

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents aid to temporary internally displaced persons at Thiri Mingala Mansu Shan Monastery in Lashio yesterday.

Temporary resettlement plans in progress for swift return of IDPs to their homes

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pledged to strive for them to soonest reside in their natives in meeting with temporary internally displaced persons.

Chairman of the State Adminis-

tration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla yesterday afternoon, met temporary IDPs at Thiri Mingala Mansu Shan Monastery in Lashio.

The Senior General urged those

IDPs to make collaborative efforts for rehabilitation tasks on their arrival at their regions and pledged to provide necessary aid to them as much as possible.

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Vegetables, Fruits, and Horticulture Exhibition and Competition scheduled at Kandawgyi Natural Park in Yangon

Myeik District ships over 4,400 tonnes of fishery products to Thailand in November 2023

ACCORDING to the Fisheries Department of Taninthayi Region, Myeik District shipped a total of 4,471.35 tonnes of fisheries products to Thailand in November 2023, generating US\$ 4.73 million.

The aquatic products are transported to Thailand from Myeik District through the Mawtaung and Kawthoung-Ranong border trade routes, said U Zaw Min Oo, the Deputy Director of the Fisheries Department of Taninthayi Region.

“Taninthayi Region primarily transports aquatic products from Myeik District. Some products are transported through the Mawtaung border trade post, while others are directly exported from Kawthoung to Ranong. In November, a total of 4,471.35 tonnes of prod-

ucts were exported; among them, 3,330 tonnes were sent from Kawthoung, and 1,141.35 tonnes were exported from the Mawtaung post. Fresh fishes were exported from Mawtaung, while fish meals were exported from Kawthoung,” said U Zaw Min Oo.

Aqua products from Taninthayi Region, especially fish, prawns, farming fishes, and other marine products from Kawthoung, Dawei and Myeik districts are exported via five transport channels. Some products are transported after delivery to Yangon Region via both land and water transport. — ASH/ TMT

The file photo shows that trading activities of the fish auction market in Myeik. **PHOTO: MYINT OO (MYEIK)**



NATIONAL

Temporary resettlement plans in progress for swift ...



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla comfort temporary internally displaced persons at Thiri Mingala Mansu Shan Monastery in Lashio yesterday.

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He also comforted those persons with the plans to forge peace and stability of the region as quickly as possible.

On his arrival at Thiri Mingala Mansu Shan Monastery in Lashio, the Senior General and wife donated a replica Buddha image of Maravijaya Buddha Image and alms to abbot of Mansu Shan Monastery Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Agga Maha Kammathanacariya Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta

Puññananda and presented K500 million, more than 6,000 pieces of clothes, rice and foodstuffs for temporary IDPs in Lashio.

At the headquarters of North-East Command, the Senior General and wife presented K500 million for officers, other ranks and families serving security duties in the command area through the commander.

Due to terror acts of MNDA, TNLA and AA groups and PDF terrorists starting from 27 October,

Shan State (North) lost some villages, towns, roads and bridges. Local residents evaded from their regions and are taking shelter at monasteries, schools, religious buildings, offices and buildings in Lashio. So far, a total of 4,922 persons from 1,428 households are taking shelter there.

The government and the Tatmadaw are providing necessary aid to them for convenience of basic needs of the temporarily IDPs and management measures. Moreover, arrangements

are being made for taking regional security measures for those persons to reside in their regions peacefully.

The temporarily IDPs spoke words of thanks for provisions of aids and expressed their experiences as follows:-

Now, we are taking shelter in evasion of war at Mansu monastery. We faced many difficulties. Our property and houses were damaged by unscrupulous persons, but we are now in good conditions thanks to Mansu Sayadaw. We condemn a handful of unscrupulous persons who destroyed our property. We are pleased for Chairman of the State Administration Council who arrived here. We pray not to face current hardships in more lives.

We do never have such experiences. Thanks to assistance of the administrative bodies and the State, we are taking shelter at Mansu monastery. We also pray not to face current plights in the future and not to emerge similar organizations. We left our houses and property as well as our businesses. Anyhow, we cannot support those saboteurs.

Now, we are homeless, taking shelter at the monastery of Mansu Pagoda. The Prime Minister fulfilled our needs. He pledged he will provide aid to all families for convenience. He also fulfilled requirements of all measures. We heartily thanked all officials for their donations and safeguarding measures.

Now, we are staying here with evasion of war. We thank the Head of State and officials much for their aid to us in Lashio. — MNA/TTA

MoL Union Minister inspects new office space for Labour Attaché in Nonthaburi

A Myanmar delegation led by U Myint Naung, Union Minister for Labour and Myanmar Ambassador U Chit Swe visited new office space, which will be relocated and opened Temporary Data Collection Centre (TDCC) and Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF).

After the inspections, the Union Minister signed the building lease contract and met with MOEAF officials to coordinate.

As a labour attaché office, following the instruction of the Working Abroad Supervision Committee and the Ministry, the labour attaché office of Myanmar provides protection to Myanmar

migrant workers in Thailand so that they are not exploited by employers from the relevant country, facilitating the full enjoyment of the benefits of the labour laws of the relevant countries and assisting with labour difficulties by connecting with the ministries and social organizations in the relevant countries.

Since 2011, under the supervision of the overseas work supervision committee, a labour officer has been appointed, but due to the increase in the number of workers and more effective solutions to labour issues, the Ministry of Labour has sent five labour officers.

According to the MoU U-turn process and other business requirements. In this year October, one director-level officer was sent to Thailand as a labour officer, and one staff officer was also given an extended assignment.

As of October 2022/2023 FY, the number of workers sent to Thailand and the number of CI issued by Myanmar was 1.1 million. The new MoU is 0.44 million and former 16 million MoU people. In addition to a total of 1.7 million, it is estimated that there are some 2.5 million of labours including more than 800,000 to carry out CI. — MNA/KZL



Union Minister for Labour U Myint Naung visits the new office space of Labour Attaché in Nonthaburi in Thailand on 10 December 2023.

NATIONAL

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla console injured Tatmadaw members, police members

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, along with his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, visited Tatmadaw members and police members wounded in the line of duty at the local Military Hospital in Lashio, Shan State (North), yesterday.

The Senior General engaged warmly with each patient, discussing their conditions and treatment plans, and providing essential support to both the patients and their families. Following this, he presented honorary grants and gifts to the injured personnel and their families.

Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the Senior General's wife, continued her tour in the maternity ward, personally greeting and conversing with the families of Tatmadaw members, presenting them with gifts.

Accompanying the Senior General were Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy, and Air) General Maung Maung Aye and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and his wife, and senior military officers from the Commander-in-Chief's office.— MNA/NT



Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla comfort Tatmadaw members and police members wounded in the line of duty at the local Military Hospital in Lashio, Shan State (North), yesterday.

DPM Union Foreign Affairs Minister meets with Deputy Secretary of Yunnan Provincial Party Committee of the Communist Party of China

ON the sidelines of the 8th Lancang-Mekong Foreign Ministers Meetings, U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar met with Mr Shi Yugang, Deputy Secretary of Yunnan Provincial Party Committee of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China on the evening of 9 December, at the Haigeng Garden Hotel in Kunming, China.

At the meeting, both sides cordially exchanged views on consolidation of the existing traditional bounds of Myanmar-China Pauk-Phaw relations, the intensification of border trade, investment and mutually beneficial cooperation



Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe holds talks with Mr Shi Yugang, Deputy Secretary of Yunnan Provincial Party Committee of the Communist Party of China on 9 December 2023 at the Haigeng Garden Hotel in Kunming, China.

between Myanmar and China including Yunnan Province and enhancement of cooperation in

matters related to rule of law, security, peace and stability along the border areas of the

two countries.

In the evening, the Deputy Secretary of Yunnan Provincial

Party Committee of the Communist Party of China hosted a dinner in honour of the Myanmar delegation led by the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar at the Haigeng Garden Hotel.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs and party arrived back in Myanmar yesterday evening, after attending the 8th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting held on 7 December in Beijing, China. The delegation was welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

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NATIONAL

Unrests, armed conflicts do not let people enjoy fruits of human rights

Although everybody follows human rights and fundamental rights of citizens, if the society loses peace and stability and faces unrests and armed conflicts, people from these areas will have weakness of human rights, said Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win delivered an address at the ceremony to mark the 75th Anniversary of Human Rights Day at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Vice-Senior General noted that peace, development and human rights are inter-related. Only when peace and development improve will the people peacefully survive for their lifespans by enjoying socioeconomic development and fundamental human rights. In fact, he added that peace and stability is of great importance across the nation for improving fundamental rights of citizens and improvement of their socio-economy.

Enhancement and protection of human rights contributes to restoration of peace. Reverse, peace is essential for citizens to fully enjoy fruits of human



Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win views round the booth displayed at the ceremony to mark the 75th Anniversary of Human Rights Day at Myanmar International Convention Centre-I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

rights, he noted.

The Vice-Senior General continued that the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission has been formed for 12 years with the aim of protecting fundamental rights of citizens mentioned in the 2008 Constitution and enabling the citizens to enjoy the human rights mentioned in the Universal Declara-

tion of the Human Rights.

In this regard, he highlighted that the commission is joining hands with relevant organizations for following the standards of human rights, emerging the peaceful and prosperous societies and preventing the inequality and discrimination in all sectors.

Myanmar has signed the international human rights treat-

ties, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and follows the provisions of the conventions.

In line with the theme of this year's Human Rights Day: "Dignity, Freedom and Justice for all", the Vice-Senior General underscored that as human rights is an inborn rights for all, only when everybody needs to value rights of others without encroachments and loss can all citizens enjoy essence and definition of the human rights. So, he urged all to exercise mutual respect among the people and follow human rights and liabilities.

Chairman of the commission U Paw Lwin Sein reported on work implementation and Vice Chair Dr Nanda Hmun read the message sent by UN Secretary General to the Human Rights Day.

Those attendees were presented a video clip the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and on the translated books in eight Naga languages and Kachin (Lhaovo) ethnic languages.

The Vice-Senior General viewed round documentary photos and books on human rights published by the commission.

The ceremony was also attended by council members, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council and officials. — MNA/TTA

MoC Union Minister inspects export businesses in Yangon



Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn looks into a fishery product processing factory in Yangon Region on 9 December 2023.

UNION Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn conducted inspections at two export businesses in Yangon Region yesterday.

He first visited Golden Bay Limited, a fishery product processing factory in Gyogon Ward, Insein Township, and then New Golden Gate (1991) Co Ltd, a bean exporting company located in the Shwepyitha Industrial Zone.

While inspecting the manufacturing processes, the Union Minister stressed the significance of prioritizing products for the local market to stabilize prices and boost exports. He highlighted the need for collaborative efforts between the government and business owners to secure foreign markets and ensure ethical trading practices.

Encouraging entrepreneurs, the Union min-

ister advocated for obtaining Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) certification as a crucial step toward accessing international markets.

Later in the day, he gave a speech at the 32nd Annual General Meeting of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) at the National Theatre (Yangon) on Myoma Kyaung Street in Yangon.

In the evening, the Union Minister held meetings with UMFCCI President U Aye Win, Myanmar Rice Federation President U Ye Min Aung, and representatives of the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize, and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association at the Ministry of Commerce office to explore ways to enhance exports. — MNA/NT

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
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NATIONAL

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of U Ye Tun Oo as Director-General of Immigration Department under the Ministry of Immigration and Population on the expiry of one-year probationary period.

Counter-argument to false information

Disseminating misinformation: False claims of Thiri Mingala Market in Loikaw burnt down in an alleged attack by the Tatmadaw with heavy weapons



Screenshot validates misinformation.

IN Kayah State, it has been found that malicious media are spreading misinformation on social networking sites. The misinformation alleges that the Tatmadaw fired heavy weapons at the Thiri Mingala market in Loikaw yesterday morning, resulting in the total destruction of the entire market by fire.

The Tatmadaw has never engaged in firing upon or attacking public places. It consistently strives to protect the lives and property of the people from danger of insurgents.

Terrorists are actively working to disrupt people's lives and socio-economic activities. In a recent incident, those terrorists intentionally set fire to the Thiri Mingala market in Loikaw. They employ terrorists and malicious media to hide their actions and create misconceptions among local residents. False information has been disseminated, suggesting that the fire and damage were caused by heavy weapons of the Tatmadaw, aiming to undermine the collaborative anti-terrorist efforts between the people and the military. — MNA/KZW



Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin meets Chairman of the Korea-Myanmar Friendship Association of the Republic of Korea Dr Sang Kyung Chan (Venerable MOKTAK), yesterday in Yangon.

Myanmar, ROK to cooperate in culture, religious affairs

U Tin Oo Lwin, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, received Dr Sang Kyung Chan (Venerable MOKTAK), Chairman of the Korea-Myanmar Friendship Association of the Republic of Korea yesterday at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture (Yangon branch) on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township of Yangon.

During the meeting, they discussed missionary works being carried out in Myanmar by the association, cultural and religious cooperation between Myanmar and the ROK, opportunities for Myanmar people to pursue education and find employment in the ROK before exchanging commemorative gifts.

In the afternoon, the Union minister visited the Na-

tional University of Arts and Culture (Yangon) in Dagon Myothit (South) Township to meet with officials from the university.

The Union minister said in the meeting that 24 graduation ceremonies have taken place between the time it opened and the current 2022-2023 academic year and a total of 7,869 people have been awarded 2,602 bachelor's degrees in arts, 384 bachelor's degrees in arts with honours, 105 master's degrees, 1,210 graduate diplomas, 632 part-time diplomas in arts, 2,815 computer diploma in art, 65 honorary bachelor's degrees, 19 honorary master's degrees, and 21 honorary doctorates.

He also said by promoting the honour and status of

the university from all sides, the aim, purpose as well as the process of the university will be more successful.

The Union minister also urged the faculty members to keep up the pace of academics, aggressively while highlighting the importance of national culture.

He also called for cooperation to be able to preserve and spread the traditional arts while promoting the national pride by fulfilling national responsibilities.

Then, the rector of the university reported on the university's academic and administrative measures. The Union minister visited the departments of the university and gave necessary instructions. — MNA/TH

Consumer goods and vehicle confiscated

A Customs Department on-duty team confiscated 151 sets of Glacier two-door refrigerators, valued at K22.65 million, at the Myanmar Industrial Port on 8 December. The refrigerators were found to be different from the Import Declaration (ID), leading to the impoundment under Customs procedures.

In a coordinated effort by teams operating under the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force, an unregistered Faw vehicle, approximately worth K2 million, was seized in Toungoo district on 9 December. This action is taken in accordance with the Export and Import Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported two arrests on 8 and 9 December, with a combined estimated value of K24.65 million. — MNA/MKKS



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NATIONAL



The Yebok Dam in Hlaingbwe Township supplies agricultural water to 1,192 acres of monsoon paddy.

Myanmar stores 12.9 mln acre-feet of irrigated water for coming El Niño

ACCORDING to the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department, a total of 12.9 million acre-feet of irrigated water has been stored in dams across the country.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology forecast that El Niño will likely occur in 2024, so the

Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department systematically stored the irrigated water nationwide.

The currently stored water volume is higher than the amount compared to the same period of 2022 and 2021.

The irrigated water will be dis-

tributed to summer paddy cultivation areas using dams, sluice gates, creeks and rivers, water pumping, intake channels and outfall channels.

The arrangements are also carried out to tap underground water for the upcoming summer crop season.

— TWA/KTZH

Palm oil sold to states and regions from first week of December

IT is reported that palm oil is being sold to the states and regions of the country, starting from 4 December.

According to the distribution list, 2,967 barrels of palm oil are being distributed daily in the Yangon Region. This includes 74 barrels was allocated to Mayangon Township, 33 barrels to Lanmadaw Township, 21 barrels to Latha Township, 11 barrels to Panbendan Township, and 12 barrels to Ahlon Township, respectively. In December 2023, the target palm oil distribution

for the Yangon Region is 1,600 tonnes, constituting 38 per cent of the country's entire distribution process.

Local residents from Lanmadaw Township can purchase one viss of palm oil for K5,300 with the household list. According to one citizen, business owners who use oil can buy three visses of palm oil. Fritter owner U Sein Hlaing informed the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) that fritter business owners from Latha Township can also purchase two visses of palm oil at retail

prices each.

This new approach helps reduce the long queuing time for purchasing palm oil compared to previous days. A housewife, Daw Khin Khin Aye, expressed to the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) that the percentage of palm oil distribution in the Yangon Region is higher than that of other regions, making the situation better.

In the past days, districts had to buy and sell palm oil from the oil stalls in the Bayintnaung market and Nyaungpinlay market (Lanmadaw). However, starting from the first week of December, palm oil has been directly distributed to the respective areas, reducing dependence on the Yangon oil market. — TWA/TRKM

Myanmar citizens in Korea to pay income tax during passport extension

THE Myanmar Embassy in Seoul has announced that Myanmar citizens in the Republic of Korea holding the Passport for Job (PJ) and Passport for Business (PB) will be required to pay income tax when extending their passports.

As per the amendment to the 2023 Union Tax Law, Myanmar citizens working abroad are obligated to pay taxes based on the lower tax amount calculated on salary income received in foreign currency, effective from 1 October, according to the statement.

Myanmar nationals working in Korea with employment passport types PJ and PB can settle their income tax for the corresponding work periods during passport renewal at the Myanmar Embassy.

The statement further notes that individuals who have extended their passports are eligible to commence income tax payments. — TWA/TKO



A total of 151 new Myanmar workers sent to the Republic of Korea on 13-9-2023, by the government's foreign employment agency through the EPS system arrived at Incheon International Airport from Yangon.

Storage and transport of over 50 gallons of petroleum products without licence has to incur penalties



THE Petroleum Products Regulatory Department warns that storage or transportation of more than 50 gallons of petroleum products without a licence will face legal consequences.

Starting from 10 December 2023, violators will be fined K5 million or sentenced to one-year imprisonment. Additionally, criminal items will be confiscated. The department issues business licences and oversees compli-

A pump is ready to fuel vehicle at a filling station.

ance, requiring those handling over 50 gallons of petroleum products to obtain a licence.

The Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law mandates obtaining a relevant licence for such activities. The department will commence supervision and inspection of unlicensed transport and storage from 10 December 2023.

Interested parties can apply for licences with assistance from the department following respective rules and regulations. — TWA/TRKM

Myanmar exports reach almost US\$10 bln in last eight months



Bags of commodities being loaded aboard vessel for export.

MYANMAR'S external trade reached nearly US\$10 billion in early December for the current financial year 2023-24, as reported by the Ministry of Commerce.

Exported items include black gram, rice, broken rice, corn, green gram, rubber, pigeon pea, sesame, peanut, onion, tamarind, ginger, conjac, castor oil seeds, coffee bean, cashew seeds, cotton, tapioca, watermelon, cucumber, mango, and tissue banana in the agricultural produce category. Additionally, fish, prawns, crabs,

eels, and dried fish are part of the fishery products category.

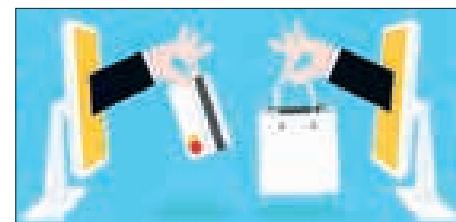
The country is actively promoting the development of industrial products for export, including composite material piles, fine wood, wooden finished products, clothes, sugar, and other final goods. Myanmar exported products to 117 countries between April and December. Notable destinations with high demand include Thailand, China, Japan, India, the United States, Germany, Poland,

South Korea, Britain, Spain, Belgium, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

The report reveals that 5,938 companies engaged in exports and imports through various channels such as sea route, border trade route, and aviation route.

Exporters of fishery products highlighted that approximately 300 tonnes of fishery products are delivered weekly to countries such as China, India, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and the United Kingdom.

To acknowledge entrepreneurs' efforts in boosting exports, earnings from rubber exports are permitted for reinvestment in importing fertilizers. Negotiations are ongoing for exporters of rice, beans, pulses, and corn to import essential goods like domestically needed fuel oil. These trade for the current fiscal year aim to support increased exports of seasonal crops, fish, prawns, fishery products, and agricultural produce in a timely manner. — MNA/ TMT



The photo shows a picture of online shopping.

Free eCom-Reg System training for online sellers announced by CAD

THE Consumer Affairs Department has declared that the eCom-Reg system training course will be conducted at no cost to online sellers for seeking registrations.

The course will be conducted virtually on Tuesdays and Fridays until 22 December, with limited slots available for participants.

Those interested in attending must accurately complete the application form with personal details, including contact information and email address.

Notification of acceptance into the training course will be communicated through email or phone for eligible participants. — TWA/MKKS

Myanmar pulses exports bag US\$895 mln in 8 months

MYANMAR exported around 1.06 million tonnes of pulses worth over US\$895 million to foreign trade partners in the past eight months of the current 2023-2024 financial year beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

The value of pulses exports by seaborne trade reached \$779.206 million (over 924,142.5 tonnes). In contrast, over 135,239 tonnes of pulses worth \$116 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through the border, totalling \$895.4 million from exports of 1,059,381 tonnes.

Myanmar's pulses exports amounted to over \$1.47 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes in the previous FY 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated. Myanmar mainly exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Black gram and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India, while green grams are exported to China and Europe.

India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black gram and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that yearly quota. The prevailing market prices are K2.942 million per tonne of black gram (urad) and K3.1 million per tonne of pigeon pea (tur).

Black grams, which India primarily purchases, are commonly found only in Myanmar. In contrast, pigeon peas, green grams, and chickpeas are grown in African countries in Australia, as stated by the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. — NN/EM



Female workers manufacturing garment products.

Myanmar receives overseas orders for coats and jackets: MoC Deputy Minister

MYANMAR has received offers from foreign countries to place orders for coats and jackets before the winter season, and the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce is liaising with local garment industries, according to the ministry's Deputy Minister U Min Min.

"Recently, the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization has established links between

the overseas businesses seeking to place orders for coats and jackets before this year's winter and local apparel manufacturers," the deputy minister told at the opening ceremony of the China-Myanmar Bilateral Textile and Machinery Expo 2023 held from 8 to 10 December in Yangon.

He also said the ministry will facilitate the apparel manufacturers in importing new

machinery to produce coats and jackets if the businesses can provide the documents required by the relevant rules and regulations.

Garments products in Myanmar are being exported to more than 80 countries, including the US and Germany, and the country earned nearly US\$5.3 billion in the 2022-2023 financial year from garment exports. — ASH/TH

OPINION

Foster peace and stability through respect for human rights

In Myanmar, the constitutional framework, specifically Sections 347, 348, and 349, stands as a bulwark safeguarding the fundamental rights of its citizens. This constitutional commitment ensures that all Myanmar citizens not only possess the right to enjoy fundamental freedoms but are also bound by the responsibility not to infringe upon the rights of others, irrespective of the circumstances.

Furthermore, Myanmar citizens are privileged to partake in the provisions articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), a landmark document declared by the United Nations on 10 December 1948. This declaration serves as a global standard for the rights of individuals, founded on principles of freedom, justice, peace, and human dignity.

The significance of 10 December is underscored as International Human Rights Day, marking its 75th Anniversary of Diamond Jubilee in 2023.

This milestone is celebrated under the theme “Freedom, Equality, and Justice for All,” emphasizing the enduring importance of these principles in shaping a harmonious society.

Human rights, as articulated in the UDHR, have garnered increased recognition and protection worldwide. The declaration has evolved into the bedrock of a comprehensive human rights protection system, extending its reach to vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and migrants.

Nevertheless, the core values of dignity and equality enshrined in the UDHR have faced persistent challenges in recent times. In the face of global predicaments like pandemics, conflicts, escalating inequalities, a morally questionable financial system, racism, and climate change, the principles and rights articulated in the UDHR serve as guiding principles for collective actions prioritizing inclusivity.

Myanmar, having joined the United Nations in 1948 upon gaining independence, actively supported the adoption of the UDHR. The country has incorporated the fundamental rights articulated in the UDHR into its Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2008). The UDHR, revered as the most translated document globally, plays a pivotal role in Myanmar’s foreign policy, constitutional drafting, international treaty adherence, and diplomatic relations.

To truly savour the fruits of human rights, individuals must not only cherish their own aspirations but also consider the similar desires of others. A compassionate society, built on understanding and respect for the interests of all, becomes a catalyst for peace and stability. By avoiding actions that harm or infringe upon others, individuals contribute to creating a society where the essence of compassion prevails, ensuring that everyone can unequivocally enjoy the benefits of human rights.

Bribery and Corruption

By U Khin Maung (A retired diplomat)

Introduction

In this article, I would like to quote “an extract from the editorial article of the Global New Light of Myanmar dated 9 December 2022 as follows: -

• “Save the global people from corruption”

• International Anti-corruption Day (IACD), which falls on 9 December 2022, seeks to highlight the crucial link between anti-corruption and peace, security and development. At its core is the notion that tackling this crime is everyone’s right and responsibility and that only through cooperation and the involvement of each and every person and institution can we overcome the negative impact of this crime.

2. Well, bribery and corruption are, in my view, two sides of the same coin. Bribery and corruption are two facts or ideas that are very much correlative. That is to say, they are closely related to or depend on each other fact or idea. For example, a bribe-giver, as an accomplice, aids and abets a corrupt official to commit corruption, and the corrupt official ex-

pects or demands and takes a bribe from a person in return for favouritism, the act of unfairly treating him better than others.

3. And now, the question is, what does it tend to corrupt? On this point, I believe I can’t do any better than quote what the scholars have said. They are reproduced, and kindly see below: -

“Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” “Lord Acton” Historical essays.

“The greater the power, the greater dangerous the abuse.” “Edmund Burke” In a speech delivered to the House of Commons, UK “Corruption is a global shame and a sin against good manners and character,” said Mr Ban Ki-moon, a former United Nations Secretary-General.

So, in support of all these scholarly views, I, as a layman, would like to say that corruption is, without a shadow of a doubt, a crime, a shame and a sin. In a much better definition, Professor Syed Hussein Alatas has pointed out that “the association of corruption and

crime is a well-known phenomenon”.

4. Corruption: does it mean only bribe-taking? Well, I don’t think so, I am afraid.

From the legal point of view, corruption also means maladministration of justice, mismanagement of affairs, prejudice, bias, wrong-doing etc. And mismanagement, in a sense, means failing to do something that ought to be done.

Well, before tackling what factors bring about prejudice and bias, I think we should see their meanings. Prejudice means an unreasonable dislike of or preference for a person, group, custom, etc. And bias means a strong feeling in favour of or against one group of people or one side in an argument.

In our culture, there are four kinds of prejudice and bias. Prejudice and bias: first, arising from emotional issues or wishes; second, stemming from anger; third, arising from fear; and fourth, arising from ignorance.

5. May I quote relevant writings of a well-known scholar, Mr Syed Hussein Alatas,

from his famous book “Corruption and the Destiny of Asia?” “The association of corruption and crime” is a well-known phenomenon. However, the forms of this association vary according to the degree of corruption. As conception develops in intensity, these forms multiply.

6. In this article, I will also present the significance of the rule of law. This phrase, the rule of law, means equality before the laws, fair play, and uniformity of laws for all private citizens and public officials alike. In connection with the rule of law, the first Prime Minister of our independent and sovereign union, U Nu, said in the address to the Parliament (The Pyithu Hluttaw): “is to base all our activities firmly on the rule of law.” SAC Chairman and Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing also expresses the significance of the rule of law on every occasion, relevant, proper and necessary.

7. Under the old administration system, BCS — Burma civil service personnel were entrusted and honoured with magisterial powers by our



Bribery and corruption go hand in hand. In simple terms, they are closely connected. ILLUSTRATION: FREEPIK

posts and by experience and expertise. While serving as a subdivisional officer; I was empowered and entrusted with special magisterial powers. Our superior officers, such as the district magistrates and the district and session judges, frequently advised and, I would like to say, taught and guided all

the subordinate judges and magistrates not to meet or talk exclusively with a client or a party to a dispute, in his or her chamber, or in any place privately. Our superior judges and magistrates explained to all of us that the other client or the other party might misunderstand us. We were taught and guided

that a magistrate or a judge should bear in mind that “it is not enough that justice is done, but justice must be seen to have been done”. And to win the hearts and minds of the people we were serving as a judge or a magistrate, we should always go on learning so as to be entitled to be addressed as “the

learned judge. “the learned magistrate. Learning in this context means reading and studying laws, the Supreme Court’s instructions, and the Supreme Court’s rulings in earnest and learning anything worth it to improve and expand legal education. After all, no educative process, legal or whatsoever, is ever the end: it is always the beginning of more education, more learning, more living.”

8. I think we have already had a law entitled “Suppression of Bribery and Corruption Act”, and our successive governments have suppressed and treated it as a shame, sin, crime and evil. And, as living laws are necessary in this world, I am sure our authorities concerned have already taken necessary actions to review and revise or, if necessary, to amend the “Suppression of Bribery and Corruption Act” to align with the changing world.

Reference

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- (2) *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary.*
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People arrive at the venue of the COP28 United Nations climate summit in Dubai on 30 November 2023. The UN climate conference opens in Dubai on 30 November. PHOTO: KARIM SAHIB / AFP

The world may cross the crucial 1.5C global warming threshold in seven years as fossil fuel CO2 emissions continue to rise, scientists warned

Tuesday, urging countries at the COP28 talks to “act now” on coal, oil and gas pollution.

Battle lines are being drawn over the future of fossil fuels at the

World could breach 1.5C warming threshold in 7 years: study

The heightened urgency of the more ambitious 1.5°C goal has become evident, given emerging evidence that surpassing this threshold could activate perilous and irreversible tipping points.

UN climate summit in Dubai, with big polluters trying to see off calls for an agreement to phase out the carbon-intensive energy responsible for most of human-caused greenhouse gas.

Fossil fuel CO2 pollution rose 1.1 per cent last year, according to an international consortium of climate scientists in their annual

Global Carbon Project assessment, with surging emissions in China and India — now the world’s first and third biggest emitters.

They estimated that there is a 50 per cent chance warming will exceed the Paris deal’s goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius over multiple years by around 2030, although they noted uncertainties around

warming from non-CO2 greenhouse gases.

“It is getting more and more urgent,” lead author Pierre Friedlingstein, of Exeter University’s Global Systems Institute, told reporters.

“The time between now and 1.5 degrees is shrinking massively, so to keep a chance to stay below

1.5C, or very close to 1.5C, we need to act now.”

Wrong direction

The landmark 2015 Paris Agreement saw countries commit to limiting temperature rise to well below 2C above the pre-industrial era and preferably 1.5C.

The more ambitious 1.5C goal

has since taken on greater urgency as evidence emerges that warming beyond this could trigger dangerous and irreversible tipping points.

To keep to that limit, the UN’s IPCC climate science panel has said CO2 emissions need to be halved this decade.

That is becoming a more challenging task as emissions continue to rise, the Global Carbon Project found.

Glen Peters, a senior researcher at the CICERO Center for International Climate Research, said carbon dioxide emissions are now six percent higher than when countries signed the Paris deal.

“Things are going in the wrong direction,” he said.

That is despite a promising surge in renewable energy, a key

issue at the Dubai climate talks where more than 100 countries have signed a call to triple renewable capacity this decade.

“Solar wind, electric vehicles, batteries, they’re all growing rapidly, which is great. But that is only half the story,” he said.

“The other half is reducing fossil fuel emissions. And we’re simply not doing enough.”

India overtakes EU

The research found fossil fuels accounted for 36.8 billion tonnes of a total of 40.9 billion tonnes of CO2 estimated to be emitted this year.

Several major polluters have clocked falling CO2 emissions this year — including a three-per-cent decrease in the United States and a 7.4 per cent drop across the European Union.

SOURCE: AFP

NATIONAL

Kyundaw Village in Magway Region to become third CBT site



The photo shows that the beach-like landscape along the riverbank adjacent to the island in Kyundaw Village.

AS tourism promotion activities unfold in Magway Region, Kyundaw Village in Taungkhun

Village tract, Magway Township, is planned to be established as the third Community-based

Tourism (CBT) site, according to U Zaw Lwin Htet, director of the regional Directorate of

Hotels and Tourism.

Kyundaw Village, situated 30 miles from Magway, is an island village in the Ayeyawady River with just over a hundred houses. Currently, the local community and villagers are undergoing training in tourism services, with additional knowledge-sharing programmes on tourism management planned for the future.

“Kyundaw Village will be the third CBT site in Magway Region. We encourage local communities to actively participate in the programme, as CBT inherently requires voluntary cooperation from the public for success.

We provide necessary training and knowledge-shar-

ing sessions, and efforts are underway to secure permissions from the township-level administrative body and the regional tourism working committee,” said U Zaw Lwin Htet.

He further mentioned that the area boasts 26 ancient Buddhist temples and stupas that remain undamaged, along with some collapsed ones. Visitors can explore Bagan-era mural paintings in PhaungdawU Pagoda, and the overall scenery resembles the topography of Bagan. The Shwezigon Pagoda features numerous tunnels, and visitors, both local and foreign, can unwind at the beach-like landscape along the riverbank adjacent to the island. — ASH/TMT

Myanmar to repatriate 51 citizens from Malaysia’s Juru Detention Centre

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, plans are underway to repatriate 51 Myanmar nationals from the Juru detention centre in Penang, Malaysia.

Minister of the Myanmar Embassy to Malaysia U Soe Ko Ko met Malaysian authorities to send back those 51 Myanmar nationals. Moreover, the Myanmar minister met three Myanmar

nationals serving prison terms at Sungai Buloh prison of Selangor Province on 1 December and another Myanmar citizen at Taiping prison of Perak prison on 4 December.

The minister also requested the prison officials for looking after those Myanmar nations and for submitting appeals. — ASH/KTZH



Minister of the Myanmar Embassy to Malaysia U Soe Ko Ko meets Malaysian authorities to send back Myanmar nationals from Juru detention centre in Penang, Malaysia.



Vegetables, fruits and horticulture exhibition and competition in previous year.

Vegetables, Fruits, and Horticulture Exhibition and Competition scheduled at Kandawgyi Natural Park in Yangon

THE Vegetables, Fruits, and Horticulture Exhibition and Competition are set to take place at Kandawgyi Natural Park in Bahan Township, Yangon Region, for seven days, from 1 to 7 January 2024, as announced by the organizing committee.

The competition will be organized for the Chief Minister’s Trophy by the Yangon Region Government in commemoration of the 76th Anniversary of Independence Day.

Among the 24 types of competitions, participants in the landscape event must finalize their preparations between 29 and 31 December.

The fruit design event is scheduled on 31

December, and the flower arrangement event will take place on 1 January.

Additionally, the vegetables and fruits to be displayed in the competition must be sent to the competition organizing committee on 30 and 31 December, and the participating flowery plants should be delivered to the competition venue on 31 December.

Contest applications are available at free of charge from the Myanmar Floriculturist Association, People’s Square and People’s Park, Yangon Regional Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Parks and Playgrounds under the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC). — ASH/TKO

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3.5 mln Canadian adults experience long COVID



People are seen with shopping bags at a shopping outlet in Vancouver, Canada, 24 November 2023. PHOTO: LIANG SEN/XINHUA

A study with the Public Health Agency of Canada revealed that 79.3% of those with long-term symptoms have been experiencing them for six months or more.

A total of 3.5 million Canadians, or 11.7 per cent of the total adult population, reported experiencing long-term symptoms from a COVID-19 infection by June 2023, Statistics Canada said Friday.

Revealing the results of a study in partnership with the Public Health Agency of Canada, the national statistical agency said that of those who continue to experience

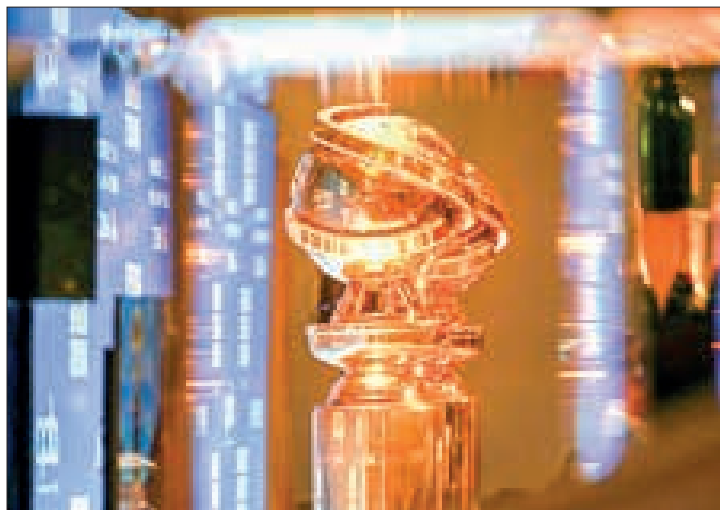
long-term symptoms, 79.3 per cent had been experiencing symptoms for six months or more, including 42.2 per cent with symptoms for one year or more.

Long-term symptoms from a COVID-19 infection, or long COVID, are defined as the presence of symptoms three or more months after a COVID-19 infection that could not be explained by anything else.

According to the results, about 7 in 10 reported experiencing them every day or almost every day when symptoms were at their worst, and about 1 in 5 reported being often or always limited by them in their daily activities.

Overall, half of people with ongoing symptoms reported no improvement in their symptoms over time. — Xinhua

New-look Golden Globes to unveil noms



The Golden Globes are trying to bounce back from years of notoriety. PHOTO: ROBYN BECK/AFP

WITH new owners, a change of TV network and a radically overhauled membership, the

Golden Globes will hope for a clean break from years of notoriety as they unveil nominations

on Monday for this year's best in film and television.

But even as the scandal-racked show seeks to reclaim its position as the fun, rowdy and celebrity-packed kickstarter to Hollywood's movie awards season, critics warn that its reforms could bring a new batch of ethical problems. For decades, the Globes were owned, run and voted for by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) — an eclectic group of around 100 entertainment journalists, writing for international outlets, who were often derided in the industry for their alleged amateurism and obscurity. — AFP

Fashion world descends on UK's Manchester in Chanel show

SCINTILLATING colours and celebrities lit up a gloomy Manchester on Thursday as the British city famous for its past textile industry flaunted the latest fashion in a prestigious Chanel show.

Lashed by rain and plunged into winter darkness from 3:30 pm, the city's gritty industrial heritage was not an obvious choice as the setting for the glitz and glamour of the French luxury group's Metiers d'Art event.

But the show proved otherwise as models strutted down the catwalk sporting dazzling bermuda shorts, mini-skirts and eye-catching outfits under a temporary covering in a city-centre

street.

Tweed suits — a quintessential British classic — pearls and camelia also captured attention.

Actor Hugh Grant, director Sofia Coppola, local football stars Ruben Dias and Luke Shaw as well as brand ambassadors Charlotte Casiraghi and Kristen Stewart were among the celebrities in attendance.

"I loved the rock attitudes, the 60s looks," British actor Jenna Coleman told AFP.

The northern English city was a hub of the 19th-century industrial revolution, processing half of the world's cotton in 1860. — AFP



Models hold umbrellas as they rehearse prior to the "Chanel Metiers d'art 2023-2024" fashion, in Thomas Street, in Manchester, northern England, on 7 December 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Time of the sign: Hollywood landmark hits 100

THE landmark word has loomed over Tinseltown since before movies started talking, becoming a symbol of the entire film industry.

For the first time in decades, the Hollywood sign — at least a little bit of it — was illuminated on Friday to celebrate its 100th birthday.

The nine-letter sign is officially a centenarian but, as with many an aging grande dame in Hollywood, looks as fresh as ever.

Like the actors and actresses it looks down on, the sign has been in its fair share of films.

Directors who want to let their audience know a movie is set in Los Angeles have an easy

establishing shot, while a filmmaker who wants to signify the destruction of America can set their special effects team loose on the sign.

It has also seen real life tragedy: British-born actress Peg Entwistle took her own life by plunging from the top of the letter H in 1932.

Hooray for... realtors?

The sign, a must-see for any film buff or tourist visiting Los Angeles, initially read "HOLLYWOODLAND," having been constructed in 1923 as an advertisement for an upscale real estate development. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan logs record 2.58 trillion yen current account surplus in Oct

Japan's October current account surplus reached 2.58 trillion yen (\$17.9 billion), the highest for the month. The trade deficit decreased due to lower energy import costs and a recovering inbound tourism sector.

JAPAN posted a 2.58 trillion yen (\$17.9 billion) current account surplus in October, the largest for the month, as the trade deficit narrowed thanks to lower imported energy costs and a continued recovery in inbound tourism, the Finance Ministry said Friday.

The current account balance, one of the widest gauges of international trade, remained in the black for the ninth straight month. The figure compared with a deficit of 149 billion yen in the same month last year.

As prices of crude oil, li-

quefied natural gas and coal dropped, the trade deficit for resource-poor Japan shrank 74.8 per cent to 472.8 billion yen, with overall imports down 12.1 per cent to 9.58 trillion yen, according to a preliminary report from the Finance Ministry.

Exports, a key driver of the Japanese economy, grew 1.0 per cent to 9.11 trillion yen, boosted by shipments of vehicles and machinery for construction and mining.

In services trade, the surplus reached 343.8 billion yen, a turnaround from a deficit of



Exports, a key driver of the Japanese economy, grew 1.0 per cent to 9.11 trillion yen, boosted by shipments of vehicles and machinery for construction and mining. **PHOTO: KYODO**

704.2 billion yen in October the previous year, buoyed by strong inbound travel demand from foreign tourists. It moved into

the black for the first time since May 2019.

The travel surplus increased about four-fold to a re-

cord 320.7 billion yen. A travel surplus means the amount of money spent by foreign visitors in Japan exceeds that spent by Japanese abroad. — Kyodo

Nigeria loads first crude at huge new Dangote refinery

The 650,000 barrel-per-day Dangote refinery, touted as Africa's largest, has the potential to transform Nigeria's economy by reducing dependence on fuel imports once fully operational.



Dangote Petroleum Refinery has been billed as one of the largest in Africa. **PHOTO: AFP**

NIGERIA'S huge oil refinery built by Africa's richest man Aliko Dangote received its first crude deliveries, the company said on Saturday, in the latest step to starting up the delayed megaproject.

Billed as Africa's largest of its type, the 650,000 barrel-per-day Dangote refinery could be a game changer for Nigeria's economy when fully operational

by helping ending the country's reliance on fuel imports.

Dangote Petroleum Refinery received an initial shipment of one million barrels of crude from Agbami deepwater field and began loading on Friday, the company spokesman said Saturday.

The initial run will be for production of diesel and aviation fuel before moving on to

petrol output.

Dangote gave no date for the actual start of refinery production. Though one of Africa's largest oil producers and the continent's top economy, Nigeria relies almost totally on imported fuel and diesel because of a lack of refining capacity.

Nigeria swaps crude worth billions of dollars for petrol that it had subsidised for years to keep prices cheap for its domestic market. Fuel imports and subsidies caused a huge drain on foreign exchange when Nigeria was struggling with dwindling oil revenues and foreign currency shortages. "Dangote Petroleum Refinery can meet 100 per cent of Nigeria's requirement of all refined products, gasoline, diesel, kerosene, and aviation jet, and also have surplus of each of these products for export," the company said in a statement. — AFP

EU states make last-ditch effort to back spending rules reform

EU finance ministers will try to hammer out an agreement over dinner on Thursday to reform bloc-wide spending rules after months of bitter divisions, especially between France and Germany.

Time is running out for the European Union to approve the reform within its self-imposed deadline of the end of the year.

Markets are watching closely and the old rules will kick in again on 1 January, 2024, if there is no agreement.

The ministers will meet at 1800 GMT and Spanish finance

minister Nadia Calvino has already warned the "open-ended dinner" will mean a "long night".

The European Union wants to make its budget rules more flexible and better enforced, hoping that these changes will make it easier for member states to adhere to.

Known as the Stability and Growth Pact, the rules have been suspended since 2020 to help member states weather two major economic shocks: the coronavirus pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. — AFP



EU finance ministers have been divided over reforming spending rules since the European Commission's proposal earlier this year. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Direct flight links China's Haikou, Auckland in New Zealand

DIRECT flights between south China's Haikou city and Auckland in New Zealand were launched as an aircraft carrying over 60 Chinese tourists landed at the Auckland International Airport on Friday.

The round-trip service, operated by an Airbus A330-300 aircraft, is currently scheduled for every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

Wang Junchao, deputy consul general of China in Auckland, said closer air links between China and New Zealand have boosted their economic and trade ties, tourism cooperation and people-to-people exchanges. "Hainan Airlines opened a route from Haikou to Auckland, laying a solid foundation for the construction of international transportation networks and international economic and trade cooperation networks," Wang added.



New Zealand artists perform a traditional dance to welcome passengers on a direct flight from south China's Haikou city to Auckland in New Zealand, 8 December 2023. PHOTO: SUN XUELIANG/XINHUA

Scott Tasker, chief customer officer of Auckland International Airport, said that the launching of the air routes is "extremely important" because "it established new people-to-people links between our two countries", while China is New Zealand's largest trading partner and Chinese visitors are the second largest visitor market.

Hainan Airlines Vice President Chen Hao said that the route will play a key role in promoting the economic development and cultural exchanges between Auckland and Haikou.

This is Hainan Airlines' fourth direct flight to Oceania after the Haikou-Sydney, Haikou-Melbourne, and Shenzhen-Auckland routes, said Chen. — Xinhua



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learn about Russian names of family members, features of everyday life and habits

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«Vechorka»
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US business leaders start to rally around Republican candidate Nikki Haley

A growing number of US business leaders are rallying behind former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley as the Republican Party's presidential hopeful, seeing her as more stable than rival Donald Trump, and more favorable to business interests than incumbent Joe Biden.

"Even if you're a very liberal Democrat, I urge you: help Nikki Haley too. Get a choice on the Republican side that might be better than Trump," said Jamie Dimon, who as head of JPMorgan Chase bank is often seen as one of the country's most powerful CEOs.

For the last month or so, a growing list of entrepreneurs and business leaders have been lining up behind Trump's former UN ambassador, stumping for her, swelling her campaign coffers or considering doing so as her standing in polls strengthens.

Among them are Charles Koch, one of the biggest donors in US politics, and billionaire investor Stanley Druckenmiller.

In early December, during a fundraiser in a luxury apartment on the Upper West Side of New York, Haley raked in more than \$500,000 in pledges from members of the city's business elite. — AFP

Australia to hike fees on foreign owners of empty homes

AUSTRALIA will impose a dramatic rise in fees on foreign buyers of existing homes who leave them empty, the government said Sunday as it tries to

ease a rental crisis. The centre-left Labour government said it would introduce new legislation next year to help alleviate tight supply that has left

many renters struggling to find somewhere to live. As supply dwindled, rental prices surged 7.6 per cent nationally in the year to 30 September, the sharpest

increase in 14 years, official statistics show.

"There are too many properties empty around Australia," Treasurer Jim Chalmers said. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (8888N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (8888N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-12-2023 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

China-EU cooperation to provide more stability amid global challenges

Chinese President Xi Jinping met with European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen during the 24th China-EU Summit. Against the backdrop of a challenging international environment, the China-EU relationship is not only strategically important but also has a global influence, affecting worldwide peace, stability, and prosperity.

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Thursday met with President of the European Council Charles Michel and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, who were in China for the 24th China-EU Summit.

Amid the increasingly turbulent international situation, China-EU relations not only hold strategic significance but also have a worldwide impact, carrying implications for global peace, stability, and prosperity.

The China-EU Summit in Beijing this time was the first in-person meeting after the pandemic, during which the two sides have reached broad consensus in various areas. It's widely believed that the face-



A visitor takes photos at the booth of Siemens at the 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE) in east China's Shanghai, 9 Nov 2023. **PHOTO: WANG XIANG/XINHUA**

to-face communications between the leaders from China and the EU will provide more

stability to the world and inject stronger momentum into the global development.

DEEPENING PRACTICAL COOPERATION

During their meeting, Xi

told the EU leaders that the Chinese economy enjoys a good momentum of steady growth.

As China pursues high-quality development and high-standard opening up, it sees the EU as a key partner for economic and trade cooperation, a preferred partner for scientific and technological cooperation, and a trustworthy partner for industrial and supply chain cooperation, Xi said.

During the summit, both sides fully affirmed the success of various dialogues this year on China-EU strategic relations, the economy and trade, the environment and climate, and digital areas. They pledged to continue dialogue. — Xinhua

Populist legacy will weigh on Poland's next government

A coalition led by former European Council president Donald Tusk secured a majority in the parliamentary elections on 15 October defeating the right-wing populist Law and Justice (PiS) party. Tusk, a former prime minister, will face significant challenges in steering the country after eight years of PiS rule.

EXPECTATIONS for Poland's pro-EU government which is due to take power next week are sky-high but current ruling nationalists will still be a powerful and influential opposition, analysts say.

A coalition of pro-EU parties headed up by former European Council president Donald Tusk won a majority in parliamentary elections on 15 October against the right-wing populist Law and Justice (PiS) party.

Tusk, who is also a former prime minister, will have his work cut out after eight years of PiS in power.

"There won't be any miracles" as the new



Donald Tusk will have his work cut out after eight years of PiS in power. **PHOTO: AFP**

government faces daily battles with PiS which "will continue to fight", Jaroslaw Kuisz, a political analyst, told AFP.

"It will be like going through mud" and quick change is unlikely as PiS leaves "a judicial minefield", he said.

PiS will be the biggest single party in the new parliament with 194 out of 460 seats in the lower house and has shown it intends to be a combative opposition. — AFP

Tornadoes hit US State of Tennessee: blackouts, houses damaged, 6 dead

TORNADOES and severe weather on Saturday churned across the US state of Tennessee, heavily damaging homes, causing blackouts and leaving at least six people dead, authorities said.

Three of the deaths occurred in a northern suburb of Nashville, capital of the southeastern US state.

The Nashville Office of Emergency Management posted photos on social media showing downed trees and shattered

homes.

"Unfortunately we can confirm there are three fatalities as a result of the severe weather on Nesbitt Lane," the office posted on X, formerly Twitter.

A tornado touched down in Clarksville in the northern part of the state, leaving fatalities there as well.

"We can confirm that three people are deceased, two adults and one child," the Montgomery County government said in a statement. — AFP



On Saturday, tornadoes and severe weather swept through Tennessee in the United States, causing significant damage to homes, power outages, and resulting in at least six fatalities. **PHOTO: BAYERN MUNICH /AFP**

SPORTS

Maha United beat powerhouse Yangon United in MNL Week-16



Yangon United player (blue) falls while trying to get the ball during the Week-16 match of the Myanmar National League against Maha United at YTC in Thuwunna in Yangon on 10 December 2023. **PHOTO: MNL**

THE last day of the Week-16 of the Myanmar National League 2023 season, which was postponed due to the international competition, was held yesterday at Youth Training Centre in Thuwanna, and Maha United defeated Yangon by 1-0.

In yesterday's match, the Yangon team which was sure to get the second place because the Shan United became the champion unexpectedly lost to Maha United and

faced their third defeat this season.

The Maha United team was able to end a seven-match winless streak and rejoin the 4th/5th place match. Both teams played with key players to win, but Maha United won with a goal scored in the first half.

The Yangon team tried to score an equalizing goal, but could not use opportunities to goals. Maha United managed the best defence with no mistakes, so Yangon faced defeat.

Maha United's defender Toe Satt Naing won the best player award for the match.

After the Week-16, Shan United crowned the championship title with 59 points while Yangon occupied the second place with 50 points and Hanthawady United took the third place with 37 points. GFA team which only garnered 12 points and Kachin United earning 10 points fell to the relegation zone, with a match left. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Devin Haney punches Regis Prograis on the way to a unanimous decision victory to take Prograis's WBC super-lightweight world title. **PHOTO: AFP**

Haney dominates Prograis to grab WBC super-lightweight world title

DEVIN Haney wrested the WBC super-lightweight world title from Regis Prograis on Saturday, knocking his opponent down once on the way to a unanimous decision victory in San Francisco.

Haney, the former undisputed lightweight world champion stepping up to the 140-pound division for the first time, won by scores of 120-107 from all three judges and said the move up in weight had made a new fighter of him.

"A tremendous difference," a victorious Haney told DAZN in the ring at the Chase Center, home of the NBA's Golden State Warriors.

"You see it in my performance. I felt so much stronger... 140 got a new king".

Haney sent Prograis to the canvas in the third round with one of many devastating combinations.

He wobbled Prograis again in the sixth on the way to the dominant victory.

Haney, a 24-year-old Bay Area native, improved to 31-0 with 15 knockouts.

Hard-hitting southpaw Prograis was making the second defense of the WBC title he won with an 11th-round knockout of Jose Zepeda for the vacant title in November last year. — AFP

Jousting makes comeback in England as competitive sport

Jousting, considered "England's first national sport," is more than a genteel re-enactment, involving aiming for each other's heads, according to Clive Hart, a data engineering manager and joustier.

AT an 11th-century castle off the coast of southern England, two knights in suits of shining armour charge at each other on horseback at top speed, wooden lances at the ready.

To the beat of drums and the thundering of hooves, the weapons make contact and one of them splinters into pieces, sending up cheers from the watching crowd. The jousting tournament at Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight recreates what was once a common sight across the England of the Middle Ages.

But what has been described as "England's first national sport" is far from being a genteel re-enactment.

"We aim at each other's heads," Clive Hart, who works as a data engineering manager when he's not jousting, told AFP.

"You don't get that in most other types of sport... so there's an extra element of risk that people I think appreciate and certainly find exciting".

Jousting is one of the oldest equestrian sports in the world and in England dates back to the

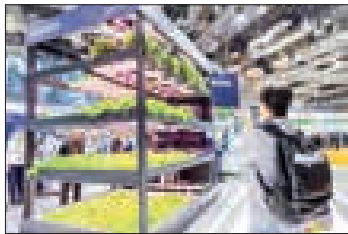


Steve Morris as 'Sir Lancelot' (left) and Ben Green as 'The Wildman' compete on their horses during the Legendary Joust jousting event at English Heritage's Kenilworth Castle, near Coventry, central England on 29 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

10th century. It used to be a form of military training for knights — the heavily armed mounted soldiers of medieval Europe — to practise between battles.

Proponents need finely honed skill and horsemanship — and a strong nerve, even though using deadly pointed weapons are a thing of the past.

Modern-day tournaments are mostly held at historic castles and in the grounds of state homes, with knights trying to score points rather than unseat their opponents. — AFP



**MASSIVE
OPERATION TARGET**

France detains 80 in largest child sex crime swoop

AROUND 80 men, including a local councillor and two schoolteachers, were detained this week in France's most far-reaching swoop on suspected child sex abusers, police sources said.

Police made arrests in 53 of France's 101 departments, Commissioner Quentin Bevan told AFP on Saturday.

The men arrested, whose ages range from around 30 to over 60, come from a wide range of backgrounds, from an elected official to a person on the dole.

"There is no typical profile in child sex crime. It's found in all walks of life," Bevan said.

He heads the operational unit of the Office for Minors within the judicial police, which coordinated the operation. — AFP

PM Modi tops global leaders' list again, gets highest rating of 76%: survey

The ratings were boosted following the Bharatiya Janata Party's significant victories in three assembly elections in the Hindi heartland states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the BJP headquarters in Delhi. **PHOTO: ANI**

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi continues to be at the top among world leaders with an approval rating of 76 per cent, according to a survey by Morning Consult.

According to the US-based consul-

tancy firm's 'Global Leader Approval Rating Tracker' 76 per cent of people in India approve of PM Modi's leadership, while 18 per cent disapprove of it and six per cent did not give any opinion.

Notably, this is a huge number by a

far margin, as the second-best approval rating is enjoyed by Mexico President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (66 per cent) and Switzerland President Alain Berset (58 per cent).

In previous surveys too, Prime Minister Modi had topped the global ratings. At the same time, the approval ratings of other big global leaders are at a modest level.

US President Joe Biden has a 37 per cent approval rating, Canadian PM Justin Trudeau has 31 per cent, UK PM Rishi Sunak ratings stands at 25 per cent, and France President Emmanuel Macron stands at just 24 per cent.

Notably, these ratings come after PM Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party registered huge victories in three assembly elections in Hindi heartland states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. — ANI

US vetoes Gaza ceasefire, profits from arms sale on same day

The Pentagon profited \$106.5 million from a munitions transfer to Israel after vetoing a UN ceasefire resolution, using an "emergency" provision to expedite the sale.

THE Pentagon made \$106.5 million from a transfer of munitions to Israel just hours after vetoing a ceasefire resolution at the United Nations.

In a classic weekend news dump, the White House announced they were using an "emergency" provision to expedite an arms sale to Israel – on Friday, at 11 pm.

The move came just hours after the United States was the only country to veto a Gaza ceasefire resolution at the United Nations, sparking intense criticism.

"The combination of the United States' veto of a ceasefire resolution in the UN, and this expedited provision of lethal arms to Israel, should cause some serious consideration of whether [Secretary Blinkin's] repeated assertions that the US seeks to minimize civilian casualties in Israel's operation in Gaza are sincere," said Josh Paul, a former State Department official.

Paul worked on arms sales within the US State Department before resigning in October, writing a scathing letter in the

process slamming the Biden administration's "moral compromise" and support for Israeli "apartheid".

The move seems destined to provoke controversy as 13 Democratic senators had announced Thursday they were drafting legislation to place conditions on future weapons transfers in order to prevent "war crimes".

Various international figures have used the term to describe Israel's ongoing and proposed actions in the besieged Gaza Strip. Most recently Russia warned the country that a plan to flood tunnels underneath the enclave would amount to a war crime. Other analysts have speculated over the degree to which the United States would be held complicit for crimes against humanity when Israeli officials are brought to justice.

Iran recently warned the United States of a potential "explosion" in the Middle East as countries in the region witness Israel's ongoing violence in Gaza. — SPUTNIK



Israeli troops on the ground in the northern Gaza Strip, after the truce expired. **PHOTO: ISRAELI ARMY/AFP**