

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Literature initiates broadening knowledge and critical thinking of citizens

The award presentation ceremony of the National Lifetime Awards for Literary Achievement, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award for 2022 took place in Nay Pyi Taw.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife view the display at the event yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

KNOWLEDGE and high critical thinking of citizens is of great importance in building a modern and developed nation, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing remarked.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla presented literary awards to winners at the ceremony to honour winners of the National Lifetime Awards for Literary Achievement, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award for 2022 at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Senior General recounted that the country has faced weaknesses in education and critical thinking. The government is implementing a comprehensive education system and literacy campaigns to address these weaknesses.

He continued to say that literature, a pivot for a nation's culture, uplifts the country's cultural standard and national spirit. All citizens are responsible for the preservation and sustainability of their own culture.

The Senior General spotlighted that Sayagyi Dr Than Oo, Sayagyi Dr Chit San, Sayamagyi Daw Kyu Kyu Thin and Sayagyi Dr Tun Tint were selected as winners of the National Lifetime Awards for Literary Achievement for 2022.

The Senior General mentioned that in accordance with the guidance of national independence architect General Aung San, Sarpay Beikman was established in 1947, and it started awarding Sarpay Beikman's current story in 1948.

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Salient points from the speech made by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in honouring literary award winners

- All citizens are responsible for the preservation and sustainability of their own culture.
- Winners were selected from 754 books published in 11 of 19 genres for the national literary award, and 29 manuscripts were chosen to be deserved from 277 entries for the award in 13 genres of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award for 2022.
- Four doyen literati will be awarded the National Lifetime Awards for Literary Achievement this year.

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DPM MoFA Union Minister receives UNFPA Representative

BUSINESS

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Myanmar exports over 900,000 tonnes of corn worldwide in 8 months

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Largest Pyu-era pagoda unearthed at Myittha archaeological site, Mandalay

NATIONAL



The photo shows Myat Mawtin Pagoda packed with pilgrims.

Myat Mawtin Pagoda platform expansion reaches 48% completion

THE expansion and construction of the platform of Myat Mawtin Pagoda in Hainggyikyun, Ayeyawady Region, were completed 48 per cent and will be 100 per cent completed before the next pagoda festival season, according to U Kyaw Swa Win, the pagoda trustee.

The maintenance of the pagoda platform, the flag pole,

the construction of the earth retaining wall, the pouring of concrete, the preparation of the stairs, and the building of the lake walls were underway. All the works are 48 per cent finished. It will be completed fully before the next pagoda festival season," U Kyaw Swa Win said.

In addition, the pagoda's

entrance gate will be rebuilt, and the four corridors of the pagoda and the religious hall will be expanded to accommodate pilgrims.

The Myat Mawtin Buddha Festival is held every year from the 1st Waxing of Tabaung to the Full Moon of Tabaung. It will commence at the same time in 2024. — ASH/KZL

MACA marks 10th Anniversary BRI project

THE Myanmar Arts and Culture Association will hold a ceremony to offer 10,000 candlelights, pray for peace, and provide food to invited monks in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road project at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Dagon

Township, Yangon Region, on 15 December, said U Than Tun Soe, the general secretary of the association.

He added that similar ceremonies would also be held in Mandalay and Bagan, and a press conference about holding such ceremonies was

conducted at the Wyndham Grand Hotel in Yangon on 12 December.

Myanmar is an important country along the Belt and Road project led by China, and Yangon is an essential route of the maritime Silk Road. — ASH/KZW

Shwedagon logs K99.604 bln, US\$16.18 mln worth of donations

AS of 5 December 2023, the Shwedagon Pagoda has received donations totalling K99.604 billion and US\$16.18 million, deposited in Myanmar Economic Banks and MFTB. The donations are divided into Myanmar Economic Bank's Savings Bank No 1, No 2, and No 4, as well as MFTB. Withdrawals require the signatures of six authorized board members of trustees, with three signatures needed for each transaction. When daily donations are collected, we categorize and count them when the office opens at 9 am. At around 11:30 in the morning, we go to the banks and deposit them according to the relevant categories. We never keep the donated money in hand; we deposit it in the banks daily."

The Shwedagon Pagoda has received donations in foreign currency and subsequently opened and deposited them in the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB). These foreign currency donations are earmarked for projects that require foreign funds.

U Boe Thin elaborated on the financial procedures, stating, "All donations in Shwedagon Pagoda, whether in foreign or My-

anmar currency, are currently held in the accounts of Myanmar Economic Banks and MFTB. The donations are divided into Myanmar Economic Bank's Savings Bank No 1, No 2, and No 4, as well as MFTB. Withdrawals require the signatures of six authorized board members of trustees, with three signatures needed for each transaction. When daily donations are collected, we categorize and count them when the office opens at 9 am. At around 11:30 in the morning, we go to the banks and deposit them according to the relevant categories. We never keep the donated money in hand; we deposit it in the banks daily."

As of 5 December 2023, the cumulative donations for the Shwedagon Pagoda amount to K99.604 billion and US\$16.18 million. — ASH/TKO



Pilgrims are seen on the Shwedagon Pagoda platform.

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of U Htein Linn Aung, Managing Director of the Myanmar Timber Enterprise under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, after the one-year probationary period.

Myanmar takes part in Uttarakhand Global Investor Summit 2023 in India

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced Myanmar's participation in the Uttarakhand Global Investor Summit 2023 (UKGIS) held in Dehradun, Uttarakhand State, India.

The summit, spanning two days on 8-9 December, saw the presence of Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung,

who attended the event at the invitation of the Uttarakhand State Government.

The report said that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a speech to an audience of over 5,000 attendees, including government officials, diplomats, entrepreneurs and investors from various nations,

including Myanmar.

During the summit, Ambassador U Moe Kyaw Aung engaged in discussions with Indian officials, entrepreneurs and investors, and representatives from other countries, exploring investment and economic opportunities and the potential for Myanmar. — ASH/TMT

NATIONAL

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Now, he noted that genres for the national literary award were extended to 19 and Sarpay Beikman manuscript award to 13.

Moreover, the Senior General highlighted that the National Lifetime Awards for Literary Achievement has been presented to doyen literati yearly since 2001, and four doyen literati will be awarded the National Lifetime Awards for Literary Achievement this year.

For winners in 2022, the Senior General underscored that winners were selected from 754 books published in 11 of 19 genres for the national literary award, and 29 manuscripts were selected to be deserved from 277 entries for awards in 13 genres of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award.

Before the ceremony, the Senior General and dignitaries viewed round biographies of winners, photos, and award-winning books displayed on the ground floor of MICC-II.

The Senior General and his wife presented medals, cash



SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla pose for the group documentary photo at the event yesterday.

awards and gifts to National Lifetime Awards for Literary Achievement winner Sayagyi Dr Tun Tint (Dr Tun Tint-Myanmar-sar), Sayagyi Dr Chit San (Chit San Win), Sayamagyi Daw Khin Than Win (Kyu Kyu Thin), and Than Oo Foundation Secretary U

Aye Kyaing for Sayagyi Dr Than Oo (Pyi Soe Min) respectively.

Council Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, council members General Mya Tun Oo, Admiral Tin Aung San, General Maung Maung Aye, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Nyo Saw, Union Ministers U

Win Shein and U Maung Maung Ohn presented the National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award to the winners.

Sayagyi Dr Tun Tint (Myanmar-sar) spoke words of thanks, and the message of acknowl-

edgement sent by Sayagyi Dr Than Oo (Pyi Soe Min) was read by the master of ceremonies.

The Senior General and his wife hosted a luncheon in honour of artistes and literati as well as literary award winners for 2022. — MNA/TTA

MoBA UM opens upgrading of Myakantha Park in Taunggyi



Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung inspects the upgrade work of Myakantha Park in Taunggyi yesterday.

THE opening ceremony for upgrading Myakantha Park in Taunggyi, Shan State, was held before the entrance gate yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Shan State Chief Minister U

Aung Zaw Aye, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phyo Thant, Eastern Command Commander Brig-Gen Win Zaw Moe, the chief justice of Shan State High Court, Shan State government ministers, the state attorney-general, secretary to the state government and

departmental officials, invitees among others attended the opening event.

Dignitaries led by the Union minister first unveiled the park upgrade by cutting the ribbon, and the signboard was sprinkled with scented water.

The Union minister and the deputy minister planted a mahogany tree to mark the opening. The chief minister and the chief justice also grew an African tulip tree as a memorial.

The Union minister and party viewed round an art gallery displayed in the park, upgrade works, constructing entrance gates to the Myakantha Park, walkways and bridges across the lake, giving the necessary instructions. — MNA/TS

Myanmar products, handicrafts shine at Ikebana Intl Fair 2023

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Myanmar embassy showcased the country's products and handicrafts at the Ikebana International Fair 2023, held on 12 December at the Royal Park Hotel in Tokyo, Japan.

The Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo organized the exhibition, highlighting lacquerware, jewellery, silverware, jade ware, gold and silver embroideries, articles of Myanmar wood, silk and cotton garments, coffee products, and consumer goods of Myanmar wood

using Japanese technology. Brochures featuring Myanmar's natural landscapes and information were also handed out to visitors.

The embassies from Asia, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and South America also displayed their own cultural and traditional cuisines and items. Princess Takamado, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's wife, former Foreign Affairs Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi's wife, and ambassadors and their spouses graced the event. — ASH/NT

NATIONAL

DPM MoFA Union Minister receives UNFPA Representative



Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe receives Representative of the United Nations Fund for Population Mr Ramanathan Balakrishnan in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mr Ramanathan Balakrishnan, Representative of the United Nations Fund for

Population (UNFPA), who is about to complete his assignment in Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. At the meeting, they ex-

changed views on matters related to cooperation between the two sides during the tenure of Mr Ramanathan Balakrishnan in Myanmar. — MNA

Protest against Timor-Leste, foreign interference in Myanmar's internal affairs

A protest against Timor-Leste and foreign countries interfering in Myanmar's internal affairs, led by a group of nationalist activists, was held yesterday at the parking lot next to Maha Bandula Park in front of Yangon City Hall.

After the national flag was saluted, the national anthem was sung, and the ceremony was opened, Sayadaw U Pyinnya Vumsa made a speech.

Then, all those who participated in the protest started rallying with placards bearing slogans such as "Perpetuation of State's Sovereignty is our cause", "No to Timor that supports the destruction of religion", "No to Timor that supports terrorists", "No to



Protesters near Maha Bandula Park in front of the Yangon city hall campaign against Timor-Leste and foreign countries interfering in Myanmar's internal affairs yesterday.

NUG/PDF", "Don't interfere in our internal affairs", "All those who interfere in our internal affairs are our enemies", and "Oppose those foreign countries, including Timor-Leste, interfering in

our internal affairs". The protest, led by nationalist activists and members of political parties, was attended by people who were against terrorist acts. — Aung Myint/TKO

Counter-argument to false information

Fake News Alert: Security Forces falsely accused of shooting, arson in Sagaing

FALSE information that the members of the Security Force raided Pachi Village of Ohntaw Village-tract in Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region, and torched over 30 houses, and three residents were shot to death has been spread on

social media by malicious media outlets.

On 12 December, although there was a clash between Security Force members and PDF terrorists near Pachi Village, Security Force members did not raid and torch the village.

Tatmadaw always carries out security measures to ensure the State's stability and protect people's lives and property. It has never done anything that affects the public.

Terrorists launched destructive actions to destroy the State's stability, people's lives and property, whereas malicious media spread misinformation to mislead the people and disturb the counter-terrorism operation procedures. — MNA/KTZH



Screenshot validates false claims.

False Information: Tatmadaw wrongly accused of arresting 35 children, 4 orphanage officials

THE malicious media is circulating fake news that Tatmadaw arrested 35 children and four officials of an orphanage, and regional PDFs recused the victims in Khanpat Township of Sagaing Region.

Regional officials claimed that it was just a fake news item. Tatmadaw is constantly protecting the people's lives and property and has never abducted civilians. Only the malicious media spread such false infor-



Screenshot validates misinformation.

mation to cover up their terrorist acts. — MNA/KTZH

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NATIONAL

IN the northern part of the world, wintering birds breed before migrating southwards to escape the cold. Thirty-four species of wintering and migratory birds, including rare species, reportedly enter the Ramsar regions of Inlay Lake.

In Inlay Lake, two species of seagulls, Eurasian coots, pochards, tufted ducks, and other world-rare species of birds migrate. Therefore, they are monitored and maintained within eight waterfowl conservation grazing areas.

The wintering birds migrate to Myanmar annually, moving from Siberia to Inlay Lake. Additionally, wintering and migratory birds from China and Russia predominantly enter Indawgyi Lake and return northwards in April.

Every year, migratory birds from cold regions fly a thousand miles southward to avoid the cold and return to their place of origin. However, the birds face difficulties annually, encountering natural disasters and artificial dangers on their journey. As a result, the complete number of wintering birds cannot reach their places of origin. Wild sanctuary staff record and make lists to protect rare wintering bird species, managing the conservation of these rare species.

“Six rare species of wintering birds are arriving at Inlay Lake. They include some pochard species that are in danger



34 wintering, migratory bird species, including 5 rare, grace Inlay Lake for migration

of disappearing. We found only three pochards last year; now, two are starting the winter season. The migration of the world's rare wintering bird species to our country is honourable and interesting to international bird watchers. Almost 15 red-headed cranes entered in the last ten

years, but only two did last year. As for pochards, there were about ten a few years ago, but now there are fewer than in previous years. Inlay Lake has ample water this year, and some wintering birds remain. They can continue, and we are also actively engaged in wintering and migratory bird

conservation. The biodiversity migration of the world's rare species in Myanmar increases the value of international conservation,” said U Tin Mya Soe, administrator of the Inlay Lake Wild Sanctuary.

The nine central flyways to avoid the northern winter and

move to the southern regions are the East Atlantic Flyway, the Black Sea-Mediterranean Flyway, the Mississippi-America Flyway, the Atlantic-America Flyway, the Pacific-America Flyway, the West Pacific Flyway, the East Asia-Australia Flyway, the Middle Asia Flyway, and the West Asia-East Africa Flyway. Over 300 bird species migrate yearly from the East Asia-Australia Flyway to the Middle Asia Flyway.

About 18,000 bird species worldwide are divided into four groups, including wintering birds. Among these 18,000 bird species, 1,136 species of birds live in Myanmar, according to the Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA). All bird species live worldwide; only about 3,000 species migrate depending on the seasons.

Fourteen essential bird species are recorded, with 6,773 birds of 95 forest bird species, 9,938 birds of 42 water bird species, and 4,236 birds of 34 wintering bird species grazing in the Inlay Lake Wild Sanctuary area. Wintering and migratory birds migrate and feed in the regions of Indawgyi Lake, Inlay Lake, Moeungyi, Mainmahla Island, Plate Lake, Taungthaman Lake, Pyukon Lake, and Banaw Lake every year, attracting tourists and making our country proud to be a grazing country for the world's rare wintering birds. — Nyein Thu/TRKM



Photos depict pygmy geese and other rare bird species in the Inlay Lake Wild Sanctuary area. **PHOTOS: KANU**

NATIONAL

Black gram price slumps, green gram price rises

YANGON market saw a drop in black gram pulses on 12 December, unlike the climbing green gram price.

The prices stood at K2.895 million per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality), K3.14 million per tonne of black gram (Special Quality), K3.1 million per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram), K2,665-2,835 per viss of green gram from the Pakokku area and K3,750 per viss of green gram (Shwewah variety) from the Kayan area that day.

The prevailing price of black gram fell from K2.98 million per tonne on 6 December, indicating a drop of K87,500 per tonne. Meanwhile, the price of pigeon peas has remained unchanged for ten days.

Nonetheless, the prices of green gram from the Pakokku area moved up to K2,665-2,835 per viss from K2,500-2,750 per viss. Similarly, the green gram (Shwewah) increased from K3,665 per viss on 8 December to K3,750 on 11 December.



Samples of pulses seen being displayed at the Mandalay market in early 2023.

The FOB price of black grams is US\$980-1,000 per tonne on 11-13 December, a drop of \$110 within one month. The FOB price of pigeon pea (1,080-1,100 per tonne) was down by \$270 per tonne on 11-13 December. Similarly, the FOB prices of green gram from central Myanmar regions decreased to \$660-690 per tonne from \$740-760. Green gram (Shwewah) prices dipped to \$840-870 from \$930-960 per tonne.

On 12 December, 20 containers of black gram (720 tonnes) were transacted.

The pigeon pea harvest season has now started. Fresh black grams and green grams are expected to enter the domestic market in early 2024. Myanmar's pulses market will experience fluctuation depending on the demand of the primary buyer India, in the Q1 of 2024. — TWA/KK

Over 25,000 disciplinary actions taken against YBS for traffic violations



YBS buses are seen in the Yangon downtown area.

THE Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC) has reported that YBS company vehicles have been involved in 25,530 traffic rule violations during the first 11 months of 2023. The Disciplinary and Inspection

Department has taken action against YBS bus lines operating in the Yangon Region.

From 1 January to 24 November, there were 19,078 instances of violations observed through surveillance records, 820 cases reported through direct complaints, six cases reported via Facebook complaints, 2,082 incidents of running red lights, 1,282 cases of speeding, 131 instances of deviating from prescribed routes, 312 cases of reckless driving, 853 other cases, 303 cases of prolonged stops at bus stops, 657 cases of improper overtaking, and five cases of unprofessional conduct towards passengers.

According to YRTC records, 12,829 cases have been resolved, while 12,701 remain pending. — TWA/MKKS

Workplace Coordinating Committee resolves 211 cases in 11 months

THE Workplace Coordinating Committee (WCC), comprising representatives from employers and employees, reportedly settled 211 cases related to worker affairs in January-November this year, according to the WCC.

The primary objective of the WCC is to resolve disputes between employers and employees in factories and workplaces.

The report also indicates that 3,718 WCCs were organized in factories and workplaces within the first 11 months of 2022 and 3,272 WCCs within the same period in 2023.

In 2022, WCCs accepted 190 disputes and resolved 160 disputes. In 2023, they received 244 disputes and settled 211 disputes. — TWA/TMT



Meeting over drafting the bylaw bill for the Labour Dispute Resolution Law in 2019.

Sideline yellow sticker installation on City Taxi vehicles 67% completed as of 1 Dec



The photo depicts a taxi being installed with a yellow line sticker.

ACCORDING to the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC), 67 per cent of City Taxi vehicles in the Yangon Region now sport sideline yellow stickers. In an effort to distinguish these taxis from other cars, authorities have mandated the installation of yellow line stickers on all City Taxi vehicles.

As of 1 December, 9,428 out of the 14,169 city vehicles have been equipped with yellow stickers, leaving 4,741 automobiles yet to undergo the process, completing 67 per cent of the installations.

Owners of City Taxi vehicles lacking these stickers have been notified to complete the installation by 31 January 2024. Failure to comply by the end of January 2024 will result in legal action under Section 96 of the Traffic Safety and Motor Vehicle Management Law. — TWA/TKO

Myanmar exports over 900,000 tonnes of corn worldwide in 8 months

MYANMAR shipped 903,699 tonnes of corn worth US\$271.321 million to foreign trade partners as of 1 December in the current financial year 2023-2024, beginning 1 April, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar Corn Industrial Association forecast corn exports to reach over 2 million tonnes in the 2023 corn season, said U Min Khaing, the chairman of the association.

Following the FOB price dip, the corn prices stood at K1,080-1,100 per viss in the domestic market, according to the Yangon Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Commodity Centre).

Myanmar delivers corn to China and Thailand through the border. Also, it ships corn to China, India, Viet Nam and the Philippines via maritime trade, according to the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Thailand nodded corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D) between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposes a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported



Corn spread for drying under the intense rays of the sun.

during the corn season of Thailand.

China has been purchasing Myanmar's corn through cross-border trade under the opium substitution programme. Legitimate corn trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 Myanmar companies have been permitted for corn exports.

Myanmar exported more than two million tonnes of corn to foreign trade

in the 2022 corn season. Most of them were sent to Thailand, and the remaining went to China, India, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

The corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons — winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — NN/EM

Myanmar's agri exports surpass US\$2 bln in 8 months

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar's agricultural exports amounted to US\$2.035 billion in the past eight months of the current financial year 2023-2024, beginning 1 April.

The figures fell from \$2.364 billion recorded in the year-ago period, showing a drop of \$328.349 million.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, raw materials imported by the CMP enterprises and consumer goods.

Myanmar has implemented the National Export Strategy (NES) 2020-2025 to bolster exports. The priority sectors of the NES comprise agricultural production, garment and apparel, industrial and electronic device, fishery business, forest product, digital manufacturing and service, logistic service, quality management, trade information service, innovation and entrepreneurship sectors. — NN/KK

Ensuring quality control crucial for watermelon exports to China

WATERMELON traders had better select the best quality watermelon for exportation to China after damage and mounting loss, the Khwanyo Fruit Depot stated.

Watermelons and muskmelons are currently delivered to China through Lweje and Mongla road channels. The damage occurred due to a rough road. The more watermelons and muskmelons are discarded, the less profit, Sai Khin Maung from the Khwanyo Fruit Depot pointed out.

"The traders go into difficulties on each Lweje and Mongla route. It is just an option not to have an abrupt halt in border trade. When the abundant harvest season of the sugarcane, tissue-culture banana and watermelon arrives, it will slam the Lweje border. The traffic of melon trucks has eased at the Mongla border. Yet, exporters have to invest K12 million per



Export watermelons seen on the Myanmar-China border.

truck, including short-haul truck service, labour wages and trash cleaning prices. The prevailing prices of muskmelon are two to three Yuan per kilo and 5,000 Yuan for outright purchase of a truck. The profit is uncertain if watermelon fetches only three

to four Yuan per kilogramme. Subsequently, watermelon and muskmelon, being nondurable goods, only watermelon of good quality can last longer without damage," he emphasized.

Traders are forced to turn to potential roads for watermelon

export to China amid unfortunate circumstances and disruption at some border points.

Myanmar's watermelon is primarily exported to China. However, traders are facing continuing challenges amid the policy changes in China, fruit

traders stressed.

In early February, tight inspections of Chinese Customs hindered truck transport. Thus, despite high demand, only 20-30 trucks could pass the checkpoint.

Consequently, watermelon was sold out at the depots on the Chinese side, and more than 500 trucks queued in line on the Myanmar side.

In 2021, the COVID-19 restrictions hindered Myanmar's watermelon and muskmelon exports to China. The Chinese Customs Regulation increased delay. Long delays of trucks caused harm to watermelon quality, and only one in five trucks heading to China remained undamaged with quality watermelons.

The traders need to consider delivery time, price and profitability, as watermelon is a perishable fruit while trying to explore new markets beyond China. — NN/EM

OPINION

Curtail the menace of vape abuse in Myanmar

THE proliferation of vape usage in Myanmar poses a significant threat to society, particularly among individuals ranging from teenagers to those in their middle ages. E-cigarettes, commonly referred to as vapes or vape pens, not only jeopardize the health of users but have also prompted global efforts to curtail their usage in the interest of societal well-being.

Australia has taken a proactive stance by planning to ban the import of disposable vapes starting from January 1, 2024, aiming to prevent nicotine addiction among children. In a comprehensive approach, the country is set to introduce a new law that will not only prohibit the manufacturing of vapes but also restrict their advertisement and import.

Vapes, as electronic substitutes for traditional cigarettes, were initially designed to help individuals overcome addiction to cigarettes, cheroots, or cigars. The technology, which originated in 2003, has gained popularity among the youth and those attempting to quit smoking. However, the enticing features of vapes, including bright

colours, appealing smells, and various flavours, make them attractive to younger demographics, potentially leading to addiction.

Research indicates that nicotine, present in cigarettes, tobacco products, and e-cigarettes, can instigate addiction among users. Teenagers who experiment with nicotine face severe consequences, including detrimental impacts on various aspects of their lives. Health risks associated with vaping include lung damage and increased mortality rates. The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued warnings, emphasizing that the chemicals in e-cigarettes can worsen lung and respiratory tract conditions, potentially leading to cancer due to addiction.

As of 2021, a total of 47 countries, including Bhutan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Laos, Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia and Brunei. Have prohibited the sale of e-cigarettes. Additionally, numerous ASEAN member

states have implemented specific laws, notifications, and orders to regulate and control the use of e-cigarettes.

Actually, e-cigarette is used by those wishing to stop smoking, but no evidence on preventing addiction to cigarette has emerged yet. Currently, vapes are still posing a danger to users, and they have become a broader use among youths and a public health problem. That is why Myanmar needs to prohibit the usage of e-cigarettes in society in time by reviewing the weakness in Myanmar's tobacco law 2006.

The rising prevalence of vape abuse in Myanmar demands urgent attention. To safeguard society, comprehensive measures similar to those adopted by Australia and other countries should be considered. By enforcing restrictions on import, manufacturing, and advertising, Myanmar can mitigate the potential health hazards and societal consequences associated with the misuse of vapes.

Winter Tourism and Travel Planning

TOURISM is a vibrant and ever-evolving industry that revolves around the act of travelling and exploring new destinations. Travel enthusiasts often plan meticulously, creating detailed itineraries to make the most of their vacation. They may choose to stay in hotels or resorts, seeking comfortable and convenient accommodation options.

The primary focus of tourism is to explore the attractions of various destinations. Tourists can visit historical sites, natural wonders, and cultural landmarks. They often rely on tour guides to gain deeper insights into the places they visit. This cultural exchange between tourists and local communities can be enriching and educational.

Tourism isn't limited to traditional sightseeing; it encompasses a wide range of experiences. Adventure tourism, for example, appeals to those seeking an adrenaline rush. Ecotourism is a responsible and sustainable approach to travel that promotes the conservation of natural environments. Backpacking, on the other hand, involves travellers exploring the world with minimal luggage, often on a budget.

Tourists often pick up souvenirs as mementoes of their travels. These items serve as tangible reminders of the places they've explored and the cultures they've encountered.

Tourism also involves marketing and promotion. One strategy is paid advertising, where tourism agencies create online ad campaigns targeting specific demographics to attract potential tourists. This ensures that the right people are aware of the at-



The tourism season coinciding with significant festivals offers ideal weather for exploring cultural treasures. ILLUSTRATION: FREEPIK

Winter Tourism and Online Marketing

Myanmar's friendly and welcoming people add to the allure, making tourists feel at home amidst the country's natural and cultural wonders.

BY AUGUSTIN

tractions and experiences offered at a particular destination.

Travelling during the winter season can offer a unique and enjoyable experience with various benefits.

Many destinations transform into picturesque winter wonderlands during the season, with snow-covered landscapes, frozen lakes, and charming holiday decorations. This can create a magical and serene atmosphere that you won't experience during other times of the year.

Winter provides an opportunity for engaging in various outdoor activities such as skiing,

snowboarding, ice skating, and snowshoeing. If you enjoy winter sports, travelling during this season allows you to take advantage of these activities in beautiful locations.

Popular tourist destinations are often less crowded during the winter months. This means shorter lines at attractions, more peaceful surroundings, and a more relaxed travel experience overall.

Off-peak travel times, including winter, can often result in lower prices for accommodations, flights, and activities. Many travel providers offer discounts and promotions to attract visitors during the slow-

er winter season.

Winter is host to many unique festivals and events around the world, often centred around cultural or seasonal celebrations. These events can provide insight into local traditions and offer a chance to experience a destination in a distinctive way.

Myanmar's Friendly Smiles

Myanmar, a Southeast Asian jewel, is renowned for its rich cultural heritage, stunning landscapes, and warm hospitality.

The tourism season offers ideal weather for exploring Myanmar's diverse landscapes and

cultural treasures. Moreover, the tourism season coincides with major festivals and celebrations, enhancing the country's allure as a travel destination.

Myanmar has stunning landscapes, including Inlay Lake, Bagan's temples, and Ngapali's beautiful beaches, perfect for nature lovers.

In Myanmar, you can explore cultural gems like Bagan's temples, Mandalay's ancient city, and Yangon's Shwedagon Pagoda.

The people of Myanmar are known for their friendly and welcoming nature, making tourists feel at home.

Tourism in Myanmar yields far-reaching economic and cultural benefits, generating revenue, jobs, and income. It supports various sectors, including hospitality, transport, and handicrafts.

Furthermore, tourism fosters cultural exchange as visitors engage with local life and traditional practices, enriching their understanding of Myanmar's history and culture.

However, responsible and sustainable tourism management is essential to safeguard the country's natural and cultural heritage while ensuring equitable distribution of the industry's benefits.

The cool season brings milder temperatures, lower humidity, and generally clear skies, making it an ideal time for outdoor activities and sightseeing.

Key tourist destinations like Yangon, Bagan, Mandalay, and Inlay Lake are popular during the cool season. These areas offer cultural attractions, historical sites, and beautiful landscapes.

Some traditional festivals and events may take place during the cool season. Check the local calendar for cultural celebrations or events during your visit.

Myanmar is known for its rich cultural and historical heritage. The cool season is an excellent time to explore ancient temples and archaeological sites without the discomfort of extreme heat.

Trekking and hiking in the hills of Shan State, exploring the landscapes around Inlay Lake, or taking a hot air balloon ride over the temples of Bagan are popular activities during this time.

Due to the pleasant weather, the cool season is the peak tourist season in Myanmar. It's advisable to book accommodations and transportation in advance. However, this also means that prices for hotels and tours might be higher than at other times of the year.

Myanmar offers a diverse and flavorful cuisine. Enjoying local dishes is a must, and the cool season allows you to comfortably explore street food and markets without the intensity of the hot season.

Online Marketing

Asia's tourism market is dynamic and competitive, with countries vying for their share of travellers seeking diverse experiences. With its rich cultural heritage and natural beauty, Myanmar is eager

to establish its presence. As the tourism season begins, the country focuses on online marketing strategies to attract travellers.

Asia offers a blend of ancient traditions, modern marvels, and diverse landscapes, making it a prime destination for travellers.

Myanmar recognizes tourism's potential for economic growth and job creation. It aspires to attract more tourists, compete with neighbouring countries, and become a must-visit destination.

Myanmar employs various online marketing strategies.

The website is easy to use and offers info on destinations, activities, and tips.

Myanmar is active on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, sharing captivating visuals to connect with travellers.

Blog posts, articles, and guides provide travel tips and cultural insights to inspire visitors.

Strategic online advertising campaigns aim to attract potential tourists by targeting specific demographics.

In a highly competitive Asian tourism market, Myanmar aims to secure its share by embracing online marketing strategies and leveraging the start of the tourism season, endeavouring to attract a significant number of travellers.

As the country continues to promote its unique cultural heritage and breathtaking landscapes, it is poised to become a prominent player in the ever-evolving Asian tourism market.

Travel and tour companies catering to winter destinations should tailor their offerings to suit the season. Provide comprehensive packages, including winter clothing rentals, transport for cold weather, and guides familiar with winter activities.



Engineers fix wires to solar panels at the Roha Dyechem solar plant at Bhadla, some 225 kilometres north of Jodhpur in the western Indian state of Rajasthan. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/A MONEY SHARMA/AFP

Dubai summit adopts world-first 'transition' from fossil fuels

A specific and ambitious target is set for achieving net-zero emissions by the year 2050. This aligns with scientific consensus that achieving net-zero emissions is crucial in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

NEARLY 200 nations meeting in Dubai on Wednesday approved a first-ever call for the world to transition away from fossil fuels, the top culprit of climate change behind a planetary crisis.

After 13 days of talks and another sleepless night in a country built on oil wealth, the Emirati leadership of the COP28 summit

banged a gavel to signal the world had reached consensus.

"You did step up, you showed flexibility, you put common interest ahead of self-interest," said COP28 president Sultan Al Jaber, whose role as head of the United Arab Emirates' national oil company raised suspicion among many environmentalists.

The United Arab Emirates, he said, was "rightly proud" of its role in bringing "transformational change" to the planet.

"The world needed to find a new way. And by following our North Star, we have found that new path," he said to applause, referring to the goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Jaber hours earlier released a draft of the agreement aiming to bring onboard countries from islands fearing extinction to Saudi Arabia, which has led the charge to keep exporting its oil.

Toughening language from an earlier draft that was roundly denounced, the agreement calls for "transitioning away from fos-

sil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science".

It marked the first mention of all fossil fuels in 28 years of climate summits.

"For the first time in 30 years,

we might now reach the beginning of the end of fossil fuels," EU climate chief Wopke Hoekstra said before heading into the plenary session.

Danish negotiator Dan Jorgensen, part of a group in charge of making headway, called the agreement "historic progress".

SOURCE: AFP

NATIONAL

Largest Pyu-era pagoda unearthed at Myittha archaeological site, Mandalay

INVALUABLE new discoveries, including a Pyu-era temple, have been made at the ancient Pyu city of Pinle (Mongmaw) in Myittha Township in Mandalay Region.

After the trace of this ancient city was found by satellite photos in 1965, and field surveys, excavations, and research were carried out, this area was defined as a site of Pyu-era cultural heritage, leading to continuous archaeological activities from 1978 to 1979.

About a month ago, the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Mandalay branch) commenced digging Hill No 22 in the ancient city for research purposes.

“According to the excavation results, we have found a Pyu-era pagoda in Pinle (Mongmaw) that is 120 feet long, 90 feet wide and 17 feet high. We have never found such a



A team of archaeologists from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Mandalay branch) work to unearth the largest Pyu-era pagoda at the ancient Pyu city of Pinle (Mongmaw) in Myittha Township of Mandalay Region.

large Pyu-era pagoda,” said an informed person.

The discovery of fantastic burial urns painted in three colours is also unprecedented. At the same time, a small silver Buddha image was found at the centre of the hill, he added.

“In the archaeological excavation of the ancient city

of Pinle (Mongmaw), we have completed a total of 22 hills. However, there is a lot of damage in the discovered building debris due to the weak maintenance. Especially, as the ancient works found in Pinle (Mongmaw) are situated in the fields, they can disappear from the surface due to the effects



of weather and animals unless they are protected with roofs and fences”, he commented.

Therefore, only if roofs and fences, similar protective measures at the Hill No 53 of Sri Ksetra ancient city, where over 400 burial urns have been conserved, can be applied to this discovery, will invaluable

cultural heritage be preserved for future generations, he said.

In addition, the ancient city of Pinle (Mongmaw) is also an added and treasured value to Pyu cultural links. Therefore, he suggested a site museum should be built to display archaeological materials found in this city. — Piya/ZN

CRIME NEWS

Confiscated illegal items: Timbers, jade, foodstuffs, consumer goods and industrial materials

DURING inspections on 11 and 12 December, the Customs on-duty teams managed by the Customs Department impounded 17 kinds of jewellery valued at K9.575 million, including 26 rings and 16 bead necklaces (supposed to be made of jade) without official documents, from luggage at the Mandalay International Airport, 34 kinds of goods worth K39.05 million, including 600 tubes of Gano Fresh toothpaste and 216 bottles of Gano instant café powder that were different from the items in the Import Declaration (ID), at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint and two kinds of goods worth K3.66 million, including 4,200 pieces of CHNT 250V 6KA breakers that



Confiscated illegal timbers in Yangon Region.

were different from the items in ID, at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk). The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 12 December, 6.822 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K238,770 were captured in Tai-

kkyi township. The action was conducted under the Forest Law. Eleven arrests were made on 11 and 12 December, with an estimated value of K52,523,770, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Stimulant tablets valued at K300 mln captured in PyinOoLwin township

THE Police Force seized stimulant tablets worth K300 million in PyinOoLwin township, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

A combined team, comprising members of the Anti-Drug Police Force, stopped and searched a Toyota Mark II car

driven by Kyaw Min Min Htun (aka) Phoe Kyaw on the Lashio-Mandalay Road at 10:30 pm on December 10, confiscating 150,000 stimulant tablets.

Legal action has been filed against him under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS



A suspect with seized stimulant tablets and a vehicle.

NATIONAL

Yangon-Mandalay railway detonated by terrorists

THE No 6 Yangon-Mandalay express train departing from Kyauktaga Station derailed yesterday at 3:30 am between Kyauktaga and Peinzalode Station, near the Bridge Nos 146 and 147, Mile Post of 104/1-103/24, Kyauktaga Township, Bago Region, due to the explosion of landmines by KNLA insurgents and PDF terrorists.

Due to the explosion of the mines, the train track was broken, with the locomotive and three passenger coaches being derailed.

Due to the derailment, there were about 100 passengers on the passenger train, and about



The documentary photo that No 6 express train, departing from Mandalay to Yangon, overturns due to a mine explosion at Bridge No 147 between Kyauktaga and Peinzaloke stations.



900 passengers experienced delays in their journey.

The local security forces are

promptly securing the mine explosion site. Myanmar Railway employees repaired the damages and ensured that train trips usually ran.

In addition, Myanmar Railways officials arranged packed lunches and purified drinking water for passengers whose journey was delayed due to the derailment.

Passengers travelling by train No 4 were transported from Phyu station to Yangon by three vehicles at 12:20 pm, and passengers travelling by No 6 and No

2 trains were transported from Kyauktaga Station to Yangon at 1:20 pm by two large vehicles.

Due to this incident, passenger train trips departing from Yangon and Mandalay stations today had to be temporarily cancelled.

Terrorist insurgent groups have committed 129 mining and destruction of railways and train stations, 46 mining of train bridges, and 12 burning of station buildings and staff homes in the entire Myanmar railway network from 1 February 2021

until now.

To make public travel and freight transport convenient, smooth, and fast, the national government plans and implements project activities to improve the railway infrastructure and upgrade the train transportation system. Insurgents and terrorists have repeatedly committed damage to State-owned locomotives, coaches and goods, so people strongly oppose and condemn the brutality of their violent acts, according to the statement. — MNA/KZL



Documentary photos show distribution of lunch boxes to passengers trapped by a mine explosion (left photo) and the evacuation of passengers continuing to their destinations by buses (right photo).

KNLA, PDF terrorists utilize drop bombs in attack on 230 kV substation in Thingan Nyinaung

TERRORIST insurgents are intentionally attacking and destroying non-military state-owned buildings and civilian residences to harm people's socioeconomic life and disrupt regional stability, as well as destroying communication towers, electricity towers,

and factories.

KNLA and PDF terrorist insurgents attacked the 230 kV substation in Thingan Nyinaung Township, Myawady, at around 6:15 am yesterday with a drone and dropped a bomb.

As a result of this attack, the

generator circuit breaker of the 50 MVA main transformer, two ceramic insulators and cooling devices for the 20 MVA main transformer in the substation were damaged by the bomb, and the electricity supply to the local people in the township was interrupted. The relevant officials will carry out the repair work on the damaged substation as soon as possible.

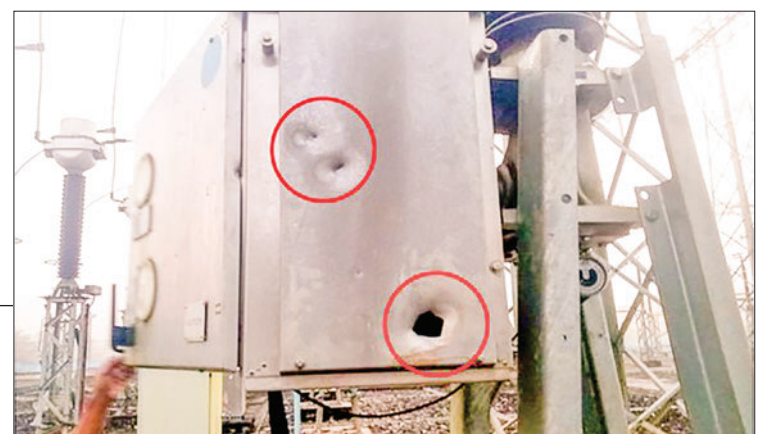
The KNLA and PDF terrorist insurgents have caused a lot of damage to the socioeconomic life of the local people due to these acts of terrorism, and the security forces will continue to cooperate with the public in the anti-terrorism operation for regional stability. — MNA/KZL



Documentary photos indicate debris in the 230 kV substation in Thingan Nyinaung.



Documentary photos depict debris of 50 MVA generator circuit in the 230 kV substation in Thingan Nyinaung.



ECONOMY

WORLD/AD

ADB upgrades 2023 growth forecast for Asia-Pacific to 4.9%

The ADB maintains its projection of 4.8 per cent growth for the region in the coming year, anticipating continued robust domestic demand and support from services to sustain economic growth.

THE Asian Development Bank on Wednesday revised upward its 2023 growth forecast for developing economies in Asia and the Pacific to 4.9 per cent from its September projection of 4.7 per cent, citing higher-than-expected growth in China and India.

The Manila-based lender maintained its projection of a 4.8 per cent growth for the region next year on expectations that continued robust domes-

tic demand and services will support growth. The ADB said healthy domestic demand and recovering tourism are fostering economic activity this year as inflation moderated despite slower global growth and the lagged effects of monetary policy tightening.

China is forecast to post a 5.2 per cent growth this year, up from the 4.9 per cent projection in September, while India's growth outlook was raised to 6.7 per cent from 6.3 per



Double-digit growth in industry in India were observed during the July-September period this year. PHOTO: ANI

cent. Household consumption and public investment in China and double-digit growth in industry in India were observed during the July-September period this year.

Meanwhile, the ADB has revised its 2023 forecast for Southeast Asia downward to 4.3 per cent from 4.6 per cent, citing weak demand for manufacturing exports. By country, the growth outlooks for Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam were revised downward.

Inflation in the Asia-Pacific region was expected to register at 3.5 per cent this year, lower than last year's 4.4 per cent.

"Governments in Asia and the Pacific need to remain vigilant to ensure that their economies are resilient and that growth is sustainable," said ADB chief economist Albert Park, noting that risks such as elevated global interest rates and climate events, such as El Nino, remain. — Kyodo

EU backs rules to improve app workers' conditions

THE European Parliament and EU member states struck a landmark deal Wednesday to strengthen conditions for those working through apps, such as ride-hailing

drivers.

Once formally adopted, the law will be a global first covering the gig economy and part of the European Union's effort to give clarity to the status

of millions of workers. The hope is that courts across Europe will not hand down decisions that vary wildly, since there are now uniform rules for all 27 states. — AFP

South Africa to build new nuclear plants: govt



Advancements in technology and stricter regulations have made nuclear power safer than ever. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFPT

SOUTH Africa, battling crippling power blackouts, plans to add 2,500 megawatts of new nuclear generation, the government announced Tuesday.

The country has Africa's only nuclear power station but the Koeberg plant near Cape Town is

currently only working at half capacity.

The first of the new units will probably come on stream in 2032 or 2033, Zizamele Mbambo, the energy ministry's deputy director general of nuclear power, told a press briefing.

He said South Africa had already asked "different vendors" for proposals.

Electricity Minister Kgosientsho Ramokgopa said the extra 2,500MW of extra nuclear power would be "a significant milestone". — AFP

US consumer inflation slows in November but pressures remain

CONSUMER inflation in the United States edged down for a second straight month in November, government data showed Tuesday, providing good news for policymakers seeking to get prices under control.

The consumer price index (CPI), a closely eyed gauge of inflation, rose 3.1 per cent from a year ago, said the Department of Labour, down from 3.2 per cent in October. The slowdown comes on the back of falling gas prices, with the gasoline index dropping 6.0 percent. But CPI rose more than expected between Oc-



US consumer inflation ticks on the back of cooling gas prices, said the Department of Labour. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

tober and November, by 0.1 per cent — underscoring the rocky road to reining in inflation.

"Despite this progress,

I know many Americans still find too many things unaffordable," said President Joe Biden in a statement. — AFP

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Industry No(3)Heavy Industrial Enterprise Invitation for Expression of Interest (EoI)

- The Ministry of Industry hereby announces an invitation for Expression of Interest (EoI) to both interested local and foreign investors and companies for Public Private Partnership for the following factories;
 - No.(10) Textile Factory (Taungtha)
 - No.(11) Textile Factory (Pakokku)
- The applicable information is as follow;
 - Available date for EoI Form - (18 -12-2023) to (16 -2 -2024)
 - Deadline for submission of EoI - (29- 2 -2024) (16:00 hrs)
 - Place to sell EoI form;
 - Planning Department, No(3) Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Office No.37, Nay Pyi Taw.
 - Place of Tender Submission - No.(3)Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Office No.37, Nay Pyi Taw.
- For further detail information, please contact to

Phone No.	-	95-67-3408185, 95-67-3408156,
Email	-	textile.planning@gmail.com

Visit of homegrown jets shows national support for HK's aviation industry: John Lee

The visit holds particular importance for the C919, China's inaugural large jetliner, marking its first flight beyond the Chinese mainland and highlighting its substantial order success with over 1,000 confirmed orders.



The C919 plane is scheduled to perform a fly-past over the scenic Victoria Harbour on Saturday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE visit of China's homegrown passenger aircraft C919 and ARJ21 to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is of great significance and shows the country's support for Hong Kong's aviation sector, HKSAR Chief Executive John Lee said on Wednesday.

The two aircraft arrived at the Hong Kong International Airport on Tuesday afternoon. For C919, China's first homegrown large jetliner that has secured over 1,000 orders, it was its maiden flight outside the Chinese mainland.

While addressing a welcome ceremony at the airport Wednesday, Lee said the development of the two aircraft is a milestone in the country's aviation

manufacturing industry, signalling the country's leading status in the manufacturing of sea, land and air transportation.

Hong Kong has also participated in certification and evaluation of both aircraft, including aircraft certification and pilot training, contributing to the country's aviation industry, he added.

As a global aviation hub, Hong Kong is making every effort to restore airport capacity after the pandemic, Lee said, adding that an international conference on aviation will be hosted this week in the city.

He said the three-runway system of the Hong Kong International Airport is expected to be completed next year. — Xinhua

Notice for only person

Chan Nyein San, who is the son of Tin Swe and also known as Chan Nyin San, is the only person holding passport number MF369753.

Transfer of Distributorship of Registered Pesticides

Distributor of the following pesticides, registered by **Corteva Agriscience (Myanmar) Co., Ltd** will be transferred from **Corteva Agriscience (Myanmar) Co., Ltd.**, located at Junction City Tower, #03-13, No.3/A, Corner of Bogyoke Aung San Road and 27th Street, Pabedan Township, Yangon, Myanmar to **OMO Family Co., Ltd**, R-6 Road, No.(1/3) Yangon Industrial Zone, Mingalardon, Yangon, Myanmar 11021 Any objection regarding to this transfer can be filed with the Co-Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayintraung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within 14 days.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of Permit	Registration Number
1	Pexalon® 10 SC	Triflumezopyrim 10%w/w SC	Provisional	P2020-3338
2	Novlect™ 120 EC	Cyhalofop-butyl 10.64%w/w + Florpyrauxifen-benzyl 2.13%w/w EC	Provisional	P2022-4976

Corteva Agriscience (Myanmar) Co., Ltd
Ph: 01-9253390

Notice for Change of Distributor

We, **Zhejiang Tide Cropscience Co.,Ltd.** would like to change the Distributor of the following products, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from **Myanmar Gold Medal Crop Science Co.,Ltd.** to **Seinn Lae Thwin Co.,Ltd.**, If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from here to next (2) weeks.

Sr.	The Old Distributor	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No.	The New Distributor
1	Myanmar Gold Medal Crop Science Co.,Ltd.	Intrepid 240 SC	Chlorfenapyr 240 g/l SC	Provisional	P2023-6156	Seinn Lae Thwin Co.,Ltd.

Address: **SEINN LAE THWIN CO.,LTD.** No-525, First Floor, Corner of Merchant Street & 38th Street, Ward No.(6), Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Tel: 09-455188188

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0310-759N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0310-759N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-12-2023** 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.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (347W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (347W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-12-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BAJO VOY.NO. (V.011N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BAJO VOY.NO. (V.011N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-12-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ACHILLEUS VOY.NO. (05/23)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ACHILLEUS VOY.NO. (05/23)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-12-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MKH** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILHELMSSEN PROT SERVICE(S) PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chinese President Xi Jinping attends a welcome ceremony held by General Secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam Central Committee Nguyen Phu Trong in Hanoi, capital of Viet Nam, 12 December 2023. Upon Xi's arrival in Hanoi, he had a meeting with Trong on Tuesday. **PHOTO: JU PENG/XINHUA**

Xi says China, Viet Nam should sail together on same ship of socialism

Xi Jinping, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and President of China, emphasized the importance of China and Viet Nam navigating together on the same ship of socialism during a meeting with Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, urging vigilance against disruptions in the Asia-Pacific, and promoting enhanced coordination and cooperation in international affairs to preserve a favourable external environment.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chinese president, said here on Wednesday that China and Viet Nam should sail together on the same ship of socialism.

In his meeting with Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, Xi said both sides should be alert to and oppose any attempts to mess up Asia-Pacific, strengthen co-

ordination and cooperation in international affairs and jointly maintain a favourable external environment.

Xi said that Nguyen Phu Trong, general secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam Central Committee, and he jointly announced building a China-Viet Nam community with a shared future that carries strategic significance, opening a new chapter in bilateral ties.

Xi said he believes it will bring greater benefits to the two peoples and make positive contributions to peace, stability and development of the region and the world.

For his part, Pham Minh Chinh said Viet Nam-China relations have withstood the test of time and history and will not be affected by any interference provoked by external forces. — Xinhua

Israel under pressure from allies as Gaza war rages on

Israeli forces clashed Hamas in Gaza, despite international concern over Palestinian territory devastation. UN General Assembly supports truce resolution, US deems bombing "indiscriminate".

ISRAELI forces battled Hamas in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday despite growing international concern, even from Israel's allies, over the devastation of the Palestinian territory.

The UN General Assembly on Tuesday overwhelmingly backed a non-binding resolution for a truce, and even Israel's key ally the United States labelled the bombing "indiscriminate".

But more air strikes hit Gaza and gun battles again raged through the night, especially in Gaza City, the biggest urban centre, and Khan Yunis and Rafah in the south, AFP correspondents said.

Cold autumn rains lashed the enclave, where millions have been displaced and many are

living in makeshift plastic tents, as vital supplies of food, drinking water, medicines and fuel have run low in more than two months of siege and war.

Air raid sirens wailed in Sderot and other southern Israeli communities near Gaza as militants kept firing rockets, most of which have been intercepted by air defences.

The army said its troops had fired an air strike against a militant cell in Gaza City's Shejaiya district "that was en route to launch rockets towards Israel".

In Khan Yunis, a centre of heavy urban combat in recent days, a family gathered to mourn the death in a strike of Fayez al-Taramsi, a father of seven. — AFP



Israeli forces shell Gaza from the border area in southern Israel on 12 December. **PHOTO: JACK GUEZ / AFP**



The UK's evacuation plan after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan has been widely criticized. **PHOTO: AFP**

UK defence ministry fined for Afghan data breach

THE UK defence ministry has been fined £350,000 (\$440,000) for disclosing personal information of 265 Afghans seeking to flee the Taliban, a data watchdog announced on Wednesday.

"This deeply regrettable data breach let down those to whom our country owes so much," said UK data commissioner John Edwards.

The error saw the email addresses of hundreds of people, including Afghan interpreters potentially eligible for relocation to Britain, openly included in the "to" field, rather than blind copied.

It first came to light in September 2021, soon after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, and the chaotic efforts to evac-

uate vulnerable people from the country. Ben Wallace, who was defence minister at the time, apologized and disclosed that one official had been suspended.

Britain's Afghanistan evacuation plan has been widely criticised, with the government accused by MPs of "systemic failures of leadership, planning and preparation". — AFP

SPORTS

Sub-par Arsenal held at PSV Eindhoven

A much-changed and lacklustre Arsenal were held 1-1 at Dutch league leaders PSV Eindhoven Tuesday, a result that still sees the Gunners top Champions League Group B.

The pressure was off as both sides had already secured their ticket to the last 16 and Arsenal in particular appeared to lack a competitive bite at the Philips Stadion.

PSV have been the runaway team to catch in this season's Eredivisie, winning all 15 of their matches and opening up a 10-point gap with nearest challenger Feyenoord.

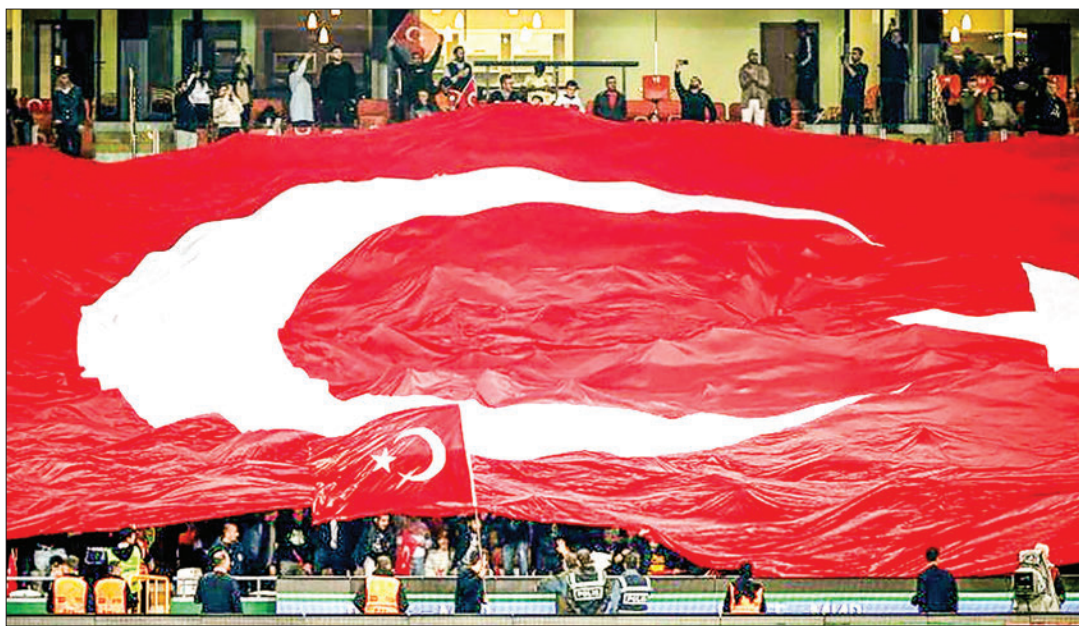
And it was the Dutch side

which started the brighter, a smart move down the right slicing open the Gunners' defence only for striker Ricardo Pepi to somehow contrive to miss from close range. Arsenal boss Mikael Arteta made eight changes from the side that lost 1-0 to Aston Villa in the Premier League at the weekend and the Gunners lacked organization at the back and penetration up front.

PSV created several first-half chances with slick interplay and Belgian international striker Yorbe Vertessen hit the post with a fine header that had Arsenal goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale beaten. — AFP



PSV Eindhoven have been the team to beat in the Dutch top flight this year. PHOTO: AFP



Turkish football is known for the passion of its supporters and occasional bursts of violence. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Turkish football plunges into crisis after referee attack

The incident has triggered a widespread debate on the issue of violence in sports, highlighting the broader implications of the attack on the pitch.

ANKARA'S Ankaragucu club president Faruk Koca's pitch attack on referee Halil Umut Meler triggered a crisis in Turkish football, leading to the detention of Koca and two others while igniting a heated debate about violence in sports.

Türkiye's football plunged

into all-out crisis Tuesday following an on the pitch attack on a referee by a club president who was mentioned as a possible candidate for mayor of Ankara. The top-flight Super Lig indefinitely suspended matches and a court placed MKA Ankaragucu club president Faruk

Koca and two others in pre-trial detention for "injuring and threatening a public official". Images of Monday night's incident showed Koca rushing onto the pitch with a group of men and throwing a punch at referee Halil Umut Meler after he had blown the final whistle. — AFP

FC Copenhagen qualified for the last 16 of the Champions League for the second time in their history on Tuesday thanks to a Lukas Lerager winner in a 1-0 home victory over Galatasaray.

The Danish champions overcame the odds in a group featuring Manchester United and Galatasaray to book their place in the knockout stages for the first time since 2010-11.

"I almost have no words for how big it is for us to take eight points against Bayern Munich, Manchester United and Galatasaray," said coach Jacob Neestrup.

"I think it is an extraordinary achievement that a Danish team can advance.

The group was so strong and full of so many world stars."

Copenhagen finished the game where they started it, in second place, though they en-

Copenhagen advance to Champions League knockouts with Galatasaray win

sured qualification in style with a second win of this campaign. Elsewhere in Group A,

Galatasaray dropped into the Europa League

playoffs while Manchester United fell out of European competition completely.



Lukas Lerager (C) celebrates his winning goal for Copenhagen against Galatasaray.

PHOTO: RITZAU SCANPIX/AFP

"Our goal continues. We are in the Europa League play-off round. Our goal is to win trophies in Europe. Our goal does not end," said Galatasaray coach Okan Buruk.

Lerager's second-half tap-in ensured Copenhagen kept their fate in their own hands with a win that gave them a three-point lead over the Turkish side in third place.

In the opening 45 minutes both sides showed intent but lacked a cutting edge on a nervy night where all was to play for.

The best chance fell inside the first 10 minutes to the side who were going through as things stood.

Slick Copenhagen passing resulted in Mohamed Elyounoussi supplying Peter Ankersen inside the box, but his right-footed strike flashed just beyond the far post. — AFP



ASML, Samsung ink 700-mln chip plant deal as S Korea president visits

Dutch tech company ASML and Samsung have signed a 700 million euro deal to construct a semiconductor research plant in South Korea, marking a significant development during President Yoon Suk Yeol's visit focused on forming a "chip alliance" between the two semiconductor giants.



Yoon Suk Yeol has described chips as his 'top priority' during his visit to the Netherlands. PHOTO: ANP/AFP

DUTCH tech giant ASML and Samsung Tuesday signed a deal worth around 700 million euros to build a semiconductor research plant in South Korea, as President Yoon Suk Yeol wrapped up day one of a technology-focused visit.

Yoon was the first foreign leader to visit ASML's highly secure "cleanroom", on a trip to the Netherlands aimed at forging a "chip alliance" between the two global semiconductor powerhouses.

He toured the city-sized facilities of ASML, which makes cutting-edge ma-

chines to manufacture the semiconductor chips that power everything from your smartphone to your car.

ASML and Samsung later agreed to "jointly in the future" invest in the facility that would "develop cutting-edge semiconductor processing technology using

next-generation EUV (extreme ultraviolet) equipment". Semiconductors are the "linchpin" of ties between Korea and the Netherlands, Yoon told AFP in an exclusive written interview before becoming the first Korean leader to visit since ties were established in 1961. — AFP

Syria expects to soon regain oil fields occupied by US

DAMASCUS expects to return oil fields that are important but remain under the



US troops patrol near an oil well in al-Qahtaniyah, Syria, 14 June 2023. PHOTO: DELIL SOULEIMAN/AFP/FILE

US's occupation to the control of the Syrian government in the near future, Syrian Oil Minister Firas Hassan Kaddour told Sputnik.

Many oil fields in northern Syria were destroyed as a result of attacks by terrorist groups, these fields returned to the control of the Syrian government, and their restoration began, the official said.

"We expect to liberate the [oil] fields remaining under occupation in the very near future, return them to the Syrian Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources and begin their restoration," the minister said on the sidelines of the 12th Arab Energy Conference in Qatar's capital city, Doha. — SPUTNIK

TOP NEWS

Swiss lawmakers set to elect defence minister as president

SWISS lawmakers are expected Wednesday to elect Viola Amherd, the first woman to serve as Swiss defence minister, as the country's next president, and also pick a new cabinet.

Seats in the seven-member government, known as the Federal Council, are distributed among Switzerland's four main parties, and rarely shift hands.

But with current President Alain Berset due to step down at the end of the year, parliament will vote in a new government member and portfolios could be shuffled around. Berset also serves as health minister.

The Swiss presidency rotates annually among the seven ministers, and Amherd, 61, is next in line. Barring a major upset, she should be picked to take on the role of president starting on 1 January.

Amherd, a member of The Centre party, is a lawyer from the southern canton of Wallis with a reputation for being discrete but also doggedly determined.

Proudly single, she was largely unknown to the public before entering government in 2019, when she replaced a departing defence minister and thus became the first woman to hold that position. — AFP