

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing looking into the display of coffee products and local foodstuffs yesterday in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing envisions PyinOoLwin as Coffee City, drawing inspiration from Cherry City and Flower City

As coffee benefits the region and the nation, all-out efforts must be made to shape PyinOoLwin to be a coffee city based on a local business, similar to Cherry City and Flower City as a recreation area, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met coffee entrepreneurs and MSME businesspersons at the city hall in PyinOoLwin of Mandalay Region yesterday morning to discuss

the cultivation of coffee and increased production of domestic products.

In the meeting, the Senior General stressed the need to develop the coffee business further, contributing to regional development as coffee is conformed to the PyinOoLwin region.

He recounted that project areas were reclaimed in the PyinOoLwin region to operate coffee industries so as to become PyinOoLwin as a coffee area. However, he unveiled that some persons who took the land plots for coffee industries did

not operate their businesses with might and main. As such, the Senior General noted that the government needs to create chances for the businesspersons who are actually operating coffee industries in the region.

The Senior General expressed his hope for the emergence of increasing coffee production in the coming five to seven years if businesspersons systematically manage the cultivation and production of coffee from now on.

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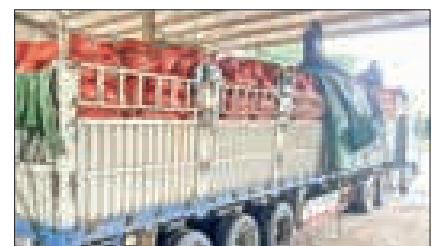
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Trade value at Myawady border totals US\$977.247 mln as of 1 December

Now, Sky Cable car has been just opened, you can see and enjoy the beauty of Pyin Oo Lwin(Flower City) while riding the Sky Cable car.

Pye Gauk (BE.FALLS) Waterfalls Resort

NATIONAL



The Senior General meeting coffee entrepreneurs and MSME businesspeople in PyinOoLwin yesterday.

for coffee businesspersons.

On behalf of MSME businesspersons, a coffee farmer and businesspersons reported on market sharing of coffee, prevention of pests at coffee farms, the need to allow building areas on coffee farms, construction of buildings for management functions in appropriate areas as they did not have a large area for coffee farms, difficulties in seeking permits from FDA for wine entrepreneurs and easing disciplines.

The region's chief minister explained the issuance of loans from the state economic promotion fund to agriculture and livestock farms and MSME businesses and the fulfilment of the development of coffee industries.

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With regard to the cultivation of coffee plantations, the Senior General invited ethnic businesspersons actually to grow coffee plants and guaranteed them to allocate five to 50 acres of land plots for cultivation. Moreover, he pledged that the government would provide necessary assistance for those businesspersons in order to expand the sown acreage of coffee.

The Senior General also discussed the functioning of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), stressing that the manufacturing of foodstuffs

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing envisions PyinOoLwin as Coffee City, drawing inspiration from Cherry City and Flower City

must be operated on a broader scale with the use of large volumes of agricultural produce in the PyinOoLwin region. As such, it is necessary to encourage successful dairy cow farming and dairy product production in the region.

The Senior General underscored that MSME businesses must be operated not only in

domestic industries but also at regional and national production levels. To do so, he continued that it is necessary to enhance manufacturing and packaging processes to have success so as to boost the State economy.

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung and Union Minister for Natural Resources and Envi-

ronmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi discussed the implementation of coffee projects in PyinOoLwin region, revocation of permits of land plots due to lack of operating coffee cultivation and production, labour needs for expanding of sown acreage for coffee, annual coffee cultivation in regions and states, export process, and expertise of technicians

After the meeting, the Senior General viewed the display of coffee products and domestic foodstuffs interestingly and asked about the market share of coffee and MSME products. Also present at the meeting were Council Joint Secretary member Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Council Member Lt-Gen Nyo Saw, Union ministers and officials. — MNA/ TTA

MoL UM addresses essential MoU issues with Myanmar workers in Thailand

ACCORDING to a statement released on 8 December by the Labour Attache Office under the Embassy of Myanmar to Thailand, the Union Minister for Labour handled the necessary matters regarding the Myanmar MoU workers in Thailand during his visit.

For cooperation in labour issues between Myanmar and Thailand, the delegation led by the Union minister visited factories and workplaces where most Myanmar migrant workers live, including the city of Surat, where a Certificate of Identity (CI) issuing centre will be opened.

Meeting the MoU Myanmar workers who are working at the Asian Seafoods factory in Surat, the Remittance Management System Mobile Application was demonstrated the easy money transfer system to send 25 per cent of their salary to their families in Myanmar through official channels.

In addition, a representative from the Ministry of Planning and Finance explained the two per cent tax, and a



Union Minister U Myint Naung looks into the process of MoU U-turn workers at the office of Overseas Worker Identification Card-OWIC at the No 2 Friendship Bridge, Myawady.

representative from the Ministry of Immigration and Population explained the EID system.

Then, the Union minister visited the places where the Certificate of Identity (CI) issuing station will be opened, and according to the decision of the Thai government, Myanmar workers who were nominated for temporary residence and

work permit (unique identification card, which is also called pink card) in Thailand have been extended from 1 October 2023 to 13 February 2025. The workers must apply for a work permit, take health check and purchase take health insurance before 15 January 2024.

A total of 1,450 baht per worker for applying for a work permit, 500 baht for

medical checkups and 1,600 baht for one-year insurance from the Ministry of Public Health or 990 baht for six months of insurance from a private company and those who are not covered by the social security insurance system must purchase one-year insurance. The total cost will be from a minimum of 2,940 baht to a maximum of 3,550 baht per worker. Those workers who have completed the work permit and medical checkup process must continue to collect biometrics data before 31 October 2024, obtain a residence permit in Thailand at the Immigration Bureau, and register at the Department of Provincial Administration or Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and must apply for a CI or passport before 31 October 2024.

Five CI issuing stations and three mobile teams are open on the Myanmar side. Thanks to mobile teams, workers will be able to apply for identity documents without wasting work time, and the employer will also be able to continue to operate the business at a fast pace. — TWA/TKO

NATIONAL

Corruption lessens sound governance system while threatening rule of law and citizen rights

Vice-Senior General Soe Win said the corruption problem is a tremendous hindrance to undertaking reform and construction processes for the nation's development.

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win delivered a speech at the ceremony to mark the International Anti-Corruption Day at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

He unveiled that corruption leads to lessening a sound governance system while threatening the rule of law and citizens' rights, so the government must combat corruption effectively to create a corruption-free society.

Currently, the Vice-Senior General pledged that action will be taken without discrimination against anyone who committed high treason, which derailed from the roadmap and objectives of the State.

He stressed the need to raise public awareness and preventive measures against corruption on time for the emergence of a culture of society which never accepts corruption.

The Vice-Senior General underlined that as corruption cases push the society into poverty, the Anti-Corruption Commission needs to strive for the emergence of a clean government and good governance by upholding a concept on anti-corruption as a national duty.

He highlighted that the essence of anti-corruption aims to protect the people's interests and shape a corruption-free society.

The Vice-Senior General noted that corruption can harm disciplinary acts, honesty, righteousness, and following the



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win speaks on the International Anti-Corruption Day occasion yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

ethics of state service personnel. As such, he added that if State service personnel serve their duties under the laws, bylaws, rules and regulations, procedures and ethics free from corruption, they will win the trust of the people and help emerge a good governance system to develop the nation.

The Vice-Senior General recounted that the Anti-Corruption Commission could hand over more than K23 billion and US\$4 million to the State fund from the prosecuted cases to prevent loss of the State finance worth more than K155 billion and more than three million euros.

The Vice-Senior General said that

the commission signed a memorandum of understanding with the ASEAN-Parties Against Corruption-ASEAN-PAC and international anti-corruption organizations as part of cooperation with international organizations in combatting corruption. He added that the commission also signed an MoU with the office of the Prosecutor-General of Russia in addition to Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Viet Nam, India and South Korea.

The ceremony was also attended by SAC members, Union-level persons, Union ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman and officials.

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Sit Aye reported on the commission's undertakings in anti-corruption measures.

The Vice-Senior General presented prizes to winners in the poster and video contests to mark International Anti-Corruption Day.

The commission chairman also awarded winners in the essay contest.

The Vice-Senior General watched a video clip to mark International Anti-Corruption Day and viewed round documentary photos on anti-corruption activities. — MNA/TTA

December Community Sports Celebration attracts 3,900+ participants in group walk

THE community walk for the second week of December took place yesterday morning at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw. Among the participants were members of the



Community comes together for invigorating dance exercise for physical fitness yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

State Administration Council (SAC), Daw Dwe Bu and Khun San Lwin, as well as Union-level dignitaries, Union Ministers, the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Deputy Ministers, and representatives from various departments. Over 3,900 participants and their family members joyfully participated in the celebration.

Participants in the walking event enjoyed strolling along the designated paths at Wunna Theikdi Stadium, engaging in group physical fitness exercises, and joining in Physical Fitness Dance Exercises. Additionally, Department of Sports

and Physical Education officials distributed water bottles and refreshments.

In Myanmar, "Commemorating the December 2023 Public Sports Movement (second week) collective walks" are underway, aimed at enhancing the health and fitness of the entire people, starting at the individual level and elevating the global standing of Myanmar sports.

The community walk is scheduled every Saturday in December, and it will involve employees from various ministries and their family members participating in the celebration. — MNA/KZW

NATIONAL

DPM MoPF UM highlights private sector growth at UMFCCI's 32nd Annual General Meeting

THE Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry convened its 32nd Annual General Meeting at the National Theatre in Yangon yesterday.

After the opening remarks by UMFCCI President U Aye Win, Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein noted in his speech that the UMFCCI was aiming to grow into a world-class leading organization through partnership with many other business associations.

He stressed the private sector's pivotal role as the nation's primary economic engine and a key creator of value and jobs. The private sector is a hub for significant investments and a breeding ground for creativity, human resource development, and technological advancements. The Deputy Prime Minister reiterated



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein views round the booth displayed at the UMFCCI Annual General Meeting yesterday.

the government's unwavering commitment to fostering robust private-sector development.

He also mentioned the authorities' effort to adjust financial and monetary policies to resolve

the country's challenges and cooperation at an international level to secure foreign markets.

The Deputy Prime Minister urged businesspeople to work for their interests, the people,

and the country.

Following his speech, Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn took the stage. Later, UMFCCI General Secretary Daw Khine Khine Nwe presented the annual

report, financial statement, and accounting report by the external auditor, JF Group-Certified Public Accountants & Auditors. Following this presentation, she addressed pre-submitted questions and suggestions.

Officials later approved the report and statement and appointed the external auditor for the 2023-2024 financial year.

UMFCCI President U Aye Win concluded the meeting with his closing remarks. Following a photo session, officials and invitees toured the exhibition halls.

Union Minister at the Union Government Office 1 U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw, Central Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and other responsible officials attended the meeting. — MNA/NT

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Statement 13/2023

1. The United Nations proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948. This declaration establishes universal standards for the rights of all individuals, grounded in principles of freedom, justice, peace, and human dignity. In acknowledgement of the importance of this historic event, 10 December has been designated International Human Rights Day, and in 2023, this day marked its 75th Diamond Jubilee.
2. Myanmar became a member of the United Nations in 1948 when it gained independence and sovereignty. Myanmar participated in and supported the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the United Nations General Assembly held in Paris on 10 December of the same year. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the most translated document in the world, with versions available in over 500 languages, including Myanmar. The declaration is frequently cited as a benchmark in implementing foreign policy, drafting constitutions, signing various

international conventions, and regulating relations between countries. Myanmar has included the fundamental rights of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2008).

3. The United Nations typically designates a theme to commemorate International Human Rights Day each year. The 75th International Human Rights Day theme in 2023 is "Dignity, Freedom and Justice for All".
4. To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, United Nations member states, National Human Rights Institutions, and Civil Society Organizations around the world have been taking actions throughout the entire year to make the Universal Declaration of Human Rights more widely recognized and implemented. Similarly, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission has conducted awareness-raising workshops and talks focusing on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, organized internal presentation sessions

on the rights outlined in the declaration in English, delivered training courses on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and composed a special song to mark the 75th International Human Rights Day. Furthermore, international human rights treaties, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), have been translated from English to Myanmar and printed. Additionally, efforts have been made to translate and print the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into Naga and Lhaovo ethnic languages to promote wider understanding and appreciation.

5. On the occasion of the 75th Diamond Jubilee International Human Rights Day, we encourage everyone to work towards cultivating a society that upholds and practices human rights. This involves safeguarding the inherent rights stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the rights established by law as well as acknowledging and respecting the dignity and rights of others.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

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NATIONAL

MYANMAR delegation led by Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo participated in the discussions of the 13th ASEAN-China Prosecutors-General Conference held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, from 5 to 7 December.

Prosecutors-general and officials from the People's Republic of China and ASEAN nations attended the three-day conference.

At the conference, Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo put forward the presentation titled "Transnational Organized Crimes and Strengthening International Collaboration in Combatting Against Advanced Technology-assisted Crimes."

She presented that transnational organized crimes are an important issue, including crimes and offences committed by individuals or groups crossing the countries' boundaries.

Accordingly, Myanmar enacted the Counter-Terrorism Law, Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law, and Anti-Money Laundering Law to prevent the happening of transnational organized crimes; and Electronic Transactions Law and Com-



Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo takes part in the 13th ASEAN-China Prosecutors-General Conference in Hanoi, Viet Nam, from 5 to 7 December.

MoLA UM joins 13th ASEAN-China Prosecutors-General Conference in Viet Nam

puter Science Development Law were also promulgated to avoid crimes committed with high technology assistance.

She added that Myanmar is drafting to ratify the Cyber Security Law in line with international standards; international collaboration is a crucial platform between countries to strengthen legal affairs coop-

eration and for exchanging information; advanced technologies are applied in committing transnational organized crimes in such technologically dynamic nowadays; and those crimes mentioned above are intimidating not only the regional rule of law but also peace, security, and tranquility of the globe.

Since Myanmar cooperates with international countries to prevent transnational organized crimes, she elaborated that Myanmar is a member of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and the ASEAN Treaty on Mutual Legal As-

sistance in Criminal Matters.

As localization measures, Myanmar drafted and stipulated the Law of Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters among nations and its rules, said Dr Thida Oo, during the conference, continuing that the collaboration between legal experts, jurists, rule of law enhancing organizations and agencies, and judicial bodies of countries is also required to prosecute the criminals who committed the transnational offences and crimes and to prevent the formation of the criminal networks among nations. Therefore, she pointed out that multinational legal services are essential in the international arena.

The Union minister also urged encouraging the practice of exchanging legal assistance online within regional countries.

Conference attendees exchanged views on transnational organized crimes, regional collaborations of combatting and suppressing advanced technology-assisted crimes, international collaborations, and agendas.

The PRC and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam also conducted a bilateral talk. — MNA/ TMT

Myanmar consulate-general, charities back women at Correctional Institute



Myanmar consulate-general supports the necessary supplies for Myanmar women behind bars.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Myanmar consulate-general and Myanmar charity organizations support

and help women behind bars at the Women Correctional Institute in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

The Myanmar consul-gen-

eral gave a motivational speech to 40 Myanmar female prisoners and 30 Thailand Christian female prisoners. The Myanmar consulate-general and Myanmar charity organizations collaborated and donated personal supplies, ready-made food, lunch boxes, and support supplies for the mothers who gave birth behind bars.

Myanmar consul-general in Chiang Mai U Min Kyaw Linn met Director of the Women Correctional Institute Mrs Sununta Kongpakpian and they discussed issues about getting the proper healthcare, being able to keep in touch with their families, bringing humanitarian aid and the social security welfare of Myanmar women behind bars. — ASH/ TRKM

Myanmar showcases products at 6th ASEAN-Hunan Famous & High-quality Products Trade Fair

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that Myanmar showcased at the Sixth ASEAN-Hunan (Yongzhou) Famous and High-quality Products Trade Fair in Yongzhou, Hunan of the People's Republic of China.

The trade fair was held from 1 to 3 December, and the Myanmar Consulate-General in Nanning also showcased an exhibition.

At the trade fair, Myanmar displayed various farming products, food products, wooden handicrafts, amber, and jade ornaments. Besides, the pamphlets for investment and tourism promotions and docu-

mentary videos were displayed, and they drew much attention during the three-day trade fair.

The secretary of the Yongzhou Communist Party of China reportedly gave a welcome speech, and the Myanmar consul-general delivered an opening speech at the Sixth ASEAN-Hunan (Yongzhou) Famous and High-quality Products Trade Fair.

About 400 businesses from Hunan and the exhibitions from ASEAN countries, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Malaysia, Viet Nam and Indonesia participated in the trade fair, and about 80,000 people attended it. — ASH/ TRKM

NATIONAL

Taxi fares increased due to difficulties in purchasing petrol

TAXI fares in Yangon have increased due to the challenges of buying oil this week, according to the taxi drivers and passengers.

Despite the fluctuating petrol prices in the domestic market between 30 November and 9 December, the process of taking out oil by bowsers from Thilawa fuel tanks took longer than usual, causing fuel shortages in the city petrol stations.

Long lines of cars to buy petrol at filling stations have been waiting from five to nine hours, and there were overnight stays in some places.

Passengers in Yangon have experienced increased taxi fares due to the time-consuming delay in purchasing fuel and the rise in oil prices.

"We were lining up since 10 am, and then we got petrol at 4 pm. Some car drivers experienced oil shortages when they just got to the entrance of the fuel station and kept on waiting," U Than Chaung, a driver from Thakayta Township, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

In addition to the challenge of queuing for oil, petrol-powered vehicles charge higher fares than before depending on the high price of petrol. Gas-powered taxis also charge the same fare as petrol-powered vehicles, even though they



Taxis are lining up for refuelling at the petrol station.

are less problematic than petrol-powered vehicles.

"Previously, there was only a cost of K2,500-K3,000 from Lanmadaw lower block to Sule for taxi fares. But now they take K4,000-K4,500 for that journey," Ma Khaing Lay, a passenger who always goes to Sule from Lanmadaw for work, told the GNLM.

The journey from downtown Yangon to Aung Mingala Highway Bus Terminal previously cost K20,000, but these days, it costs K25,000.

The relevant authorities are making efforts to ensure that there is no difficulty in fuel consumption in the country. Since the oil tankers have arrived, consumers have been informed not to purchase and collect more fuel than necessary.

Since it is time-consuming

to get petrol, taxi drivers are taking higher fares, and travellers in Yangon have to spend more on their travel expenses than before.

"Taking Grab taxis are less costs than other taxis. Some taxi drivers ask for more fares. Grab taxis only cost K6,000 before, but now they only cost K6,200 for the same journey," Ma Moe, a passenger who always uses Grab taxis for the journey from Royal Asia Hospital to 6th-Mile for work, told the GNLM.

Similarly, Daw Myint Swe, who always comes to Yangon from Mawgyun for medical treatment, said, "Last month, I had to pay K100,000 for fares to undergo medical treatment. On 8 December, I had to pay K120,000 since I had to come again for the due date." — TWA/TKO

Cooking gas crunch occurs in Yangon

YANGONITES are currently facing a sales limit for cooking gas, and gas filling charges jumped in the first week of December.

"Cooking gas shortages hit Yangonites. The gas filling stations set quotas in early December. Additionally, the charge is up by K8,000 per viss. Some shut down the shops by complaining about the cooking gas crunch," Daw Thiri Lwin, a housewife who uses gas in South Okkalapa Township, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Yangon market has been

bracing for a cooking gas shortage since 25 November amid transport disruption from foreign markets, causing the price hike. Yet, locally produced gas can be withdrawn continually at the relevant station.

"Earlier, in cooperation with authorities, private companies sold the gas stove at K100,000 together with a permit book to fill the gas. Nonetheless, I did not care much as I could buy them freely at a cheaper rate in the market. Lately, the charges have risen compared to the rate offered with the permit book. That kind

of gas stove sale, along with the book, is closed. We expect that sales for now," Ma Win Yee, a cooking gas user from North Dagon Township, told the GNLM.

"Meanwhile, the price of charcoal is K2,000 per viss. The costs of both charcoal and gas are exorbitantly high. Gas can be used longer than charcoal. The households are preparing for another energy option for cooking amid the frequent energy blackouts," the GNLM quoted Daw Khin Shwe Oo from Thingangyun Township as saying. — TWA/EM

NEWS IN BRIEF

Advanced military weapons transform battle tactics, strategies

ACCORDING to the speech of Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the passing out parade of the 65th Intake of Defence Services Academy in PyinOoLwin on the morning of 8 December, the developed military weapons can change battle tactics and military strategies. Therefore, it is necessary to think ahead of them, and the warfare of the 21st century unfolds in asymmetric, multi-dimensional forms of attack, emerging from diverse sides and sectors.

Myanmar citizens in S Korea face income tax adjustment

THE Myanmar Embassy to Korea announced that it is necessary to pay the income tax for Myanmar citizens who hold job passports (PJ) and business passports (PB). Myanmar nationals who work in foreign countries and are paid by foreign incomes need to pay the calculated tax of their incomes under the Tax Law starting from 1 October.

Opportunities expand as export markets beckon private entrepreneurs

UNION Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein stated, "We are fulfilling the export market for the private entrepreneurs as international collaborations as much as we can," in the 32nd annual general meeting of the Union of Myanmar Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 9 December, held in the National Theatre on the Myoma Kyaung Road, Yangon. Similarly, "I want to urge entrepreneurs to focus on the flow of foreign incomes into local in time," the Union minister continued.

One-month visa-free access extended to Russia, four ASEAN nations

IN Myanmar, one-month free visas are issued for Russia and the other four ASEAN countries and 14 days free for six other Asia countries, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. Visitors from Russia, China, India, Viet Nam, and Singapore can travel for a one-month visa-free period. Those who hold ordinary passports from countries like Cambodia, the Philippines, Brunei, Laos, Indonesia, and Thailand can travel for 14 days visa-free.

MRF warning to sell rice at fair prices

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) warns traders not to sell rice at higher prices than regular prices by taking advantage of changes in foreign currency terms and strongly urges them to sell the rice only at fair prices.

PyinOoLwin Flower Wonderland Festival showcases 2M blooms

THE 16th Flower Wonderland Festival will reportedly be held for a month from 16 December to 14 January. Two million flowers will be displayed at the National Kandawgyi Botanical Garden of PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region. Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing urged officials to create the flower city PyinOoLwin as a peaceful and inspiring environment for visitors to enjoy the beauty and well-disciplined surroundings. — Htun Htun/ TRKM

Myanmar's fishery exports shrink to US\$444 mln in 8 months

MYANMAR conveyed fisheries worth US\$444.349 million to external markets in the past eight months of the current financial year 2023-2024, beginning 1 April, the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce indicated.

The fishery export value plunged from \$487.323 million recorded in the year-ago period, indicating a decrease of \$42.974 million.

Myanmar exports fisheries products to external markets through maritime and border channels.

At present, fishery export has yet to grow. The fishery export is regularly running; however, the volume of fishery

exports is still lower than those recorded in the pre-pandemic periods.

Myanmar exports fisheries to European countries, China, Thailand and Japan. Fisheries such as fish, shrimp and crabs are sent to neighbouring countries via Muse, Myawady, Kawthoung, Sittway, Myeik and Maungtau borders.

More than 20 fish species, including hilsa, rohu, catfish, and seabass, are delivered to foreign markets, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

Myanmar ships fishery products to over 40 countries, mainly Thailand and China. — NN/EM



Myanmar's fishery exports dramatically declined this year, owing to the COVID-19 impacts and the transport challenge.

Trade value at Myawady border totals US\$977.247 mln as of 1 December



A truck loaded with export items is being checked at the Myawady border.

MYANMAR conducted trade worth US\$977.247 million with Thailand through the Myawady border between 1 April and 1 December 2023, with imports (\$710.155 million) surpassing exports (\$267 million), according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The figures dropped from \$1.49 billion recorded in the year's corresponding period.

Myawady border witnessed trade worth \$4.461 million, comprising exports worth \$0.383 million and imports worth \$4.078 million in the first four days of December 2023.

Export items are chilli pepper, cabbage, onion, dried ginger, corn starch,

turmeric, tamarind, fishing net, dried Palmyra sprout, fisheries such as crab, shrimp, minced fish, anchovy, hilsa and other fish, minerals, and garment products based on the CMP basis. Raw materials used in the food industry are in high demand in Thailand's market.

Meanwhile, feedstuffs, bicycles, clothes, stationery, automobile parts, construction materials, machinery, bicycle parts, electronic devices, food products, cosmetics, CMP raw materials, pharmaceuticals, footwear, various fruits, household goods, consumer goods, industrial goods, machines and equipment and fishing equipment. — TWA/KK

Strong demand by millers, low stock drive chickpea prices up

CHICKPEA prices have risen from the first week of December on account of the strong demand by millers and growers who store the seed for the coming cultivation season amid low stocks in the domestic market, according to the Mandalay Commodity Wholesale Centre. The chickpea prices fluctuated up and down depending on the demand of the domestic bean crushers in addition to high local consumption.

The prices touched a high of K260,000-K275,000 per 56.25/57.25 viss on 9 December, which were higher than those recorded last week of November.

Chickpea is usually cultivated between October and November as a winter crop and harvested during January and April. It is commonly grown in Bago, Ayeyawady, Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay regions.

The country primarily cultivates paddy, corn, cotton, sugarcane, pulses, and beans. Its second largest production is pulses and beans, accounting for 33 per cent of agro produce and 20 per cent of growing acres. Among them, black beans, pigeon peas and green grams constitute 72 per cent of bean acreage. Other beans, including peanuts, chickpeas, soybeans, black-eyed beans, butter beans and rice beans, are also grown in the country. Agriculture is the backbone of Myanmar's economy. Among agricultural produce, various beans and pulses are one of the main items.

More than 18,000 kilos worth US\$13.139 million were exported to foreign countries in the previous financial year 2022-2023 (April-March), according to the Ministry of Commerce's statistics. — NN/EM



Chickpeas seen for sale in the market.

OPINION

Understand the innate duty of individuals to Save the World

CARBON dioxide stands as a primary culprit in triggering the greenhouse effect, ensnaring the world's atmosphere. This entrapment leads to the suffocation of people amidst unfavourable weather conditions characterized by extreme heat and atmospheric toxicity, leaving the world vulnerable to natural disasters.

The repercussions of extreme heat are far-reaching, inducing desertification, water scarcity, droughts, torrential rains due to climate change, crop loss, loss of human and animal lives, malnutrition in children, pandemics, and the spread of infectious diseases. The urgency of addressing these issues cannot be overstated.

While solutions exist for every problem, human beings often overlook the true extent of the problems and feign ignorance about potential resolutions. In the case of global warming and climate

change, the optimal solution is clear to the global population, yet many choose to ignore it.

Reducing carbon dioxide-emitting sources is the key to mitigating the greenhouse effect to some extent. Although the complete elimination of these sources, such as fossil fuels and chlorofluorocarbons, is challenging, it remains the most effective way to ensure a healthy world. A world free from the shackles of greenhouse gases is a sanctuary for all living beings.

The health of the world mirrors the health of its inhabitants. A healthy environment ensures the happiness and well-being of future generations. Neglecting this truth invites the inevitable consequences of nature's wrath. Each individual holds the power to make choices that impact their living standards, and the responsibility lies in considering the broader implications for society.

Scientists said that this year's carbon emission was 398 tonnes rather than that of last year. So, the whole country's carbon dioxide emission in 2023 exceeded 1.1 per cent compared to 2022. Hence, everybody needs to take care to reduce carbon dioxide as much as possible so as to save the world.

Therefore, avoiding processes that lead the world towards suffocation becomes imperative. Every individual bears an innate duty to reduce their contribution to carbon dioxide emissions, fostering a healthy world akin to their own well-being. This duty extends beyond personal health to encompass the well-being of the entire planet.

Loud proclamations about reducing greenhouse gas emissions are not enough; individuals must actively contribute to nurturing the world. Recognizing the interconnectedness of personal choices with global consequences is crucial. Ultimately, by embracing the responsibility of reducing carbon emissions, individuals can fulfil their inborn duty towards creating a healthier world for current and future generations.

Record passengers as airline industry recovers from pandemic

The aviation sector is poised to put the Covid-19 pandemic behind it, according to the IATA's assessment.

AIRLINES should carry a record number of passengers next year as the sector puts the Covid-19 pandemic behind it, the industry's top trade association said Wednesday, although profitability remains a concern.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), in its traditional review of industry trends as the year draws to a close, said more normal growth patterns were expected from here on out as the sector has recovered to pre-pandemic levels.

"People love to travel and that has helped airlines to come roaring

back to pre-pandemic levels of connectivity," IATA's director general Willie Walsh said as the body forecast a record 4.7 billion people will take to the skies in 2024.

IATA noted this is a "historic high that exceeds the pre-pandemic level of 4.5 billion recorded in 2019".

For this year, it expects 4.29 billion passengers, a small drop from its June forecast of 4.35 billion.

Walsh said "the speed of the recovery has been extraordinary" but also noted it "appears that the pandemic has cost aviation about four years of growth".

Aviation suffered immensely

from the travel restrictions that countries imposed in a bid to slow the spread of Covid-19, with a number of airlines going out of business and others bailed out as the industry racked up \$183 billion in losses during the 2020-2022 period.

IATA raised its profit outlook, expecting airlines to post \$23.3 billion in net earnings in 2023, more than double the \$9.8 billion it forecast in June.

IATA forecasts \$25.7 billion in net profits in 2024 on a 7.6-per-cent rise in revenues to \$964 billion.

Walsh called the figures a "tribute to aviation's resilience" but said

the industry's profits need to be put into perspective.

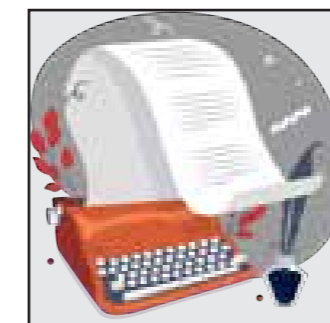
A "net profit margin of 2.7 per cent is far below what investors in almost any other industry would accept," he said.

Price of 'grande latte'

Airlines will on average retain just \$5.45 for every passenger carried, according to IATA's calculations.

"That's about enough to buy a basic 'grande latte' at a London Starbucks," said Walsh, who formerly ran IAG, the parent company of British Airways.

SOURCE: AFP



Go away from the Earth

By Mya Thae (Research)

You are an evil sin
You bring many harmful things
Horrible things you made
So people are afraid and hate.
You take the lives of human beings
You are the disease of kings.
Cancer is your name
No one wants you the same.
Everyone does not want you so much
So, go away from the Earth.

ARTICLE BOOKRACK

Life and Beauty

By Maung Swan Yi
Translated by Myint Zan

in this world
many things that can be seen
are suffused with beauty

although beautiful things
are being displayed
only if one is privileged to
discern them
the power of (in)sight
on beauty materializes

even after
discerning beauty
one has to feel it
internalize it:
in order for the joyous benefit
to be attached to one's heart
'tis extremely difficult to
to be [born] in this human
abode:

during this brief sojourn on earth
if beauty is not seen
if there's no love of beauty-
no attempt to seek beauty
nor even the need to search for it:
if this be me:
my life
during that moment
will be defeated
wouldn't it?



Book Title	-	Koh Bawa Ko Thar Kel Tin Yar
Translator	-	Khin Saw Tint
Publishing House	-	Gangaw Wut Yi
Publication Date	-	November 2022 (2 nd Edition)
Price	-	K6,000

Koh Bawa Ko Thar Kel Tin Yar (How To Save Your Own Life by Michael Gates Gill)

THE original writer of this book under review is Michael Gates Gill, who has written *How to Save My Life*, one among the New York Times bestsellers. And the book titled 'How to Save Your Own Life' is different from other books in the line of get-rich-quick tactics. This book does not mention any strategies or tactics or tips to achieve success. Michael Gates has revealed in a very frank and candid way how important it is for a person to lead a peaceful life. In his opinion, peace matters most. As he has undergone a bitter, harsh life, he has come to realize that leading a peaceful

life should be given priority over the pursuit of wealth, prosperity, power and fame and all others. Naturally, books on achievement of success are all aimed at providing of get-rich-quick tips regardless of whether they are written by the writers from the northern hemisphere or from the southern hemisphere, from the east or from the west. The book under review is aimed at enabling the people to live a peaceful and pacific life. The writer has highlighted the true sense of success.

The book starts with the following clause, "When I was dismissed from my job and when I

found I got the brain tumor, I was shocked by the thought that my life ended." The readers will also think what will happen to them if they should suffer the same fate as the character in the book. After the readers have pondered over the said clause, they will find the answer to the question by the writer — i.e. "Yes, I was right. My life ended but only to start a new life. I have become a new leaf." When you read his answer, you will want to know how he has started a new life. His resilience is wonderful!

The book has 15 lessons. The titles of the lessons are sort

of — Listen to those survivors with bereftments; Listen to your heart to have genuine peace; Leap with trust; Help Yourself; Look at the people with respect; Learn from your own children; Learn from your father; Lose your watch; Let's drop things off; According to the God's will; Laugh with the wit of new insight; Live everyday as your last day with a mind of thanks giving; The late bloomers; The last moment of the life is the best; To take the least is to get the most; Throw away your belongings and find freedom; Cherish the journey of life; and Let your light shine.

Born to the rich family, he has undergone a prosperous life. But he was sack by his company at 50. Depressed, he could not keep a happy marriage life with the result that they were separated. He had gone down so deep as to work at a Starbuck Coffee Shop as a waiter. Obviously, he has had to deal with people of different strata, and thanks to this bitter experience, he has learnt what life means and how people should lead a life.

The translator of this book under review said that she hoped that the readers can learn some valuable lessons from her translated work.



Book Title	-	Koh Bawa Ga Koe Let Htaihmar
Writer	-	Lun Htar Htar (Sayat Katho)
Publishing House	-	Aung Myin
Publication Date	-	December 2023 (1 st Edition)
Price	-	K6,000

Koh Bawa Ga Koe Let Htaihmar

SAYAMA Lun Htar Htar wrote the book. The book under review is her latest product, which guides how to lead one's life. As known to all, the way of leading a life is of utmost importance. Naturally, people are living diversified lifestyles with varied goals in life. Sayama Lun Htar Htar has provided real, meaningful ways of living a life.

While visiting a Buddhist monk to offer alms and offertories, the lay disciple asked the monk, "Your Reverend Sayadaw, how should we live every day? What kind of mentality or mental attitude ought we preserve daily?" Sayadaw gave a curt reply, "Live with patience. Be delighted!" What he said is

we should be delighted with our ability to exercise patience. This is the conversation between a Buddhist monk and the father of the writer. Her father shared these words of advice with her. In the beginning, I understand that patience is being tolerant of other people. Now only do I understand the underlying meaning of patience. Matter-of-factly, patience suggests not responding to external stimulants, being mindful of oneself only," explained Lun Htar Htar.

The writer has provided a simple example of exercising patience with a person behind the wheel or a passenger in a car caught up in a very long line. We

are all aware that either the vehicle's driver or a passenger in that car caught in a long queue can do nothing, merely having to wait for their turn to move forward. As long as the driver or the passenger[s] in the car are worried, disappointed and angry, it will be themselves who suffer. Why should they be furious, dissatisfied, or concerned over things out of their control? These things are the external factors that are causing them stress. Suppose they are to be free from such unwanted stress. In that case, they need to be patient, merely forgetting the inconveniences of getting caught up in the traffic by shifting their mind to other things

like listening to music, singing, playing video games, etc. And if they are pious enough, they can recite Paritta, say the prayers, count the rosary beads or breathe in and out. If we are patient with those things which are beyond our control, we will be free from being inflicted with stress. We can overcome worries, anxieties and dissatisfaction.

Another problem that we are all being faced with is the pride and prejudice. As a matter of fact, those who harbour pride and prejudice are the most pitiable beings on this earth because there is no human being who wishes to be near such people. It is a pity they do not know they are isolating themselves. Such foolish people are surrounded by those who will give trouble to them.

Last but not least, the writer said that if the readers want to lead a meaningful life, they must strike a proper balance between their desires and investments. She reminds the readers that they should not be too ambitious, greedy and self-centred. Additionally, she reminds the readers not to trust their own lives to other people's hands. Her last word is for us all to live in the present as, as in the song "Que sera sera." I strongly recommend this book to readers.

Entertainment



Myanmar theatrical delegation attends 10th China-ASEAN Theatre Week

MYANMAR theatrical delegation attended the 10th China-ASEAN Theatre Week in Nanning, China, according to the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central).
The event is being held

from 5 to 10 December, and 25 Myanmar Theatrical Association delegates joined it.
The Myanmar delegation will perform Jataka stories, rural dance, Myanmar orchestra, and puppet performances. Moreover,

the officials read papers on regional theatrical affairs and cultural preservation and held discussions with theatrical organizations of partner countries and other theatrical-related matters. – ASH/KTZH



Swe Zin Htike
ACADEMY Swe Zin Htike received her PhD degree from the National University of Arts and Culture on 6 December. She reached her 70th birthday on 13 June and is still serving the film-related duties.



Comedian U Nay Kyaw
FAMOUS comedian U Nay Kyaw is suffering from diabetes and kidney disease. He cannot afford to treat his disease. His family relies on the income from his wife, who sells salad. "I am facing hardship even for food, and the neighbours do not want to lend money during this period. It is just a fact of life for me."

Celebrity Brief



Nyein Min
SCRIPTWRITER and director Academy Nyein Min talked about the death of his wife. The 71-year-old deceased artiste, Nan Khin Aye, underwent a kidney transplant operation ten years ago. She died from sudden cardiac arrest while preparing for



Kyi Soe Tun
MEMBERS and staff of Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization on 8 December celebrated his 78th birthday party for Director Kyi Soe Tun on 9 December. Currently, he is the chairman of the organization. He also received his PhD degree from the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon) on 6 December.



Pan Yaung Chel
PAN Yaung Chel took the singer character "Vee" for the "Fallen Star in Heart" film broadcast on the CANAL+ channel on 11 December. It is the 5th film of hers. She starred in Butterfly (1), (2), Grieving Rain and Cloud, created by the Fog series. She will also star in a movie this coming year.

Ni Ni Lin Eain
MISS Grand International 2023 First Runner-Up Ni Ni Lin Eain arrived back in Myanmar on 7 December and was welcomed back by other beauty queens and fans at Yangon International Airport. Some Top 10 candidates also came along with her to Myanmar. Ni said, "I will stay here for three days, and I need to return to Thailand. I am thrilled as my fans welcome me at the airport." – Htun Htun/KTZH



WORLD

Vladimir Putin announces 2024 presidential run



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (C), accompanied by Russia's top lender Sberbank CEO German Gref (L), touring an exhibition on the sidelines of an AI (artificial intelligence) conference in Moscow on 24 November 2023. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

Putin declared his intention to seek another term during an awards ceremony honouring soldiers involved in the special military operation in Ukraine.

RUSSIANS will go to the polls for presidential elections in March 2024, with the incumbent presently enjoying overwhelming public support, according to polling by a number of Russian public opinion institutes.

Vladimir Putin has announced plans to run for another term as president, making the announcement during an awards ceremony for soldiers participating in the special military operation in Ukraine.

Per a Sputnik correspondent on hand at the event, Putin announced his plans to run to

Artyom Zhoga, chairman of the Donetsk People's Republic's People's Council parliament, and commander of the 80th Separate Reconnaissance Guards Battalion Sparta. "I won't hide the fact that I've had different thoughts at different times. But right now, you are right. These are times when decisions must be made. I will run for the office of president," Putin said.

Russia's presidential elections will be held next March, and will include three days of voting, on 15, 16 and 17 March. — SPUTNIK

Israel strikes Gaza after failed UN ceasefire bid

ISRAEL pressed its offensive against Hamas militants in Gaza on Saturday after the United States blocked an extraordinary UN bid to call for a ceasefire in the two-month war.

Hamas and the Palestinian Authority swiftly condemned the US veto as the Hamas-run health ministry put the latest death toll in Gaza at 17,487 people, mostly women and children.

An Israeli strike on the southern city of Khan Yunis killed six people, while five others died in a separate attack in Rafah, the ministry said Saturday.

Israel has vowed to eradicate Hamas over its unprecedented

attack on 7 October when militants broke through Gaza's militarised border to kill around 1,200 people and seize hostages, 138 of whom remain captive, according to Israeli figures.

Vast areas of Gaza have been reduced to rubble and the UN says about 80 per cent of the population has been displaced, with dire shortages of food, fuel, water and medicine reported.

"It's so cold, and the tent is so small. All I have are the clothes I wear, I still don't know what the next step will be," said Mahmud Abu Rayan, displaced from Beit Lahia in the north. — AFP



An aerial picture shows displaced Palestinians who fled Khan Yunis setting up camp in Rafah further south near the Gaza Strip's border with Egypt, on 7 December 2023. **PHOTO: MAHMUD HAMS / AFP**

Japan PM vows more efforts to achieve world free of nuclear weapons

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida pledged Saturday to make more efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons, saying in Nagasaki, devastated by a US atomic bomb in 1945, that it is a "common ideal of humanity".

In his speech during a session of the International Group of Eminent Persons for a World without Nuclear Weapons, Kishida said, "The divisions in the international community over denuclearization are deepening." The framework was set up under the initiative of Kishida, a lawmaker from a constituency in Hiroshima, the first city



The Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE / KYODO**

attacked by a US atomic bomb, who has pressed his vision of a nuclear-free world since taking office in October 2021. — Kyodo

Tanker with Venezuelan oil runs aground in Indonesian waters

A tanker carrying oil from sanctioned Venezuela has run aground near the Singapore strait, according to a ship tracking firm and Indonesian officials.

The Cameroon-flagged MT Liberty ship, carrying a cargo

of 139,000 tonnes of oil, has been grounded since at least 2 December in Indonesian waters off the Riau Islands, regional naval base commander Anro Casanova said Saturday.

The grounding follows several similar incidents this

year in the region involving so-called "dark fleet" ships, or vessels operating outside the official maritime sector, which the International Maritime Organization called a "grave concern" for global shipping this week. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Spain finance chief Calvino to head EU's lending arm

The EIB, established in 1958, has had seven presidents, all men, and is currently seeking a woman to become its first president.



Spain's Economy Minister Nadia Calvino is fluent in English, French and German. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SPAIN'S Economy Minister Nadia Calvino, the newly-named European Investment Bank (EIB) chief, is a politician who is well-versed in EU lore and a pragmatist with experience of navigating power struggles.

Since its creation in 1958, the EIB has had seven pres-

idents, "all of them men, and never a Spaniard", the 55-year-old economist said while putting her name forward to become the first woman to run what is effectively the EU's financial arm.

And she's done it: Calvino was appointed to the EIB's top

job at a meeting of European finance ministers, beating out Denmark's Margrethe Vestager. She will replace Germany's Werner Hoyer whose second six-year term as EIB president finishes at the year's end.

The decision consolidates the international stature of a woman who, since entering politics five years ago, has established herself as a political heavyweight in Spain's left-wing government, with her liberal outlook ensuring budgetary orthodoxy among radical left-wing peers.

Polyglot

Calvino was born in 1968 in A Coruna, a port city in Spain's northwestern Galicia region, to a father who was a lawyer and headed Spain's public television in the early 1980s.

— AFP

Livestock produces 12% of human greenhouse gases: FAO

LIVESTOCK is responsible for 12 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions caused by humans and its impact will only increase as meat consumption rises, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization said Friday.

To reduce emissions, the Rome-based agency in a report called for improving the productivity of the entire production chain, adjusting animal feed and improving animal health.

It also suggested efforts to reduce meat consumption in

wealthy countries, but said it would have limited effects.

Cattle are responsible for 62 per cent of livestock-related emissions, followed by swine at 14 per cent, poultry's nine per cent, buffalo at eight per cent and sheep and goats at seven per cent. Examining the final products, meat production is responsible for 67 per cent, ahead of milk at 30 per cent and eggs at three per cent.

Direct livestock emissions, from animal flatulence and

waste, represent 60 per cent of the total, with the rest coming from indirect emissions such as production of pesticides and fertilizer for animal feed, transportation, and the clearing of forests to make pasture and soy farms.

Meat consumption tends to rise with economic growth and urbanisation, even if in some cases it is held back by concerns about climate, health and animal welfare, the FAO said. — AFP



Cattle are responsible for 62 per cent of livestock-related emissions, followed by swine at 14 per cent, poultry's nine per cent, buffalo at eight per cent and sheep and goats at seven per cent. **PHOTO: FAO**

Economic impact of Israeli-Palestinian conflict "relatively contained but highly uncertain:" IMF

The IMF predicts the Israeli-Palestinian conflict's economic impact is "relatively contained" but "highly uncertain", with the core economies of Israel and West Bank-Gaza likely to be most affected.

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Thursday that the economic impact of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been "relatively contained" so far, but is "highly uncertain".

The economies of Israel and West Bank-Gaza, which are at the core of the conflict, will be hardest hit, IMF spokesperson Julie Kozack said at a press briefing.

She added that the IMF expects the conflict to "severely depress economic activity" in both the West Bank and Gaza, "where even before the conflict, GDP growth was set to decline over the medium term".

"But the ultimate impact will depend on the duration and intensity of the conflict," she said.

As for other places in the region, "the conflict may affect the immediate region through a number of channels", Kozack said.

"The channels include tourism, you could see a reduction in tourism in these neighbouring countries. We have the potential for higher oil and gas prices, disruptions to financial markets and disruptions to regional trade routes, and the potential for higher trade costs," she said. — Xinhua



Conflict may impact the region through tourism reduction, higher oil and gas prices, financial market disruptions, regional trade route disruptions, and higher trade costs, according to Kozack.

PHOTO: FREDERIC J. BROWN/AFP

Saudi says it expects budget deficits in 2023, 2024

SAUDI ARABIA announced Wednesday it was projecting a budget deficit of two per cent of GDP in 2023 and 1.9 per cent of GDP next year, reflecting rising spending and lower oil revenue.

The announcement comes one year after the Gulf kingdom, the world's biggest crude exporter and the Middle East's largest economy, recorded its first budget surplus in nearly a decade in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine which led to a boom in oil prices.

Saudi Arabia is in the middle of a sweeping economic and social reform agenda known as Vision 2030, intended to transform the formerly closed-off kingdom into a business, tourism and sports hub.

The deficit for 2023 is expected to amount to 82 billion Saudi riyals (roughly \$21.8 billion), while in 2024 it is expected to total 79 billion Saudi riyals (roughly \$21 billion), according to figures released by the finance ministry. — AFP

Can factory chicken really help save the climate?

Brittany farmer Stephane Dahirel produces high-quality, low-carbon footprint chicken for McDonald's. His 90,000 broilers triple in size in under a month, emphasizing efficiency in meat production.

STEPHANE Dahirel doesn't exactly say eat chicken and save the planet, but that is what he's hinting at as he opens a shed door at his intensive farm in Brittany, western France.

The 90,000 "broilers" — chickens bred for their meat — flapping around inside his three sheds, will more than triple in size in less than a month and their meat will have a low carbon footprint.

"The objective is to produce the best meat possible, in the least amount of time, with the least amount of food," Dahirel said.

The two million snow-white chickens he produces every year — bred mostly for McDonald's nuggets — will reach their slaughter weight in less



A worker walks next to chicks in a "Ross 308" chicken farm for the McDonald's fast-food restaurant chain in Forges-de-Lanouee, western France, on 16 October 2023.

PHOTO: AFP

than half the time it takes on a traditional farm.

At 20 days they already weigh one kilo gramme (two pounds) — 20 times heavier than at birth. By the time they are slaughtered at 45 days, they will weigh over three kilos.

Chicken has the smallest carbon footprint of any meat, according to the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization

(FAO).

Their latest figures reveal that chicken generates on average less than one kilo of CO2 equivalent per kilo of meat — pork is responsible for three times that amount, while beef produces 52 times the emissions thanks to cows' potent methane burps.

Dahirel insisted that intensive farming is "the most efficient and ration-

al system" for producing meat "from an economical and ecological perspective".

Animal welfare

But there are big drawbacks too. Despite the low emissions he claims for his chickens, producing the grain to feed them requires large amounts of land, synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. — AFP

US unemployment ticks down as hiring accelerates

THE United States saw its jobless rate edge down in November while hiring rose more than expected, government data showed Friday, as policymakers mull the need for further efforts to cool the economy. The world's biggest economy added 199,000 jobs, said the Department of Labour, as the jobless rate ticked down to 3.7 per cent.

Meanwhile, wage growth heated up to 0.4 per cent from the prior month but held steady from year-ago levels.



In November, the US jobless rate slightly decreased, and hiring surpassed expectations, prompting discussions among policymakers about the necessity of additional measures to stabilize the economy. PHOTO: OLIVIER DOULIERY/AFP

Although employment appears to be heating up, analysts noted ahead of the report that

the underlying state of the labour market has been weakening.

The latest figures are closely watched by markets and the Federal Reserve as policymakers ponder how to handle interest rates in order to fight stubborn inflation.

The central bank is due to announce its next rate decision at the end of a policy meeting next week. A tight labour market could be cause for concern to officials keen to see price increases slow. — AFP

Honda recalls over 1.13 million cars due to Denso fuel pump glitch

HONDA Motor Co filed a recall with the Japanese transport ministry for over 1.13 million cars Friday, citing a fault in a fuel pump manufactured by Denso Corp that can cause unexpected engine failure.

The announcement is the latest recall resulting from the malfunctioning car part produced at Denso, with the affected number of vehicles reaching over 3.82 million units across eight automakers since March 2020.

Honda is recalling 25 models, including N-Box minivehicles, Fit subcompact cars and Step WGN minivans. The cars affected were made between

June 2017 and September 2020, it said.

There is a potential for a bladed wheel inside the pump to become strained and unable to send fuel, which could then cause the engine to fail, the transport ministry said.

The US unit of the Japanese automaker also said it is recalling 204 NSX sports cars for the same reason.

In recent years, automakers have been standardizing car parts beyond the bounds of models and makers, making a glitch in certain parts likely to result in a massive-scale recall, according to a ministry official. — Kyodo



Honda Motor Co's N-Box minivehicle. PHOTO: MINISTRY OF LAND, INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT AND TOURISM / KYODO

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV52E1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV52E1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-12-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

WORLD

Chinese EV carmakers reshaping Thailand's auto industry

Chinese electric vehicles (EVs) dominate sales at the 40th Thailand International Motor Expo, surpassing orders for fuel-powered cars in the top 10 list for the first time.

CHINESE electric vehicles (EVs) have been emerging as the sales volume front-runners among over 30 car brands exhibited at the 40th Thailand International Motor Expo which is wrapping up its 12-day run.

Led by Chinese brands, EV orders in the top 10 list have outpaced those of fuel-powered cars for the first time.

"It's an unprecedented scene at the annual expo. Six from the top 10 list are Chinese electric brands, eclipsing the long-standing fuel-based brands. It's an unexpected turn for Thailand's automotive sector which has been dominated by Japanese fuel-powered cars," "Kun Racing", a noted Thai automotive YouTuber, commented in his review of the motor expo.

He highlighted the rising impact of Chinese EVs that is reshaping Thailand's automotive industry and expanding



Visitors view a BYD Dolphin electric car during the Thailand International Motor Expo 2021 in Bangkok, Thailand, on 1 December, 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

the new energy vehicle market.

According to expo data, BYD secured the second spot with 2,627 orders from 29 November to 5 December, trailing closely behind Toyota's 3,031 orders. Established Chinese brands like SAIC's MG

and Great Wall Motors have maintained their sales edge. Newcomers including Neta, Changan and GAC Aion also achieved significant sales, forming a dominant presence alongside six major Chinese brands in the top 10. — Xinhua

Role of cross-cultural understanding stressed at intl education meeting in NYC



Columbia International University marked its 100th anniversary with a flag parade, where students, alumni, and faculty carried flags representing the 160 nations where CIU alumni are engaged in work and ministry. **PHOTO: COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY/FILE**

SPEAKERS at an international education symposium in New York City highlighted the importance of cross-cultural understanding on Friday.

Scholars and attendees, mainly from the United States, China and Canada, joined the

symposium to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the International Institute of Teachers College at Columbia University.

Much like the time when the International Institute of Teachers College was founded, "we now face a time of great

uncertainty, (and) a time when international exchange, understanding and collaboration are critical to our future," said Kerry Ann O'Meara, vice-president for academic affairs, provost and dean of the Teachers College. — Xinhua

Brazil's idyllic Copacabana rocked by crime, vigilantes

FAMED for its turquoise waters, lush beaches and breathtaking views, iconic Brazilian tourism destination Copacabana is reeling from violent crime, leading residents to launch vigilante groups — worrying authorities and rights activists.

The upscale Rio de Janeiro neighbourhood has been making headlines for the wrong reasons in recent weeks: a tourist in town for a Taylor Swift concert stabbed to death on the beach; a man punched unconscious in a brutal mugging; a young woman raped by a homeless man.

The social media-fuelled reaction has generated yet more headlines, as locals have organized vigilante groups and taken to the streets with bats, brass knuckles and other weapons to stalk alleged criminals.

Viral videos show large groups of young men dressed

in black, their faces covered, patrolling the neighbourhood and violently beating those they accuse of committing crimes.

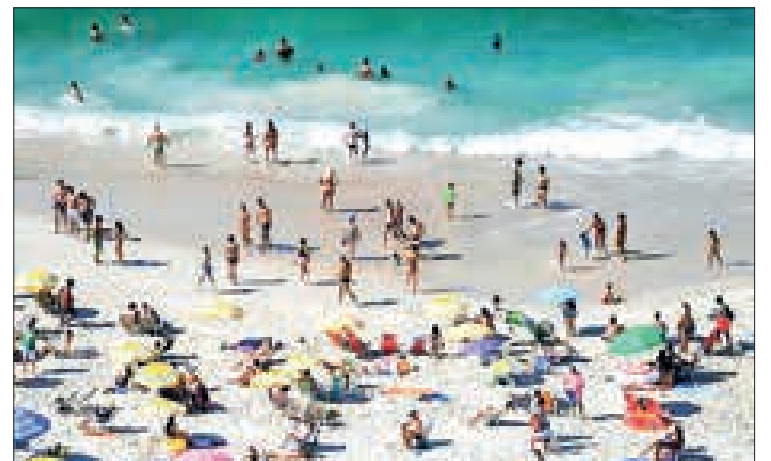
In deeply unequal Brazil, the vigilantes face accusations of racism in pursuing their "suspects".

"It's clear who's a 'criminal' to these vigilantes: poor black men," musician and black-rights activist Tas MC wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

Fault lines

The situation has exposed the fault lines of a Brazil still divided by last year's elections between far-right ex-president Jair Bolsonaro and Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, the leftist who narrowly defeated him — and who faces accusations from conservatives of being soft on crime.

Rio is no stranger to violent crime, or violent reactions to it.—AFP



People enjoy Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 30 June, 2019. **PHOTO: MAURO PIMENTEL/AFP**

Biden faces embarrassment over son Hunter's tax charges

PRESIDENT Joe Biden's silence spoke volumes on Friday after his son Hunter's legal woes deepened with lurid allegations that he avoided paying taxes while spending millions on drugs and escorts.

The 81-year-old president has long defended Hunter, even though the second set of federal charges against his troubled son are a fresh embarrassment ahead of an uphill battle to be reelected in 2024.

As Hunter Biden, 53, said in an interview released Friday that Republicans were trying to "kill me" to destroy the Democrat's presidency, the elder Biden's approach was to stonewall questions instead.

Wearing his trademark aviator sunglasses, the president waved to reporters but ignored questions as he boarded his Marine One helicopter at the White House. —AFP

SPORTS



The Shan United FC gains the MNL champion for four consecutive seasons after defeating Kachin United FC with a 3-2 score at Thuwunna Stadium yesterday. **PHOTO THAW GYI**

Shan United secures MNL scoring title, sets record with four consecutive seasons on top

THE third day of the 2023 MNL title match 16 took place at Thuwunna Stadium on 9 December. Shan United secured victory by

defeating Kachin United with a 3-2 victory, clinching the championship with one game remaining. Shan United, the defending

champion, holds a six-point lead over the second-placed Yangon team with two games remaining. With a victory in this game, they

matching the five championships achieved by the Yangon United team.

The Shan United team made

some changes to the starting line-up. Although the Kachin United team has been relegated, they utilized a diverse roster to achieve a positive outcome.

Following this match, Shan United secured the championship with 59 points from 21 games, while Kachin United accumulated 10 points from the same number of games.

Shan United's undefeated streak since 2020 has now reached 55 games. If they can secure at least a draw in the match against Yangon United on 18 December, they will again achieve an undefeated record for the entire season. Also, Shan United grabbed the points championship in the 2019 and 2022 seasons.

The final match 16 will take place today (10 December) at Thuwunna Stadium, where Maha United will face off against Yangon United. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZW

Gatti strikes again to send Juventus top

Federico Gatti's second consecutive goal secured a 1-0 home win for Juventus against Napoli, propelling them to the top of Serie A. The centre-back's header shortly after the break proved decisive in a closely contested match between the Italian football powerhouses.

DEFENDER Federico Gatti grabbed his second goal in as many matches as Juventus saw out a 1-0 home win against champions Napoli on Friday to go top of Serie A.

The centre-back rose highest shortly after the break to nod in the only goal of a closely contested match between two of Italy's footballing powerhouses.

Victory in Turin sends Juventus to top spot in the table, although Inter Milan will have the chance to restore their two-point lead when they host Udinese on Saturday.

"Winning this evening was

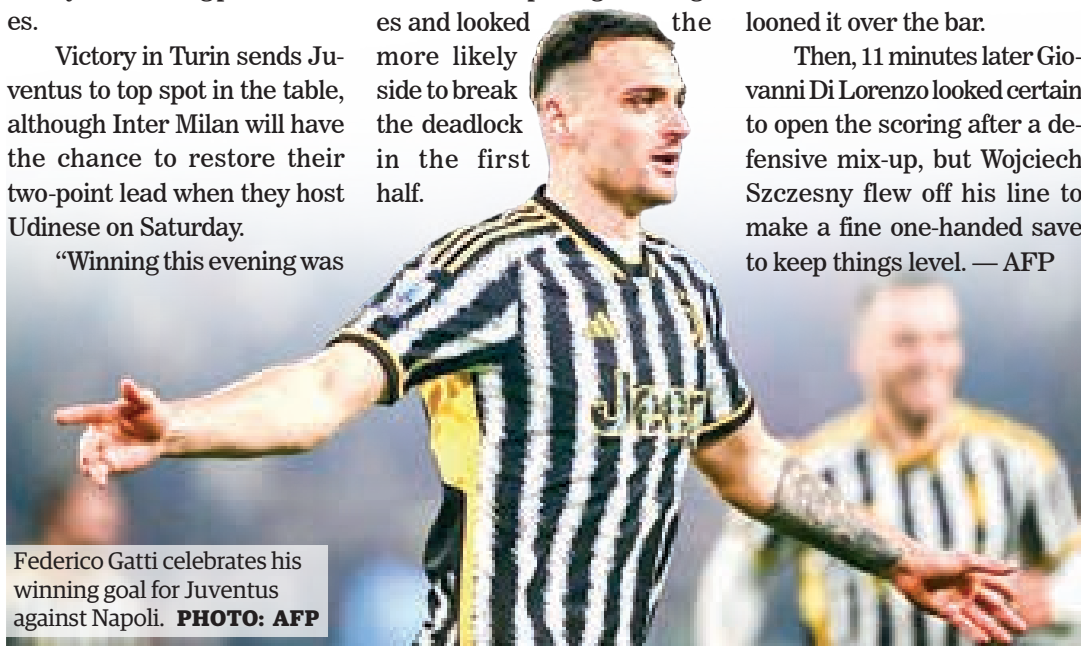
very important, because we put Napoli at -12 and that is a great result," said Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri to DAZN. "As for dreams and the Scudetto, we need to keep improving step by step, especially when we make too many mistakes," he added.

Fifth-placed Napoli had the better of the opening exchanges and looked the more likely side to break the deadlock in the first half.

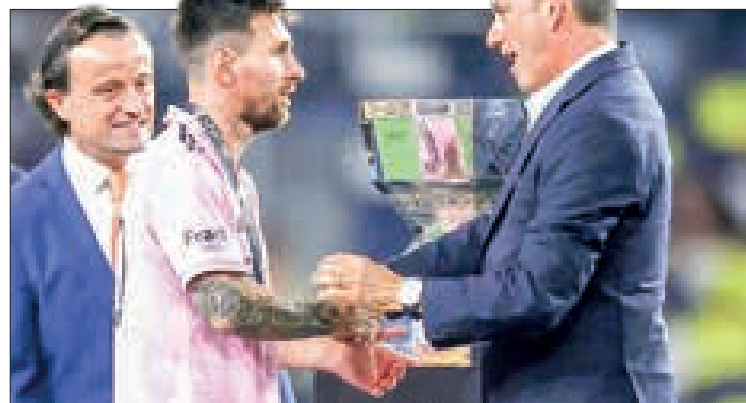
Matteo Politano fizzed one just past the Juve goal on nine minutes and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia had the best early chance just before the half-hour mark.

Excellent hold-up play by Victor Osimhen sucked in the hosts' defence before he squared to his Georgian teammate, who uncharacteristically snatched at the chance and ballooned it over the bar.

Then, 11 minutes later Giovanni Di Lorenzo looked certain to open the scoring after a defensive mix-up, but Wojciech Szczesny flew off his line to make a fine one-handed save to keep things level. — AFP



Federico Gatti celebrates his winning goal for Juventus against Napoli. **PHOTO: AFP**



Lionel Messi shakes hands with MLS Commissioner Don Garber after defeating Nashville to win the Leagues Cup final in August. **PHOTO: AFP**

Messi has brought 'transformational year' for MLS says Garber

MAJOR League Soccer commissioner Don Garber says his league has enjoyed a "transformational year" crediting the arrival of Lionel Messi and the broadcast deal with Apple TV for unprecedented interest.

But while he said North America would become the "epicentre" of the game with the World Cup, Copa America and FIFA Club World Cup all coming to the region, Garber acknowledged squeezing in all the club and country competitions was a headache. In his annual "state of the league" address ahead of Sat-

urday's MLS Cup final between Columbus Crew and Los Angeles FC, Garber said MLS was trending upwards in all key areas.

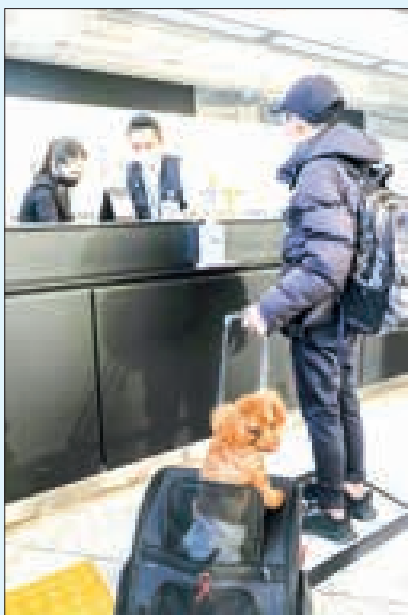
"Lionel Messi had many options for the next chapter of his iconic soccer career. The magnitude of his decision to join MLS cannot be over-stated," Garber said. "A World Cup champion, an eight-time Ballon d'Or winner is playing in our league. We're not just part of the global conversation of sports but one of the biggest stories in the world, certainly one of the biggest stories this summer," added Garber. — AFP

Japanese airline to allow pets on all domestic flights from January

A Japanese airline will allow passengers to bring their small dogs and cats on board all of its domestic flights beginning January in a bid to attract more customers, its website showed Saturday.

After Star Flyer Inc became the first domestic airline to provide the service in March 2022 on flights between Kitakyushu Airport in Fukuoka Prefecture and Tokyo's Haneda airport, the company has decided to expand it from 15 January due to its popularity. Passengers are permitted one pet per person, with each flight allowing up to two animals. Tickets for pets cost 50,000 yen (\$350) per animal, and owners will be assigned seating next to their pet's crate in the last row of the aircraft.

Those travelling with their pets are asked not to feed them during the flight, although water is permitted. From 2024, pets will be allowed on flights between Haneda and Kansai airport in Osaka Prefecture, Yamaguchi Ube Airport in Yamaguchi Prefecture and Fukuoka Airport, as well as between Chubu airport in Aichi Prefecture and Fukuoka.—Kyodo



File photo shows a passenger checking in with a dog during a trial run at Kitakyushu Airport in Fukuoka Prefecture on 5 December 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO**



The "Mein Schiff 5", a luxury cruise ship, docks at Colombo Port, Sri Lanka, 29 November 2022. **PHOTO: AJITH PERERA/XINHUA**

Sri Lankan tourism revenue reaches US\$1.8 bln in first 11 months

In November 2023 alone, tourism revenue surged to 205.3 million dollars, more than double the earnings from November 2022, according to the latest data.

Income generated by tourism in Sri Lanka from January to the end of November reached US\$1.8 billion, which is a 78.3 per cent hike from the same period in 2022, the latest data by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL)

revealed.

The revenue earned from tourism increased to \$205.3 million in November 2023, which is over twice the revenue in November 2022, according to the latest data.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Sabry told parliament on Thursday that the tourist arrivals will spike in 2024 with more airlines coming into the country.

Sri Lanka welcomed 151,496 international tourists in November, the highest monthly number of visitors it received in 2023, official data showed.

Sri Lanka's cumulative tourist arrivals for the first 11 months of the year stand at 1.27 million, according to the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority. — AFP

How unhealthy are ultra-processed foods?

Ultra-processed foods, often associated with health risks including obesity and heart disease, are under scrutiny. Researchers advocate for measures like taxation and bans on these widely consumed products.

ULTRA-PROCESSED foods are commonly portrayed as a modern health scourge: a threat lurking on the shelves of every supermarket linked to obesity, heart disease, cancer and early death.

Researchers warning of their dangers have called for taxation and even bans of products which make up a huge proportion of the food eaten worldwide.

However some nutrition experts have started to push back against such all-en-

compassing claims, saying the definition can be vague. They say more research is needed and that some ultra-processed foods, or UPFs, can actually be healthy.

The concept was first introduced in 2009 by Carlos Monteiro, a nutrition and health researcher at Brazil's University of Sao Paulo. His NOVA classification

system for UPFs was unusual in nutrition because it ignored the level of nutrients such as fat, salt, sugar and carbohydrates in food. Instead, it splits food into four groups, ranked by the level of processing involved in their creation. Everything in the fourth group is considered ultra-processed. — AFP



Ultra-processed foods have been linked to a range of illnesses, but some experts think the definition remains vague. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**