

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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This stunning aerial panoramic view captures the breathtaking beauty of Mount Popa and its surrounding area, recently recognized as the Mount Popa National Geopark.

## Mount Popa designated as National Geopark

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has released Notification 152/2023 recognizing 15 Geosites covering 52,317.85 acres in Kyaukpadaung Township of NyaungU District in Mandalay Region as Mount Popa National Geopark exercising the authority conferred by Sub-section (a) of Section 9 of the Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Area Law 2018 starting from

6 December 2023.

The ministry designated the Geosite to conserve unusual land areas, biodiversity and ecosystems, wild animals and fauna, natural heritage, history, and ancient heritage.

The Popa Mountain Park was established in 1989 to conserve the Mount Popa area, which is recognized as an oasis of tropical regions and biodiversity. It preserves precious timbers like teak,

ironwood, Dalbergia oliveri and sal and tropical plant species, Popa langur, mammals, resident bird species, reptiles, amphibians, insects and butterfly species.

Recognizing the Mount Popa National Geopark can bring benefits in protecting the unusual geological structures, world-level geographical existence, volcano, geological heritage, and ancient heritage and also supports the geotourism and sustainable development programmes, sustainability of ecosystems and manage the biodiversity and forest resources systematically.

*Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation*

**SUNDAY EDITION**

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900+ Myanmar workers recruited by Japan

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Strong demand pushes up peanut prices

## Myanmar foreign trade hits US\$20 bln in eight months

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar's external trade totalled US\$20.69 billion in the past eight months of the current financial year 2023-2024, beginning 1 April, comprising exports worth over \$9.6 billion and imports worth over \$11 bil-

lion.

Myanmar's seaborne trade amounted to \$14.9 billion, while \$5.768 billion was conducted at borders in the past eight months.

The figures dropped from \$22.975 billion in the corresponding period of FY2022-2023, re-

flecting a sharp drop of \$2.28 billion.

Myanmar exports agricultural produce, 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 been implementing the National Export Strategy (NES) 2020-2025 in order 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/EM

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# NATIONAL

## SAC members participate in Nay Pyi Taw's December Walking Festival



Over 3,800 people, including State Administration Council members, actively participate in the December Walking Festival.

THE Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs organized the "2023 December Walking Event" at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning in a bid to improve the health and fitness of all, starting with individuals and enhancing the level of Myanmar's sports world.

Over 3,800 people, including State Administration Council members, happily participated in the sports event.

The Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs launched the event. The participants started from Wunna Theikdi Stadium Gate 1 and

walked along the designated routes of Wunna Theikdi Stadium to Gate A.

Next, they collaboratively took Physical Fitness Dance Exercises.

Department of Sports and Physical Education officials distributed bottles of purified drinking water and refreshments.

The fourth week of the public walk will be continued on 23 December, and members of the State Administration Council, employees of ministries and family members will participate in the event. — MNA/KZL

## Yangon Mayor inspects city development construction works

CHAIRMAN of the Yangon City Development Committee Mayor U Bo Htay, and officials viewed the construction of the asphalt concrete repaving works at the traffic light junction of Pyay Road and Khayaypin Road yesterday morning. During the inspection, the mayor instructed the relevant officials that the shoulders of the road to smooth and endure, complete the construction on time, and fulfil the needs.

After that, the mayor and his team arrived at the Defence Services Specialty Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) and encouraged the two sanitation workers who were injured due to the explosion of a hand-made mine during their duty while providing

food and cash. Additionally, the Yangon Mayor inspected the construction of the underground pedestrian tunnel (underpass) between the West entrance to Shwedagon Pagoda and the People's Square and Park and the construction of U Wisara Road upgrading works yesterday's night.

The underpass that will connect the west entrance to Shwedagon Pagoda and the People's Square and Park will be 23 feet wide and 461 feet and nine inches long and includes four exits, four escalators, and two lifts for people with disabilities that can accommodate just ten passengers each at a time. It is said that the project period will take about 14 months. — MNA/MKKS



SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung observes the Myanaung District MSMEs Expo held at the People's Square of Myanaung Township in Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

## SAC Member participates in December collective walk in Pathein

STATE Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung, the Ayeyawady Region chief minister and relevant officials participated in the December walking event in Pathein Township yesterday.

A total of 5,000 participants, including departmental staff, members of social organizations, locals and students, joined the collective walk.

Then, the SAC member and party watched the final match of the inter-department volleyball competition at Koethein gymnasium in Pathein and awarded the athletes.

They also attended the new harvest festival of the Asho Chin people at Kyangin Township General Administrative Office of Myanaung District.

The SAC member remarked on the event and enjoyed the traditional Chinese songs and dances. Moreover, the SAC member and party in-

spected the winter sunflower and monsoon sunflower cultivation in Thawkyaduu village of Kyangin Township and instructed the necessary measures.

At noon, they met the locals of Myanaung District and briefed them on the five-point roadmap, nine objectives, and development programmes of the State Administration Council.

They then presented the agrochemicals for the summer paddy project to farmers of Myanaung, Kyangin, and Ingapu townships.

Then, the regional chief minister handed over solar equipment to electrify Myanaung Township using the region's capital expenditure of 2023-2024FY. The SAC member and party also observed the Myanaung District MSMEs Expo held at People's Square of Myanaung Township. — MNA/KTZH



Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay encourages two injured workers due to the explosion of a hand-made mine during their duty yesterday.

# NATIONAL

## Vice-Senior General Soe Win comforts Tatmadaw members, MPF members, people's militia receiving treatments for their wounds in serving State defence and security duties

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, accompanied by his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and officials, spoke words of honour and comforted officers, other ranks, Myanmar Police Force members and people's militia members who were wounded in serving State defence and security duties, at the local military hospital in Lashio, Shan State (North), yesterday morning.

At the local military hospital in Lashio, the Vice-Senior General, wife, and party asked those patients about the conditions of their wounds in serving the State defence and security duties, receiving medical treatment, recovery of their wounds, and progress of health conditions. They fulfilled the needs of those patients and presented cash awards, foodstuffs and blankets to them.

The Vice-Senior General presented cash awards to the commandant for health staff serving at the hospital.



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win warmly encourages the injured Tatmadaw, MPF and people's militia members yesterday in Lashio.

At local regiments and units in Lashio, the Vice-Senior General and wife cordially greeted

female military personnel and families and fulfilled their needs. Then, they handed over clothes,

kitchen materials, cash assistance and foodstuffs presented by the SAC Chairman Prime

Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services to those families. — MNA/TTA



A collective fitness exercise in action yesterday in Sittway.

## SAC Member participates in December Walking Festival in Rakhine State

THE December Walking Festival, plus other public sports activities, were held at Danyawadi Stadium in Sittway, Rakhine State, yesterday morning. December is designated as a public sports month for the health of the whole nation, and combined public walks and sports activities are carried out

nationwide.

More than 600 people, including State Administration Council Member Dr Ba Shwe, and officials, participated in the collective walk. As a public sports activity in Sittway, collective walks and sports activities are conducted every Saturday. — MNA/KZL

## Laos and Cambodian delegations visit Botahtaung Pagoda

DELEGATIONS of Laos and Cambodia visited and paid homage to the Botahtaung Kyaikdeap Hair Relic Pagoda located in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region, yesterday morning, according to U Aung Myat, a member of Pagoda Board of Trustees.

On 16 December, a five-member delegation team of Laos led by Deputy Minister for Planning and Investment of Laos Mme Phoneuanh Out-havong and a four-member delegation team of Cambodia led by Deputy Secretary-General of the Cambodia Investment

Board Mr Nut Unvoanar visited separately the Botahtaung Pagoda.

The delegations attended the 26<sup>th</sup> Greater Mekong Sub-region ministerial conference in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 December.

The two delegations cordially offered flowers, water, and candlelights to the Botahtaung Pagoda and NanOo Pagoda, observed the exhibition centres around the temple and visited the devotion halls of Bobogyi and Mya Nang Nwe and other devotion halls on the pagoda platform. — ASH/ TMT

# NATIONAL

## Rail service restored: Yangon-Mandalay line back on track after sabotage

IN the aftermath of a railway track destruction by KNLA and PDF terrorists, a train derailed between Kyaukdaga and Painzalok on the Yangon-Mandalay railway section, prompting a temporary closure at 4 am on 13 December.

The incident led to suspending four passenger express trains, two passenger trains, and six cargo trains on the Yangon-Mandalay route. Alternative transport arrangements were implemented to ferry passengers to Yangon Station by car.

Myanma Railways officials swiftly reloaded locomotives

and trains, ensuring passenger comfort and the timely resumption of train services. The railway section reopened at 12:40 am, following relentless day-and-night efforts to repair the track.

After a thorough safety inspection, No 3 Up is set to depart from Yangon station 15 December evening, with No 5 Up and No 4 Down departing from Mandalay Station. The resumption extends beyond No 6 Down, encompassing high-speed passenger trains, freight trains, and other regular journeys on the Yangon-Mandalay railway section. — MNA/KZW



A train of the Myanma Railways is seen departing the station.

## Counter-argument to false information

### Misinformation Alert: False report on Tatmadaw members who were recently granted pardon forced to attend military training in Kwinkauk, Ayeyawady



Screenshot validates misinformation.

THE malicious news media Ayeyawaddy Times intentionally published on social media that 150 former ser-

vice members recently released from prisons in townships of Ayeyawady Region were transported to the advanced military training depot No 5 to attend a short-term course.

According to an officer of the training depot from Kwinkauk, there is no such incident of providing training to the former service members, and it is confirmed that the misinformation, as mentioned earlier, was falsely delivered.

Malicious news outlets publish make-up news stories and misinformation daily to deceive the public about Tatmadaw, forging peace and stability and the rule of law. — MNA/ TMT

### Fake news alert on torturing prisoners at Monywa Prison



Screenshots validate false claims and fabricated stories.

THE malicious media, RFA, is spreading fake news and misinformation on social media pages that prisoners who are serving their sentences in Monywa prison, Sagaing Region, are being tortured by officers in charge of the prison.

Regarding the news, an official from the Correctional Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs said that it is incorrect that the routine administrative

work in the prison is being carried out in line with the procedures, that there is no illegal activity, and that it is just writing propaganda.

As per reports, the malicious media are spreading fake news and misinformation in a timely manner to destroy the stability and peace of the villages, regions and states and to mislead the public intentionally. — MNA/TKO

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

# NATIONAL

## MYANMAR GAZETTE

### Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of Daw Lei Lei Aye as Director-General of the Department of Disaster Management under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

### U Thit Linn Ohn appointed as Ambassador of Myanmar to the Russian Federation

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Thit Linn Ohn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Cambodia, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Russian Federation. — MNA

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The coordination meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on Formation of Myanmar Government Designated Entity (GDE) Consortium to implement the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone in progress yesterday.

### Scrutiny committee on formation of Myanmar GDE Consortium for Kyaukpyu SEZ holds meeting

THE Scrutiny Committee on Formation of Myanmar Government Designated Entity (GDE) Consortium to implement the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone conducted its first-ever coordination meeting at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Min Min presented that the special economic zones are essential for the economic development of Myanmar and the regional countries.

He also highlighted that the successful implementation of the Kyaukpyu Deep-Sea Port Project plays a key role in the development of Myanmar; both local companies from Rakhine

State and other experienced companies owned by Myanmar citizens that have the capabilities to operate the project effectively will all be invited, and the collaborations will be formulated in the form of Project Company. He added that through the State-owned newspapers, Myanma Alinn and The Mirror, invitations have already made for the interested proposals for the formation of the Myanmar GDE Consortium.

Attendees at the meeting discussed the detailed plans to scrutinize the proposals of Myanmar companies systematically by collaboration between the relevant departments as per the established policies, rules, and procedures. — MNA/ TMT



### Migratory birds flock to Indawgyi Lake near Shwemyinzu Midwater Pagoda, Kachin State

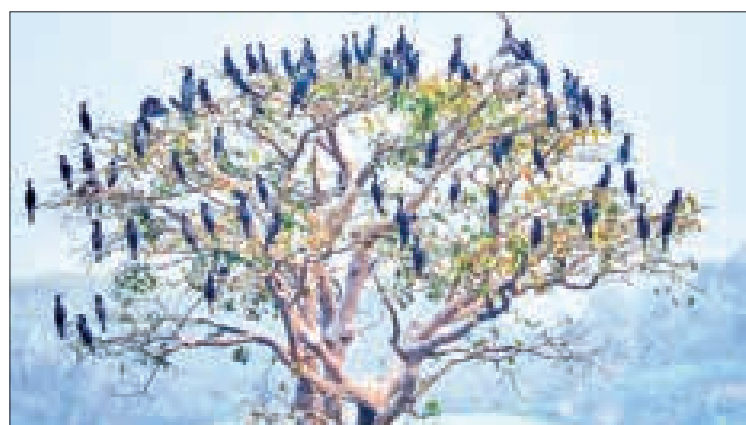
ACCORDING to U Tin Win, a member of the Shwemyinzu (Indawgyi) Midwater Pagoda Board of Trustees, migratory birds roost at Indawgyi Lake near Shwemyinzu (Indawgyi) Midwater Pagoda in Mohnyin Township, Kachin State every

year. Hibernating birds and local waterfowl roam around Indawgyi Lake in Kachin State during the winter. According to the records,

there are 12,447 hibernating birds of 29 species and 7,170 local waterfowls of 18 species, totalling 19,617, around Indawgyi Lake and along the Indaw Creek in November.

“In Tibet, a cold region of the world, when winter arrives and ice forms, birds migrate to Indawgyi Lake every year starting from the last week of October. More than 20,000 hibernating birds arrive here annually. About 19,617 birds have arrived to date,” said U Tin Win.

Many pilgrims visit the Shwemyinzu Waterside Pagoda in Indawgyi Lake daily, taking memorable photos of hibernating waterfowl. In 2004, Indawgyi Lake and the surrounding area were established as the Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary. The region received international recognition as an ASEAN Heritage Park in 2003. In 2016, the Ramsar Site designation was conferred, and in 2017 Indawgyi was designated as a human and biosphere. — ASH/KZW



# NATIONAL

## 900+ Myanmar workers recruited by Japan



Some Myanmar workers seen going to Japan to work in May 2023.

THE Myanmar Embassy to Japan announced on 15 December that it will recruit more than 900 Myanmar

workers to work for companies in Japan.

A total of 335 jobs were offered, with applications sent

between 1 and 15 December for 958 Myanmar workers through the Myanmar Embassy to Japan.

As per reports, the factories and companies offering jobs have been verified whether they are legally established in Japan, and the documents have also been verified. The findings and comments have been returned to the Ministry of Labour through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

Last November, the Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo announced that more than 1,000 Myanmar workers had been recruited to work in factories and workshops in Japan. — TWA/TKO

## YBS 118 and 97 bus lines start commuting to Thukha Dagon Housing

ACCORDING to the housing residents, YBS 118 and 97 bus lines started running to Thukha Dagon public rental housing in Dagon Myothit (South) Township on 16 December.

Five bus lines are scheduled to run to facilitate the smooth transport of the people living in the rental housing. YBS 118 and 97 bus lines will operate initially.

The newly built Thukha Dagon public rental housing is located near the University of Economics, adjacent to the No 2 toll gate at the intersection of No 7 and No 2 highways. It is a little far from Yangon, which makes it difficult for people to travel.



YBS 118 bus line running to Thukha Dagon Housing.

Four companies reportedly plan to operate with YBS 118, YBS 97, YBS 81, and YBS 71 bus lines to the housing.

“Currently, two bus lines operate and run from the housing to Sule and another two bus lines from the house to Htaukkyant. It is more convenient by those buses,”

Ko Win Oo, a resident at the housing, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

In addition, construction of a temporary market is underway, then the supermarkets will be able to open, according to the Department of Urban and Housing Development. — TWA/TKO

## Home Affairs: Public gambling arrestable without warrant

THE Home Affairs Ministry introduced an amendment on 13 December that aligned with the Gambling Law, granting authorities the power to arrest individuals suspected of engaging in public gambling without requiring a warrant.

Any township, ward, village administrator, or police can arrest any suspect involved in public gambling.

Moreover, authorities can search suspected gambling premises with a warrant, accompanied by a minimum of

two witnesses and sufficient force. This warrant remains valid for 14 days.

Authorities must record the suspects' names, evidence, and complaint form to file a case against them. — TWA/NT

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### SAC Chair calls for enforcing strict foreign currency spending

AT the financial commission meeting on 15 December, its chairman, State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, emphasized strict monitoring of foreign currency expenditure within the public sector. He urged executive bodies to limit requests for supplementary budgets to essential expenses payable exclusively in foreign currency.

### Application for fuel oil permits to be digitized

THE Supervisory Committee on Fuel Oil Import, Storage and Distribution is working on an online application system for fuel oil transport permits. It is also planning software that can monitor the sale and use of fuel oil.

### Bago Region plans Robusta coffee expansion

PLANS are underway to expand Robusta coffee plantations in Bago Region by an additional 1,000 acres in 2024. Reports indicate that Life House Coffee, based in Toungoo District, has received orders of 30 tonnes from Thailand and 50 tonnes from European countries.

### Exporters hopeful after policy adjustment

WITH the Export Earning Policy reducing the mandatory exchange of export earnings into kyat at the Central Bank of Myanmar reference rate from 50 per cent to 35 per cent, traders are optimistic about a surge in exports.

### Slight earthquake hits with epicentre six miles from Twantay

A slight earthquake of magnitude 3.4 Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar, about six miles north-northwest of Twantay at latitude 16.79°N and longitude 95.91°E, 10 kilometres in depth and about 16 miles west-southwest of Kaba Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 23 hours 08 seconds MST on 15 December 2023.

### Myanmar hosts 26<sup>th</sup> GMS Ministerial Conference

THE 26<sup>th</sup> Greater Mekong Subregion Ministerial Conference (MC-26) held at the Grand Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 December. The theme of MC-26 is “Building a strong and cohesive GMS community with a shared future towards resilient economic development”. Dr Kan Zaw, GMS Minister and Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, chaired the conference. — Htun Htun/NT

## MCIA signs MoU with seven foreign companies for grain deal

MYANMAR Corn Industrial Association (MCIA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with seven foreign companies for the international trade in corn, according to the Ministry of Commerce (MoC).

Regarding corn export, the MoU signing ceremony between the MCIA and companies from China, Thailand and Viet Nam was held on 12 December at the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization meeting hall under the MoC in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Director-general of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization addressed that agriculture is the backbone of Myanmar. It is delightful that the MCIA led a business-to-business pact to export corn to China, Viet Nam, and Thailand. This MoU will bring about market stability and trade enhancement. The Director-general instructed the association to strictly adhere to the rules and regulations to reap a fruitful result.

The chairman of the MCIA emphasized that there are over two million acres of corn in Myanmar, with an estimated yield of over three million tonnes. The lo-



The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. Corn bulbs being meticulously sorted after harvest.

cal consumption is about one million, so the remaining is exported to the external markets. This MoU will generate over US\$600 million in revenue annually for the State. Because of the market transparency, the agreement will benefit both parties with mutual interest. The association pledged to strengthen the cooperation ac-

ording to the MoU.

Myanmar has shipped 903,699 tonnes of corn to its trade partners as of 1 December in the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, earning \$271.321 million, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

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 Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Commodity Centre). Myanmar delivers corn to China and Thailand through the border and 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 during the corn season of Thailand.

China has been purchasing Myanmar's corn through cross-border trade under the opium substitution program. 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. The majority 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

## Strong demand pushes up peanut prices

AMID low supply to the Mandalay Commodity Wholesale Centre, strong Chinese purchases and domestic demand by oil millers and farmers who buy seed for the next cultivation season drove the peanut prices up.

The prices moved, ranging between K5,800 and K6,500 per viss in the domestic market depending on varieties in mid-December, up by K500-K1,000 per viss compared to those registered in early December.

The prices hit a record high of K7,550-K11,000 per viss on the back of strong foreign and domestic demand on 18 August

2023.

Myanmar has been exporting oil seeds (sesame and peanuts) to foreign countries. Last April, the world's top palm oil exporter, Indonesia, one of Myanmar's leading oil suppliers, declared a ban on cooking oil export to reduce domestic shortage. Consequently, Myanmar's Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce temporarily suspended exports of oil crops (peanut and sesame) from 9 May 2022 to have oil self-sufficiency.

Exports of Myanmar's edible oil crops resumed as the world's top palm oil exporters



A peanut plantation in Yenangyoung Township. PHOTO: SAN NYUNT

returned to normalcy, according to a notification dated 5 July 2022 released by the Trade Department.

The country exported over 10,000 kilogrammes worth US\$16.028 million to foreign markets through seaborne and

border trade channels over the past eight months of the current financial year 2023-2024, beginning 1 April. — NN/EM

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# OPINION

## PyinOoLwin: Blooming with coffee prosperity

**P**YINOOLOWIN, renowned for its hill station charm, floral allure, and cherry prominence, is poised to transform into a thriving coffee city. The government is spearheading this transition by allocating land plots ranging from five to fifty acres to local businesspersons for the establishment of expansive coffee farms. This initiative aims to foster the growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, representing a strategic move to diversify the city's economic landscape.

Acknowledging the government's goodwill, businesspersons undertaking these land plots are obligated to operate coffee farms at full capacity. However, some entrepreneurs have fallen short of implementing their coffee projects to their maximum potential. To rectify this, authorities actively seek opportunities to support those who genuinely engage in coffee cultivation.

The government initiated the PyinOoLwin coffee project over a decade ago, but insufficient encouragement has hampered its impact. Recognizing the untapped potential within privately run coffee farms, the government has

devised a comprehensive plan to develop the coffee industry further in PyinOoLwin. The objective is not only to enhance regional development but also to fortify local businesses.

A pivotal aspect of shaping PyinOoLwin into a coffee city is the need for an expanded production scale catering to both local consumption and international export. Only through the systematic operation of coffee cultivation and production by businesspersons can the region experience substantial progress in the coffee industry over the next five to seven years.

In its commitment to the success of coffee farms and production industries, the government pledges technological assistance and aid to enhance the quality of coffee production and improve packaging processes. Local authorities have revoked permits for those who failed to actualize their coffee cultivation projects to weed out non-compliance. Furthermore, strict guidelines have been imposed, urging coffee farmers to construct only essential structures for coffee production on their allocated farmlands prohibiting any structures related to recreation camps to prevent a decline in coffee production.

To ensure the longevity of coffee industries, it is imperative for coffee farmers and businesspersons to adhere to established rules and regulations. The success of coffee projects not only augments individual incomes but also contributes revenue to the state, fostering a symbiotic relationship between thriving businesses and economic prosperity. As the government and local coffee farmers collaborate, PyinOoLwin is poised to emerge as a beacon of success in both domestic and foreign coffee markets.

*In its commitment to the success of coffee farms and production industries, the government pledges technological assistance and aid to enhance the quality of coffee production and improve packaging processes. Local authorities have revoked permits for those who failed to actualize their coffee cultivation projects to weed out non-compliance. Furthermore, strict guidelines have been imposed, urging coffee farmers to construct only essential structures for coffee production on their allocated farmlands prohibiting any structures related to recreation camps to prevent a decline in coffee production.*

## Neck muscle inflammation primary cause of headache: Study

*Researchers at RSNA linked neck muscles to primary headaches, offering potential for improved treatments, though the exact causes of types like tension headaches and migraines remain unclear.*

**R**ESearchers disclosed genuine proof of how the neck muscles are implicated in primary headaches in a study presented at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA). The findings could lead to improved treatments.

The distinct underlying causes of primary headaches are still not fully understood. The most common primary headaches are tension-type headaches and migraines.

### Imaging approach

"Our imaging approach pro-

vides first objective evidence for the very frequent involvement of the neck muscles in primary headaches, such as neck pain in migraine or tension-type headache, using the ability to quantify subtle inflammation within muscles," said Nico Sollmann, MD, PhD, resident in the Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology at University Hospital Ulm, and the Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Neuroradiology at University Hospital Rechts der Isar in Munich, Germany.

Tension-type headaches affect

two out of every three adults in the U.S. People with tension-type headaches often feel a tightening in the head and mild to moderate dull pain on both sides of the head. While these headaches are typically associated with stress and muscle tension, their exact origin is not fully understood.

### Chronic migraine

Migraines are characterized by a severe throbbing pain. Migraines generally occur on one side of the head, or the pain is worse on one side. Migraines may also cause nausea, weakness and

light sensitivity. According to the American Migraine Foundation, over 37 million people in the US are affected by migraine, and up to 148 million people worldwide suffer from chronic migraine.

Neck pain is commonly associated with primary headaches. However, no objective biomarkers exist for myofascial involvement. Myofascial pain is associated with inflammation or irritation of muscle or of the connective tissue, known as fascia, that surrounds the muscle.

SOURCE: ANI



### A New Day

By Chit Ko Pe

In the east, a sun peeps to rise with dawn quelling dark-shade.

Silence is cracked by birds' chirp having the day, a fresh start.

Wafting across from jasmine flora patio overwhelms with aroma.

I'm made afresh with "Good morning" ready to take on one and everything, the best yet to come, I aim.

## Wish (es)

By Nu Yin, Translated by Myint Zan

my mother and father are old now: if only they are free from and avoid suffering and healthy in mind as well as body can I be cheerful

my husband, my son(s) albeit they are not old in years (I wish that) in the roads they traverse the dangers would disappear their journeys be safe without tiring in body and spirit they can march forward: only then can I be glad

my relatives, my friends the general public may they be free from countless troubles I do pray and wish: only if their journeys are smooth

and they can rest with repose can I be happy: these are my anxious thoughts

from this (human) abode filled with darkness whence will I escape I, in turn, pine for (such release) give me the strength to wait for it, I pray: Oh! World such is thee



Book Title	- Taungthaman Wungyin Thamaingwin Neyamyia (Places of Historical Interest Around Taungthaman Lake)
Writer	- Ko Pyinnya (Amarapura)
Translator	- Dr Than Tun
Publishing House	- Seikku Cho Cho
Publication Date	- January 2023 (Reprinting)
Price	- K4,000

## Taungthaman Wungyin Thamaingwin Neyamyia (Places of Historical Interest around Taungthaman Lake)

Written by Ko Pyinnya (Amarapura) and translated by Dr Than Tun

KO Pyinnya (Amarapura) won the National Literary Award in 1996 in the genre of (General Knowledge (Arts) for writing this book under review. Mandalay Publishing House printed this book for the first time in 1996. Seikku Cho Cho published this edition, but what makes this edition different from the first one is that the text is bilingual this time. Dr Than Tun does the English version, and the English version is titled "Places of Historical Interest around Taungthaman Lake." The book

is divided into three parts – the history of Kyauktawgyi Pagoda, Maha Wizayanthi Temple, and the historical places around Taungthaman Lake. Taungthaman Lake is one of the places of tourist attraction.

When people talk about Taungthaman Lake, they will also mention U Bein Bridge, which attracts tourists and local travellers. This bridge is world-famous because it was built with teak logs. The bridge is always thronged with visitors who like to walk over

the bridge while watching the scenic, panoramic view of the lake. The visitors can breathe in the fresh air, walking over the bridge connecting Mandalay with Amarapura. Built during the reign of the Bagan King, the bridge is 170 years old now. Some historians also say that the bridge was built to prevent British boats from coming to the city of Amarapura.

If one reads the history of Maha Wizayanthi Temple, one will know the bell called Maha Meru Makuda Ganda Raja.

Bagyidaw Sagaing King cast this bell on the 13<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tabauing in the 1189 Myanmar Era (Thursday, 13 March 1828 AD). This giant bell is made of bronze, weighing 1,500 visse.

Sayamagyi Ludu Daw Ahmar has also recommended this book under review to the readers. She is noted for her great love for Myanmar culture. She loves and cherishes Myanmar culture and is deeply concerned about the decadent culture. As this book contains the history of pagodas and temples, people should read this book, she said. It is necessary to translate this book into English to make Myanmar's noble tradition and history known to the international community.

Therefore, we should be grateful to Sayagyi Dr Than Tun, who has exerted great effort to do the translation. This bilingual version also carries the illustrations of the famous pagodas, Cedis and temples in the vicinity of Taungthaman Lake. Last but not least, the book is a significant asset for researchers and academicians because they can find the data and rare photos. This book is beneficial not only for historians but also for some sections of the general readers who can learn the translation of Myanmar texts into English.



Book Title	- Nyaung Yan Hint Konbaung Khit Naingnganyay Pon Yeik Myar
Writer	- Maung Thar (Archaeology)
Publishing House	- SMART
Publication Date	- November 2023 (1 <sup>st</sup> Edition)
Price	- K6,000

## Nyaung Yan Hint Konbaung Khit Naingnganyay Pon Yeik Myar

Written by By Maung Thar

THIS is the eighth book of Maung Thar, an archaeologist. He writes books on archaeology and history. The book under review is titled Nyaung Yan Hint Konbaung Khit Naingnganyay Pon Yeik Myar. This book is a collection of articles already carried in Myanmar Review Journal in 2016 and Yadanabon Newspaper in 2018 and 2019.

Regarding the historical records of Myanmar, the two eras – Nyaung Yan and Konbaung – have provided the most comprehensive historical records. This

has enabled Maung Thar to compile the most comprehensive articles on history and archaeology.

The book is divided into two main parts – Myanmar Naingngandaw in the Nyaung Yan Era and Myanmar Naingngandaw in the Konbaung Era. The former part has 11 episodes, whereas the latter has 16 episodes. The eleven episodes of the Nyaung Yan Period cover an article about Pyu-China relations in and around AD 802. The readers will be able to learn about the earliest diplomatic ties during the peri-

ods of Myanmar monarchs. They can also learn about the foreign relations kept until the reign of Maha Dhamma Rajadipati, the last King of Nyaung Yan Dynasty.

Concerning the Konbaung Era, his articles mention the periods ranging from Alaungmintaya U Aung Zeya to King Thibaw, the last King of the Konbaung Dynasty. The 16 essays written by Saya Maung Thar deal with the political, economic, social, military and foreign trade affairs.

The readers will learn about King Thalun, the third king of the

Nyaung Yan Dynasty. King Thalun is noted for his thriftiness. He has formulated a peculiar savings policy. There has been an instance in which he has imposed corporal punishment on a woman who has wasted the water remaining from cooking rice. This water is called rice syrup. During his tour of Sagaing, King Thalun found a woman pouring the rice syrup onto the road he was on. In his opinion, this poor woman is just wasting the valuable rice syrup when she can feed her children, the dogs and the pigs with this rice syrup. The King gives her ten beatings with a cane stick before giving her Kyats 30 as a dole. What makes the King remembered for centuries is his population policy. He has encouraged both the singles and the divorcees as well as widows and widowers, to marry to boost the population. He has also issued an order for the creditors not to disturb their debtor farmers while they are working on their farms. He also issued another worth-mentioning demand under which the township officers and the village chieftains are prevented from summoning the poor people.

In fact, history gives us the lessons to learn from. This being so, the book is strongly recommended to the readers.



# Entertainment



A poignant group photo captures the essence of the 10<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN (Nanning) Theatre Week in China, commemorating a week filled with cultural richness and artistic exchanges.

## Myanmar traditional dance at 10<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN (Nanning) Theatre Week

ACCORDING to U Nay Lin, secretary of the Myanmar Theatrical Association, Myanmar artistes performed the Myanmar orchestra, puppet, duet dance, and Mahawthadha play at the 10<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN (Nanning) Theatre Week.

The 10<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN (Nanning)

Theatre Week was held at the Guangxi Culture and Art Centre in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

It was attended by over 400 participants, including Mr Zhao Yongfu, a standing member of the Nanning Communist Party

and Director-General of Information, Deputy Director-General Ms Fan Qin, U Nyunt Win, Director-General of the Fine Arts Department with the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, U Phoe Chit, Chairman of the Myanmar Theatrical Association,

officials of Consulate-General, Chinese students, faculty, Myanmar scholars and Nanning-based Panorama magazine. The Guangxi media outlets arrange to broadcast the performances of Myanmar artistes. – ASH/KTZH

### Ni Ni Khin Zaw

NI NI KHIN ZAW showed her pre-wedding photos on her Facebook page and made marriage registration on 11 December. Her friend singer, Mi Sandi, said, "I was not surprised by her wedding news as we are friends and we know a lot. I am happy whatever she does and also delighted for her marriage."



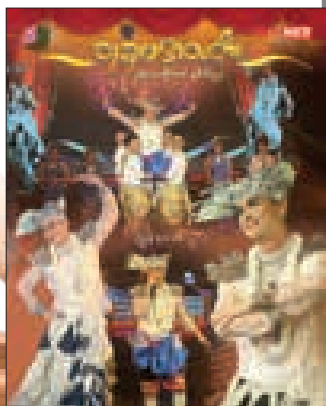
### Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi

ACTRESS Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi, who recently got married, attended the MG EV Show-room opening ceremony on the ground floor of Myanmar Plaza on 15 December. It was also attended by Academy Nay Toe, Academy Tun Tun, Tyron, Oak Soe Khant, May Mie Ko Ko and Thiri Kyaw.



### Ye' Lay

FAMOUS singer Ye' Lay will perform as theatrical performer for his fans. The entertainment, called Thukhuma Alinka (duet dance performance of Ye' Lay) will be broadcast at noon on 16 and 17 December on Myanmar Arts Channel of SkyNet. The replay will be at 8 pm on 16 and 17 December. The audience can watch the performance of Ye' Lay and comedian Do Pauk.



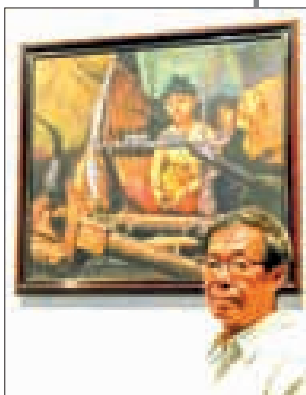
### Sai Sai Kham Leng

SAI SAI KHAM LENG is making an on-screen comeback with a new Diamond Empress jewellery shop advertisement after a three-year break from acting. He starred in a new commercial with Diamond Empress jewellery shop owner Dr Thae Su Khine (aka) Ma Nge Lay. The launching ceremony of the new advert was held at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon on 14 December.

### Zaw Wynn (Wood Cut)

AN 80-year-old artist, Sayagyi U Zaw Wynn (Wood Cut), organizes the "4 Artists Family Show" art exhibition from 16 to 18 December. The collection will also offer the paintings of artists Zay Yar Aye (MDY), Lai Lai Moe and Naw Anna. The event will be at

Mandalay Art Gallery, Building (6), flat 105 of Aungchantha Housing in Bahan Township.



## Celebrity Brief

### Poe Mahmi Thar

ACTRESS Poe Mahmi Thar posted a post on her Facebook saying, "Don't miss EM District when you visit Bangkok". She also posted photos of the attractive sites of Bangkok's end-of-year festive vibe, like Malls, exciting events, delicious food, and Christmas decorations. She took May Poe Thawta's character in the film "Star Fallen in Heart" on Canal+ channel. – Htun Htun/KTZH



TOP NEWS

### Kuwait's ruling emir Sheikh Nawaf dies aged 86: royal court

THE emir of oil-rich Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, died on Saturday, the royal court said, after three years in power. He was 86.

"With great sadness and sorrow, we mourn... the death of Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait," said a statement aired on Kuwaiti state television. — AFP

### Ex-Trump lawyer Giuliani ordered to pay \$148 mln for defaming poll workers

DONALD Trump's former lawyer had accused the poll workers of committing election fraud during the 2020 US election.

A jury ordered Donald Trump's former lawyer Rudy Giuliani to pay \$148 million in damages on Friday for defaming two Georgia poll workers with his false claims they engaged in election fraud.

The eight-person federal jury awarded Ruby Freeman and her daughter Wandrea "Shaye" Moss more than \$16 million each for defamation, \$20 million each for emotional distress and \$75 million in punitive damages.

The 79-year-old former New York mayor was found liable in August by US District Judge Beryl Howell of defaming the Fulton County poll workers with his 2020 election lies on behalf of former president Trump.

Giuliani, who led Trump's legal efforts to overturn the results of the election, posted a video of the pair that falsely accused them of engaging in fraud during ballot-counting and made numerous other baseless claims about them. — AFP

### Canada's legislation to reduce gun violence receives royal assent

CANADA'S Firearms Act received royal assent on Friday, immediately bringing into force a series of measures to combat gun crime.

According to a news release issued by Public Safety Canada, these measures include a national handgun freeze, emergency weapons prohibition orders, and increased penalties for firearms smuggling and trafficking.

Since 2009, handguns

have been the most used weapon in firearm-related violent crimes in Canada. With the passing of this legislation, the national freeze on the sale, purchase, and transfer of handguns has been codified in legislation, restricting the transfer and importation of handguns into Canada, the release said, noting that the handgun freeze came into effect by regulations made on 21 October 2022. — Xinhua



Members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) tactical unit confer after the suspect in a deadly shooting rampage was killed at a gas station in Nova Scotia, Canada, on 19 April 2020. PHOTO: TIM KROCHAK/AFP/FILE

## UK's new Hinkley nuclear plant reaches milestone

The Hinkley Point C nuclear power plant in the UK achieved a significant milestone as the steel dome covering its first reactor building was successfully installed by the world's largest land crane, "Big Carl".



An EDF handout showing the steel dome being installed over Hinkley Point C's reactor 1. PHOTO: HANDOUT/AFP

THE UK's planned Hinkley Point C nuclear power plant reached a major milestone on Friday, with the installation of a steel dome that will cover its first reactor building, operator EDF said.

The world's largest land crane, nicknamed "Big Carl",

installed the gigantic circular roof, which is more than 47 metres (154 feet) in circumference, is 14 metres high and weighs 245 tonnes, according to the French energy giant's British subsidiary.

Still weather conditions allowed the delicate manoeuvre to

be undertaken and the job was completed in an hour and a half.

The metal cover now caps a 44-metre-high cylindrical concrete tower that will house the first of the plant's two reactors, due to be installed next year. — AFP

## Arizona governor sends National Guard to border area

ARIZONA'S Democratic governor said Friday she is sending National Guard soldiers to areas around the US border with Mexico, accusing President Joe Biden's government of "refusing to do its job" on migration.

Katie Hobbs, whose state is a key target for Republicans, last week took fellow Democrat Biden to task after a major crossing was closed, purportedly to allow officials to concentrate their resources on stemming illegal migration.

"Yet again, the federal government is refusing to do its job to secure our border and keep our communities safe," Hobbs said in her order Friday. "With this Executive Order, I am taking



Katie Hobbs announced the deployment of National Guard soldiers to areas along the US-Mexico border, emphasizing the federal government's failure to ensure the safety of border communities. PHOTO: SANDY HUFFAKER/AFP

action where the federal government won't. But we can't stand alone, Arizona needs resources and manpower to reopen the

Lukeville crossing, manage the flow of migrants, and maintain a secure, orderly and humane border." — AFP

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Denmark to introduce green tax on plane tickets

*Denmark's government announced plans to implement a green tax on plane tickets from 2025, emphasizing the aviation sector's role in the broader green transition and encouraging other EU states to adopt similar measures for environmentally friendly air travel.*

DENMARK'S government said Friday it plans to phase in from 2025 a green tax on plane tickets, urging fellow EU states to follow its example.

"The transport sector is currently undertaking a rapid green transition, and with this agreement, this also concerns aviation," Transport Minister Thomas Danielsen said in a statement.

"It will still be possible to fly, but it must be possible to do this in an environmentally friendly way."

The tax, which will apply to flights departing from Denmark but not to connecting passengers, will be set at 30 kroner (€4) for short-haul flights when it is introduced in 2025 rising to 50 kroner in 2030.

Long- and short-haul flights

will be taxed at as much as 410 kroner in 2030, by which time the average tax will be 100 kroner.

"I imagine that as the years go by we shall have common European regulation in this area. That would be the right way forward," Climate and Energy Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen said.

The measure is expected to help finance investment in the transition of domestic air trans-



Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) Airbus A320 planes are parked at the Copenhagen Airport in Kastrup, Denmark, on 15 March 2020. **PHOTO: JOHAN NILSSON /AFP**

port to wholesale use of sustainable fuels by 2030 and an increase in a pensioner bonus, received by

those getting the smallest pensions, by around €2 billion per year. — AFP

## US identifies use of AI as risk in financial system

*US regulators have highlighted artificial intelligence, particularly generative AI, as a potential vulnerability in the financial system, emphasizing the necessity to monitor its rapid developments to ensure oversight structures effectively address emerging risks.*



People have their faces scanned as they arrive for the opening ceremony of the World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC) in Shanghai on 29 August 2019. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP/FILE**

US regulators have identified the use of artificial intelligence as a vulnerability in the financial system for the first time, according to a report released on Thursday.

There is a need to monitor "rapid developments in AI, including generative AI, to ensure that oversight structures keep up with or stay ahead of emerging risks to the financial system," said the Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC) in its annual report.

Generative AI software can

quickly produce text, images and audio from simple commands in everyday language.

"As financial institutions continue to evaluate and adopt innovative technologies, uptake of AI could accelerate," said Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, who chairs the council, on Thursday. Speaking at a council meeting, she added: "Supporting responsible innovation in this area can allow the financial system to reap benefits like increased efficiency, but there are also existing principles and

rules for risk management that should be applied." The FSOC was created in the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis, and other members include the chairs of the Federal Reserve, as well as the Securities and Exchange Commission. The annual report found that the US financial system is resilient and the banking system remains sound — despite turmoil earlier this year involving the collapse of some US regional lenders.

For now, the council supports plans to review if capital measures properly reflect an institution's ability to absorb losses, and recommended that banking agencies closely monitor uninsured deposit levels.

It also called for financial institutions and regulators to boost their ability to monitor AI innovation, and identify emerging risks. Other recommendations include pushing for data collection so that authorities can monitor climate-related financial threats, as well as to pass legislation allowing stablecoins to be regulated. — AFP

## Leading German economic institutes lower 2024 forecasts

JUST one day after the German government announced massive savings in order to deal with its budget crisis, leading economic institutes in the country on Thursday lowered their forecasts for the coming year.

The 2024 budget is missing 17 billion euros (18.53 billion US dollars) due to the failed reallocation of COVID-19 relief funds for climate protection measures, after a court ruling last month.

"Uncertainty is currently delaying the recovery, as it increases consumers' propensity to save," said Timo Wollmershaeuser from the ifo Institute for Economic Research.

Following a slight recession

in 2023, the ifo Institute expects the German economy to grow by just 0.9 per cent next year, instead of the previously estimated 1.4 per cent.

However, the institute stressed that "the course for recovery has essentially been set in the forecast period." Inflation has continued to decline, leading to a cut in European key interest rates in the summer, and an increase in purchasing power.

The German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin) and the RWI Leibniz Institute for Economic Research also expect the German economy to grow slightly, by 0.6 and 0.8 per cent respectively, in 2024. — Xinhua



A sales promotion sign is seen during Black Friday sales at a shop in Frankfurt, Germany, 24 November 2023. **PHOTO: ZHANG FAN/AFP**

## Shipping firms suspend Red Sea traffic after Yemen rebel strikes

TWO of the world's largest shipping firms, Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd, said Friday they were suspending passage through a Red Sea strait vital for global commerce, after Yemeni rebel attacks in the area.

The Iran-backed

Huthis, who control much of Yemen but are not recognised internationally, say they're targeting shipping to pressure Israel during its two-month-old war with Palestinian Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip.

The maritime tensions have added to fears that the Gaza conflict could spread.

German transport company Hapag-Lloyd said it was halting Red Sea container ship traffic until 18 December, after

the Huthis attacked one of its vessels.

"Hapag-Lloyd is interrupting all container ship traffic across the Red Sea until Monday," the company said in a statement sent to AFP.

The Danish firm Maersk made a similar announcement, a little earlier.

"We have instructed all Maersk vessels in the area bound to pass through the Bab al-Mandab Strait to pause their journey until further notice," it said.

Maersk said this followed a "near-miss incident involving Maersk Gibraltar yesterday" as well as Friday's attack, in which the rebels struck a Hapag-Lloyd cargo ship in the Red Sea. — AFP



Hapag-Lloyd is interrupting all container ship traffic across the Red Sea until Monday. PHOTO: JOHN THYS/AFP

## 77.2% of high school students in Japan secure job offers

A total of 77.2 per cent of high school students in Japan who are scheduled to graduate next spring have received job offers by the end of October, a recent survey has found. The Japanese education ministry survey showed Friday that the figure was up 1.1 percentage points from a year earlier. About 929,500 high school students across the country are expected to graduate next spring, of which about 129,300 stu-



About 929,500 high school students across the country are expected to graduate next spring, of which about 129,300 students plan to work after graduation. PHOTO: KYODO

dents plan to work after graduation. By the end of October, about 99,700 of them secured jobs, according to the survey. By prefecture, the job-securing rate was highest in Aichi with 89.1 per cent, followed by Toyama with 87.9 per cent and Mie with 87 per cent, while the three lowest figures were seen in Okinawa at 49.1 per cent, Hokkaido at 60.4 per cent and Kochi at 62.9 per cent. — Xinhua

## Stocks attempt to extend Fed-fuelled rally

WORLD stock markets attempted Friday to build on the previous day's rally as investors recalibrated their outlook for 2024 after the Federal Reserve held rates but indicated it would cut next year.

Asia mostly advanced but Europe tempered

gains on news of slumping eurozone business activity, while London turned flat.

Markets faced a busy week for global interest rates after the Federal Reserve pivoted Wednesday to signal it would cut next year, while both the

Bank of England and the European Central Bank distanced themselves on Thursday from cutting any time soon.

The dollar wavered Friday after diving in reaction to the Fed's plans, while oil prices rose one day after spiking more

than three per cent in value.

The BoE and ECB on Thursday also froze borrowing costs, in line with the Fed, but both warned that fight against inflation was not over and doused any hopes of early rate cuts next year. — AFP



Canadian print media will receive most of an annual payment from Google to the country's news outlets. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

## Canada print media to get two-thirds of Google's payment to news outlets

Canada's print media is set to receive almost two-thirds of the annual Can\$100 million (US\$75 million) payment from Google as part of a "historic" agreement with the federal government.

CANADA'S print media will receive nearly two-thirds of an annual Can\$100 million (US\$75 million) payment from Google to the country's news outlets in exchange for distribution of their content, the federal government announced Friday.

At the end of November, after months of negotiations, Ottawa and Google announced a "historic" agreement, where the

tech giant would pay Canadian media companies compensation for the loss of advertising revenue.

"The share that television and radio will receive is capped at 30 per cent, that of CBC/Radio-Canada (the Canadian public broadcaster) at seven per cent, which leaves the remaining 63 per cent for the written press," a federal official told journalists at a briefing. — AFP

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V PETKUM VOY.NO. (0UV56E1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PETKUM VOY.NO. (0UV56E1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-12-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**

# ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

## Lufthansa to resume flights to Tel Aviv from 8 Jan

*Lufthansa plans to resume flights to Tel Aviv from 8 January with 20 weekly connections initially, accounting for around 30 per cent of the regular flight schedule.*

GERMAN airline group Lufthansa said Friday it planned to resume flights to Tel Aviv from 8 January after the service was suspended in early October following the Hamas attack on Israel. Lufthansa will initially “offer a total of 20 weekly connections to and from Tel Aviv”, Lufthansa said in a statement. “This corresponds to around 30 per cent of

the regular flight schedule.”

Lufthansa Airlines will offer connections from Frankfurt and Munich, while its subsidiaries Austrian Airlines and SWISS will also restart the service.

SWISS said it was resuming five weekly flights between Zurich and Tel Aviv, with five weekly flights from 8 January. It also said it would resume flights to Bei-

rut twice weekly. The Lufthansa group halted flights to Israel on 9 October, citing security concerns after Hamas militants carried out an unprecedented attack against Israel on 7 October.

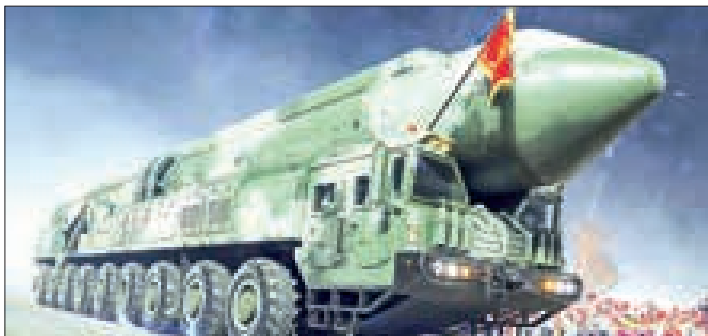
Other airlines including British Airways, Air France-KLM and US airline Delta also cut flights to Tel Aviv in the wake of the attack. — AFP



The decision comes after the suspension of flights in October due to security concerns following a Hamas attack on Israel. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Senior S Korean official says N Korea may launch ICBM this month

*Kim Tae Hyo, the principal deputy national security adviser, mentioned this as he arrived in Washington for talks on nuclear and strategic matters with US officials, providing no specific details on the basis of his assessment.*



File photo shows a Hwasong-18 intercontinental ballistic missile on display during a military parade in Pyongyang in July 2023. **PHOTO: KCNA/KYODO**

A senior South Korean government official has said there is a possibility of North Korea launching an intercontinental ballistic

missile this month, according to a Yonhap News Agency report.

Kim Tae Hyo, principal deputy national security adviser,

made the remark Thursday as he arrived in Washington for a security meeting with US officials on nuclear and strategic issues. He did not detail the basis of his view, the report said.

Asked whether the North's spy satellite launch last month will be discussed, Kim said a ballistic missile using ICBM technology is a subject of discussions on “extended deterrence,” referring to the United States' commitment to using the full range of its military capabilities, including nuclear, to defend its ally. — Kyodo

## Chile to vote on new, more conservative constitution

CHILEANS will on Sunday vote in a second referendum aimed at replacing the country's dictatorship-era constitution, with analysts saying the new proposal is even more conservative than the existing charter.

The latest draft was overseen by the far-right Republican Party after voters roundly rejected a progressive version in September last year that attempted to enshrine environmental protections and the right to elective abortion.

Leftist President Gabriel Boric said last month it would be his last attempt to reform the

constitution in order to focus on stability and long-term development. Polls, banned in the two-

week run-up to the referendum, have predicted another rejection. — AFP



People with Chilean flags take part in a rally in support of amending the constitution ahead of referendum, in Santiago, on 22 October 2020. **PHOTO: MARTIN BERNETTI/AFP/FILE**

### NEWS UPDATES

#### S Leone ex-president ordered to pay \$15 mln in corruption case

A Sierra Leone court has ordered former president Ernest Bai Koroma to pay more than \$15 million in a suspected corruption case, legal authorities said.

The appeal court in the capital Freetown rejected arguments by lawyers for Koroma, who was president until 2018, and ordered the sum be paid within 30 days, they said in a statement on social media. “We will appeal the judgement,” Koroma's lawyer Joseph Fitzgerald Kamara told AFP by telephone on Friday.

He added they had yet to receive a copy of the ruling after it was read out in court on Thursday. — AFP

#### Fire breaks out at oil refinery in Iranian city of Isfahan - reports

A fire broke out on Saturday morning at a crude oil processing station of an oil refinery in the central Iranian city of Isfahan, Iranian news agency reported.

The fire started at the inlet pipes of the unit, and firefighting teams are currently trying to localize it, the news outlet reported, citing the Crisis Management Authority for Isfahan Province.

There has been no reported injuries or fatalities as of yet, the news agency said. — SPUTNIK

#### WHO welcomes new aid transit point for Gaza

THE World Health Organization on Friday welcomed the announcement by Israel that it would allow the temporary delivery of aid into the Gaza Strip via its Kerem Shalom border crossing.

WHO called for the aid to be distributed throughout the embattled Palestinian territory.

“That's, of course, very good news,” said Richard Peepker, World Health Organization representative for the occupied Palestinian territory, of the Israeli announcement.

But he added: “How can we make sure that these trucks can go everywhere in Gaza, and not just in the southern Gaza, but also to the northern Gaza?” — AFP

# SPORTS

## Team Myanmar composes Group A of Asian Futsal Championship



The Myanmar national futsal team seen posing for a group photo. **PHOTO: MFF**

MYANMAR futsal team is placed in Group A of the Asian Futsal Championship following the drawing-lots event for the tourney held on 14 December.

Sixteen teams will compete in the final stage, which will be held in Thailand from 17 to 28 April 2024. Team Myanmar is placed in Group A with host Thailand, Viet Nam and China, while Group B sees Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Australia.

Japan will pass South Korea, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan in Group C, while Iran will face Kuwait, Bahrain and Afghanistan in Group D.

This is the second time that the Myanmar team has been allowed to compete in the final stage of the Asia Cup futsal tournament and the first time since 2018.

The Myanmar team played against Tajikistan, India and Palestine in the previous qualifiers, finishing second in the group with six points to reach the final stage of the tourney. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Man City squander lead as Luton match abandoned after player collapse

MANCHESTER City threw away a 2-0 lead at home against Crystal Palace on Saturday as the Bournemouth v Luton game was abandoned after defender Tom Lockyer collapsed on the pitch.

Pep Guardiola's champions dominated their match at the Etihad but two late goals from Roy Hodgson's men, including a stoppage-time penalty, could have a major impact on the title race.

Crystal Palace have been something of a bogey team for

Guardiola since he arrived in England in 2016 — they are one of only three teams to have won at the Etihad more than once, along with Manchester United and Chelsea.

The champions enjoyed nearly three-quarters of possession in the first half but had only Jack Grealish's goal to show for their dominance.

The England winger scored for the third league game in a row, sweeping home after being found by Phil Foden in the 24<sup>th</sup> minute. — AFP



Crystal Palace's French midfielder (7) Michael Olise (C) celebrates scoring the team's second goal from the penalty spot during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Crystal Palace at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England, on 16 December 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Juventus miss out on top spot after Genoa draw

*Allegri emphasized the importance of seizing opportunities and scoring when necessary in their 11-match unbeaten run.*



Genoa came from behind to hold Serie A title hopefuls Juventus. **PHOTO: AFP**

JUVENTUS failed to take top spot in Serie A from Inter Milan on Friday as Albert Gudmundsson's second-half goal secured hosts Genoa a 1-1 draw.

Massimiliano Allegri's Juve closed the gap on Inter to one point but could fall four points adrift when the league leaders visit Lazio on Sunday.

"When you have to kill the opponent, it has to be done, when you have important chances, you have to score,"

Allegri told DAZN after his team extended their unbeaten run to 11 matches.

"It's an important point, let's continue the positive streak." Juventus made a strong start and Federico Chiesa wasted a big chance midway through the first half when he fired over from close range.

But the Italy international was given the chance to make amends just five minutes later from the penalty spot after a foul

by goalkeeper Josep Martinez and Chiesa made no mistake.

Juventus were caught out less than three minutes into the second period though as Icelandic forward Gudmundsson chested and volleyed home from seven yards out after a fine Genoa move.

The visitors struggled to break down their opponents but saw a golden opportunity to snatch all three points come and go in the 89<sup>th</sup> minute. — AFP

## New York's Met Museum agrees to return 14 stolen cultural artefacts to Cambodia

**N**ew York's Metropolitan Museum (the Met) has agreed to return 14 looted cultural treasures in its possession to Cambodia after several years of negotiations, the Cambodian Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts said in a statement on Satur-

day.

The repatriation includes several masterpieces such as the breathtaking sculpture of a 10<sup>th</sup>-century female goddess (Uma) from the ancient royal capital of Koh Ker, a 10<sup>th</sup>-century bronze head of Avalokiteshvara which has a matching torso now at the National Museum of Cambodia, and a 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> century Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara sculpture, the statement said.

Cambodian Minister of Culture and Fine Arts Phoeurng Sackona said

the return of these artefacts, held by the Met is of utmost importance not only for Cambodia, but for humankind.

"The enormous importance to the Cambodian people, of these returns is difficult to overstate," she said in the statement. "We have many more treasures at the Met we also hope will be returned to Cambodia."

The minister said this repatriation shows once again Cambodia's continuing commitment to finding and bringing back its ancestors' souls that departed from its motherland.

Sackona also called on other museums and private collectors to return their looted collections of Cambodian antiquities. — Xinhua

This undated photo shows a 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> century Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara sculpture to be returned to Cambodia from the United States. **PHOTO: CAMBODIAN MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND FINE ARTS/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

## Mexico: Inauguration of the Maya Train

*The Tren Maya, also known as the Maya Train, is a 1,525-kilometre intercity railway in Mexico that crosses the Yucatán Peninsula. Construction started in June 2020, and the railway began operating on 15 December 2023.*

MEXICO'S Maya tourist train glided into action on Friday, promising prosperity for one of the country's poorest regions, but tainted by allegations of environmental devastation.

President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador hailed his flagship project as a "magnum opus" built in "record time" ahead of the inauguration, during which he boarded one of its green-and-white cars for the train's first run between the colonial city of Campeche and the Caribbean resort of Cancun.

Cancun is Mexico's leading tourist destination and welcomed 34 million foreign visitors between January and October, according to official figures.

The stretch of rail inaugurated Friday is the first of seven sections that will cover a total of 1,554 kilometres (965 miles) around the Yucatan Peninsula, an area rich in flora, fauna and archaeological ruins. The others will be operational in the first quarter of 2024.

The route includes parts of

the Mayan Riviera, which covers a jungle region considered the second-most important forest reserve in Latin America after the Amazon, as well as cenotes — freshwater caves — and underground rivers.

Activists and environmental organizations said the project caused massive damage to the region's ecosystem, dubbing it an "ecocide", and succeeded

in temporarily halting work through legal appeals.

But Lopez Obrador issued a decree declaring the infrastructure works a matter of "national security" and construction resumed.

Greenpeace and other NGOs have warned that the train threatens to contaminate cenotes and underground rivers in particular. — AFP



President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador praised the project as a quick "magnum opus" and inaugurated it by riding in one of its green-and-white cars from Campeche to Cancun. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ MEXICO NEWS DAILY/AFP**



The museum's permanent exhibitions have been reorganized to highlight the work of 25 women artists. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Greek museum hands over reins to women artists

A Greek art museum this week handed over its halls exclusively to women artists, in a pioneering exhibition titled "What if women ruled the world?"

"For 10 months, the entire museum will be in the hands of women artists," Katerina Gregos, artistic director of the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Athens (EMST), told AFP.

The museum's permanent exhibitions have been reorganized to highlight the work of 25 women artists, with another 15 temporary displays to follow.

Among the painters, sculptors, photographers and others are Syrian-American contemporary artist Diana Al-Hadid, French visual artist Annette Messager, Iranian-American painter Tala Madani, Greek-Belgian contemporary artist Danai Anesiadou and English visual artist Cornelia Parker.

Until now, just 37 per cent of artists represented in the museum's permanent exhibition were women, Gregos said.

The selected works address themes including stereotypes of female beauty, violence against women, inequality, consumerism, and poverty disproportionately affecting women. — AFP