

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Timely nationwide fuel oil delivery and distribution, including Yangon

A massive oil tanker docks alongside Thilawa Port to unload its cargo into the fuel storage tanks on-site.

Oil tankers from abroad continued arriving at Thilawa Port terminals to ensure a sufficient supply of fuels.

Fuels, including over 400,000 gallons of 92 Ron, over 240,000 gallons of 95 Ron, over 320,000 gallons of diesel, and over 350,000

gallons of premium diesel, was delivered by 367 oil bowsters from terminals such as Denko, Max, MMTM, Brighter Energy, PSW and Regency SPC at Thilawa Port, as well as from PT Power Terminal in Thakayta township and Denko Terminal in Hlinethaya township, to 187 petrol stations

in Yangon Region on 15 November.

Similarly, fuels, comprising over 1.2 million gallons of 92 Ron, over 250,000 gallons of 95 Ron, over 700,000 gallons of diesel, and over one million gallons of premium diesel, are being distributed unimpededly to 2,178 petrol stations

across the country day and night using 928 bowsters.

Therefore, the condition for purchasing oil in all petrol stations nationwide is reportedly normal, and the public can buy petrol easily and conveniently. — MNA/MKKS

Myanmar's manufacturing sector leads in FDI with US\$88.78M in Apr-Oct



Dedicated female workers excel in sewing at the garment factory in Myanmar's thriving manufacturing industry.

Foreign direct investments of more than US\$88.78 million were pumped into Myanmar's manufacturing sector from 36 enterprises in the past seven months (from April to October) of the current financial year 2023-2024, including capital expansion by the existing enterprises, as per the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The power sector topped the FDI line-ups with \$317.178 million from three enterprises, followed by the manufacturing sector. Chinese companies primarily made investments in the manufacturing sector.

SEE PAGE-4

NATIONAL

PAGE-2



ASEAN-Korea Centre to shoot travel videos in Myanmar

BUSINESS

PAGE-7



Strong demand drives rice prices up

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Law Amending the Television and Radio Broadcasting Law (2023) (State Administration Council Law No 56/2023)

4th Waxing of Tazaungmone 1385 ME
16 November 2023

THE State Administration Council hereby enacted this law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

1. This law shall be called the Law Amending the Television and Radio Broadcasting Law (2023).
2. Section 2 (q) of the Television and Radio Broadcasting Law shall be substituted as follows: -
“(q) The Council means the Television and Radio Broadcasting Council formed with nine members including the chairman and the secretary by the State Administration Council for supervising, monitoring and managing television and radio broadcasting measures mentioned in the law.”
3. The preamble of Section (7) of the Television and Radio Broadcasting Law shall be substituted as follows: -
“7. The person with the following qualification shall be co-opted into the Council as a member.”
4. The preamble of Section 8 of the Television and Radio Broadcasting Law shall be substituted as follows: -
“8. The following persons shall not be co-opted into the Council as members.”
5. This law shall be in force until the day when the Union government has been formed according to the election which shall be held after completion of serving the responsibilities by the State Administration Council under the provisions of the State of Emergency.
6. It shall be assumed to revoke Sections 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 mentioned in the Television and Radio Broadcasting Law as long as this law is in force.

I hereby signed this law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sd/
Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

Central Bank of Myanmar Announcement

16 November 2023

RUMOURS suggesting that the amount of cash withdrawals from bank deposits is being limited and that some private banks are providing advance salaries to their employees have recently circulated on social media and internet websites. These claims are fake news and false information.

There is no limit imposed on the amount of cash withdrawals from bank deposits. Thanks to the Core Banking System, banking services are now available at any branch of a bank throughout the nation, as the deposit account data of customers are readily and conveniently accessible at each branch. Moreover, digital banking services, as well as payments, can be easily made, and all banking services are being provided as usual. Customers of the banks continue to enjoy regular banking services.

Therefore, it is announced that the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) is now working in cooperation with law enforcement organizations to identify those who spread fake news intending to damage the public interests and to impose deterrence punishment against them.

Statement

16 November 2023

IT is saddening to hear the news that some of the faculty members who are working at the University of Loikaw have been forcibly abducted by the terrorists, who attacked the university in Kayah State with heavy weapons and small arms at 7:50 am on 13 November.

All Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Organization and Border and Hilly Region Sasana Nuggaha Association (Central) strongly condemns the abduction of faculty members teaching youths who are not carrying any weapons, terrorist attacks and the destruction of Loikaw University.

All Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Organization and Border and Hilly Region Sasana Nuggaha Association (Central)

ASEAN-Korea Centre to shoot travel videos in Myanmar

THE ASEAN-Korea Centre will shoot travel videos in areas that attract tourists to Myanmar to promote Myanmar's tourism sector.

To promote Myanmar's

tourism sector, the filming of tourism videos will be done in Myanmar's regions starting from the third week of November and ending in December in tourism areas, including the



The Sule Pagoda glows serenely in the heart of Yangon during the night.

Yangon Region and Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone in Mandalay Region.

The shooting will be conducted at Shwedagon Pagoda, Kandawgyi Park, Sule Pagoda, and near the Yangon City Hall,

Bandoola Park, the Secretariat, Sule Pagoda Road, National Museum (Yangon), Time City, Aung Zeya Bridge and River View places.

After the filming of the tourism promotion videos, they will

be posted on ASEAN-Korea Centre's YouTube, Instagram and Facebook, as the videos are the motivators to invite tourists to places around Yangon and Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone. — ASH/KZL



The former Minister's Building, also called The Secretariat, in downtown Yangon.

NATIONAL

Youth & Literary Arts Festival coord meeting marking 76th Anniversary Independence Day convened

The Ministry of Information yesterday held a coordination meeting on the Youth and Literary Arts Festival to be observed in Nay Pyi Taw from 20 to 22 December aiming at empowering the five kinds of strength for youths and their abilities in commemoration of the 76th anniversary of Independence Day.

Speaking at the meeting, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn said that the festival will be held for the students, employees and their families to make study tours to the event for fun and also plans are underway to add education and entertainment programmes.

The Prime Minister currently focuses on the youths' sector and there should be proper booths for the university students this year under the guidance of the Prime Minister. It also needs to provide entertainment programmes and other interesting events.

The festival is slated to take place for three days in which 13



The coordination meeting on the Youth and Literary Arts Festival to be held in marking the 76th Anniversary Independence Day in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

ministries will participate, and it will also feature the selling of ethnic traditional foods.

Then, Union Minister for

Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan said that the ministry is making collaborative efforts to successfully hold the Youth

and Literary Arts Festival.

Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung reported on the objectives of the festival,

ongoing work plans of working committees and subcommittees and preparation work for the festival.

After hearing the reports of the attendees, Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint coordinated the requirements. Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn then concluded the meeting.

The Youth and Literary Arts Festival aims at motivating the students to read books and publications, know the advantages of literature, uplift patriotic spirit, prestige and integrity through literature and fine arts, adore the independence of the nation with the knowledge of independence struggle and sufferings in the colonial era, enjoy peace, stability and beautifying scenes of the nation with development activities as well as panoramic rural scenes to have the soul for adoring the relevant regions and states, and easily know endeavours of relevant ministries through the displays of booths at the event. — MNA/KTZH



The tourism promotion discussions underway between the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and the Exploring Myanmar Culture and Tourism Organization yesterday.

MoHT DM meets China Tourism Promotion delegation

EXECUTIVE Chairman Mr Liu Wei of Exploring Myanmar Culture and Tourism Organization and delegation visited the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism yesterday morning introduced the tourist attractions and culture of Myanmar for Chinese citizens and the tourism promotion activities using the "Myanmar Pavilion" tourism promotion platform opened on TikTok in China to U Phyo Zaw Soe, Deputy Minister

for Hotels and Tourism.

Both sides discussed issues mutually beneficial for both countries, promotion and advertising of tourist attractions for Myanmar's destinations and food in China, cooperation of social influencers from China, news media, and familiarization trip (FAM Trip) involving travel bloggers and travel agencies, implementation for the influx of more Chinese tourists, coop-

eration in tourism promotion issues using digital technology, invitation of entrepreneurs from China to invest in Myanmar's hotels and tourism sector, dissemination of on-ground real news instead of fabricated news about Myanmar in China, building a communication channel between China-Myanmar tourism operators and bilateral tourism development issues. — MNA/TS

Companies with extended one-year repayment periods for Covid-19 loans may face legal consequences for non-repayment: Committee

THE Working Committee to address the impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has announced that the loan repayment period will be extended for another year from the date it reaches two years for the companies/businesses that perform their operations using the COVID-19 loans effectively, and they will face action as per the terms and conditions of the loan contract if they fail to repay the principal and interest.

The committee released the statement on the one-year extension of the COVID-19 loan repayment period for livestock breeding sectors, including Myanmar citizen-owned fish and prawn farming industries, on 14 November.

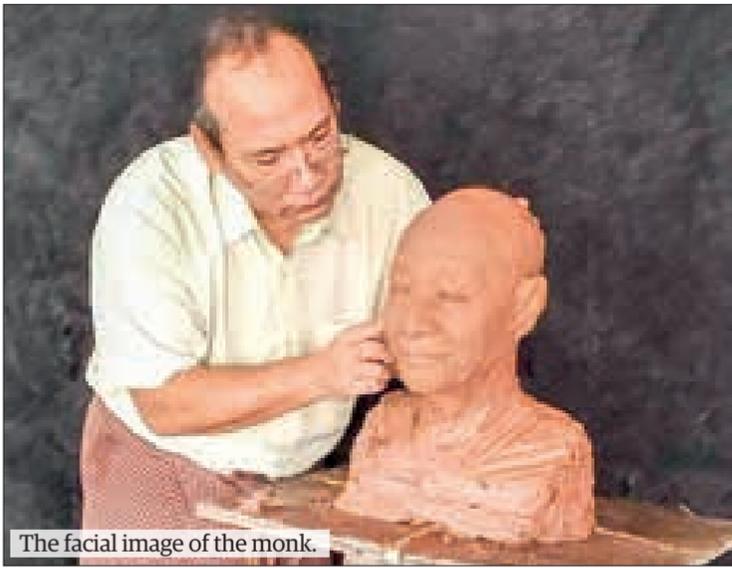
The government extended the repayment period of loans granted to 327 companies and industries further one year when the loan period reached one year on 30 November 2022 under the guidance of the State Administration Council Chairman.

But they must meet the requirements: (a) they must have paid the first interest of the first year, and (b) they must have paid the second interest of the second year on the due date, the statement said.

The committee started disbursing K7.63 billion Covid-19 loans to 327 companies and industries, including Myanmar citizen-owned fish and prawn farming industries, for one year at a one-per-cent interest rate on 16 November 2021.—NN/KTZH

NATIONAL

Silicon statue of Rector Sayadaw completed 80%



The facial image of the monk.

THE silicon statue of Ashin Nandamala Bhivamsa is nearly completed, according to a lead sculptor.

"We've moulded the body with silicon. The head will be sculpted separately and then attached to the body. It's a sitting image. "The head itself is 80 per cent finished. We can take time since the clients don't rush us," said U Aung Kyaw Tun, a lead sculptor.

"After the statue is done, it will be placed at

the monastery resided by Ashin Nandamala Bhivamsa in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Region.

The monk, commonly known as Rector Sayadaw, currently serves as the rector of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy and an associate head (Upaukkatha) of Shwegyin Nikaya. He is also the Patron of Maha Thubawdayon monasteries. — ASH/NT

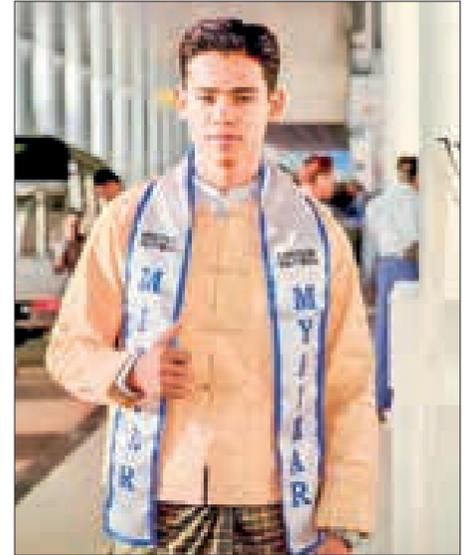


PHOTO: YE THWAY THIHA
Mister Global Myanmar 2023

Mr Myanmar to compete in Mister Global 2023 contest in Thailand

ACCORDING to the contestant Mister Ye Thway Thiha, he is planning to compete in the Mister Global 2023 competition in Thailand as the representative of Mister Global Myanmar 2023.

The competition is scheduled to start from 17 to 26 November, with respective representatives from over 50 countries such as Thailand, Viet Nam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, Singapore, Korea, Canada, and India.

Ye Thway Thiha said, "I feel excited to compete in this competition, and I tried my best during the camp. I feel more excited as I'm the representative of my country and I want the title. My personal life is a runway model, and I'm trying my best for bodybuilding. I've practiced to be able to show my perfect body. As a Mister, we can't compete only with the body; we also have to prepare our education, beauty, and brain as our best. I want to tell the fans to support me."

In the Mister Global competitions, Myat Thura Lwin won the title of Winner Mister Global 2014 and People's Choice Award in Mister Global 2014, Paing Soe Tun was nominated as Top 16 and grabbed the Mister Popularity Award in Mister Global 2017 and Thiha Kyaw was unplaced but received the Best in National Costume Award in MG 2019. — ASH/TRKM

Deep Depression No 06/2023

Issued at (19:00) hours MST on 16-11-2023

Depression Condition According to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the Deep depression over Westcentral Bay of Bengal has moved continue North-Northeastwards. It is centered at about (335) Nautical miles West-Southwest of Sittwe, (320) Nautical miles West-Southwest of Maungdaw, (Myanmar), (140) Nautical miles South-Southeast of Paradip, (210) Nautical miles South-Southwest of Digha (India) and (280) Nautical miles South-Southwest of Khepupara (Bangladesh). It is not moving towards Myanmar coasts, the present stage of the Deep Depression is coded yellow stage. **Position of Depression, center pressure and wind** The Deep Depression is located at Latitude (18.1) degree North and Longitude (87.4) degree East, centre pressure of Deep Depression is (1004) hPa and maximum wind speed near the center is (35-40) miles per hour at (17:30) hrs MST today. **During next (48) hrs forecast** The Deep Depression is likely to move North-Northeastwards and intensify into a Cyclonic Storm during next (24) hrs. It may cross Bangladesh coast between Mongla and Khepupara on (18.11.2023). **General caution** Due to the Deep Depression, rain or thundershowers will be isolated to scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Kayah State and fairly widespread to widespread in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine States with isolated heavy falls in some Regions and States from tonight to (18.11.2023). Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) mph. Wave height will be about (7-9) feet off and along Rakhine Coast from tonight to (18.11.2023). **Advisory** Under the influence of the Deep Depression, people should be aware of strong wind, heavy rain, flash flood and landslide in the hilly areas and near small rivers and also domestic flight, trawlers, vessels and ships off and along Rakhine Coast. — DMH

Myanmar's manufacturing sector leads in FDI ...

FROM PAGE-1

The manufacturing enterprises that need a large labour force are prioritized to create job opportunities for the local community. Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garment and textiles produced on a Cutting, Making, and Packing basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent. Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) is committed to accelerating its effort to keep improving Myanmar's garment sector, joining hands with international brands and partners, as per the MGMA's statement on its commitment released on 25 August. The MGMA launched the Grievance Mechanism online at c.mgma-vlca.com where workers from MGMA member factories can directly report

their grievances, ensuring the confidentiality of the name and personal information of those who file complaints.

The MGMA has implemented the Voluntary Labour Compliance Assessment (VLCA) from February 2020 to evaluate the compliance of the factories in line with the national labour laws and international labour standards. To beef up the assessments and expand enrolment, the online version was launched in November 2022. More than 220 factories have accomplished the assessment so far and over 100 are still under scrutiny.

There are 529 factories operating under the MGMA as of October 2023, comprising 305 from China, 54 from Korea, 19 from Japan, 20 from other countries, 59 domestic factories and 29 joint ventures, according to the MGMA's monthly Newsletter. — KK

Global NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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

CRIME NEWS

Three Chinese suspects under warrants extradited to China

WARRANTS dated 15 November were reportedly issued by the Kokang Self-Administered Zone Court against Ming Xuechang, Ming Guoping (aka) Ming Xiaoping, Ming Julan, and Ming Zhenzhen, who have been involved in committing, attempting to commit, as well as collaborating in organized crimes such as online scam, seduction, kidnapping, illegal detention, and extortion in the Kokang Self-Administered Zone, Shan State.

Three out of those four suspects under warrants, namely Ming Xuechang, Ming Guoping (aka) Ming Xiaoping, and Ming Zhenzhen, were caught in Lauk-kai, Kokang Self-Administered



Ming Xuechang



Ming Guoping (aka) Ming Xiaoping



Ming Zhenzhen

Zone, yesterday. During the attempt to arrest them, Ming Xuechang shot himself with an illegally possessed pistol, and he

died from that wound while undergoing medical treatment. To take legal action against those arrested suspects, responsible

personnel from the Myanmar Police Force handed them over to the Chinese counterpart at Yanlongkeng checkpoint at

the Myanmar-China border at about 1:50 pm. The body of Ming Xuechang hasn't been brought back to China yet for necessary verifications.

To eradicate organized crimes of online scam, seduction, kidnapping, illegal detention, and extortion, as well as to prohibit involvement in those crimes, the Government of Myanmar is striving with its utmost efforts in investigation, identification, and punishment by concerned law enforcement agencies. Additionally, the Government of Myanmar always keeps in touch with respective neighbouring countries and works actively in close cooperation. — MNA/ZN

Issuing arrest warrant against Pel Yan Chan, son of U Pel Sauk Chein (Pan Sau Chein) identified as misinformation

IT was reported that the information that Kokang Self-Administered Zone Court issued an arrest warrant on 16 November 2023 to take action against Pel Yan Chan, son of U Pel Sauk

Chein (Pan Sau Chein) for committing online scam, seduction, kidnapping, illegal detention, extortion, attempts to commit such cases and collaborating on the organized crimes in the

Kokang Self-Administered Zone was a misinformation, and likewise, China did not issue an arrest warrant against Pel Yan Chan, son of U Pel Sauk Chein (Pan Sau Chein). — MNA/TTA

K500 mln worth of stimulant tablets captured in Pinlaung



Three offenders seen alongside seized drugs and vehicle.

ACTING on a tip-off, a combined team comprising members of the Anti-Drug Police Force examined a Toyota Surf travelling from Pinlaung to Tatkon, driven by Aung Min and accompanied by Aung Ko Ko Oo, near Leinli village in Pinlaung township of Shan State (South) at 1 pm on 9 November, and seized one million stimulant tablets worth K500 million, as stated by the Myanmar Police Force.

After conducting an interro-

gation, the police also arrested Sai Kong Leng (aka) Ko Sai, who was involved in drug trafficking, at his house in Kunhing township at 7:30 am on 10 November. Offenders admitted that the drugs were intended to be transported from Shan State to Yangon Region. The police have taken legal action against the offenders, and an investigation is underway to identify the perpetrators of the crime chain. — MNA/MKKS

Confiscated illegal items; Timbers, industrial materials and vehicles confiscated



Seized illegal commodities at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint.

A combined team captured an unregistered Toyota Wish (estimated value of K5 million) in Yenangyoung township on 14 November and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

The joint teams made inspections on 15 November and nabbed a total of 1.338 tonnes of illegal teak, 0.170 tonne of illegal hardwood and 1.280 tonnes of illegal other timbers

worth K928,170 in Bago and Toungoo districts, a Toyota HiAce (approximately worth K20 million) carrying 2,500 kilogrammes of Flying Horse fertilizer worth K3.48 million at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint and a Dongfeng tractor head with a trailer (estimated value of K50 million) carrying nine types of goods worth K5.238 million, including 5,000 units of Silicon

Sealant without official documents at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. The action was taken under the Forest Law and Customs procedures.

A total of six arrests were made on 14 and 15 November, with an estimated value of K84,646,170, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

သတင်းစာ မှာယူလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
09 454 237 515

သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာခံချိန်ဖိ ပုံနှိပ်လိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
01 860 4530

NATIONAL



The invitation letter for the ceremony.

Respect to be paid to 47 elders of Konbaung Dynasty

A ceremony to pay respect to the elderly descendants of the Konbaung Dynasty, Myanmar's last royal family, will be organized in the first week of December, according to recent reports.

This is the first-ever event of its kind arranged by the Association of Konbaung Dynasty Descendants in Yangon (Lower Myanmar). A total of 47 elders

aged over 70 have been invited to the ceremony. The majority of them are royal relatives and descendants of King Mindon, King Thibaw, and Prince Kanaung.

The respect-paying event is scheduled to take place at Maha Beikman, situated on Naga Cave Hill in Mayangon Township, and is set for 3 December. — TWA/NT

Myanmar citizens in Thailand provided job passports to address CI loss

ACCORDING to the office of the labour attaché, Myanmar citizens living in Thailand can obtain a job passport (PJ) by providing concrete evidence if they lose their certificate of identity (CI) and encounter difficulties.

To prevent Myanmar workers from facing difficulties and to enable them to live and work with strong evidence, Myanmar job passports (PJ) were issued on 14 November.

According to the Myanmar Job Passport Unit, applicants can apply at the Temporary Data Collection Centre (TDCC), the Myanmar Job Passport Unit at Mahachai,



The photo depicts a certificate of identity (CI) and a job passport (PJ).

Thailand, with a copy of the CI, a recommendation letter of the lost CI from the respective Thai police station, and its notarized translation in English. Additionally, applicants need the

original recommendation letter from the Myanmar Embassy to Thailand, a work permit, the original citizenship scrutiny card, and a copy of the household list. — TWA/TRKM

Enforcement against petrol stations hoarding despite ample storage

THREE petrol stations that refused to sell oil to vehicles, although they have enough storage, have faced action from the Fuel Oil Import, Storage, and Distribution Supervisory Committee under the provisions of the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law, according to the news released by the State Administration Council (SAC) on 15 November.

The committee has been making necessary arrangements to supply adequate fuel to the filling stations in Yangon from Thilawa Port to ensure there is no shortage at the stations, allowing the public to purchase oil sufficiently.

The report further states that 15 oil tankers are expected to arrive soon.

SAC announced penalties in response to public complaints about encountering difficulties

in purchasing a limited amount of oil with long queues, which had widely spread through social media recently.

SAC Information Team Leader Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun said that at least 13 million gallons of 92 Ron and over 30 million gallons of diesel are kept in stock for domestic use. In addition, sufficient fuel oil of any type has already been reserved for at least a month, he added.

A total of 1,023 bowser are being used for the distribution of fuel oil to states and regions, including Yangon.

It was announced that over 900,000 gallons of 92 Ron, 150,000 gallons of 95 Ron, 750,000 gallons of diesel, and more than 600,000 gallons of premium diesel were distributed on 14 November. — TWA/TMT

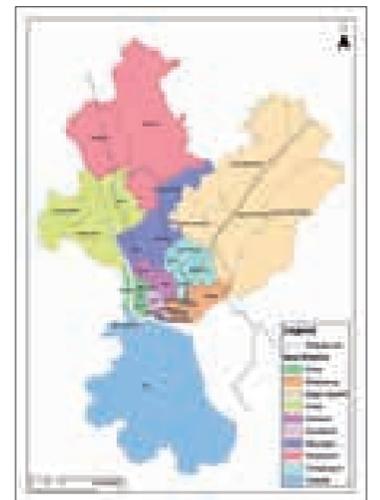


A bowser at the Thilawa Port.

67 building permits granted during Nov 2nd week

A total of 67 building permits in the area of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) were granted during the second week of November. Besides, 14 building completion certificates (BCC) are permitted and the list of 30 buildings that have four to 17 apartments is still in the process of applying for the permissions and they are being sent to Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC). For permission, recommendation letters are sent to relevant departments as 12 letters to the Fire Services Department, 45 letters to the Department of Engineering (Water and Sanitation) and five letters to the Department of Urban and Housing Development.

It is also necessary to consider SOP with the Electricity Supply Corporation with land-



owners and certificated contractors for electricity starting from applying for permission.

For electricity meter installation for the BCC buildings, licensed contractors are invited to the meeting this week by the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation. — TWA/TRKM

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increasing of death rate based on the disease.

Criminal prosecution for market manipulation through palm oil storage

THOSE unscrupulous traders keeping palm oil stocks in an attempt to manipulate the price will face legal actions under the law, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein said.

He gave the remark at the work coordination meeting for palm oil distribution held at Mingala Hall in the regional government office complex on 14 November.

Additionally, he ensured that there was a self-sufficiency of edible oil in the region. Under the guidance of the regional government, the district/township level administration officials must lead in the distribution process upon the relevant data compiled to meet the demand of the shops and the residents in each township.

A task force will go on a surprise check to ensure there is no overpricing. Those storing



The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. Plastic cooking oil bottles.

palm oil for market manipulation will be charged under the existing law, he highlighted.

At the meeting, regional Minister for Economic Affairs

U Myo Myint Aung elaborated on distribution plans to the people, and Regional Government Secretary U Nyi Nyi Min also

explained the sales of palm oil

at the set price.

Afterwards, President U Aye Win of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Chair-

man U San Lin of Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, U Than Htike, head of Yangon City Development Committee's Markets Department and officials discussed the systematic distribution of palm oil at reference prices.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution set the wholesale reference price for Yangon at K4,680 per viss for the week ending 19 November.

Despite the reference prices, the market price is too high.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the domestic demands, about 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/EM

Over 380 licences for gem trade to expire in January 2024

MORE than 380 licences for gem trade are due to expire in January 2024, according to a press release from Myanmar Gems Enterprise.

Those entities holding gems and jewellery trading licences, manufacturing licences for finished gems and carvings and uncut gemstone and finished products trading licences issued by Myanmar Gems Enterprise under the approval of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation are required to proceed to the renewal process three months before the expiry date. They must renew them at least one month before the expiry.

Additionally, they can notify Myanmar Gems Enterprise of winding down a business with one-month notice before ceasing the operation.

Licence renewal applications can be processed at Myanmar Gems Enterprise (Nay Pyi Taw), Gems and Jewellery Museum in Yangon, Mandalay Office, mining departments in Mogoke, Lonkhin/Phakant, Mongshu and Myitkyina areas, in line with the rules and regulations. Those businesspersons holding expired licences in 2020 and 2021 are urged to reinstate them with the relevant departments by 31 December 2023. Failing to renew a gem trading licence will face revocation. — NN/EM

Strong demand drives rice prices up

THE prices of rice have slightly risen since 13 November on account of strong demand, Ko Kyaw, a rice trader from Lanmadaw Township citing the daily price updates of Wahdan Depot, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The prices showed an increase of K3,000-10,000 per sack of low-grade rice in the Yangon market in mid-November.

The figures indicated a sharp rise of K20,000-60,000 per sack of rice depending on the rice varieties compared to those recorded in the year-ago period.

Low-grade new monsoon rice fetches a high price of K63,000-64,000 per sack. The prices of sticky rice from Pyapon and Mawgyun areas were K105,000-117,000 per sack depending on the producing areas, rice traders involved in Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre said.

The price of low-grade new monsoon rice was only K42,500 per sack in the corresponding period last year.

Similarly, the prices also jumped to K74,000-75,000 per sack of low-grade new rice cultivated under the double cropping system and K83,000-85,000 per sack of new short-mature



The photo shows a rice warehouse offering both retail and wholesale.

rice 990-day).

The old Pawkywe rice price also went up to K95,000 per sack on 15 November from K83,000 in the previous days.

The price of new Pawsanyin rice increased to K100,000 per sack. Meanwhile, the price of old Ayeayawady rice stayed unchanged at K128,000 per sack.

The new Pawsan rice varieties fetched K58,000-59,000 per sack in

the second week of November 2022, whereas the old Pawsan prices moved in the range between K62,000 and K92,000 per sack depending on producing areas and different varieties. The prices of low-grade old rice stood at K45,000-46,000 per sack of rice cultivated under the double cropping system, K48,000-49,000 per sack of 90-day rice and K50,000-52,000 per sack of Pawkywe then. — TWA/KK

OPINION

Select the ideal season for the well-being of future generations

DESPITE the anticipated onset of the cold season, Myanmar residents find themselves grappling with intense heat. Surprisingly, winter is an infrequent visitor to most parts of Myanmar, predominantly limited to specific northern regions. Ideally, the entire country should be basking in the refreshing coolness of the cold season — a natural occurrence that occurs annually.

Over the years, Myanmar has undergone substantial societal changes, marked by physical development and enhanced infrastructure. Major cities are witnessing a surge in the construction of towering buildings, accompanied by the expansion of residential areas. Regrettably, this progress is not without consequences — it has led to the gradual depletion of forested areas.

While Myanmar has not yet confronted desertification, around 42 per cent of the nation's forested regions struggle to withstand

the adverse effects of ultraviolet rays, owing to atmospheric vulnerabilities. Consequently, citizens across the country grapple with oppressive heat throughout the year, irrespective of the season.

The current scenario serves as a poignant lesson for the populace. Many attribute the diminishing forest coverage to businesses indiscriminately felling trees in mountainous regions without due consideration. Although these actions were perceived as contributing to the nation's development, their repercussions were felt by all citizens, directly or indirectly.

Instead of assigning blame for the diminishing forest coverage, it is imperative for all Myanmar citizens to internalize this lesson. The emphasis should be on fostering a commitment to nurture and safeguard forested areas, ensuring that future generations are shielded from the scorching heat in all seasons.

Rather than attributing the current heat wave to the impacts of El Niño, citizens should contemplate their collective future. They ought to reflect on how many trees they have planted and the extent to which they diligently protect them. The objective is to augment forest coverage, enabling future generations to seek refuge in the forests during the monsoon, winter, and summer seasons, regardless of the challenges posed by both Saturn weather El Niño and La Niña.

The present juncture is an opportune moment for Myanmar citizens to join forces in a shared commitment to reverse the trend of diminishing forest coverage. Through active engagement in tree planting and conservation initiatives, they can forge a sustainable environment that offers relief from extreme weather conditions for generations to come. Greening environments will remove worries of the people from the degraded environment and sustainable environmental conservation measures.

By Kyaw Thein Lwin

IN TODAY'S digital world, screen-based media devices and social media usage have become integral parts of children's everyday lives. Children under the age of 18 use social media platforms such as Meta (Facebook), Messenger, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat and YouTube through screen-based media devices and the daily screen time rates of social media have increased significantly among children.

How does social media affect children?

Social media can have both positive and negative effects on children. On the one hand, it functions as a digital space for socialization, providing children with opportunities to connect with friends and family members, facilitating communication and connectivity. Besides this, it also serves as a platform for children to learn new ideas and information through educational resources, and it allows them to express their ideas and talents through posts, videos, and other forms of content creation.

On the other hand, children have limited life experience, which may pose challenges in discerning what is good and bad, and their lack of experience can also have a negative effect on them. Some of these effects include Cyberbullying, Online enticement, Sextortion, Identity theft and Screen addiction, and more.

What is happening regarding children's use of social media?

The 2022 survey conducted

by the Pew Research Centre reveals that 46 per cent of children aged 13 to 17 have been bullied or harassed online, and Facebook was identified as the source of cyberbullying for 75 per cent of online harassment victims in the United States in 2021. Cyberbullying has a significant impact on children's emotional well-being and can also affect their academic performance.

An estimated 500,000 online predators are active each day. They contact children through social media platforms and gaming websites, coercing them into producing self-generated child abuse images. Children aged 12 to 15 are at risk of being victimized through grooming or manipulation by adults they meet online, and 82 per cent of online predatory incidents occur through communication on social media platforms.

The social media platform has become a commercial landscape, with 77 per cent of small businesses using it to connect with their customers, and the market is expected to reach a value of \$207 billion in 2023. Consequently, children now have the ability to order products with a simple click without consulting their parents. This raises concerns about the authenticity and legitimacy of the advertised items.

Do we need a law to regulate children's use of social media platforms?

All major social media platforms have implemented their own self-regulatory measures to govern the content and user be-



Social media companies' self-regulation falls short in fully protecting children online, underscoring the urgent need for a thorough grasp of the benefits and risks tied to their online activities. **ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY**

Protection of Children on Social Media Platforms

Social media offers both positive and negative impacts on children, providing a digital space for socialization, learning opportunities, and creative expression.

haviour on their own platforms, including community guidelines, advertising standards, violation detection, age restrictions, privacy settings, reporting abuse (such as nudity, hate speech and threats) and taking appropriate

actions. Nevertheless, the question remains: Can these self-regulatory measures effectively protect children on their platforms?

On 4 October 2021, the whistleblower Frances Haugen, who had worked as a product man-

ager at tech companies, including Facebook, testified before the United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transport. She revealed that although social media platforms implement self-regulatory measures,

there are several weaknesses and criticisms associated with these efforts.

According to the findings report of the UK Parliament's Science and Technology Committee, which was released on 31 January 2019, social media companies should have a formal legal duty of care to their users under the age of 18. The existing patchwork of regulations is seen as inadequate and insufficient in creating a safe online environment for children. The report also recommends the government enact new legislation to establish a statutory code of practice for social media companies, thereby providing consistent guidelines for content reporting practices and moderation mechanisms.

What specific provisions are included in the new social

media laws?

On 23 March 2023, the governor of Utah signed two new bills, HB152 and SB311, to protect children from using social media platforms. Under HB152, social media companies are obli-

gated to verify the age of a Utah resident who seeks to maintain or open a social media account.

Additionally, they are required to obtain the consent of a parent or guardian before allowing a Utah resident under the age of 18 to maintain or open an account. The bill also prohibits social media companies from allowing a Utah resident to open an account if that person does not meet age requirements under state or federal law. Furthermore, it imposes specific obligations on certain social media companies regarding accounts held by Utah children. These obligations include prohibiting direct messaging with certain accounts, excluding the children's account from search results, refraining from displaying advertising, abstaining from collecting, sharing, or using personal information from the account (with certain exceptions), avoiding the targeting or suggestion of ads, accounts, or content, and imposing limitations on access hours, which can be overridden by parental or guardian direction. In addition, the bill requires social media companies to restrict Utah children's account access between the hours of 10:30 pm and 6:30 am, and it requires these companies to grant parents or guardians access to the content and interactions of accounts held by Utah residents under the age of 18.

Under HB311, the bill prohibits a social media company from using a design or feature that causes a minor to have an addiction to the company's social media platform. Moreover, the bill authorizes a private right of action to collect attorney fees

and damages from a social media company for harm incurred by a minor's use of the company's social media platform.

On 12 April 2023, the governor of Arkansas signed the Social Media Safety Act (SB396). The bill is similar to Utah's HB152 and imposes certain requirements on social media companies operating within the state. The bill states that social media companies shall not permit Arkansas users who are minors to be account holders on a social media company's social media platform unless the minor has the express consent of a parent or legal guardian. Additionally, the companies are required to implement age verification for the use of social media.

Conclusion

The self-regulatory measures implemented by social media companies are insufficient to fully safeguard children. It is crucial for us to comprehend the benefits and risks associated with online opportunities for children. Therefore, the author suggests that social media companies, policymakers and parents need to collaborate to protect our children from the negative effects of social media.

Reference:

- (1) SB311 Social Media Regulation Amendments, Utah State Legislature
- (2) The Social Media Safety Act (Senate Bill 396),
- (3) Online Predators, Child Crime Prevention & Safety Centre

MICROPLASTICS are rapidly being found everywhere, from the depths of the seas to the snow on mountains and even the air above cities.

Researchers have published their findings in the journal Environmental Science & Technology Letters. They speculate that these tiny particles may have a role in cloud formation and, as a result, weather.

Plastic bits

Microplastics, which are plastic bits smaller than five millimetres in size, come from a variety of everyday objects such as

Microplastics detected in clouds may impact weather: Study

Microplastics, originating from common items like clothing, packaging, and car tyres, are not only detected in the atmosphere by scientists but are also being studied for their potential role in cloud formation.

clothes, packaging, and car tyres. Scientists are not only detecting microplastics in the atmosphere but also exploring how they may play a role in cloud formation as research in the topic advances.

Microplastics are rapidly being found everywhere, from the depths of the seas to the snow on mountains and even the air above cities. Researchers have now pub-

lished their findings in the journal Environmental Science & Technology Letters. They speculate that these tiny particles may have a role in cloud formation and, as a result, weather.

Microplastics, which are plastic bits smaller than five millimetres in size, come from a variety of everyday objects such as clothes, packaging, and car tyres.

Scientists are not only detecting microplastics in the atmosphere but also exploring how they may play a role in cloud formation as research in the topic advances.

Older, rougher particles

Polyethylene terephthalate, polypropylene, polyethylene, polystyrene, and polyamide were used to make the particles. The

microplastics were mostly less than 100 micrometres long, but some were as long as 1,500 micrometres. The researchers believe that older, rougher particles had more lead, mercury, and oxygen attached to their surfaces, which could aid cloud formation.

Wang and his colleagues created computer models that mimicked how the plastic particles in

the clouds travelled to Mount Tai in order to determine where they came from.

These models suggested that airflow from highly populated inland areas, rather than from over the ocean or other nearby mountains, served as the major source of the fragments.

SOURCE: ANI



Cloud-like conditions alter microplastics, enriching them with lead, mercury, and oxygen-containing groups, potentially influencing both cloud formation and the destiny of airborne metals. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY**

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD



People cool themselves off at Urca beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Rio de Janeiro bakes in record heat

Despite thermometers reading 39 degrees Celsius (102 degrees Fahrenheit), authorities emphasized that the intensity of the heat in Rio de Janeiro felt like 58.5 degrees Celsius (137.3 degrees Fahrenheit).

A heat wave that has settled over large parts of Brazil sent temperatures on Tuesday soaring in Rio de Janeiro to levels more akin to an oven.

Thermometers read 39 degrees Celsius (102 degrees Fahrenheit) but that didn't convey the intensity of the heat, authorities said.

In Rio, it felt like 58.5 degrees Celsius (137.3 degrees F).

That was the "feels like" temperature, a measurement of how hot or cold it feels like on the skin, depending on hu-

midity, temperature and wind speed.

It marked "the highest thermal sensation since the beginning of records" in 2014, surpassing highs of last February of 58 degrees Celsius, according to the Rio Alerta system.

Fifteen states in the south-east, center-west and part of the north of the country, in addition to the capital, Brasilia, remained under alert by the National Institute of Meteorology (Inmet) due to extreme heat.

The extreme heat also hit

Sao Paulo residents, where thermometers rose to an average of 37.3 degrees Celsius on Tuesday afternoon, with a low humidity of 21 per cent, according to the municipal Climate Emergency Management Centre (CGE).

Unseasonably high temperatures, around five degrees Celsius above seasonal normal, have been punishing Brazilians especially since last weekend and will remain until Friday, Inmet estimated in a bulletin issued on Monday. — AFP

Flying taxis braced for takeoff at Dubai Airshow

News about futuristic planes transporting people over city traffic has been circulating for years, reminiscent of "The Jetsons" cartoon from the 1960s.

FLYING taxis have been a sci-fi fixture for decades, but one operator says they are finally close to reality, first in the United States and then the United Arab Emirates and India.

"What we used to think of as science fiction is now science fact," Billy Nolen, Archer Aviation's chief safety officer, told AFP at the Dubai Airshow on Wednesday. "This is happening, it is real, and you will see this in the market in 2025."

Reports of futuristic aircraft ferrying passengers over cities — and their car-choked roads —

have been cropping up for years, evoking images of 1960s cartoon "The Jetsons".

Yet regulatory approval from the US Federal Aviation Administration for Archer's Midnight, a four-passenger, electric-powered vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft, is expected as soon as 2025.

That will trigger "almost concurrent" certification in the UAE, said Nikhil Goel, chief commercial officer at Archer, whose major backers include Mubadala, an Emirati sovereign wealth fund. — AFP



The cockpit of Archer Aviation's Midnight aircraft. **PHOTO: AFP**

'King of Lake Ohrid': the fight to save a Balkan trout



The hatchlings are released into the lake at six months. **PHOTO: AFP**

ALONG the picturesque shores of Lake Ohrid, things have taken on a frantic pace at the Lin Hatchery in Albania's Pogradec, as a team of specialists races to release the final batch of newly spawned trout this season.

The hatchery specializes in breeding the "Ohrid Trout" — an indigenous species in the ancient lake that has struggled for years to maintain a healthy population amid habitat destruction, overfishing, and rampant pollution.

Albania and Northern Macedonia, which both border Lake Ohrid, have signed agreements to ensure the trout's survival, as a major uptick in tourism in the area has seen large amounts of development along the banks.

Known as "Koran" in Albania and "Ohridska pastrmka" in North Macedonia, the Ohrid Trout has long been a staple in the lake's crystal-clear waters.

"It doesn't matter what Albanians or Macedonians call it," said fisherman Artan Male. — AFP

After Beatles, AI to bring Edith Piaf voice back to life for biopic

A new biopic on the life of Edith Piaf will use artificial intelligence to allow the French star to narrate her own story, Warner Music and her estate said on Tuesday.

"Edith" is "in the final phase of development", sources close to Warner Music France said, but no release date has been scheduled.

The unveiling of the "innovative and revolutionary technological project using AI to re-create her voice and image", the statement said, comes 60 years after Piaf's death. — AFP

End of an era: 'The Crown' concludes with Diana's death

NETFLIX'S acclaimed series "The Crown" chronicling the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, draws to a close from Thursday, focusing on a subject still highly sensitive to the British monarchy — the death of Princess Diana.

The sixth and final season of the award-winning but often-criticized show created by Peter Morgan is being released in two parts.

The first five episodes will premiere on Thursday, followed by the final five on 14 December, culminating 60 hours of narrative



The cast of this season of The Crown attending the shows London premiere last year. PHOTO: DANIEL LEAL / AFP

that began in 2016.

The drama covers the late queen's journey from her 1947 marriage to Philip up to the early 2000s introduction of Kate Middleton, the current Princess of Wales. This season depicts the final weeks of Princess Diana's life, following her tumultuous divorce from the now King Charles III, leading up to her tragic demise on 31 August 1997.

Pursued by paparazzi, the BMW carrying Diana and her lover Dodi Al-Fayed crashed at high speed into a pillar in Paris's

Alma tunnel, killing her, Fayed and driver Henri Paul.

The royal family took years to recover after criticism of their reaction to the loss of Diana, whom Tony Blair famously dubbed "the people's princess".

"It's a very sensitive subject because it was such a significant event in the life of the monarchy and the royal family, and because people related to Diana are still very much alive, most notably her now-adult sons William and Harry," royal historian Ed Owens told AFP. — AFP

New York's Met stages Spanish opera for first time in nearly a century

FOR the first time in nearly a century, the Metropolitan Opera in New York City will stage a performance in Spanish on Thursday, as the company works to expand its appeal to wider audiences.

"Florencia en el Amazonas" is a magical realist telling of an opera diva's journey to South America to find her long lost lover, a butterfly hunter who disappeared in the jungle.

The protagonist Florencia Grimaldi — played by soprano Aylin Perez, the daughter of Mexican immigrants — boards a steamboat in the early 20th century en route to Manaus, home of the legendary opera in the heart of Brazil's Amazon.

"It's wonderful to have a new work that people don't know as well," said director Mary Zimmerman of the opera that premiered in 1996 in Houston.

In an interview with AFP, Zimmerman said that opera-goers tend to prioritize the classics: "Opera loves its traditions."

But even if "people like that to visit the old friend," she said, "they should make new friends too."

The opera composed by Mexico's Daniel Catan, his third, was commissioned by the Houston Grand Opera.

Its libretto is by Marcela Fuentes-Berain, who also is Mexican, and studied with the beloved pioneer of magical realism, Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

The opera is relatively new but has elements of romanticism, Zimmerman said. "It's melodic, it's lush, it sounds like Puccini," she said. — AFP



Dancers take part in a dress rehearsal of 'Florencia en el Amazonas,' sung in Spanish, at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. PHOTO: AFP

Denmark to restrict alcohol sales to minors

A new regulation prohibits individuals aged 16 to 18 from purchasing drinks with more than six per cent alcohol, a change from the previous allowance of drinks containing up to 16.5 per cent alcohol.



According to national health authorities, 22 per cent of girls and 27 per cent of boys are weekly drinkers by the age of 15. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

DENMARK will restrict alcohol sales to minors and increase taxes on nicotine products to combat a worrying rise in consumption, the health ministry said Tuesday.

"Children and the young are starting to drink too early, and they drink too much," Health Minister Sophie Lohde said at a press conference.

She said youths were also consuming more "snus", a sachet placed under the upper lip containing synthetic nicotine

and often flavoured to appeal to younger consumers.

In response, sales of drinks with more than six per cent alcohol will be banned to those aged 16 to 18, who until now could buy drinks containing up to 16.5 per cent alcohol.

At the same time, taxes on snus will be doubled, raising the average price of a packet by 12 kroner (1.6 euros), making their price equal to a pack of cigarettes. It will also be forbidden for smoking substitution prod-

ucts to offer "enticing aromas and smells", the ministry said.

According to national health authorities, 22 per cent of girls and 27 per cent of boys are weekly drinkers by the age of 15. A 2019 study by ESPAD (European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs) estimated that 40 per cent of 15-to-16-year-old Danes had got drunk in the previous 30 days, the highest in Europe, where the average is 13 per cent. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

China's industrial output up 4.6% in October

China's value-added industrial output increased by 4.6 per cent year on year in October, with the manufacturing sector growing by 5.1 per cent, the mining sector by 2.9 per cent, and the production and supply of utilities rising by 1.5 per cent.



Robots work at an intelligent plant of truck manufacturer First Automotive Works Jiefang Co Ltd (FAW Jiefang) in Changchun, northeast China's Jilin Province, 27 June 2023. PHOTO: XU CHANG/XINHUA

CHINA'S value-added industrial output, an important economic indicator, went up 4.6 per cent year on year in October, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed Wednesday. Among the three major sectors, the mining sector and the

manufacturing sector expanded by 2.9 per cent and 5.1 per cent, respectively, in October, while the production and supply of electricity, heat, gas, and water rose by 1.5 per cent.

In a breakdown by ownership, the output of state-controlled companies, joint-equity firms, and private enterprises went up 4.9 per cent, 5.6 per cent, and 3.9 per cent year on year, respectively, last month.

In terms of products, the output of solar cells surged by 62.8 per cent, while service robots and integrated circuits rose by 59.1 per cent and 34.5 per cent. From January to October, industrial output rose 4.1 per cent year on year, according to the NBS.

The industrial output is used to measure the activity of enterprises, each with an annual main business turnover of at least 20 million yuan (about 2.79 million US dollars). — Xinhua

Inflation, higher rates hit eurozone growth outlook

THE European Commission on Wednesday lowered its eurozone growth forecast for 2023 and 2024, saying the high cost of living and interest rates were weighing on consumers and businesses.

It revised its 2023 growth forecast to 0.6 per cent, shaving off 0.2 percentage points from a previous estimate. Growth in 2024 was put at 1.2 per cent, a 0.1-point downgrade.

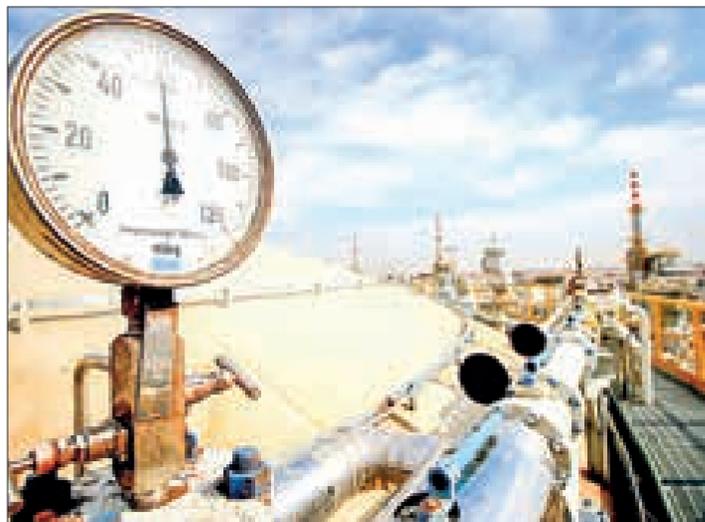
"Still high, though declining, inflation, and tightening monetary policy took a heavier toll than previously expected," the commission said in a statement, referring to European Central Bank interest rate hikes aimed at taming consumer prices.

External demand was also weak, it said. The eurozone's economic prospects contrasted with that of the United States, which is experiencing robust annualised growth of 4.9 per cent based on third-quarter data. — AFP

Almost all oil and gas producers developing unneeded fields: NGO

96% of 700 oil and gas companies intend to develop new fields, according to the Global Oil and Gas Exit List (GOGEL).

ALMOST all major oil and gas companies are continuing to develop new fields, an environmental group said Wednesday, even though the International Energy Agency (IEA) insists they are not needed.



According to the report, 1,023 companies plan infrastructure projects for the transport of fossil fuels, such as pipelines and liquefied natural gas terminals. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Germany's Urgewald, along with 50 other NGOs, analyzed the investment plans of 1,623 companies involved in the oil and gas industry — representing 95 per cent of global hydrocarbon production.

Of the 700 companies that produce oil and gas, 96 per cent plan to develop new fields, the Global Oil and Gas Exit List (GOGEL) said.

Spending on new oil and gas fields has risen 31 per cent since 2021, with the companies investing \$170.4 billion during that period.

However, the IEA said in September that given the development of renewable energies, there is no need to invest in new reserves of coal, oil or natural gas. — AFP



Shoppers at a supermarket. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Italy inflation slows sharply to lowest since mid-2021

ITALIAN annual inflation slowed sharply in October, falling to 1.7 per cent, the lowest level since July 2021, national statistics agency Istat said Wednesday.

The rise in consumer prices slowed mainly as a result of a drop in energy prices, which had spiked in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, and were also due to the lower price of food products, Istat said.

Inflation had reached 5.3 per cent in September.

Italy's inflation was significantly lower than that of the wider EU single currency area, which fell in October to 2.9 per cent, against 4.3 per cent in September.

French official data on Wednesday showed inflation slowed to 4.0 per cent in France in October, down from 4.9 per cent in September. — AFP

EU agrees data-sharing scheme for Airbnb-style rentals

The deal, pending formal adoption by the European Council and the European Parliament, addresses concerns about the short-term tourist rental market displacing long-term rental properties in cities, impacting residents.

AN EU-wide data-sharing scheme for Airbnb and similar rentals to help crack down on illegal short-term lets is a step closer after negotiators struck agreement

Thursday. The provisional deal reached between EU member countries and the European Parliament aims to harmonise registration for properties used for Air-

bnb-style rentals across the bloc and their hosts.

Big online platforms would have to provide monthly activity reports to national authorities while

small ones would have to do so every three months, said a statement from the European Council, which represents EU member states. — AFP



Several popular cities see market tension between Airbnb and longterm rentals for residents. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Musk's X launches court fight with Australian watchdog

AUSTRALIA'S online safety watchdog said Thursday it was being taken to court by Elon Musk's X in a fight over the platform's failure to outline how it combats child sexual abuse content.

Last month, eSafety

commissioner Julie Inman Grant slapped an Aus\$610,500 (US\$388,000) fine on the company formerly known as Twitter for failing to respond to questions sent in February about how it is tackling the issue on its

platform.

The social media giant missed an extended mid-November deadline to pay the fine, the eSafety commission said this week, adding that it was "considering further steps". — AFP

Name Change for Registered Pesticides

Distribution and registration processes of pesticides produced by Ruili Xiangyou Technology Co.,Ltd. are Distribute by Thukha Mahar Agrochemical Co.,Ltd. any objection regarding to this name change can notify to this address: Co-Secretary,Pesticides Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Gyogone (West), Insein. for the following Pesticide within (14) days from this announcement.

Sr.No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg No.
1	Hmoe Super	Fungi Kinn	Thiophanate - methyl 70% WP	P2022-5901

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0308-757N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0308-757N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-11-2023** 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 MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB344A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB344A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-11-2023** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV4QE1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV4QE1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-11-2023** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (057N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (057N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-11-2023** 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:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (160N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (160N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-11-2023** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPIN LINE

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

သတင်းစာ မှာယူလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်

09 454 237 515

သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာခံချိန်ဖို့ ပို့ဆောင်လိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်

01 860 4530

ကြော်ငြာခွင့်များနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအခွင့်အလမ်းများ ကြော်ငြာ ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက ထိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ် ဆွေးနွေးနိုင်ပါသည်

09 974 424 848

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Dutch to vote in seismic election thriller



The race is too close to call. **PHOTO: RAMON VAN FLYMEN/AFP**

DUTCH voters head to the polls next week for a knife-edge election that will transform the country's political landscape, with surveys showing the race is too close to call. After Mark Rutte's record

After Mark Rutte's 13-year leadership, the Dutch may elect their first woman PM or a recent anti-corruption campaigner in the upcoming elections.

13 years at the helm, the Dutch appear poised to elect either their first woman PM or a crusading anti-corruption campaigner who only formed a party a few months ago. "Anyone who says they know who is going to win this election is lying through their teeth," political analyst Julia Wouters told AFP.

What does seem sure however is that a new face will be leading the Netherlands, the EU's fifth-largest economy that punches above its weight in Europe and the world stage.

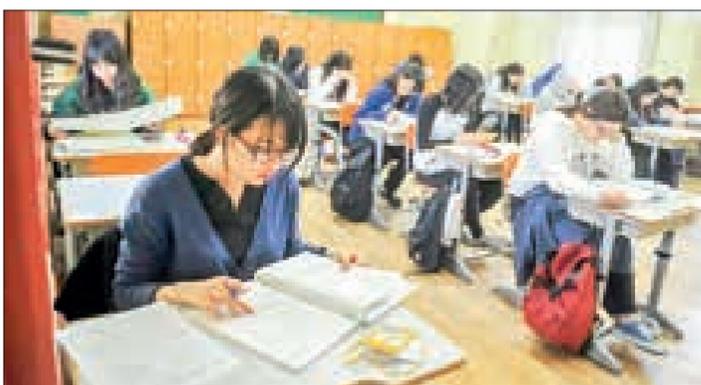
Replacing Rutte as head of the centre-right VVD party is Dilan Yesilgoz, a 46-year-old born in Türkiye who arrived in the Netherlands as a young asylum seeker and who now wants to drive down immigration.

"I came as an eight-year-old refugee to this country and I know what it means to seek freedom and to seek safety and security," Yesilgoz told AFP at a recent rally.

She said the influx of asylum seekers, plus international workers and students, was now "way too high". — AFP

South Koreans sit key exam as flights halted to limit distraction

The nine-hour test, taken by 504,588 pupils, holds crucial importance for securing spots in top universities and is seen as a key factor in achieving elevated social status, lucrative careers, and marriage prospects.



More than half a million students in South Korea sat the crucial national university entrance exam Thursday. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

MORE than half a million students in South Korea sat the crucial national university entrance exam Thursday, with authorities taking extraordinary

measures, including halting flights, to minimize distractions.

The nine-hour test, which was taken by 504,588 pupils this

year, is crucial for securing spots in top universities.

It is also considered key to elevated social status, lucrative careers, and even marriage prospects. Enormous pressure placed on students in South Korea's ultra-competitive education system has been blamed for teenage depression and suicide rates that are among the highest in the world.

"I'm nervous and trembling because what I've been studying for three years ends with this exam today," Lee Min-yup told AFP before going to take the test at Kyungbock High School in central Seoul. — AFP

Death toll rises to 26 in north China coal mine company building fire

DEATH toll has risen to 26 after a fire broke out Thursday morning at a building of a coal mine company in north China's Shanxi Province, according to rescuers.

The fire ripped through the second floor of the five-story building located in Lishi District of Ly-

uliang City. Rescue efforts are underway, according to local authorities.

More than 60 people have been sent to a local hospital for treatment.

The building belongs to the private Yongju coal mine company. — Xinhua

US seizes US\$1 bln worth of fake luxury goods

Prosecutors announced the "largest ever seizure of counterfeit goods in US history" with approximately 219,000 fake handbags, shoes, clothing, and other items confiscated.

ANYONE who walks the streets of Manhattan can observe sidewalk vendors hawking counterfeit luxury products. It's big business, really big. Just how big became clear Wednesday when prosecutors announced the "largest ever seizure of counterfeit goods in US history" — a massive haul of about 219,000 fake handbags, shoes, clothing and other items.

"The seizures announced today consist of merchandise with over US\$1 billion in estimated re-

tail value, the largest-ever seizure of counterfeit goods in US history," federal prosecutor Damian Williams said. Counterfeit goods commonly have a value far lower than their real counterparts. Two men were charged with trafficking in counterfeit goods. Photos released by the US Attorney's Office for the southern district of New York showed warehouse rooms jammed with fake designer purses, handbags, shoes, and clothing. — AFP



Counterfeit goods commonly have a value far lower than their real counterparts. **PHOTO: US CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION**

SPORTS

Myanmar face 0-5 loss to Japan at World Cup Qualifiers

MYANMAR suffered a 0-5 defeat to Japan during the second round World Cup qualifiers at the Panasonic Stadium Suita, Suita City, Osaka, Japan yesterday.

Team Japan launched a superb attack from the start while Myanmar stayed at the bottom line for a missive defence.

Even though Myanmar played hard and blocked consciously, Japan broke the deadlock at 11 minutes, netted by Ayase Ueda over the assist of Takumi Minamino.

The goal didn't stop and Japan scored a second goal at 27 minutes by Daichi Kamada over the assist of Ao Tanaka. Next, team Japan made the third at 45+4 minutes with the assist of Ayase Ueda.

The three-goal result is enough to wear big smiles for team Japan at the end of the first half.

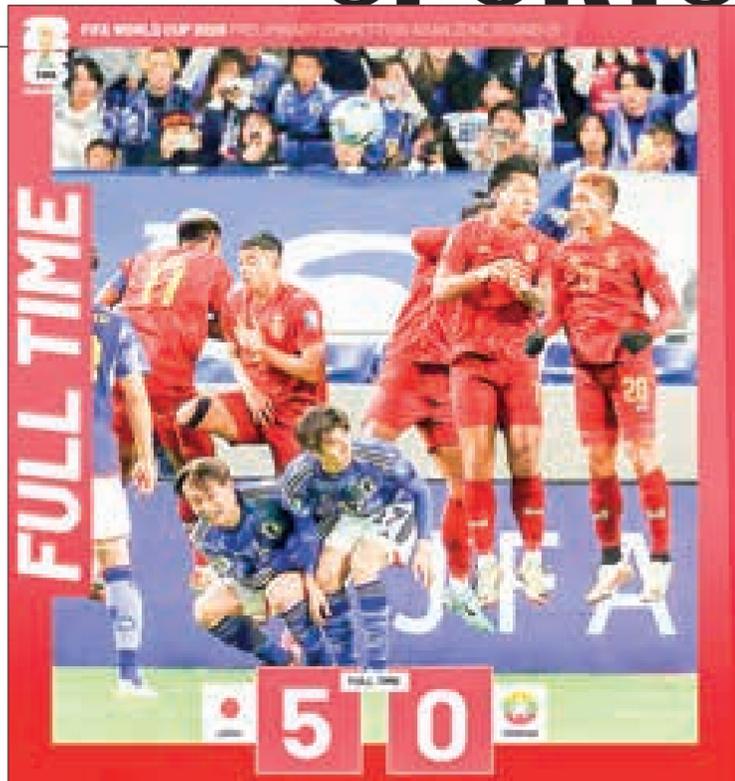
The second half became a better game with the Myanmar team's compact defensive style.

However, the team in My-

anmar allowed Japan to score more goals because of the gap in their playing skills.

Ayase Ueda produced a fourth goal at 50 minutes over the assist of Takumi Minamino while Ritsu Doan finished the sixth at 86 minutes with Hide-masa Morita's assist.

After the stunning finish, Japan secured a solid win over Myanmar, bagging full points, hoping for the best position in the group to go to the next stage in the second round of World Cup qualifiers. — KZL



Myanmar players (red) jump high for the header during the 2nd round World Cup qualifiers against Japan at the Panasonic Stadium Suita, Suita City, Osaka, Japan on 16 November 2023. PHOTO: MFF

USA eye Copa America berth, Nations League defence against Trinidad

UNITED States coach Gregg Berhalter has warned his players not to forget the team's 2017 World Cup loss to Trinidad & Tobago as they face the Caribbean minnows in the CONCACAF Nations League quarter-finals.

The US launch the defence of their Nations League crown in Austin on Thursday with the first leg of a home-and-away quarter-final clash against Trinidad.

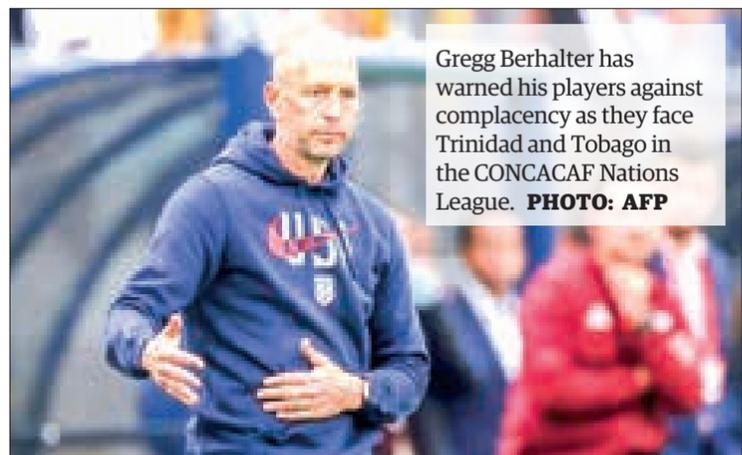
It marks the first competitive fixtures for Berhalter since he was re-appointed as US head coach in June, and the stakes could not be higher.

As well as a Nations League semi-final berth, quarter-final victory over Trinidad will guarantee the US a place at next year's expanded Copa America, which is taking place in the United States. "November turns the page

and now it's about competing," Berhalter said on a conference call on Wednesday. "We want to win the Nations League again. This will set us up to do this. We want to play in the Copa America. This will set us up to do that. So the guys are focused."

This week's quarter-final carries special significance for the Americans, reviving memories of their shattering 2-1 defeat to Trinidad in Couva six years ago which cost the US a place at the 2018 World Cup.

Though the US roster has been drastically overhauled since that debacle — an injury to Christian Pulisic means defender Tim Ream is the only survivor in the squad from the 2017 loss — Berhalter said he wants his players to keep that grim night in mind. — AFP



Gregg Berhalter has warned his players against complacency as they face Trinidad and Tobago in the CONCACAF Nations League. PHOTO: AFP



Shon Weissman (L) grabbed Israel a point. PHOTO: AFP

Israel make Swiss wait for Euro 2024 qualification

SWITZERLAND were made to wait to secure qualification for Euro 2024 as Shon Weissman's 88th-minute strike salvaged a 1-1 draw for Israel on Wednesday, in a match moved to Hungary due to the war between Israel and Hamas.

Ruben Vargas scored a header in the 36th minute to put the Swiss on track to seal the three points they needed to qualify from Group I with two games to spare, but they could not hold on.

Coach Murat Yakin's Switzerland could still book their place in Germany for Euro 2024 with a win against visitors Kosovo in Basel on Saturday, before they travel

Switzerland had to delay their qualification for the European Championship as Shon Weissman's 88th-minute goal secured a 1-1 draw for Israel in Felcsut.

to Bucharest to face Romania on Tuesday.

"It's the third time now that we have conceded very late on," Switzerland goalkeeper Yann Sommer told Swiss broadcaster RTS.

"In the second half we lost our organization, we were a bit wild... we were not calm on the ball. And they had chances.

"Now we have two finals and we will do everything we

can". Israel, now playing home matches in Hungary due to the nation's war against Hamas in Gaza, still likely need to beat Romania on Saturday to remain in contention for a top-two finish and automatic qualification.

The match took place on neutral territory in Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's home village of Felcsut, 35 kilometres west of Budapest. — AFP



Xi, Biden talk on strategic issues critical to China-US relations, world



Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden take a walk after their talks in the Filoli Estate in the US state of California, 15 November 2023. PHOTO: LI XUEREN/XINHUA

security and prosperity; and the other is to cling to the zero-sum mentality, provoke rivalry and confrontation, and drive the world toward turmoil and division.

The two choices point to two different directions that will decide the future of humanity and Planet Earth, he said, adding that the China-US relationship, which is the world's most important bilateral relationship, should be perceived and envisioned in this broad context.

For China and the United States, turning their back on each other is not an option, Xi noted, stressing it is unrealistic for one side to remodel the other, and conflict and confrontation has unbearable consequences for both sides.

For China and the United States, turning their back on each other is not an option, Xi noted, stressing it is unrealistic for one side to remodel the other, and conflict and confrontation has unbearable consequences for both sides.

Major-country competition cannot solve the problems facing China and the United States or the world, he continued, noting that the world is big enough to accommodate both countries, and one country's success is an opportunity for the other. Xi elaborated on the essential features of Chinese modernization and its significance, China's development prospects, and its strategic intention, pointing out that China's development is driven by its inherent logic and dynamics. — Xinhua

CHINESE President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden on Wednesday had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on strategic and overarching issues critical to the direction of China-US relations and on major issues

affecting world peace and development.

The meeting was held at Filoli Estate, a country house approximately 40 kilometres south of San Francisco, California. Biden warmly received Xi when he arrived at Filoli Estate.

Noting that the world today is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century, Xi said there are two options for China and the United States — one is to enhance solidarity and cooperation, join hands to meet global challenges and promote global

Sony lures record female engineers despite talent shortage in Japan

SONY CORP is increasing its hiring of female engineers, aiming to achieve a record-high percentage among its new hires for the next fiscal year, challenging the entrenched stereotype in Japan that typically associates men with such roles. The ratio of women is expected to reach an all-time high of about 30 per cent among new recruits for engineers and researchers at the leading technology firm, sources familiar with the matter said Thursday, a rare achievement in the country that has grappled with a shortage of female talent in the field. — Kyodo

Hungary to be able to stop importing electricity once Paks-2 nuclear plant launched

HUNGARY will be able to stop importing electricity and possibly even to start exporting it to neighbouring countries once the new power units of the Paks nuclear power plant (NPP), also known as Paks-2, are launched, the office of the NPP's general director told Sputnik on Wednesday. "After two more units with a capacity of 1,200 megawatts each are put into operation, energy imports can be stopped," office chief Pal Kovacs stated, adding that Hungary already

had synchronized power grids with seven neighboring countries. Moreover, Paks NPP employees have begun preparatory work to extend the life of four operating units until the mid-2050s, while their service life was initially due to be 30 years, Kovacs said.

The final decision on the issue will be made by the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority, but the project is already believed to be implemented, he added. — SPUTNIK



A reactor in the nuclear power station of Paks, near Budapest. Westinghouse, one of the world's leading manufacturers of nuclear reactors, was stunned to learn that Budapest had awarded a deal on a sole-source basis to Kremlin-owned Rosatom. PHOTO: ATTILA KISBENEDEK/AFP/FILE