-Investment of the Russian Federation yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

### COVID-19 report, 8 November 2023

NEW TESTS

3,257

NEW CASES

Three

CASUALTIES

Nil

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar, China sign agreement to purchase electricity from three solar power plant projects



An aerial panoramic view shows a site of the solar power station project.

ACCORDING to a statement from the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar, the signing of an agreement between Myanmar and China for the purchase of electricity for three solar power plant projects was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 7 November.

The statement said that the total capacity of the three solar power plant projects of Kyeon Kyeewa, Kinda and Sedoktaya in Magway and Mandalay Region, a collaboration between PowerChina Resources Ltd and Myanmar's Ministry of Electric Power, is 90 megawatts, which will guarantee the development of the regions.

The Union Minister for Electric Power praised the

progress of solar energy cooperation projects and discussed the attitudes that will continue to develop China-Myanmar electricity cooperation, providing services for the development of the two countries, and bringing more interest to the people of Myanmar.

They exchanged views on the implementation of the agreement results of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, the development of China-Myanmar electricity interconnection, the assistance to solve the "electricity needs" of Myanmar, and the guarantee for the construction of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor. — TWA/KZL

## Fresh Pawsanyin rice starts to enter market

SOME Pawsanyin rice produced from the Kyauklat area in the delta region started flowing into Yangon's market on 6 November. Ko Tin Aung, who runs a rice depot on Padauk Street, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Prices were around K115,000 per sack of old Pawsanyin rice and K90,000 for new Pawsanyin rice, showing a price difference of K20,000 per sack. There will be an influx of rice supply to Yangon's market in the upcoming days, U Kyaw

Gyi, a warehouse owner from Seinpan Street, told the GNLM.

The wholesale prices of high-grade Pawsan rice move in the range between K110,000 and K125,000 per sack depending on the producing areas (Ayeyawady and Shwebo areas) in November 2023.

Old Pawsan paddy from the Shwebo area fetches K37 million per 100 baskets while the one from Ayeyawady Region is estimated at K2.8 million. Reference paddy prices in 2023 were K1.6-K1.8 million for Ayeyawady



The picture shows a stock of fresh Pawsanyin at a warehouse.

Pawsan and K1.8-K2 million for Shwebo Pawsan, a rice non-governmental organization notified on 19 September 2023.

The price of Ayeyawady Pawsanyin rice is up by K30,000 per sack this year compared to that of last year. The prices stood at K60,000-K66,000 per sack of new Shwebo Pawsan rice and K86,000-K92,000 per sack of old Pawsan rice on 2

January 2023. The prices of paddy were K1.48-K1.6 million per 100 baskets of new Shwebo Pawsan and K2.5-K2.6 million per 100 baskets of old Pawsan. New Pawsan rice is not suitable for the elders as it might cause indigestion problems. The price gap between the old Pawsan and the new Pawsan pushed the consumers to buy the new one. — TWA/KK

## Thukha Dagon Housing allocates 2,000 apartments in November second week

THE public rental housing allocation and disciplinary committee has announced that the selection of residents for Thukha Dagon public rental housing in Dagon Myothit (South) Township will take place through a drawing-lots system on 13 and 14 November.

Out of over 11,000 people who applied for the housing rental permit, only 6,787 met the requirements and will have the opportunity to draw lots for 1,968 flats of 123 blocks.

Those who are eligible for drawing lots for flats must bring their household residence registration certificate, and individuals unable to come due to age or ailment can send a representative to draw lots.

The second batch of rental applications will be accepted in February 2024. — TWA/KZW



The photo shows the Thukha Dagon public rental housing apartments in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

## MIC nods eight enterprises to expand capital

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) gave a go-ahead to eight existing foreign and domestic-owned enterprises to expand capital of over US\$16 million and nearly K10 billion at a meeting held

on 6 November 2023.

The MIC has notified that it will prioritize the businesses executing manufacturing of cement, fertilizer, steel and electric vehicles, agriculture, livestock and related

businesses, value-added food product businesses, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment manufacturing businesses, public transport businesses and oil crop production businesses. — TWA/KK

# Companies to face legal actions for failing to deposit export earnings from 17 November

ACTION will be strictly taken against those companies which fail to deposit export earnings into the designated bank accounts under the existing law starting from 17 November 2023, according to the Trade Department's notification dated 6 November.

Export earnings must be deposited within 45 days for the goods exported to Asian countries and within 90 days for other countries outside Asia.

Exporters must deposit the export earnings in foreign currency into their bank accounts. Action will be taken against the exporters who fail to comply with this notification under the Foreign Exchange Management Law, according to the Central Bank of Myanmar's notification 27/2022.

The Trade Department notified on 6 October that exporters must deposit the export earnings within the set period. For failure to do so, they will face legal action under the Foreign Exchange



File photo shows picture of the container yard and its terminals in the Yangon port.

Management Law. The department made further notification regarding legal action on 17 November.

Regarding the deposit of export earnings, exporters can contact the Foreign Exchange Management Department via

phone number 067 3418754 and the Trade Department through phone numbers 067 3408258 and 067 3408281.

When companies fail to deposit export earnings as per the requirements, the CBM sends the list of companies that fail to

deposit export earnings within a specified period after exportation to the Ministry of Commerce and informs the respective authorized dealers (AD - banks) about the list simultaneously. The Trade Department will further apprise the Union of Myanmar Federa-

tion of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) of the list of those companies so that they can make a deposit again. Additionally, the Trade Department will suspend the exporter and importer registration for two weeks after the notice to those companies if the export earning is not deposited. Only when the CBM informs the Trade Department about the companies whose export earnings have been settled, the export/import registration can be restored.

The companies that continued failing to deposit the export earnings even after the suspension of the registration will face legal action under Section 42 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law. The Trade Department notified the exporters on 6 October of the mandatory rules to deposit export earnings within a specified period, as per the Trade Department's notification released on 6 October 2023. — NN/EM

## Pure gold price falls on tracking spot gold price dip

THE price of pure gold was back to decline to K3.45 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) on 8 November 2023 in the grey market following spot gold price slide to US\$1,965 per ounce.

The pure gold price gained at K3.55 million per tical as the spot gold price rallied to US\$1,993 per ounce on 4 November.

The figures indicated a decrease of \$28 per ounce and around K100,000 per tical within a few days.

Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) set the reference price of pure gold at K3.07 million per tical. There is a large price gap of K400,000 between the reference price and the grey market price.

YGEA switched to the Central Bank of Myanmar's exchange rate (K2,900) for interbank transactions in calculating the reference price for pure gold. At present, the US dollar is exchanged at

K3,250 in the grey market.

The US dollar exchange rate, therefore, influenced the gap between the domestic gold market value and YGEA's reference gold price.

The soaring dollar exchanging up to K4,000 drove the gold price up to a record high of K4 million per tical in late August 2023. — NN/EM



Gold jewellery are seen at one gold outlet in Yangon.

## Sugar price remains high despite sugarcane season nears

THE price of sugar stayed on the high side despite the approaching sugarcane season.

The sugarcane season will kick off at the end of November. The sugar price touched a high of K3,800 per viss at present, according to the Yangon Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Depot).

The sugar mills notified sugarcane growers again that they raised the price of sugarcane to K150,000 per tonne for the 2023-2024 sugarcane season.

The company set the sugarcane floor price at K90,000-100,000 per tonne last season. Sugarcane and sugar traders emphasized that the rise in the offering price is aimed at covering the high input cost of the growers and following the price rise in sugar.

Additionally, sugar mills are pushing the growers to ramp up per-acre yield and expand the



A farm worker collects sugar cane at a plantation.

cultivation acres.

The sugar price was below at K1,000 per viss in the 2019-2020 sugarcane season. The prevailing price increased to K3,800 per viss amid low stocks and no importation of sugar.

Myanmar's annual sugar production is estimated at 450,000 tonnes. Myanmar earlier sent sugar to China and Viet Nam beyond self-sufficiency. At present, it is delivered to Viet Nam only, Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane Related Association

stated.

Sugarcane is commonly found in the upper Sagaing Region, followed by northern Shan State. It is also found in the western and eastern Bago Region, Yangon Region and Mandalay Region.

The sugarcane is grown in December-January. It can be harvested from November to February of the following years. The sugarcane growing rotation cycle lasts four years in Myanmar. — NN/EM

## OPINION

### Achieve success through national livestock baseline survey

**I**N THE pursuit of systematic development in the livestock sector and the effective control of infectious animal diseases, the forthcoming national livestock baseline survey is set to play a pivotal role. This crucial initiative is scheduled to take place from 1 November to 31 December, covering 215 townships across 13 regions and states, including the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

The primary objective of this comprehensive survey is to collect essential data on animal populations. In designated areas, data will be collected from 20 per cent of village-tracts and wards, with ongoing plans to achieve full coverage by collecting data from 100 per cent of livestock farms. The significance of collecting accurate data cannot be overstated, as it enables officials to effectively implement control and prevention measures against infectious animal diseases, ultimately saving the lives of animals and reducing the potential for further infections.

With data on animal populations at various administrative levels, including regions, states, districts, townships, and wards/villages, relevant government departments can strategically develop projects aimed at ensuring the production of safe and nutritious meat for domestic consumption. Furthermore, these data-driven insights will enable the formulation of plans to meet market demand through the strategic breeding of animals.

Historically, the Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary conducted the national livestock baseline surveys annually from the 1979-1980 financial year to the 1993-1994 financial year. However, ground surveys ceased, and data was only calculated for the purpose of record-keeping. In 2018, the national livestock baseline survey was reinitiated, with interim surveys conducted annually.

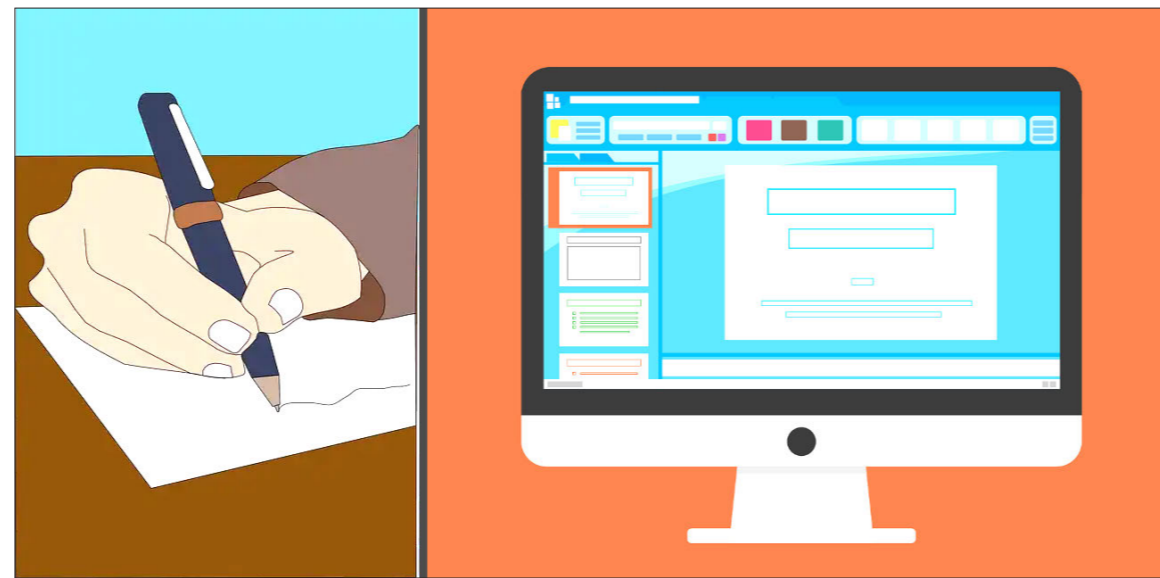
Thanks to these surveys, the government maintains records of various livestock populations, including cattle, dairy cows, mynths, goats, pigs, and chickens. The annual collection of data has proven indispensable, allowing for the tracking of changes in animal populations.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation, in collaboration with relevant departments, is currently in the process of preparing for the upcoming national livestock baseline survey. The active cooperation of livestock businesspersons and farmers is vital for its success.

Myanmar boasts a solid foundation for the operation of livestock breeding farms and a burgeoning market. Local farmers have a promising opportunity to expand their livestock operations on a commercial scale, thereby increasing their incomes. Beyond the agricultural sector, the livestock industry plays a critical role in meeting the meat demand of the nation's populace. Livestock breeding farmers should take full advantage of the support and encouragement offered by the authorities to thrive in their businesses and secure a sufficient supply of domestic meat.

**S**OME people including a few of my pupils and friends told me in the flesh that writing is as easy as falling off a log; this would be done just with a dictionary. I do not think that I only can decide whether the task of writing is that easy. It might be true that writing is a piece of cake for some, but not for me. Writing in English, my second language, seems okay with me to some extent, whereas in Myanmar, my mother tongue, looks quite difficult for me, honestly. Of course, writing is not as easy as most people think – this can be proved simply by trying a piece of writing off one's own bat. Significantly, a beginner writer will encounter spelling mistakes, grammatical errors, thematic flaws, and even auto-stop writing, that is, he cannot think about other subject-related ideas any longer whilst writing, one way or another for sure. The last case sometimes occurs in even a number of experienced writers, by years or until their death. In the main, too much time should be spent on writing and nobody can say that one's writing will turn out to be his success. All too often writing is an uneconomic job. This means that earning a living as a writer is all about running the risk.

Also under our eyes, there are a whole lot of writers who are not recognized in the world of literature while having written for ages. A person who wants to write must first have writing readiness. That writing readiness comes from nothing but reading enough, in my own experience. After having read enough, a willingness to write comes naturally to a future writer. In fact, reading matter is no easy task as most thought; it is a sort of art after which a reader should have gained something – knowledge, skill, attitude, or behavioural change at least. Otherwise, reading will be merely a waste of time. The readers who would like to lead a writer's life in the future even have to put more concentration on reading material than average ones. Efficient writing usually comes out of effective reading, actually. Often seasoned readers become writers to the core in that their input skill 'reading' may stimulate the output skill 'writing' for certain. Writers are no different from ordinary people, but they have better six senses of aesthetics, viz. sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch, and thought, as well as an intricate choice of language expressions and stylistic



Instead of spelling and grammar, a writer's main error can be thematic issues, such as vocabulary misuse, off-topic content, misinformation, and unclear style. **ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY**

## Writing: A Piece of Cake?

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

features for their works of literature. Noticeably enough here, real writers are not the same as doctrinaire people, as Sayama Ma Sanda said. It stands to reason that the writer tends to tell authentic truths or even his personal likes in an honest way, but hardly tries to speak out his self-biased beliefs or policies either consciously or unconsciously. A perfect piece of writing is particularly free from spelling mistakes, grammatical errors, thematic flaws, ambiguity, unclarity, and irrelevance of subject matter. As a matter of fact, a great writing piece covers logic, reasoning, public knowledge, universal truths, global peace, simple language, and model writing. Subject matter by writers broadly depends on a) academic fields such as education, medicine, or law, b) science and technology, and c) imaginary world. Despite being founded on imagination, good subject matter is never made in a vacuum. As Saya Aung Thin stated, if a writer's knowledge is clear so is his thought which will then contribute to his explicit writing.

To be able to write has to begin with to learn to read as a writer. Regular readers read for pleasant feelings enjoyment and

general knowledge absorption, though advanced readers read for the analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of a written theme, i.e., they will be capable of explaining why they like or dislike this theme both subjectively and objectively. Most starter readers take up their reading habit with the themes that interest them, especially comics, cartoons, and stories; even a few readers still enjoy cartoons until they grow old. Apparently, young readers love flat characters, although adult readers prefer rounded characters to flat ones in a story. Youth readers enjoy poems, romance, comedy, tragedy, tragicomedy and philosophy. As the reading age is getting longer, some readers like sheer old-fashioned literature or classics including poetry and drama; others going for religious teachings alone. On top of that, skilled readers will never get lost under the spell of writers. Instead, they are given to watching how on earth the writers have created their works of art with curiosity, humour, adventure, suspense, or hints in order to reach the desired purpose critically. And again, the reading process can be conducted from three points of view: litera-

ture. A minor mistake of spelling does not change the theme of writing sometimes but it is best if a writer does not make a spelling mistake nevertheless.

Native writers usually have no grammatical errors in writing just because they have automatically learnt their grammar from spoken or written words since their childhood. Foreign writers need to study grammar with the intention of writing, most notably essential grammar in use at least. At that time, they like to mix their second grammar up with the first language, as a linguistic disturbance. It is alleged that writing needs no grammar at all, but it would be possible if a language user has read enough, a lot, or if he has ever lived in a language-speaking country for a long time. As far as I am aware, grammatical errors in English deal with article usage, tense sequence, subject-verb agreement, and lexical redundancy as in 'Walking is a good exercise', 'It is starting raining', 'What makes you happy?' and 'I will discuss about grammar'. If written correctly, those sentences must be 'Walking is good exercise', 'It starts raining', 'What makes you happy?' and 'I will discuss grammar', of course. This gives rise to an important point that solely a good command of grammar in a language cannot be expected to provide writing well.

Rather than spelling mistakes and grammatical errors mentioned above, the biggest misconduct of a writer can be deemed thematic flaws. The thematic flaws may include vocabulary misuse, subject matter deviance, incorrect information, and amorphous writing style. First, vocabulary misuse means that a writer is not able to use lexis in terms of linguistic nature and educational fields. Second, subject matter deviance mainly relates to philosophical and logical facts, that is, a writer cannot tell any kind of philosophy or logic to the core in the right way. Third, incorrect information refers to the wrong description of a personal profile or regional knowledge. Fourthly, an amorphous writing style suggests a manuscript with incomplete features of a written form. In my view, an essay is a type of writing between those articles and short stories. If a writer cannot make an essay, it will turn into an article or a short story. The essay is a little gentle work of literature

that readers cannot make sense of its ethics or aesthetics straight away. Overcoming the four thematic flaws calls for mastery of subject matter and language.

Above all, writing should be a permanent job. Only a person who writes is a writer, really. The very writer will be rarely of the opinion that once a writer, always a writer. On the days when writing is not done, a writer has to read or think about something to write, at the very least. He ought to always remember that writing takes time, in short. Some world-famous writers go sightseeing for an ideal setting for years before their masterpieces. Firstly, writers need to choose which type of the main theme and then the writing style. If a writer wants to write an article, he must have got the format of the article as well as facts and figures of the article. Some subject matter could do with academic writing. Secondly, the writer needs to be proficient in the use of theme-related expressions. This can be done by studying vocabularies in relation, in clusters of the same kind, under an academic field, according to parts of speech, or together with synonyms, homonyms, antonyms, irregular verbs, phrasal verbs, idioms, and collocations. Writers learn the art of writing from common mistakes so as not to make un-language expressions. They will have to use different dictionaries of language effectively and efficiently. What is more, they had better keep monolingual dictionaries, bilingual dictionaries, and multilingual dictionaries in hand. A good dictionary tends to put in language-to-language definitions and sample sentences. In particular, dictionaries should be used if contextualized meaning and guessing ability do not work or even if there is adequate time to look up words in the dictionaries. As the English proverb goes, 'Practice makes perfect'; it exerts a great influence on language practice. No sooner has a writer studied the theme and its respective vocabularies to some extent than he should write them down on his own terms, no matter how those vocabularies are linked to one another in a paragraph. After that, the writer had best ask his reliable friends and teachers for feedback on his writing or do self-reflection with the help of valid resource books. Be ready to write quite soon!

### Lung cancer screening significantly improves long-term survival: Study

**A**CCORDING to a large-scale multinational study published in Radiology, detecting early-stage lung cancer using low-dose computed tomography (CT) screening significantly enhances its cure rate over a 20-year period.

The results show that patients diagnosed with lung cancer via CT screening have a 20-year survival rate — an approximation of the cure rate — of 81 per cent. Among the 1,257 participants diagnosed with lung cancer, 81 per cent had stage I disease and their long-term survival rate was 87 per cent. If diagnosed in the earliest stage I (10 millimetre), it was 95 per cent.

Unfortunately, fewer than six per cent of the people who are eligible for screening are currently getting it. "While screening doesn't prevent cancers from occurring, it is the major tool to identify lung cancers in their earliest stage when they can be cured," said the study's lead author, Claudia Henschke, PhD, MD, Professor of Diagnostic, Molecular and Interventional Radiology and Director of the Early Lung and Cardiac Action Program (ELCAP) at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York. "Ultimately, anyone interested in being screened needs to know that if they are unfortunate enough to develop lung cancer, it can be



A multinational study in Radiology revealed that early-stage lung cancer detection through low-dose CT screening substantially boosts the 20-year cure rate, with 81 percent survival for those diagnosed and even higher (95 percent) for stage I cases. **ILLUSTRATION: FREEPIK**

In the United States, the average five-year survival rate for all lung cancer patients is 25.4 per cent because only 21 per cent of lung cancers are diagnosed at an early stage. More than half of the people with lung cancer die within one year of their diagnosis, making it the leading cause of cancer deaths. By the time symptoms appear, it is often too late.

#### Early screening in detecting cancers

The findings are the latest to demonstrate the importance of routine early screening in detecting cancers when they are small enough to be cured. Unfor-

cured if found early."

While treatments of more advanced cancers with targeted therapy and immunotherapy have come a long way, the best tool against lung cancer deaths is early diagnosis through low-dose CT screening before symptoms occur, according to the study authors.

"Symptoms occur mainly in late-stage lung cancer," said co-author Rowena Yip, PhD, MPH, Senior Biostatistician of ELCAP. "Thus, the best way to find early-stage lung cancer is by enrolling in an annual screening program."

**SOURCE: ANI**



# NATIONAL

## Myanmar, Ethiopia to cooperate in trade, industrial, agriculture sectors



Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung and the Ethiopian Ambassador to India Mr Demeke Atnafu Ambulo exchange gifts after the meeting at the Myanmar Embassy in India,

sectors.

Discussions were held on 6 November regarding the political cooperation and trade situation between Myanmar and Ethiopia, as well as the prospects for cooperation between the two countries, including the development of industry and the development of the agricultural sector.

At the Myanmar Embassy in India, the Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung and the Ethiopian Ambassador to India Mr Demeke Atnafu Ambulo held talks about the issues.

In such a meeting, the ambassadors of the two countries openly discussed strengthening the friendly relations between Myanmar and Ethiopia. — ASH/KZL

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Myanmar ambassador to India and the Ethiopian ambassador to

India held talks on cooperation between Myanmar and Ethiopia in the development of trade, industry and agriculture

## Myanmar to primarily export Hass avocados to Thailand this year



A customer chooses avocados at a fruit shop.

HASS avocados are scheduled to be exported to Thailand in November when the fruits ripen, at an expected floor price of K6,000 to K10,000 per kilogramme, according to Ko Kyaw Soe Min, secretary of the Myanmar Avocado Producers and Exporters Association.

“At the beginning of the season, floor prices are dif-

ferent from one another. For example, price of Amara avocado is K5,000 per kilogramme while Buccaneer stands at K4,000. As for the Hass, the floor price has been about K4,000 per kilogramme since last month if the buyer purchases the whole lot of fruit. Now that the season has started, we expect the floor

price to be between K6,000 and K10,000,” Ko Kyaw Soe Min said.

The beginning of this year’s domestic avocado season may be better than that of last year. Last year, the price of avocado was only K2,500 to K4,000 per kilogramme, and this year’s floor price is nearly K5,000. — ASH/TH

## CRIME NEWS

### Confiscated illegal items: Timbers, foodstuffs, medications, industrial materials, fuel oil, consumer goods and vehicles

THE combined teams under the supervision of the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections on 5 November and impounded three vehicles (approximately worth K90 million) carrying 110 kinds of goods worth about K402.93 million, including 1,200 various kinds of clothes and three doors of Hyundai vehicles without official documents, at the Htet Wai Yan bus station in Aungmyaythazan township. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The on-duty teams captured a total of 7.714 tonnes of illegal teak and 2.299 tonnes of illegal hardwood worth K4,764,560 in Toungoo and Pyay districts, 1,600 gallons of illegal informal diesel oil worth K8.064 million in Monywa township and an unregistered Toyota Noah car (approximately worth K7 million) near Monywa-Butalin road in Monywa township on 7 November. The action was

taken under the Forest Law, the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law and the Export and Import Law.

On the same day, a combined team seized three vehicles (estimated value of K90 million) carrying 2,160 kilogrammes of apples, 21,750 kilogrammes of oranges and 4,800 kilogrammes of longans worth K35.78 million without official documents near Kamawkasin village in Hpa-an township and 300 three-litre-bottles of palm oil (Two-Shrimp brand) and 780 one-litre-bottles of palm oil (Two Shrimps), 384 bottles of Brand bird’s nest and seven bags of Dynamite candy worth K5.66 million at the warehouses and convenience stores in Hpa-an township. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Similarly, an unregistered Honda Fit car (estimated value of K4 million) was seized on the outskirts checkpoint of Magway township on 7 November. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

A total of 31 arrests were made on 5 and 7 November, with an estimated value of about K648.199 million, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated items in Mandalay Region (top photo) and Bago Region (above photo).

## Fake Bollywood video highlights AI worries in India

*A manipulated video of Bollywood actor Rashmika Mandanna wearing a low-cut top has raised concerns about AI regulation in India due to the potential for social media-driven controversies.*

A fake video of a Bollywood actor purporting to show her wearing a low-cut top has triggered calls for AI regulation in India, where past false social media posts have stoked sectarian divisions.

Rashmika Mandanna told her 4.7 million followers on X, formerly Twitter, that she was “really hurt” after a manipulated video showing her face on the body of another woman was widely circulated on social media, sparking outrage from government and fellow Bollywood stars.

“We need to address this as a community and with urgency before more of us are affected by such identity theft,” Mandanna wrote, calling it “extremely scary” how vulnerable all are to technology being misused.

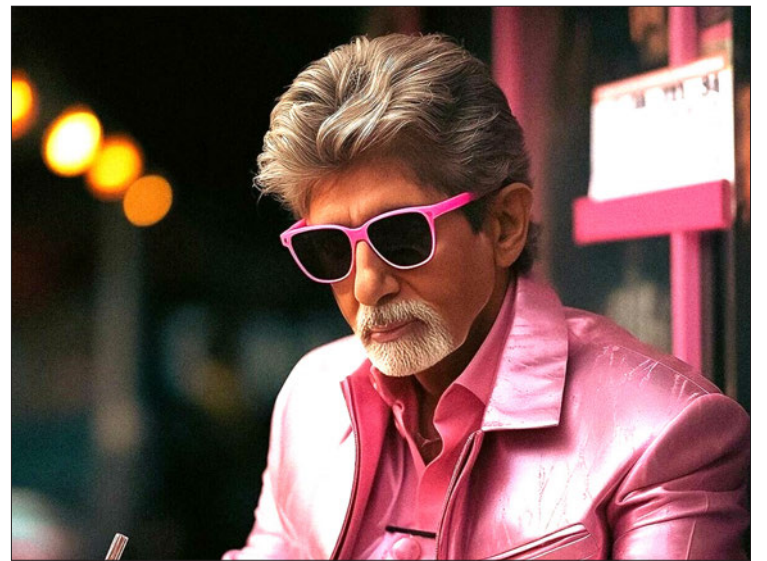
Social media is hugely popular in India, the world’s largest democracy, but inflammatory posts peddling lies have stoked political divides and have been accused of inciting deadly religious riots.

In 2018, a prominent female journalist and critic of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi was harassed when edited videos of her face placed on top of naked women were widely circulated.

Like much of the world, artificial intelligence is not regulated in India and the government has put the onus of blocking online misinformation on social media platforms.

Staged videos peddling disinformation and fanning sectarian tensions garner millions of views in India, which has seen rising Hindu radicalization under Modi’s government.



Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan reimagined by AI as Ken from ‘Barbie’. PHOTO: AFP

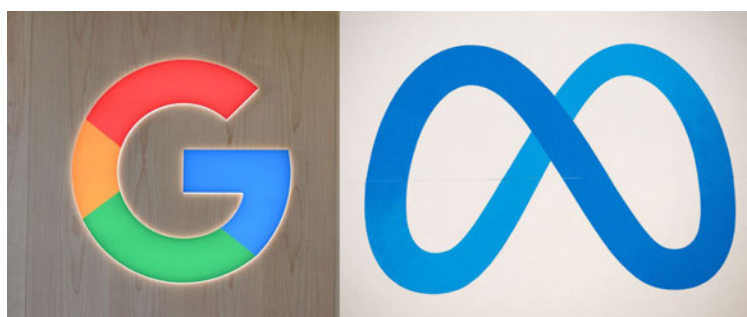
Rajeev Chandrasekhar, India’s information technology minister, wrote on X on Monday that such deep fake videos were “dangerous and damaging” forms of misinformation, but warned that they must “be dealt with by platforms”.

Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan called it a “strong case” for action.

Mandanna added that she was thankful for “my family, friends and well-wishers who are my protection and support system”. — AFP

## Tech giants pool efforts to fight online child sex abuse

*Child victims of abuse online are a hot-button issue for regulators and tech companies are eager to show they are taking adequate measures to protect kids and teens.*



Big tech companies, including Facebook-owner Meta and Google, said on 7 November 2023, they would team up in a new programme to fight online child sexual abuse or exploitation. PHOTO: AFP

BIG tech companies, including Facebook-owner Meta and Google, said Tuesday they would team up in a new programme to fight online child sexual abuse or exploitation.

Child victims of abuse online are a hot-button issue for regulators and tech companies are eager to show they are taking adequate measures to protect kids and teens.

In the new programme,

called Lantern, the big tech companies will share signals of activity that violate their policies on child exploitation so that platforms can move more quickly to detect, take down and report problematic content. Signals could be email addresses, certain hashtags or key words that are either used to groom young people into being abused or buy and sell material involving child abuse and exploitation. — AFP

## Why Sweden going smoke-free may not be such good ‘snus’

SWEDEN is poised to become Europe’s first smoke-free country largely thanks to the popularity of snus, a kind of moist snuff which is placed under the upper lip.

But some are worried the tobacco industry is peddling a “fairytale” that is too good to be true. Used by one in seven Swedes, snus has, according to the government, helped slash the number of smokers from 15 per cent of the population in 2005 to 5.2 per cent last year, a record low in Europe.

A country is considered smoke-free when less than five per cent of its population are daily smokers. Snus has been banned in the European Union since 1992. But Sweden negotiated an exemption when it joined the bloc three years later. At the Swedish Match factory in the western city of Gothenburg, thousands of doses of snus wend their way through a complex web of machinery producing the sachets.

The company sold 277 million boxes of snus in Sweden and Norway in 2021.

“We have used it for 200

years in Sweden. (It’s) part of the Swedish culture, just like many other European countries have their wine culture,” Swedish Match spokesman Patrik Hildingsson told AFP.

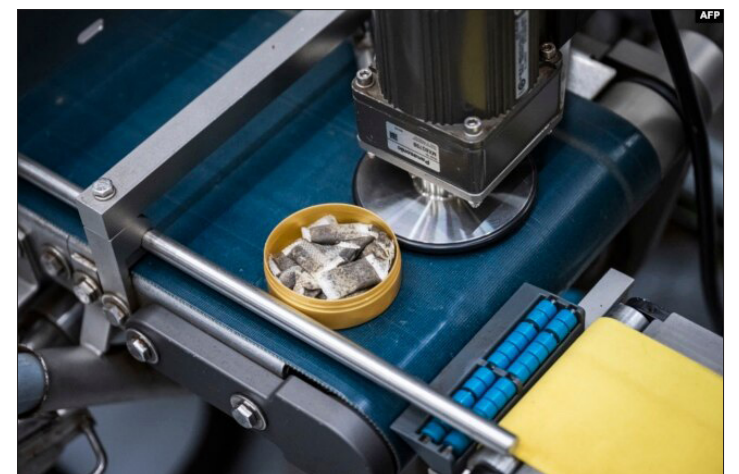
Clad in a white lab coat, he described the manufacturing process. “Tobacco comes from India or the United States. It goes through this silo and is then packed inside the pouches like tea bags and then into these boxes.” There are two types: traditional brown snus, which

contains tobacco, and white snus, which is made of synthetic nicotine and often flavoured.

### Conquering the young

Traditional snus is mostly sold in Sweden, Norway and the US.

White snus, introduced about 15 years ago, falls into a legal void in the EU since it doesn’t contain tobacco. It was banned this year in both Belgium and the Netherlands. — AFP



This picture shows the Swedish Match production line of portion snus, a smokeless tobacco product that is placed under the upper lip, in the company’s factory in Gothenburg, Sweden, 17 October 2023.

PHOTO: AFP

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Paris business district looks to students to replace workers

WITH companies cutting back on office space as working from home remains popular, Europe's biggest business district is looking to students to fill the void left by workers.

Some 50 educational institutions have set up at La Defence, home to glass and metal high-rises and a huge modernist archway on the western outskirts of Paris.

Covid lockdowns emptied offices and with most companies still allowing employees to partially work from home, the number of staff toiling in offices has never fully recovered in business districts around the world.

The work-from-home movement contributed to the financial troubles that led to this



Paris' La Defence business district. PHOTO: MIGUEL MEDINA / AFP

week's bankruptcy filing by US shared-office startup WeWork.

While occupancy rates have held up relatively well at La Defence, the area will have more office space to fill as a number of new buildings are under construction.

The business district has hustled to woo small and medium-sized companies while also turning to schools to diversify its client base and liven up an area that is home to banking, insurance and energy firms.

"Universities have been present at La Defence for a long time, but it has accelerated a lot in the last 10 to 15 years," said Pierre-Yves Guice, head of Paris La Defence, a public institution that manages the business district. — AFP

## German industrial output drops more than expected

GERMAN industrial output showed a bigger slump than expected in September, official

data showed Tuesday, in signs that Europe's biggest economy is struggling to emerge from a

slowdown.

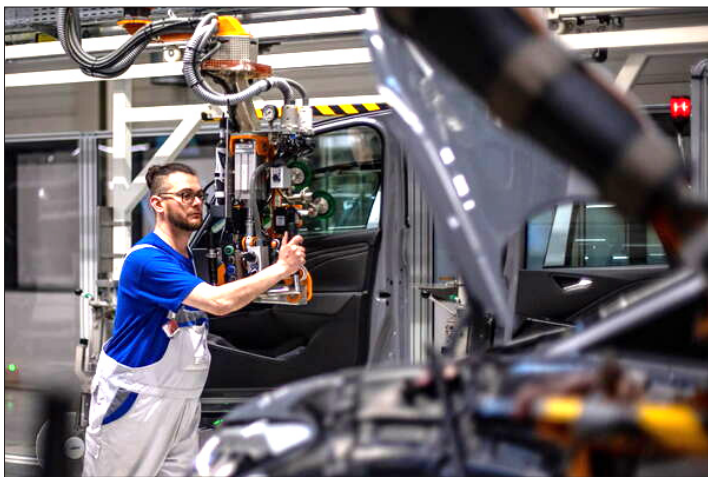
Output slipped by 1.4 per cent on the month before to reach the lowest level since August 2020.

The fourth consecutive monthly fall was also steeper than the 0.3 per cent dip forecast by analysts polled by financial data firm FactSet.

Worryingly for Germany, the crucial automotive and auto supplier industry recorded a sharp drop of five per cent.

However, machine manufacturing gained 4.1 per cent, while the energy-intensive chemicals sector also eked out a 0.9 per cent growth.

Analysts at Capital Economics said the data suggests that "prospects for the winter months look very poor". — AFP



German industrial output showed a bigger slump than expected in September, official data showed Tuesday, in signs that Europe's biggest economy is struggling to emerge from a slowdown. Output slipped by 1.4 per cent on the month before to reach the lowest level since August 2020. PHOTO: AFP

## IMF board approves move to boost lending resources

THE International Monetary Fund said Tuesday its executive board has endorsed a 50 per cent increase in the quotas that member countries contribute to the global lender.

Quotas are based on the

size of a country's economy, and they determine how much funding a nation should provide to the IMF, its voting power and the maximum amount of loans it can obtain.

The proposed increase,

which still needs approval at a higher level at the IMF, would "enhance the IMF's permanent resources" while reducing reliance on borrowing, said the fund in a statement. — AFP

## UN push for financial system reform to help poorest countries

*The UN calls for a global financial system overhaul to aid the poorest countries grappling with severe financial challenges worsened by COVID-19, inflation, and reduced foreign investment.*

THE United Nations called Tuesday for a significant overhaul of the global financial system to help the world's poorest countries and their struggle to fill "enormous financial gaps".

A report from the United Nations Conference on Trade, Investment and Development (UNCTAD) highlighted how multiple crises, from the Covid pandemic to soaring inflation, and declining foreign direct invest-

ment have hit poorer countries particularly hard.

The 46 so-called least developed countries, or LDCs, suffered a sharp economic slowdown in the first years of the pandemic, leaving their combined per capita growth this year 16 per cent below target, UNCTAD said. As a consequence of the economic slowdown, an additional 15 million people have been pushed into extreme poverty, it said. — AFP



Residents walk in the shanty town of Boa Vista in Luanda on 21 December 2009. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



This photo taken on 22 March 2023 shows a cargo truck passing through Ganqimodu Port in the city of Bayannur, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. **PHOTO: LI YUNPING/XINHUA**

## China's road logistics price index edges down

China's road logistics price index slightly decreased by 0.03 per cent to 1,037.52 points during the week from 30 October to 3 November.

CHINA'S road logistics price index dipped in the week from 30 October to 3 November, industry data showed.

The index came in at 1,037.52 points over the period, edging down 0.03 per cent from the previous week, according to a survey jointly conducted

by the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing and the Guangdong Lin'an Logistics Group.

The sub-index for full truckload logistics prices, which mainly measures bulk commodity and regional transportation, went down 0.04 per cent week on week to 1,038.71

points.

Road logistics demand saw slower growth in the period, while the supply was generally stable, according to the survey. It predicted that the index is likely to see a mild decrease amid fluctuations in the near future. — Xinhua

## Markets drift as traders weigh outlook for rates

EQUITY markets struggled Wednesday as investors tried to figure out the Federal Reserve's interest rate plans, while demand concerns saw oil prices struggling to recover from the previous day's plunge.

While Wall Street enjoyed another advance, there were few catalysts to drive business and, with geopolitical tensions relatively subdued, US monetary policy is in focus after the central bank hinted last week at no more tightening. However, officials refuse to commit one way or the other for now, instead saying they want to see more evidence that inflation is on a true downward slope and the labour market has softened enough. — AFP

## Chemical giant Bayer to cut management jobs after huge loss

GERMAN chemicals giant Bayer said Wednesday it would cut management jobs and was examining splitting off one of its divisions after reporting a massive third-quarter loss.

The maker of Aspirin has long been under

pressure from activist investors as its problems mounted, and earlier this year brought in a new CEO to help steer the company in a new direction. It reported a net loss nearly 4.6 billion euros (\$4.9 billion) from July to September,



Bayer brought in a new CEO this year to steer the company in a new direction after a series of problems. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

compared to a profit of nearly 550 million euros in the same period last year,

dragged down by massive writedowns at its agro-chemicals division. — AFP

## Nissan, Renault launch 'rebalanced' alliance

FRENCH automaker Renault and Japanese partner Nissan officially launched their "rebalanced" alliance on Wednesday after the overhaul was approved by regulators.

The companies announced an agreement in February to reboot a quarter-century-old partnership that has been marred by tensions in more recent years.

A part of the deal, Renault reduced its stake in the Japanese automaker from 43.4 per cent to 15 per cent, the same size as Nissan's share in its French counterpart.

Nissan agreed to take a stake in Renault's new electric vehicle ven-

ture, Ampere.

"After having obtained all required regulatory approvals, the New Alliance Agreement between Renault Group and Nissan comes today into force," the companies said in a joint statement.

The alliance began in

1999, when Renault rescued Nissan from bankruptcy. Mitsubishi Motors joined in 2016, when Nissan took a 34-per cent stake in its struggling Japanese rival.

Tensions erupted in 2015 when the French state increased its stake

in Renault. This was later reduced and an agreement was reached to cap the government's ability to interfere in the alliance's affairs.

The union was shaken again by the 2018 arrest of Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn, who claimed the charges against him were intended to prevent him from bringing the Japanese and French automakers closer together.

Renault chief executive Luca de Meo said in Wednesday's statement that the companies were "now effectively entering this new era of the Alliance with a pragmatic and business-oriented approach". — AFP



Renault reduced its stake in the Japanese automaker from 43.4 per cent to 15 per cent. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

### MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

AS the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (Deepavali Public Holiday), and 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (Tazaung Tiaing Public Holiday) Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

### The Global New Light of Myanmar

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# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Portuguese prime minister resigns following corruption probe



Costa, from Portugal's Socialist Party, has been prime minister since late 2015. **PHOTO: PATRICIA DE MELO MOREIRA / AFP**

*Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa resigns amid a corruption investigation related to energy contracts, citing the incompatibility of his role with integrity concerns.*

and influence peddling", according to a statement from public prosecutors. Costa will also be investigated independently for allegedly intervening personally to speed up the awarding of licences for lithium exploration and hydrogen production, the statement said.

"The duties of prime minister are not compatible with any suspicion of my integrity," Costa told a press conference.

"In these circumstances, I have presented my resignation

to the president of the Republic," he added. Portugal's head of state Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa accepted Costa's resignation and called for a meeting of parliamentary parties on Wednesday with the aim of organising an early election, according to a statement from the Portuguese presidency.

Before he can dissolve parliament and call early elections, the president must also convene the Council of State, which includes the country's most senior politicians, former presidents and

other notable figures.

"The President of the Republic will address the nation immediately after the meeting of the Council of State," the statement added. Costa, from Portugal's Socialist Party, has been prime minister since late 2015 and was re-elected in January 2022.

Socialist Party president Carlos Cesar said the party "is prepared for all scenarios, either early elections or a change of leader in the government". — AFP

PORTUGUESE Prime Minister Antonio Costa announced his resignation on Tuesday after he was embroiled in a corruption investigation into the awarding

of energy-related contracts.

The probe involving Costa and others covers alleged "misuse of funds, active and passive corruption by political figures,

## One month into conflict, Israeli troops reach "heart of Gaza City"

ISRAELI troops were fighting on Tuesday "in the heart of Gaza City", a senior Israeli commander said, on the 32<sup>nd</sup> day of the Israel-Hamas conflict that has claimed the lives of 10,328 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

In an interview with ABC News, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not rule out "tactical little pauses" in the fighting to allow aid to reach Gaza or facilitate the release of some of the around

240 hostages kidnapped by Hamas during its 7 October attacks on Israel.

However, Netanyahu rejected any general ceasefire unless all hostages were freed.

After the conflict in Gaza ends, Israel will take "overall security responsibility" in Gaza "for an indefinite period", Netanyahu said.

The ground troops of the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) have continued to move forward in the northern Gaza

Strip, reaching central Gaza City. "For the first time in a decade, the IDF is fighting in the heart of Gaza City," the Commanding Officer of the Southern Command Yaron Finkelman said in a press statement near the Gaza Strip border.

"Our soldiers are eliminating terrorists, discovering tunnels, destroying weapons and continuing to advance into the center of the enemy," he said. — Xinhua



This photo released by Israel Defence Forces on 7 November 2023 shows Israeli troops continuing ground operations in Gaza Strip. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## UK bans recreational use of nitrous oxide



Dozens of protesters stage a mass inhalation of nitrous oxide, commonly known as laughing gas, outside the Houses of Parliament in central London on 1 August 2015. **JACK TAYLOR / AFP/FILE**

POSSESSING laughing gas to get a psychoactive high became illegal in Britain on Wednesday, with serial offenders facing up to two years in prison and dealers up to 14 years.

The sale of small canisters of nitrous oxide has proliferated in recent decades, as young people in particular inhale the drug recreationally for a quick high.

Prolonged use can cause anaemia, nerve damage and spinal injuries, doctors warn, while the canisters have come to litter parts of urban and suburban Britain and been associated with anti-social behaviour.

The ban, first proposed by

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservative government in March and now imposed under the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act, is part of a wider crackdown on lawlessness before an expected general election next year.

The ruling Tories appear to hope their traditional standing as the party of strong law and order policies can help them overcome a big polling deficit with the main Labour opposition. "Today we are sending a clear signal to people, especially young people, that not only is abuse of nitrous oxide dangerous to their health, but it is also illegal," policing minister Chris Philp said. — AFP

# SPORTS

## French Polynesia president backs Olympics surf venue rethink

The Tahiti-based 2024 Olympics surf competition, located 15,000 kilometres from Paris, has faced local opposition due to a 14-metre tower's potential coral damage, prompting an online petition with nearly 150,000 signatures.

THE president of the French overseas territory of French Polynesia has suggested an alternative venue for the 2024 Olympics surf competition after plans for a gigantic tower at a planned venue in Tahiti site caused uproar.

Surfers are due to catch the first waves of the Paris Games in nine months in Tahiti, some 15,000 kilometres (9,300 miles) from the French capital, but a plan to build a giant tower in a legendary surf spot is sparking resistance.

The organizers of the 2024

Games want to erect a 14-metre (46-foot) aluminium structure in the water for judges to better assess the competition.

Local associations have led protests against the tower, saying its installation would damage corals beyond repair.

Several hundred people recently joined a peaceful protest at the site near the village of Teahupoo — one of the world's most famous surfing areas and the designated Olympic venue.

An online petition against the project has attracted close to 150,000 signatures. — AFP



After protests, maybe a different spot can be found for the surfing competition. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



The Shan United player jumps high for the team's celebration in the previous AFC match at Thuwunna Stadium. PHOTO: SUFC

## Shan United to take on Cebu FC as AFC Cup match

REPRESENTING Myanmar, Shan United will play against the Philippines Club Cebu FC as a fourth match of the AFC Cup Championship at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon at 6:30 pm Myanmar Time today.

This match will be the last hope for both teams to advance

to the next round, and it is a situation where they can hope to continue only if they win.

After the first round, the Shan United team has not yet scored a point, while the Cebu team has three points. There are three groups in the AFC Cup ASEAN Zone, and only

the top team from each group and the best of the three second-placed teams will qualify for the zone semi-finals, so Shan United needs to win.

The Shan United team lost to the Cebu team in the first-round away match with one goal to nil. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Man City reach Champions League last 16 as Haaland destroys Young Boys

MANCHESTER City powered into the Champions League knockout stages as Erling Haaland banished fears over his fitness with a double in Tuesday's 3-0 win against Swiss side Young Boys. Pep Guardiola's team have won all four of their Group G matches, ensuring their progress to the last 16 with two games to spare.

Haaland was fit to start at the Etihad Stadium after hurting his ankle in the first half of City's 6-1 win over Bournemouth on Saturday.

And the Norway striker showed there was no lingering injury issue as he took his Champions League goal tally to a remarkable 39 in 34 matches.

He put City ahead with a first-half penalty and netted again with a brilliant long-range effort after Phil Foden's eye-catching strike doubled the holders' lead.

Young Boys had Sandro Lauper sent off in the second half of a one-sided contest that extended City's impressive streak of winning all 23 of their home games in 2023.

Sunderland hold the English record with 24 successive home wins, a mark that dates back to 1891 and 1892. — AFP

Manchester City secured a place in the Champions League knockout stages with a 3-0 victory over Young Boys, featuring a double from Erling Haaland, who overcame injury concerns.



Manchester City's Erling Haaland celebrates scoring against Young Boys.

PHOTO: AFP

## Can Mourinho lead Roma all the way to another European final?

OFF the pace in Serie A, Roma may once again be relying on Jose Mourinho to lead them on a long European run in order to save their season.

Mourinho is into his third campaign in charge in the Italian capital and has already led Roma to victory in the inaugural Europa Conference League and then to a Europa League final which they lost on penalties to Sevilla.

Yet in Serie A they continue to lag behind, having finished sixth in each of the Portuguese coach's two campaigns so far.

They are currently seventh, 11 games into this season, and that is only after a dramatic comeback to beat Lecce 2-1 at the Stadio Olimpico last weekend, with Sardar Azmoun and Romelu Lukaku both scoring stoppage-time goals. — AFP

Portuguese prime minister resigns following corruption probe

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# WORLD



Chinese President Xi Jinping addresses the opening ceremony of the 2023 World Internet Conference Wuzhen Summit via video on 8 November 2023. PHOTO: LIU BIN/XINHUA

*Xi emphasized the need for international cooperation to advance the shared future in cyberspace.*

a shared future in cyberspace to a new stage.

He called for prioritizing development to let the fruits of internet development benefit more countries and people.

Xi emphasized the need to improve public access to information-based services, bridge the digital divide, and improve people's livelihood with internet development.

Calling for building a more peaceful and secure cyberspace, Xi stressed the need to respect cyber sovereignty and each country's way of internet governance and the need to oppose seeking hegemony, bloc confrontation and arms race in cyberspace.

Xi went on to underscore the need to crack down on cyber crimes, strengthen data security and personal information protection, and properly respond to the risks and challenges brought by sci-tech development to rules, society and ethics.

China is willing to work with all parties to implement the Global Artificial Intelligence Governance Initiative and promote the safe development of AI, Xi said. — Xinhua

## Xi calls for letting internet better benefit people of all countries

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Wednesday called for letting the internet better benefit people of all countries when he addressed the opening ceremony of the 2023 World Internet Conference (WIC) Wuzhen Summit via video.

Xi said that the vision of jointly build-

ing a community with a shared future in cyberspace, which he proposed at the second WIC in 2015, has garnered widespread international recognition and positive responses.

The vision answers the questions of our times related to resolving the devel-

opment deficit, addressing security challenges, and enhancing mutual learning between civilizations, Xi said.

Xi stressed that the international community needs to deepen exchanges and practical cooperation to jointly advance the building of a community with

### SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION WITH 39<sup>th</sup> SAMPLE ANALYSIS

## NASA's Curiosity rover clocks 4,000 days on Mars

NASA'S Curiosity rover has clocked 4,000 days on Mars since it landed on the Red Planet in August 2012, according to NASA.

Since setting its wheels in Gale Crater on Mars on 5 August 2012, the rover remains busy conducting exciting science. It recently drilled its 39<sup>th</sup> sample then dropped the pulverized rock into its belly for detailed analysis.

To study whether an-

cient Mars had the conditions to support microbial life, the rover has been gradually ascending the base of five-kilometre-tall Mount Sharp, whose layers formed in different periods of Martian history and offer a record of how the planet's climate changed over time, according to NASA. Launched on 26 November 2011, Curiosity is the largest and most capable rover ever sent to Mars. — Xinhua

## Telecoms outage cuts off millions of Australians

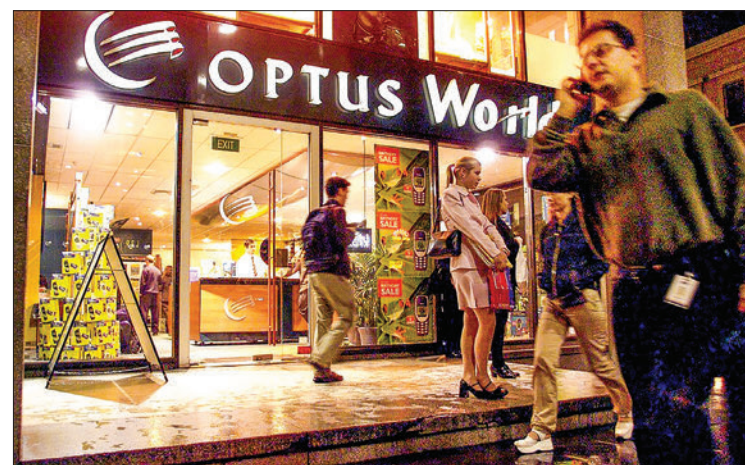
MORE than 10 million Australians were cut off from internet and phone services on Wednesday after unexplained outages struck one of the country's largest communications companies.

The mystery glitch crashed electronic payment systems, disrupted phone lines used by ambulances and police, and briefly halted rush-hour trains in the southern city of Melbourne.

Optus, a subsidiary of Singapore telecommunications company Singtel, said it had restored services on Wednesday evening — but it was unable to pinpoint what had caused the fault.

A "technical network outage" detected at about 4:05 am Sydney time had cut off custom-

ers, Optus chief executive Kelly Bayer Rosmarin told national broadcaster ABC. — AFP



In this file photo, rush hour workers on their mobile phones walk past an Optus telecommunications shop in downtown Sydney. WILLIAM WEST / AFP