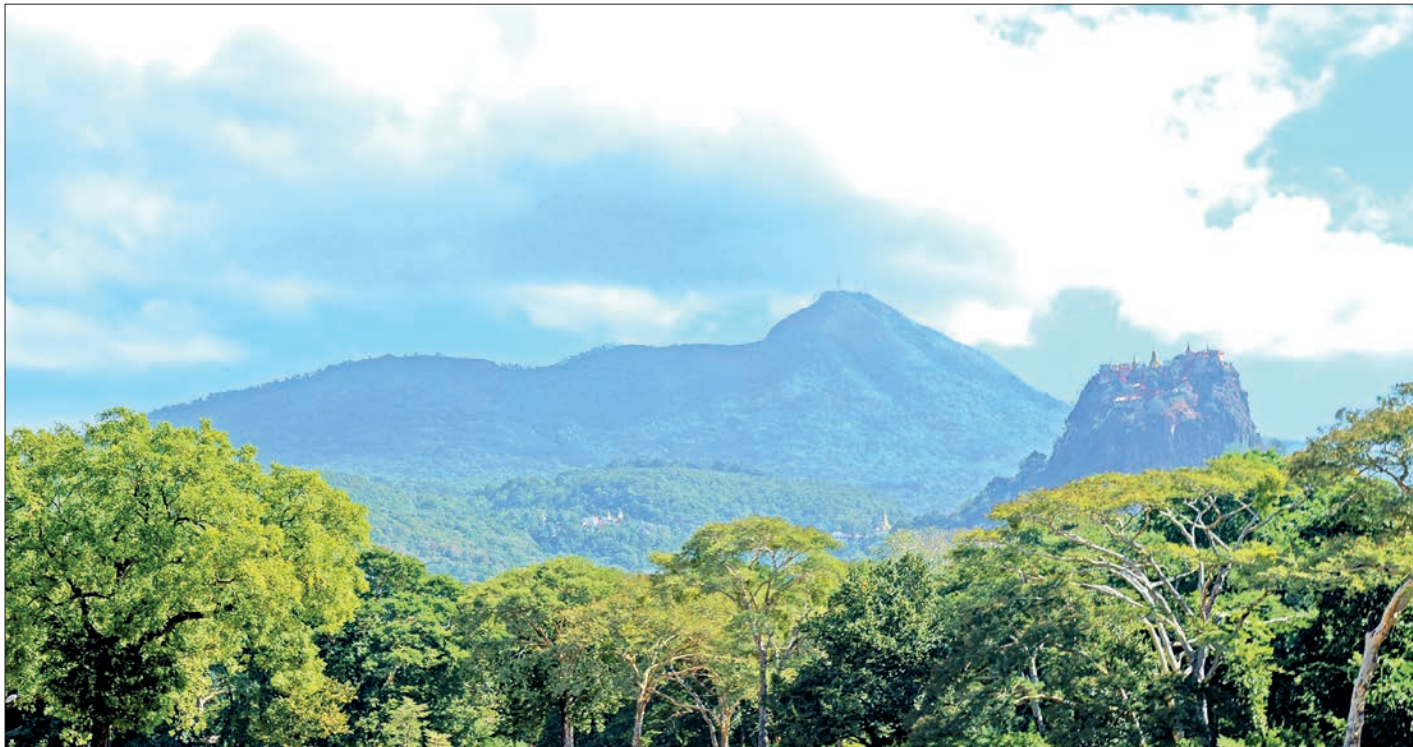


The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Aerial view of Popa Taungkalat, which is once again proposed for recognition as a UNESCO geosite. **PHOTO: MOUNT POPA NATIONAL GEOPARK**

Eight new geosites developed in Myanmar

MYANMAR has developed eight new geosites, totalling 23 geosites to date. Efforts are being made to recognize Mount Popa National Geopark as one of the 23 UNESCO Global Geoparks. There are 177 global geoparks in 46 countries.

“We arrange for the Mount Popa National Geopark as one of the Global Geoparks. Currently, there are 15 existing geosites and eight new out of 15 proposed geosites are recognized, and so there are 23 geosites in total. Plans are underway

for the remaining,” said an official of the Department of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration.

The proposed 15 geosites are Popa Tuff, Popa Taungkalat, Thanbo Village Fossil Wood, Kyauk Koepwint Hill, Taungnauk Hill, Kyetmauktaung Dam, Hotel Linn Museum, Lahar, Augite Andesite Stone Forest, Sinzin Pyroclastic Bed and Waterfall, Ngwetwin Hill, Hillside Village (North) Toreva Block, Myauktaw Totrsa Block, Chaungphya Ancient Iron Furnace and Royal Elephant Camp.

Among them, eight newly recognized geosites are Popa Taungkalat, Kyauk Koepwint Hill, Thanbo Village Fossil Wood, Kyetmauktaung Dam, Hotel Linn Museum, Ngwetwin Hill, Chaungphya Ancient Iron Furnace and Royal Elephant Camp.

The global geoparks exist in four ASEAN countries, and if Mount Popa National Geopark is recognized as UNESCO’s Global Geopark, it will be the fifth country possessing global geoparks. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

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Thilawa SEZ accelerates export-import processes



Drone view of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone in Thanlyin, Yangon Region.

OFFICIALS from the Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee presided over a meeting yesterday to facilitate the export and import processes linking Logistics Services with international investors.

Such meetings brought different benefits, including fast and easy export-import processes, trading with investors, MITT international jetty, and international shipping lines to the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, where 21 countries make investments. Moreover, there are chances to expand the economy and share the knowledge about exemptions and benefits of investment

in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee Chairman U Yan Naing Tun, officials of OSSC, Myanmar International Thilawa Terminal (MITT), Yangon-based international shipping lines like Maersk Lines (Myanmar) Co Ltd, CMA CGM Myanmar COSCO Shipping Lines (Myanmar) Co Ltd, Ocean Network Express Pte Ltd, SITC Container Lines (Myanmar), OOCL (Myanmar) Ltd, Mediterranean Shipping Myanmar Co Ltd, RCL (Myanmar) Co Ltd, and investors were present at the meeting. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

NATIONAL

From Sitting to Walking: The Journey of Reading

- ❖ Those who do not read books are like sitting.
- ❖ Literates who do not read are like standing.
- ❖ Literates who read books are like walking.
- ❖ We must encourage everyone, especially the youth, to read.
- ❖ We need to create environments that promote reading.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to donate books and publications to libraries across the nation and libraries of military headquarters, regiments, and units on 3 April 2024)

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Tuesday
29 October 2024)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal and a few cloud elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 30 October 2024: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region and Mon State, fairly widespread in Yangon Region and Kayin State, scattered in Southern Shan State and isolated in Bago, Ayeyawady Regions and Rakhine, and Kayah States. Degree of certainty is 80%. Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and southern Shan, Rakhine States. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 3-7 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Fairly widespread to widespread rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 October 2024: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 October 2024: Partly cloudy and isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 October 2024: A few cloud.

— DMH

Donor seeks archaeological approval to restore ancient Inwa pagoda



This image depicts the Lawka Waithabu MyoDaunt Pagoda in ancient Inwa.

ACCORDING to the writer and archaeologist Bo Shake (Yadanapura), a donor has emerged to restore Lawka Waithabu Myo Daunt pagoda in ancient Inwa, and he is

preparing to submit to the Department of Archaeology and National Museums.

He said an application would be submitted to the archaeology department by the end of this year.

“There is a donor who will donate, and that donor contacted me. We will not repair it, and we will preserve the original structure. We will submit it to the Department of Archaeology in accordance with the law to preserve the original structure. If there is a water pipe above, we will make it so that the water does not seep in. If there are trees or stumps, we will kill them with chemicals. We will replace the broken bricks as before,” he said.

The pagoda is one of the ancient famous pagodas of Inwa, which was built and worshipped during the reign of King Kyarthapaday, the last king of the Nyaungyan dynasty, and is about 270 years old.

Clearing the trees growing in the pagoda, including banyan trees and bushes, has been carried out. An ancient pagoda is the work of an era that represents it, and the preservation of the old style is invaluable, he added. — MT/ZN

Amarapura crown prince's costume draws fans at 2024 Asia Model Festival

AT the Asia Model Festival 2024 held in Korea, the model representing Myanmar competed wearing the Amarapura era crown prince's dress as the National Costume, and there was a lot of interest from the people, said Myat Thinkha Nge, the founder of Myat Taw Win, who created the costume.

At the event, the designer made a dress of the Amarapura crown prince, who was attending a royal ceremony for Myanmar model Thant Zin Aung to wear in the traditional costume show.

In the dress, the crown prince's utilities such as a black velvet jacket with gold lace, lotus flower wearings, a double-length longyi, golden slippers, royal turbans, Mahura earrings, a sash, a ruby ring, a four-edged dagger and a knife were included, being decorated with Myanmar's traditional arts of embroidery, lacquerware and goldsmith.

“This suit is a costume that was used in yesterday's show representing Myanmar. The event representing one's own country and culture was completed on the night of 27 October. People are interested in it. Even other contestants showed their surprise in Myanmar's dress. They commented that they didn't know how beautiful it was. We know that many people are interested in this costume,” he said.

He also said that it is a good practice for many Misses and Misters to wear traditional national costumes in international competitions this year, and it is a great honour to see it. — MT/ZN



This photo reveals Amarapura-era crown prince's costume, which was worn in the National Costume Competition.

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

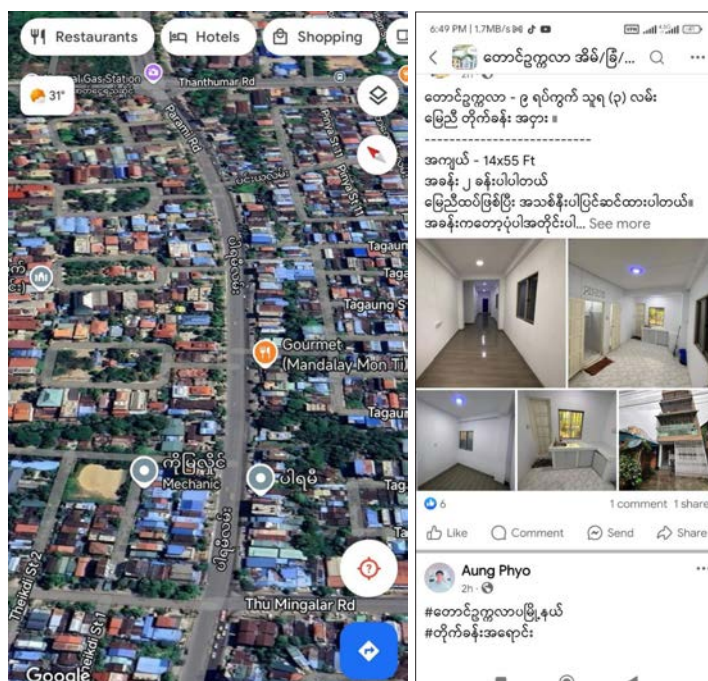
Notice for gold trading

THE government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has announced that mineral (gold) trading services are essential services under Subsection (c) of Section 4 of the Essential Supplies and Service Law, with Notification 35/2024 on 24 October 2024. Then, the authority to release restriction, boundary, supervision, and protection orders as needed was conferred to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. Therefore, the ministry also released an order recognizing mineral (gold) trading as essential services with Notification 038/2024 on 25 October 2024.

According to that Notification, it is required to apply for work licences for gold trading as per Notification 055/2024 of the ministry released on 25 October 2024, and action will be taken against those who fail to follow the rules and regulations under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Service Law.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

Yangon rental market surges



An aerial photo of some wards in South Okkalapa Township (L). A rented room in South Okkalapa Township (R).

es are now K500,000, K600,000 or K700,000, and people who can afford and need to live rent those rooms,' said an estate agent from South Okkalapa Township.

A woman from Pazundaung Township said her apartment has been listed for sale at K150 million negotiable for about six months, but no buyer has been found yet.

Apartment rent prices have increased, and hostel prices have also elevated downtown at the same time, said a hostel tenant.

A family that migrated to Yangon Region said they couldn't afford to live in downtown townships, which is why they chose to rent in Shwepyitha Township, where prices are low.

"In Shwepyitha, rooms are available at K150,000 or K200,000, but prices are nearly K500,000 in downtown, and we can't afford them. So we moved to Shwepyitha," they said. — MT/ZS

PROPERTY rent prices have increased and the rental market has been more active than selling, according to real estate agents.

"Transaction has been slow

slightly, and price has also declined a little. However, rental rates have risen; rooms previously priced at about K200,000 are now K350,000, but they are hard to find now. Even rent price

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 increase of death rate due to the disease.

Myanmar, China celebrate 10-year partnership in biodiversity conservation, sustainable development

THE 10-Year Cooperation Ceremony for China-Myanmar Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development was held at the Grand Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Min Thu highlighted the achievement of positive outcomes in China-Myanmar biodiversity conservation and continuous efforts to ensure the sustainability of resources and develop the research processes in future.

Then, the director-general of the Forest Depart-

ment, officials of the Chinese Academy of Science, and project officials briefed the constructive results of the 10-year cooperation and progress in work procedures.

The event was attended by the minister-counsellor of the Chinese Embassy, CAS professors and students, and senior officials of the ministry. — MNA/KTZH

The documentary group photo session of the ten-year cooperation on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development between China and Myanmar in progress yesterday.



NATIONAL

October Nat-Test certificates and scores issued on 28 Oct



The Nat-Test Exam Centre in Yangon.

CERTIFICATES and result scores of the Nat-Test that took place on 6 October have been available as of 28 October, Nat-Test Centre, Yangon announced.

For N1, N2 and N5 will be issued on 28 and 29 October, on 30 and 31 October for N3 and on 2 and 3 November for N4, from 10 am to 4:30 pm.

Certificates for all levels

can be taken out in six months after 4 November.

An original or copy of the ID card is required, and the representative needs to bring a copy of the candidate's ID and a copy of their ID card.

Certificates are available at No B-11, ground floor, Anawrahta Housing, Hledan, near Insein Road and Hledan bus stop in Kamayut Township Yangon.

Training schools will need to submit the student list, which is attached with correct registration numbers by letterhead, a day in advance. If necessary, data are incomplete, and certificates and result scores won't be issued. — MT/ZS

Counter-argument to false information

False claims of Dawei prisoner's death dismissed

CERTAIN media outlets have circulated false information, claiming that a political prisoner in Dawei Prison died from a stroke after being denied adequate medical care.

Upon review, prison records confirm there are no political prisoners held in Dawei, only inmates serving sentences for breaking an existing law.

Inmate Ye Aung, who experienced right-side paralysis due to fever complications, was

admitted to Dawei General Hospital on 4 July. Following treatment, he recovered and was discharged on 9 July. After discharge, he returned to the hospital for follow-up appointments three times and received regular attention from prison medical staff. However, as his condition did not improve, he was readmitted to the hospital on 27 September, where a CT scan confirmed he had a brain tumour. Despite 21 days

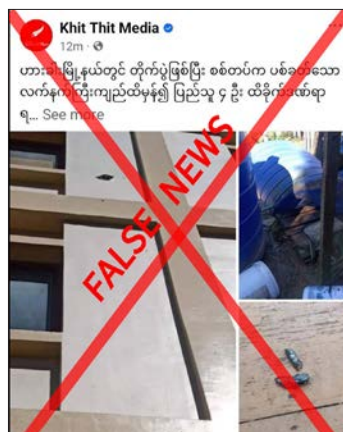
of necessary treatment, his health deteriorated, and he passed away on 17 October due to complications related to the tumour. Prison authorities covered his medical expenses, and though his family did not visit during his hospital stays, the prison held a traditional Buddhist burial upon his death. The original report, posted on Khit Thit Media's Facebook page, is fabricated to mislead the public. — Thitsa/MKKS

False reports alleging civilians injured by security forces in Haka

MALICIOUS news media reported that four civilians – three women and one man – were injured by shelling from security forces on the morning of 28 October in Haka, Chin State. However, these reports have been confirmed as false. According to local security officials, terrorists have been operating villages around Haka Township and frequently target security forces from remote locations. Terrorists have also repeatedly launched attacks with mortars and

bombs on civilian residential areas.

In response to tip-offs from civilians opposing the violence, security forces targeted terrorists hiding in these areas, resulting in several terrorist casualties. Local security forces reported that terrorist casualties have risen, public support for them declined, and unverified malicious news media outlets have been spreading misinformation to influence public opinion against security forces. — MNA/KZL



This screenshot reveals false claims.

Crackdown on illegal trade seizes goods worth over K1.389B

EFFORTS to combat illicit trade, overseen by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, are being carried out effectively by the law.

On 26 October, the combined on-duty teams impounded four tractor heads with four trailers (estimated value of K228 million) carrying 444 tanks of illegal diesel and 148 tanks of petroleum worth K280 million in Waingmaw Township. The action was conducted in line with Customs procedures.

Similarly, on 28 October, the combined teams conducted inspections. They seized a Yutong bus (estimated value of K60 million) carrying two kinds of foodstuffs worth K6.5 million at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint and three kinds of industrial materials worth about K1.73 million without official documents at the Yangon International Airport. The action was conducted as per Customs procedures.

Furthermore, three vehicles (estimated value of K120 million) carrying 27 kinds of industrial materials and eight kinds of consumer goods worth about K21.28 million without official documents at the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint, a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (worth approximately K27 million) carrying nine types of consumer goods valued at K53.28 million without official documents at the Yadanabon Bridge (Mandalay) checkpoint, a Nissan Diesel truck (estimated value of K28 million) carrying five kinds of industrial materials worth K66.22 million without official documents at the Myitnge Tollgate, and a Scania bus (estimated value of K100 million) carrying seven types of consumer goods and five kinds of industrial materials (approximately worth K51.81 million) without official document at the milepost 352 on Yangon- Mandalay road. The action was carried out according to Customs procedures.

The combined teams seized two vehicles (worth approximately K40 million) carrying consumer goods worth K1.54 million) without official documents at the Phayagyi, teak weighing 0.567 tonne worth K499,312 in Toungoo District, industrial materials worth K100.12 million without official documents at the Thakayta jetty, a Sunlong bus (worth approximately K50 million) carrying 12 kinds of foodstuff and two kinds of consumer goods worth K20.34 million without official documents at the checkpoint on Thanbyuzayat-Ye road. The action was taken under the Forest Law and Customs procedures.

On 28 and 29 October, the combined on-duty teams captured a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (approximately K80 million) carrying two kinds of motorbike spare parts worth K31.8 million without official documents on the Kengtung detour and three types of smuggled consumer goods worth K21.3 million near Kengphaung village on the Kengtung detour. The action was conducted as per Customs procedures.

Overall, on 26, 28 and 29 October, 37 arrests were made, with the seizure of illegal items worth approximately K1.389 billion. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated items in Mandalay Region.

DICA report: 14,500 companies fail to file AR in Jan-Sept

A total of 14,500 companies were struck off the register in the past nine months (January-September) of 2024 as they were unable to file annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

DICA's statistics indicated that 750 companies in January 2024, 600 in February, 1,650 in March and 2,000 each in April, May and June, 2,500 in July, 1,000 in August and 2,000 in September did not file the AR.

DICA notified those companies that failed to file their AR on the MyCO that were struck off the register from the date of the directive, under 430 (F) of Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA's notification.

A total of 6,400 companies also failed to submit the AR in 2023. The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with



The office of the Directorate of Investment Company Administration (DICA) in Yangon.

the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

All registered companies need to submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation and at least once every year (not later

than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial

statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thousands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/KK

CBM to sell 5M yuan, 25M Thai baht on 28 Oct



A counter staff is pictured counting greenback notes at the money exchange outlet.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced the sale of five million yuan and 25 million Thai baht on 28 October and then sold US\$20 million, over one million yuan and 18 million baht on that day.

CBM injected \$20 million, 800,000 yuan and 200,000 baht on 25 October and \$100,000 and 8.2 million baht on 24 October 2024 into the financial market.

CBM sold over \$2.5 million and 16.5 million baht after announcing upcoming sales of 20 million baht to importers on the

foreign exchange trading platform on 23 October.

It injected over \$7.5 million and about 150 million baht into the private sector on 22 October, again after sales of 2.2 million and 1.5 million yuan on 21 October.

CBM announced the sale of \$35 million for those engaged in fuel oil and edible oil sectors as per its notification dated 20 October.

CBM injected \$6 million and 200 million baht on 15 October, \$730,000 on 11 October, \$12.4 mil-

lion and 38.7 million baht on 10 October, 660,000 yuan on 9 October and over 10 million baht on 7 October into the private sector.

CBM also pumped \$13.1 million and 288,000 yuan on 4 October, \$780,000, 1.2 million yuan and one million baht on 3 October and over 1.2 million yuan and 10.2 million baht into the financial market on 2 October.

CBM also sold over \$76 million, 86 million baht and 4.8 million yuan in September. Moreover, CBM sold over \$190 million, 19 million yuan and 79 million baht in August.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and the currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been joining hands with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

MoHT to offer free hospitality & tourism courses

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism will conduct free hospitality and tourism courses at its training school located at Yatha condo on the corner of 31st Street and Mahabandula Road in Pabedan Township under the support of the China Foundation for Rural Development, in cooperation with the Myanmar Tourism Federation and affiliated associations.

Those who meet the set qualifications are eligible to join the courses. The courses include digital technology in the hotel and tourism industry courses, capacity building for tour guide (refresher) courses, tourism service, marketing and destination management courses and hospitality training (Front Office, Housekeeping, F&B Service and F&B Production (Chinese) courses). Those who want to attend the digital technology in the hotel and tourism industry course that will take place from 7 to 26 November 2024 need to have basic knowledge of computer literacy. Interested individuals can contact 09 420083944 for registration.

Those who have a tour guide licence are eligible to apply for capacity building for the tour guide (refresher) course from 7 to 22 November by enquiring through contact number 09 420083944. The tourism service, marketing and destination management course will be open from 7 to 22 November; and individuals can enrol in this course through 09 5007447. The hospitality training course covering four service courses will be offered from 29 October to 15 November. Interested individuals can contact 09 420129156 for enrolment. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

Chinese Embassy hosts fourth Kathina robe offering ceremony

THE Chinese Embassy in Myanmar and the Myanmar-China Buddhist Friendship Association held the fourth Kathina robe offering ceremony in Yangon on 26 October, attended by 21 monks who are members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and the Yangon Region Sangha Nayaka Committee, according to the Chinese Embassy.

At the ceremony, officials from the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar donated robes to the 21 monks. Also, they provided

money to the monasteries and people in flood-affected areas through the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee. — ASH/TH

This photo showcases the fourth Kathina robe offering ceremony at the Chinese Embassy on 26 October.



MRCS offers psychological first aid training for flood victims

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) is conducting psychological first aid training in Yangon from 28 to 30 October, with 30 Red Cross members from Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Region, and Bago Region participating.

This training aims to equip attendees with skills to support people facing severe emotional distress during recent floods.

The training is a collaboration between the Myanmar Red Cross Society and the Danish Red Cross Society, with officials from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Danish Red



This photo depicts the opening ceremony of the psychological first aid training.

Cross, and the German Red Cross Society also present at the opening ceremony. — ASH/MKKS

Actress Chue Lay returns to TV in upcoming series after planned break



This photo showcases actors and actresses of the 'Yamat Kakyoe' TV series at the filming opening ceremony.

DESPITE her initial decision to take a break from acting in a new series this year, actress Chue Lay has joined the cast of an upcoming TV series.

"I had planned to step away from TV series this year, but when I read the script, I was drawn to the character of Moe Myint May and found the story compelling. It's a heartwarming family drama with a humorous touch," Chue Lay explained.

The series, titled 'Yamat Kakyoe', is set in Yangon, with filming scheduled to begin in early November. Directed by Htet Kyi and produced by Power King Film Production, it is based on a novel by Lonma, with a screenplay by Thar Myint Shwe.

The cast also includes actors Kaung Pyae, Phone Shan, Jay, Shwe Poe Eain, Myo Sandi Kyaw, Chel Chel, Htoo Char, Kyaw Zin Htut, Academy Aung Khine, Zaw Gyi, Yan Pyay, and Soe Gyi.

The ceremony marking the beginning of filming for the series took place on the morning of 27 October at Eaindawya Pagoda in Dagon Township, Yangon. — ASH/TRKM

Myanmar Ambassador attends ASEAN Committee meeting in Kuwait

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar Ambassador to Kuwait U Chan Aye attended an ambassadorial-level meeting of the ASEAN Committee in Kuwait (ACK) on 27 October. The meeting was led by Mr Ekapol Poolpipat, Thailand's Ambassador to Kuwait, and included Ambassadors and Heads of Mission from other ASEAN Embassies in Kuwait.

Following the meeting, the Ambassador of Thailand hosted an informal luncheon in honour of Nasser Raden Thaamer

Al-Motairi, Secretary-General of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), who joined as a special guest of the ACK.

The meeting covered future initiatives to enhance ASEAN's role and ACK's engagements in Kuwait. Attendees also discussed recent regional events, including the outcomes of the third Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit in Qatar and the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits in Laos, while exchanging views on both regional and international developments. — ASH/TMT



The ambassadorial-level meeting of the ASEAN Committee in Kuwait (ACK) in progress on 27 October 2024.

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Russia practises massive nuclear retaliatory strike in strategic forces drill

THE Yars, Sineva, and Bulava intercontinental ballistic missiles were launched from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome in Russia's Arkhangelsk Region and from the Barents Sea during Tuesday's exercise of Russia's strategic nuclear deterrence forces, the Russian Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov reported to President Vladimir Putin that a massive nuclear strike in response to an enemy nuclear attack was practised during a nuclear deterrence forces drill, according to a video published by the Ministry of Defence.

Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov reported to the president on the procedure for conducting the drill.



This grab from a handout footage released by the Russian Defence Ministry press service on 29 October 2024, shows the launch of a Yars intercontinental ballistic missile during drills of the strategic deterrence forces. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / RUSSIAN DEFENCE MINISTRY / AFP**

The ministry reported that all maneuvers were completed in full, with all missiles reaching their targets, confirming the specified characteristics.

"A readiness check was conducted for military command bodies, and skills were tested for senior and operational personnel in organizing the management of subordinate troops," the ministry noted.

The Tu-95MS strategic missile carriers also took part in the exercise, the ministry added.

"The tasks envisioned during the training of the strategic deterrence forces have been fully accomplished; all missiles have reached their targets, confirming their specified characteristics," the statement read. — SPUTNIK

Chinese scientists extract world's longest ice core outside polar regions

CHINESE scientists announced Tuesday that they had successfully extracted a 324-metre ice core from the thickest glacier on the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau — the longest ice core ever drilled on the plateau and the longest globally outside the polar regions.

Braving the wind and snow, researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) had worked tirelessly on the summit of the Purog Kangri Glacier in Tsonyi County, China's highest county in altitude with over 5,000 metres above sea level on average in

Xizang Autonomous Region, for over a month.

The ice core surpassed the previous record set in 1992, when scientists from China and the United States drilled a 308.6-metre ice core from Guliya Ice Cap in Xizang's Ngari Prefecture on the plateau, according to the CAS.

Glaciers contain important information about the Earth's climate history.

"The longest ice core here has unique geographical and climatic characteristics, recording long-term

climate and environmental information for the area," said Xu Baiqing, deputy director of the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, CAS, who led the extraction project.

During the Purog Kangri Glacier scientific research project, which started in September, scientists identified it as the thickest glacier on the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau, following the discovery of an ice field with a maximum measured thickness of nearly 400 metres.

Lonnie Thompson, a member of the American Academy of Sciences and a foreign academician of the CAS, joined the research in September.

"Currently, glaciers worldwide are retreating. Once they melt, the historical records encapsulated within them will also disappear," Thompson told Xinhua during his trip to the research site.

"Therefore, extracting and preserving ice cores is crucial for retrieving historical information," he added.

The ice core drilling and thickness measurement of Purog Kangri Glacier are part of China's second scientific expedition and research project on the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau, initiated in August 2017 and headed by Yao Tandong, an academician of the CAS. — Xinhua



An aerial drone photo taken on 11 September 2024 shows the camp of a scientific expedition team at the "Dome.C" point on the top of Purog Kangri Glacier in southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Mideast at 'most dangerous juncture' in decades: UN official

THE UN's special coordinator for Middle East peace warned Tuesday that the region was at its "most dangerous juncture" in decades, as the war between Israel and Iran-backed groups risked spiralling into a broader conflict.

"We have now entered the second year of this horrific conflict, and the region is on the verge of yet another serious escalation," Tor Wennesland told the Security Council. His remarks come just days after Israel carried out air strikes on military sites in Iran in response to Tehran's 1 October missile attack, itself retaliation for the killing of Iran-backed militant leaders and a Revolutionary Guards commander.

"Every effort — by all of us — must be made to de-escalate the situation and establish a different trajectory towards greater peace and stability in the region," he said.

Over a year after Hamas's unprecedented 7 October attack on Israel prompted the devastating war in Gaza, which has now extended to Lebanon, deadly violence "shows no signs of abating", Wennesland said. "We are witnessing not only a horrific humanitarian nightmare, but a rapidly accelerated unravelling of the prospects for a sustainable resolution to this conflict." — AFP

OPINION

Collaboratively strive to alleviate poverty

A SIGNIFICANT portion of the population faces severe crises regarding basic daily needs. Many individuals earn low incomes, spending 70 per cent of their earnings on food. With limited employment opportunities and rising food prices, many cannot afford basic necessities. As a result, this country is struggling with poverty.

According to a World Bank press release dated 13 October 2024, forty per cent of the global population resides in 26 least-developed countries (LDCs), which are burdened by debt and highly vulnerable to natural disasters and other unexpected occurrences.

Significantly, new challenges such as climate change, food insecurity, and conflict have increased poverty rates, making it difficult for people to escape poverty. Children from low-income families often drop out of school, limiting their earning potential due to a lack of qualifications. Consequently, they miss the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty. Therefore, both the government and the community must collaborate to alleviate poverty and work towards the overall development of the nation.

Developed countries, per capita income falls below US\$1,145 per year due to burdening a large amount of debt after 2006.

Myanmar has made significant progress in reducing its poverty rate in recent years. However, this success was hampered by the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020, which led to a notable increase in poverty across the country. The agricultural sector faced crises, resulting in lower employment rates and rising commodity prices, further exacerbating the situation.

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Serpentine Belt of Burma.

This is a continuation of Episode 47, which HL Chhibber described in 1934 as the serpentine belt of Burma.

Naga Hills: In the Naga Hills, Pascoe mapped a few bands of serpentine, which have an NE to SW trend, coinciding with the country's general strike. The bands are most probably in the form of sills. Some occur in the Makwari Beds, while others are found along the junction of the Chimi conglomerate (Cretaceous) and the Makwari Beds. At the same time, a few are intrusive into the Disang Shales (Cretaceous), which have been correlated with the Negrais Series of Theobald.

Manipur Hills: In the Manipur Hills, the serpentine forms a long dyke about 32 miles in length, which was intruded along a fault in the Axial Series. R D Oldham has marked another linear outcrop along the Axial-Nummulitic boundary on the map accompanying his paper. The rock occurs in dykes of varying sizes, the main axis of the intrusion forming a band some mile or two in breadth, which runs throughout the whole of the district examined in a general north and south direction. He states that it is further worthy of note that the mode of occurrence of this serpentine is the same as in Pegu; namely, that the serpentine outburst is confined not merely to the east of the main range but to the neighbourhood of the eastern limit of the hill rocks.

Prome and Thajetmyo Districts: Father South, in the Prome and Thajetmyo districts, serpentine masses have erupted along or very close to the Nummulitic-Negrais or Nummulitic-Axial Series boundary, again on the eastern slopes of the Arakan Yoma. Theobald, however, has shown on his map a few outcrops of these intrusions in the Axial Series, which the author thinks is the site of tension cracks in the formation.

Henzada and Bassein Districts: The serpentine intrusions of the Henzada and Bassein districts occur in the eastern foot-hill of the Arakan Yoma, either on the important fault marking the Negrais-Nummulitic junction or very close to it.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands: In the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, these intrusions occur mostly on the eastern side of the islands. In the middle Andamans, a solitary outcrop of serpentine occurs in the central part of the island. The slopes on the eastern side are much steeper than those on the west, and Tipper found that in the case of North Andaman Island, this persisted as a submarine feature. He believed that to the east of the island, there is a fault and that in the neighbourhood of the fault, there are the volcanoes of Barren Island and Narcondam.

Granites of the Eastern Hill Ranges.

The granites of Tenasserim and other districts farther north most probably also belong to the late Cretaceous-early Eocene period of igneous activity. The Malayan and Dutch geologists are decisive that they are of late Cretaceous age. The orogenic history of Burma supports such a conclusion, and these

The Burma Circle of the Geological Survey of India and their Contributions to the Geology of Myanmar

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intrusions must have taken place when the Indo-Malayan arc of mountain chains was upheaved on the east. According to Sethu Rama Rao, after the deposition of the Mergui and Moulmein Series, there followed an upheaval by crustal movements, which caused folds (whose axes are parallel to the strike of the sedimentary rocks), and produced lines of weakness through which the granites were intruded in the form of large and small bosses. Two types of granite have been recognised; one is a coarse porphyritic variety devoid of tin, and the other is tin-bearing. The former is the older of the two. The age of this granite has long remained uncertain. L D Stamp brought forward some evidence tending to prove the Mesozoic age of the granite of Tenasserim, a point which the Geological Survey of India has lately confirmed. J Coggin Brown and others now believe that the granites that stretch from Mergui into the hilly eastern edges of the Yamethin and Kyaukse districts are identical in composition, age, and mineral association and are comparable with the granites of British Malaya, Sumatra, Borneo, and the Dutch East Indies.

Post-Eocene Orogenic Period and Igneous Activity.

The third important orogenic period was some time post-Eocene, as seen in the Andaman Islands, where, according to Tipper, the Miocene beds, which rest unconformably on the Eocene rocks, only slightly disturbed so that the main portion of the movement must have ceased before their deposition. Cotter recorded similar testimony in the Pondaung range. In the Maw Valley, near Tilin, there are deposits of gently dipping upper Tertiary gravels (Maw Gravels), a local facies of the Irrawaddian, resting upon the upturned edges of the Lower Eocene with strong unconformity and discordance. They prove that the Pondaung fold is very much older than the Maw Gravels and, therefore, pre-Irrawaddian, and, perhaps, even lower Tertiary. During these movements, the volcanic eruptions of Mount Loimye in the Kamaing subdivision, Myitkyina district, and the Wuntho area in the Katha district perhaps took place.

Mount Loimye: The tectonics of Mount Loimye are simple. The oldest in the history of this volcano is a greenish-black basaltic tuff that extends in a north-south direction for over

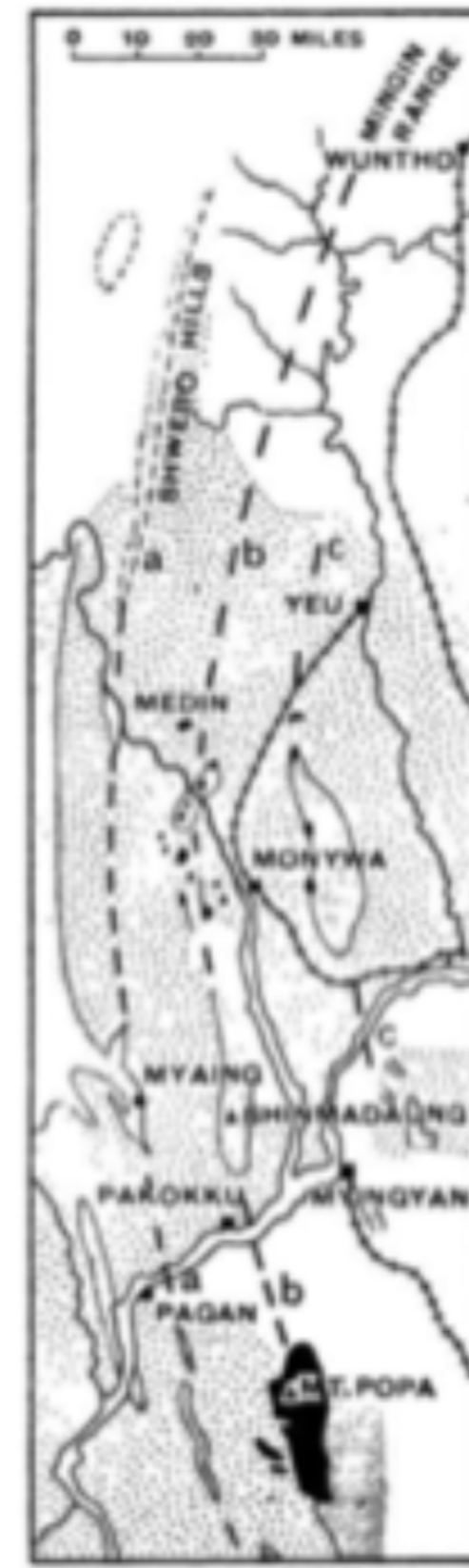
three miles. It is undoubtedly an aqueous-bedded deposit, appearing in places to be interbedded with the Tertiaries and to have participated in the folding of the area. North of the Loimye kha, gabbro was intruded into the tuff in the form of a composite sill or sheet. There is little doubt that the tuff initially erupted along a fault running in a north-south direction, which subsequently provided an outlet for gabbro and the later rocks of the volcano. The existence of a fault along this line is supported by the presence of salt springs on it, etc.

Wuntho Region: The tectonics of the Wuntho area are far from adequately known. Noetling visited it in 1894, and according to him, the most remarkable phenomenon within the area of the volcanic ash on the western side of the Mainthong hill tract is that of salt springs. It is, therefore, highly probable that these salt springs follow a line of faulting, which seems, in the main, to run parallel to the cerussite vein. Looking at Noetling's map, it appears that this fault is important, as it can be traced back to about 60 miles. It is, therefore, not unlikely that the igneous rocks of Wuntho have erupted along the fault. The floor through which the igneous rocks have erupted is nowhere exposed in the area so far explored. The idea of the existence of faults in this region is further substantiated by the occurrence of local earthquakes. The writer, while collecting accounts of the shocks felt on the north-eastern frontier of Burma, received several reports of shocks that had originated and were felt locally in the Wuntho subdivision of the Katha district. Some of them were indeed quite severe. It is, therefore, apparent that there are weak tectonic lines in this region that have not yet attained their equilibrium.

Pliocene Contemporaneous Igneous Activity.

There is no doubt that at the close of the Peguan epoch, orogenic movements occurred, which folded the Pegu Series. These movements must have also operated for some time during the deposition of the Irrawaddians. Accompanying these movements were manifestations of igneous activity, proofs of which we have in the Shwebo and other districts of Burma.

Shwebo District: In the southwestern corner of sheet 84 M/3, flows of basic rocks were found by L A N Iyer in the Kyauktan chaung.



Map Showin the main tectonic lines in the central part of Upper Burma and their connection with the igneous rocks of the region Igneous rocks in black.

They are very numerous and vary in thickness from five to twenty feet. They possess low westerly dips. Their presence among the softer sandstones and shales of the Irrawaddian Series often gives rise to waterfalls. They are associated with tuffs and, in one case, at least bear interbedded bands of clay.

Kabwet Area, Shwebo District: Passing eastwards, we find similar evidence in the Kabwet area of the Shwebo district. Here, very decomposed lava, described by Dr Stamp and the author as the "older lava", occurs interbedded with the Irrawaddians and is also involved in the folding. Where it was traced on the western side of the anticlinal fold, it dips very steeply but is much better displayed on the eastern side, where it forms a long and conspicuous scarp.

Mount Popa Area: In the Myingyan district, these movements continued throughout the Irrawaddian period right to its close, while in the Mount Popa area, we have black basic tuffs and ashes interbedded with almost the highest of the Irrawaddian beds, of which the plateau, on which Mount Popa stands, is built. As was noted by Sir Edwin Pascoe and the author, volcanic activity commenced towards the close of Irrawaddian times, but the later and larger flows of augite- and hornblende-andesites and the clastic material derived therefrom are in all probability post-Irrawaddian.

Pleistocene Orogenic Period and Igneous Manifestations.

The Pleistocene marked the next orogenic period in Burma when the Irrawaddian was folded and faulted. During this diastrophic period, volcanic and other igneous activity manifested itself in several centres in Burma, especially in the Central Belt and the Shan Plateau. It was at this time that some of the volcanoes of the Jade Mines area, the Lower Chindwin Region, Mount Popa, etc., were active. The dolerites of the Pegu Yoma were also most probably intruded at that time. The olivine-dolerites, teschenites, and olivine-basalts (mugearites) of the Mandalay and Shwebo districts were also erupted as a result of these tectonic movements.

Jade Mines Area: The volcanic rocks of the Jade Mines area can be classified as follows:

- The Mabaw siliceous agglomerate.
- Andesite and basalt outcrops in the neighbourhood of Namyong (25° 40',

96° 25').

The red siliceous agglomerate, which the writer has designated the Mabaw siliceous agglomerate, begins near Sankha village and continues in a south-easterly direction for about three miles as far as the Moschen hka. The width of the outcrop does not exceed half a mile. It appears that the volcano burst through the floor of the serpentine since lapilli of that rock, which are sometimes the size of small blocks about 18 inches long, are included in the breccia. Moreover, the reddish colour of the paste confirms the view that it must have been derived from the soil or subsoil of the serpentine.

There is no doubt that the formation in question is interbedded with the late Tertiaries since boulders of the Tertiary conglomerate are seen in the breccia itself, and a thin band of the Tertiaries is generally seen at the base of the breccia. The eruption probably took place along the fault, marking the junction of the serpentine and the agglomerate. This is confirmed by the occurrence of salt springs on the western boundary of the formation in question.

Several outcrops of andesites and basalt occur in the neighbourhood of Namyong. The volcanoes in each case have burst through the Tertiaries, which consist of soft sandstones with quartz pebbles and fossil wood, leaving little doubt that they cannot be older than the Irrawaddy Series. The Tertiaries have been thrown into anticlinal and synclinal folds, and most probably, the lavas reached the surface along the axes of the former.

The Lower Chindwin Region: The general trend of folding in the Tertiary hills lying to the west of the Chindwin River in the latitude of Monywa is north and south. There are three folding lines in the area.

- The line of folding, including the Medin and Myaing inliers of Pegu Series is continued both to the north and to the south. Southwards, it assumes a trend east of south and includes the inliers of Pagan, Ngashandaung, and Yedwet. Northwards, the trend becomes east of north, and the line passes into Shwebo Hills inlier.
- The fold line that passes through Mount Popa is seen to include Shinmadaung and the explosive craters of the Chindwin. When traced still farther north, it passes to the east of the Shwebo hills into the Katha district and possibly includes the volcanics of the Wuntho region (Mingin Range).
- The volcanic occurrences in the hill belt to the east of Monywa, which run in a general direction of a few degrees west of north, appear to lie along an additional tectonic line to the east and add to the width of the belt of vulcanicity. (to be continued).

References: Chhibber, HL, 1934: *The Geology of Burma, Macmillan, and Co Limited, St Martin's Street, London.*

ENVIRON: WORLD

Plastics: lifesaver turned environmental threat



(FILES) This file photo taken on 18 October 2021 shows a worker carrying bags of used drink cans and bottles for recycling at a collection point in Brooklyn, New York. The chair of international negotiations on plastic pollution pledged on 23 October 2024 to deliver an effective treaty at final talks next month in South Korea but acknowledged that “divergences” remain between countries. Ecuador’s Luis Vayas Valdivieso said the clock was ticking if nations are to seal a potentially groundbreaking deal at final negotiations in Busan in late November. **PHOTO: AFP**

BEFORE it threatened biodiversity, the oceans and the global food chain, plastics saved lives and transformed societies as a durable, malleable and cheap material.

From the 1950s, plastics enjoyed a positive image “in all areas of life”, according to the Plastic Atlas from the Heinrich Boell Foundation.

But with plastic now an integral part of daily life and global production exploding, concerns abound about its

impact on the health of the planet — and ourselves.

Plastic is essential to the health industry, being used to manufacture items that have helped improve hygiene and boost life expectancy including single-use catheters, IV bags and syringes.

Condoms, many of which are made from latex, have greatly improved public health and saved countless lives by protecting against sexually transmitted infections.

Plastics are also widespread in packaging, helping perishable goods stay fresh and safe to consume while reducing overall food waste and illness from contamination.

In more recent times, major studies have looked into the impact of microplastics on human health.

Plastic particles ranging from 0.3 to 5 millimetres (0.01 to 0.20 inches) in length have been detected in human blood, breast milk and semen. — AFP

Big guns descend on Cali for final push in UN biodiversity talks

HEADS of state, ministers and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres arrive in Cali Tuesday hoping to add impetus to grinding talks on ways to save nature from human destruction.

The 16th so-called Conference of Parties (COP16) to the UN’s Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has the urgent task of coming up with monitoring and funding mechanisms to achieve 23 nature protection goals agreed in Canada two years ago. Themed “Peace with Nature”, the summit has been bogged down in disagreement about modalities of funding, as well as sharing the profits of digitally sequenced plant and animal genetic data — used in medicines and cosmetics — with the com-

munities they come from.

Delegates have no time to waste. There are only five years left to achieve the 23 UN targets, which include placing 30 per cent of land, water and ocean under protection by 2030.

A report issued by nature watchdogs said Monday that only 17.6 per cent of land and inland waters, and 8.4 per cent of the ocean and coastal areas, are within documented protected and conserved areas.

“This leaves a land area roughly the size of Brazil and Australia combined, and at sea an area larger than the Indian Ocean, to be designated by 2030 in order to meet the global target,” said the Protected Planet Report. — AFP



People pass by an exhibition of extinct species at the Green Zone of the COP16 summit in Cali, Colombia, on 28 October 2024. The COP16 biodiversity summit in Cali, Colombia, enters its second week Monday to assess, and ramp up, progress towards achieving 23 targets agreed in Canada two years ago to halt and reverse nature destruction by 2030. **PHOTO BY JOAQUIN SARMIENTO / AFP**



(FILES) A photo taken on 3 May 2014 shows people visiting “The Gateway to Hell”, a huge burning gas crater in the heart of Turkmenistan’s Karakum desert. Turkmenistan said on 25 October 2024, it will capture the gas fuelling its “Gateway to Hell”, putting the man-made fire pit at risk of closure as the reclusive state seeks to reduce its greenhouse emissions. The 20-metre-deep Darvaza crater in a remote stretch of the Karakum desert has been burning for decades, continuously fed by methane gas seeping from the ground since a Soviet drilling accident in 1971. **PHOTO: AFP**

Carbon cuts ‘miles short’ of 2030 goal: UN

GREENHOUSE gas concentrations in the atmosphere reached new record highs in 2023, the UN warned on Monday, with countries falling “miles short” of what is needed to curb devastating global warming.

Levels of the three main greenhouse gases — heat-trapping carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide — all increased yet again last year, said the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nation’s weather and climate agency.

Emissions, largely from the

burning of fossil fuels, have continued a relentless rise in recent years, even as rising temperatures unleash increasingly damaging and costly extreme weather across the globe.

A separate report by UN climate change found that barely a dent is being made in the 43 per cent emissions cut needed by 2030 to avert the worst of global warming. Action as it stands would only lead to a 2.6 per cent reduction this decade from 2019 levels. “Current national climate plans fall miles short of what’s

needed to stop global heating from crippling every economy, and wrecking billions of lives and livelihoods across every country,” said UN climate chief Simon Stiell. The two reports come just weeks before the United Nations COP29 climate summit in Azerbaijan, and as nations prepare to submit updated national climate plans in early 2025.

“Bolder” plans to slash the pollution that drives warming will now have to be drawn up, Stiell said, calling for the end of “the era of inadequacy”. — AFP

'Amazing' AI de-ages Tom Hanks in new film 'Here'

TOM Hanks has praised the "amazing" use of artificial intelligence to de-age him "in real time" on the set of new movie "Here", even as he accepted that the technology is causing huge concern in Hollywood.

"Here", out in theatres Friday, stars Hanks and Robin Wright as a couple striving to keep their family together through births, marriages, divorces and deaths, across multiple decades and even generations.

Hanks portrays his character from an idealistic teen, through various stages of youth and middle age, to a frail, elderly man.

But rather than just relying on makeup, filmmakers teamed up with AI studio Metaphysic on



US singer Remi Wolf attends the world premiere of "Here" during AFI Fest at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood on 25 October 2024.

PHOTO: AFP

a tool called Metaphysic Live, to rejuvenate and "age up" the actors.

The technology worked so fast that Hanks was able to

immediately watch his "deep-faked" performance after each scene.

"The thing that is amazing about it is it happened in real

time," said Hanks.

"We did not have to wait for eight months of post-production. There were two monitors on the set. One was the actual feed from the lens, and the other was just a nanosecond slower, of us 'deep-faked'.

"So we could see ourselves in real time, right then and there."

The rapidly increasing use of AI in films including "Here" has triggered vast concern in Hollywood, where actors last year went on strike over, among other things, the threat they believe the technology poses to their jobs and industry.

Hanks acknowledged those fears during a panel discussion with director Robert Zemeckis at last weekend's AFI Fest in

Hollywood, saying a "lot of people" were worried about how it will be used.

"They took eight million images of us from the web. They scraped the web for photos of us in every era that we've ever been — every event we've filmed, every movie still, every family photo that might have existed anywhere," Hanks explained.

"And they put that into the box — what is it, 'deepfake technology,' whatever you want to call it."

The use of AI is not the only unusual technological feat in "Here".

The film is entirely shot from one static camera, positioned for the most part in the corner of a suburban US home's living room. — AFP

Spain seeks groundbreaking law for great apes

FOR decades Achille, 50, eked out a miserable existence living alone in wretched conditions in a cramped circus cage.

But better days could lie ahead for the chimpanzee and almost 150 great apes in Spain who stand to benefit from a pioneering bill that would strengthen laws safeguarding their well-being.

Animal rights activists hope the draft legislation will drive the debate on apes' legal status — in Spain and beyond.

"Apes are like us, they are sociable animals," said Olga

Bellon, a primate expert at the Primadomus foundation that took in Achille.

Putting them through the treatment Achille suffered "is inhumane", she told AFP.

The initiative could "change our perception" of the mammals, who are genetically very close to humans, and better appreciate their needs, added Bellon. Spain's left-wing government took a first step towards legislating on animal welfare last year with a law that increased prison sentences for mistreatment. — AFP



A chimpanzee is pictured at the Pridadomus recovering centre, founded by Dutch association AAP (Animal advocacy and protection), in Villena, near Alicante. The Pridadomus rescue and rehabilitation centre for primates was founded by Dutch association AAP (Animal advocacy and protection). Better days could lie ahead for the chimpanzee and almost 150 great apes in Spain who stand to benefit from a pioneering bill that would strengthen laws safeguarding their well-being. PHOTO: AFP

Clint Eastwood skips premiere of new film 'Juror #2'

THE stars of Clint Eastwood's new movie "Juror #2" paid glowing tributes to "the boss," even as the 94-year-old director notably skipped the Hollywood world premiere of what could be his final film.

"Juror #2", out Friday, is a suspenseful courtroom drama in which a jury member discovers he may be personally connected to a high-profile murder trial.

It stars Nicholas Hoult, Toni Collette and JK Simmons, as well as Eastwood's daughter Francesca.

"It was very special to be

working with such an icon as Clint Eastwood," said Hoult. "Obviously terrifying but... he has a cracking sense of humour and charm."

"He's a truly good, solid human being," added Collette.

The movie has received strong reviews. Deadline called it Eastwood's "best since 'American Sniper'", and "one of the most compelling human dramas of his career".

But Eastwood was glaringly absent from the film's glitzy premiere at the annual AFI Fest in Hollywood on Sunday night. — AFP



Francesca Eastwood attends the closing night gala premiere of "Juror #2" during the 2024 AFI Fest at TCL Chinese Theatre on 27 October 2024 in Hollywood, California. PHOTO: KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES/AFP

Fans set for return of pro-LGBTQ video game 'Life is Strange'

VIDEO game "Life is Strange" is returning for its latest episode in a saga that broke the mould by having LGBTQ central characters.

"Life is Strange: Double Exposure" will hit the shelves on Tuesday just a week before

a US election that has underlined a deep polarization over cultural issues.

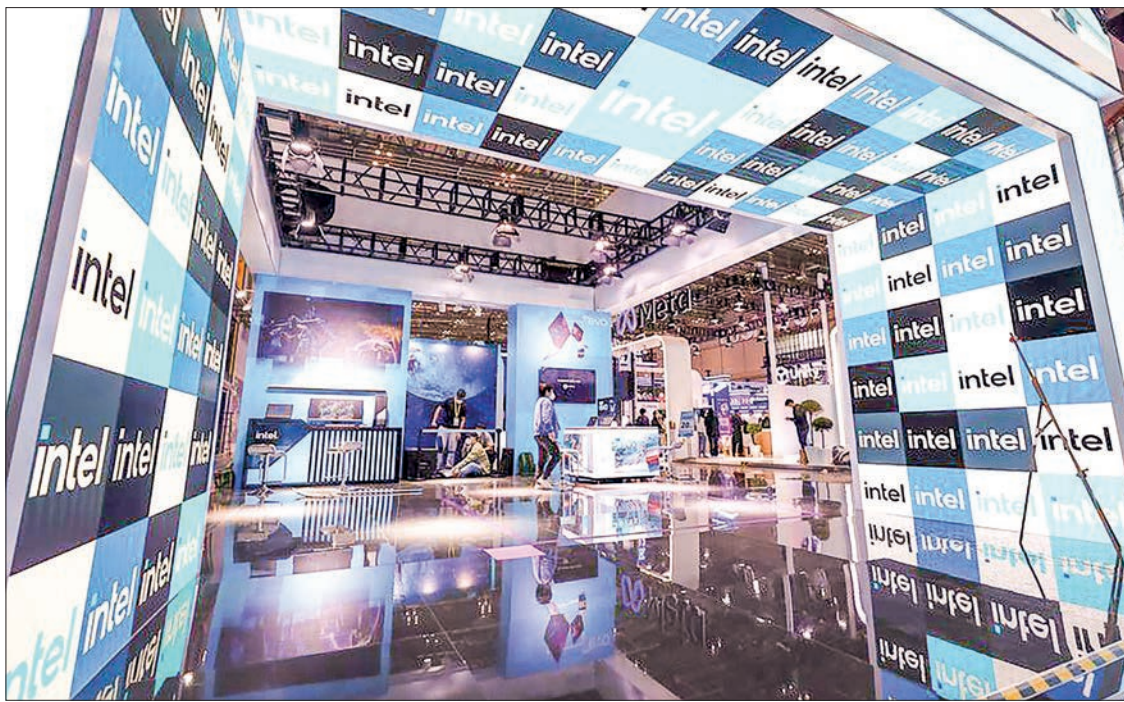
Tech billionaire Elon Musk, who has emerged as a key backer of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, has specifically criti-

cized video game makers for including diverse characters.

In response to the inclusion of a black samurai in a game, Musk wrote last year "DEI kills art", referring to diversity, equity and inclusion. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Intel unveils additional investment in China to boost local supply chain



Workers set up the exhibition booth of Intel Corporation in preparation for the fifth China International Import Expo (CIIE) in east China's Shanghai, 2 November 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

US chip giant Intel on Monday announced the expansion of its packaging and testing base in southwestern China to boost local supply chain efficiency and better serve Chinese clients.

With a capital increase of US\$300 million, the added capacity at its base in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, will primarily focus on packaging and testing services for server chips to meet Chinese clients' demand for customized packaging solutions. A new customer solutions centre will also be established to enhance the efficiency of the local supply chain and increase support for Chinese customers, the company said in an announcement.

China's persistent pursuit of high-quality development and

high-level opening-up serves as the foundation and driving force for Intel's long-term development in the Chinese market. Intel's strategy of being rooted in China and serving its customers remains unchanged, according to Wang Rui, senior vice-president and chairman of Intel China.

The Chengdu base, put into operation in 2003, is one of Intel's largest chip packaging and testing centres globally.

Amidst the challenging global economic recovery, preserving the resilience and stability of global industrial and supply chains is crucial for fostering growth. Intel has been under considerable revenue pressure in the global market in recent years. — Xinhua

Saudi 'Davos in the desert' opens with region on war footing

GLOBAL business leaders meet in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday for a glitzy investor forum as conflict shakes the region and scepticism mounts over the Gulf kingdom's most ambitious development projects.

The Future Investment Initiative (FII) debuted in 2017 as a showcase for de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's dream of diversifying the economy of the world's largest crude exporter away from oil.

This year's three-day event is expected to draw more than 7,000 delegates including TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew and the chief executives of Citigroup and Goldman Sachs.

For the second year in a row, conflict in the Middle East is likely to shape panel discussions and side meetings.

Last year's FII took place just weeks after Hamas's unprecedented attack on southern Israel triggered the war in Gaza, with high-level speakers

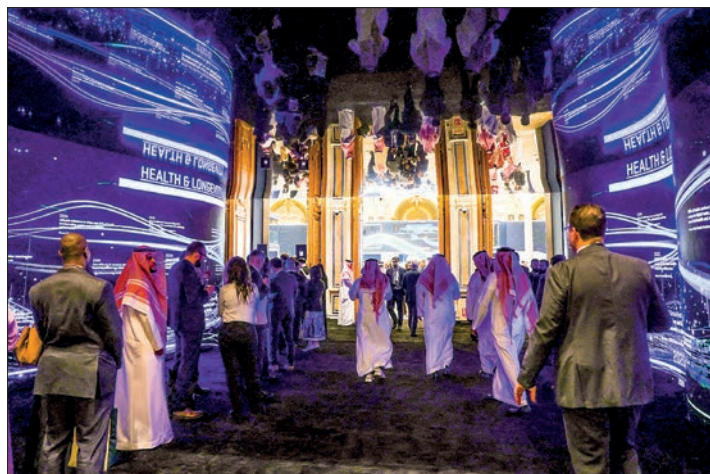
warning about economic turmoil should the fighting draw in other countries.

A year later those fears have been realised, as Israel presses operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon and carries out tit-for-tat strikes with Iran.

"I suspect attendees will reflect seriously on the grinding nature of the Israel-Gaza war, a new invasion in Lebanon, and ongoing concerns over region-wide conflict escalations," said Robert Mogielnicki of the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington.

"The Saudis have been effective in shielding their country from the worst effects of regional conflict for now, but it's very difficult to find a silver lining in this manner of conflict raging across the Middle East region."

FII Institute CEO Richard Attias told a press conference in Riyadh this month that the gathering is not meant to focus on "politics" and should instead tackle big-picture investments "to build a better world". — AFP



Participants arrive to attend the annual Future Investment Initiative (FII) conference in Riyadh on 29 October 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indonesia opens investment in 60 new oil and gas blocks

THE Indonesian government announced Monday the opening of investment opportunities for 60 new oil and gas blocks across 14 regions.

Ariana Soemanto, director of upstream oil and gas development at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, said in a statement that these blocks are ready for exploration and development over the next four years.

"Based on 34 joint studies, we have identified 60 oil and gas blocks available for development. We invite investors to collaborate with us to turn these areas into productive sites, with attractive incentives on offer," Soemanto said.

Indonesia is currently seeking ways to increase domestic oil production to reduce imports. Soemanto said the government provided several conveniences for investors, such as direct offers without the need for joint studies as well as opportunities for exploration in open areas. — Xinhua

Oil giant BP reports drop in third-quarter net profit

BRITAIN'S BP on Tuesday announced a sharp fall in net profit for the third quarter, with the oil and gas giant hit by weak oil trading and refining margins. Profit after taxation slumped to \$206 million in the three months to September, after a net profit of \$4.9 billion in the same period in 2023, BP said in a results statement.

The group earlier this month flagged to markets that its latest earnings would take a sizeable hit after oil prices have fallen on concerns over Chinese demand and the prospect of higher crude production in 2025. — AFP

Apple rolls out AI features across devices

APPLE on Monday rolled out its first set of artificial intelligence features, dubbed "Apple Intelligence", across its premium iPhone, iPad, and Mac devices, marking the tech giant's major push into generative AI.

The release, first previewed by the company in June, marks Apple's foray into an AI race that has seen the US tech giants rush into ChatGPT-style technology.

Google, Microsoft, Amazon and Apple are convinced that generative

AI's powers are the next chapter of computing and have ramped up spending so as not to be left behind.

"Apple Intelligence is generative AI in a way that only Apple can deliver, and we're incredibly excited about its ability to enrich our users' lives", Apple CEO Tim Cook said in a blog post.

Apple's new features include enhanced writing tools, improved photo searching capabilities, and a more conversational Siri virtual assistant.

The company also

plans to integrate ChatGPT's capabilities into its services by December.

Additional features planned for December include the ability to generate custom emoji and create images from text descriptions.

The features are largely being limited to the latest iPhones and iPads as well as Mac computers.

The powers of Apple Intelligence are for now only available in US English. — AFP



The new Apple iPhone 16 models on display upon release on 20 September 2024 at the Apple Store at The Grove in Los Angeles, California. PHOTO: AFP

Crisis-hit VW mulls closing at least three German plants

AILING Volkswagen plans to close at least three factories in Germany, cull tens of thousands of jobs and slash salaries in a "historic" cost-cutting drive, staff representatives told workers in meetings across the country Monday.

Factory closures in home country Germany would be a first in the 87-year history of VW which has been hit hard by rising competition, especially on electric cars, in key market China.

Labour leaders have vowed to put up fierce resistance, setting the stage for what Bild newspaper called a "hot winter" of strike action at Volkswagen at a time when Europe's largest economy is already struggling through a downturn.

More than 25,000 workers gathered at the company's Wolfsburg headquarters to hear the details of management's plans to drastically reduce costs at the core VW brand. Thousands more attended information sessions at other plants. — AFP



(FILES) This general view shows Boeing 777 freighters and 777X as they are assembled at the Everett Production Facility in Everett, Washington on 26 June 2024. Boeing on 28 October 2024, announced a stock offering expected to raise up to US\$19 billion, saying proceeds will go towards repaying debt and investing in its subsidiaries. PHOTO: JENNIFER BUCHANAN / POOL / AFP

Boeing announces stock offering expected to raise up to \$19 billion

BOEING announced a stock offering on Monday expected to raise up to \$19 billion, saying proceeds will go towards repaying debt and investing in its subsidiaries. The aviation giant's move comes after it reported a whopping \$6.2 billion quarterly loss last week in the wake of a paralyzing labour strike.

The securities are

expected to help the embattled company navigate a precarious financial situation without imminent threat of a credit rating downgrade. Boeing did not specify the timing of the offering, but said it will sell 90 million shares of common stock -- valued at around \$13.9 billion at current market prices -- in addition to \$5 billion in

depository shares.

"Boeing intends to use the net proceeds from the offerings for general corporate purposes," the company said in a statement.

These include, "repayment of debt, additions to working capital, capital expenditures, and funding and investments in the company's subsidiaries," it added. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BUKITTINGGI VOY.NO. (029N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BUKITTINGGI VOY.NO. (029N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-10-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHPPING LINES

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, Chengdu Kelilong Bio-Chemistry Company Inc, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from Myanmar Golden Sun Crop Science Co.,Ltd to Agro Hero Crop Science Co.,Ltd. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Trustco Clear 430 SC	Tebuconazole 430g/l SC	Full Registration	F2023-4219

Agro Hero Crop Science Co.,Ltd
Tel: 09-784772103

PESTICIDE TRADE NAME CHANGE ADVERTISING

The following pesticide distributed by Myanma Taiza Co.,Ltd and here we would like to pesticide trade name change advertising. Anyone who would like to object or inquiry about new trade name contact within 14 days to Joint-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon. Myanma Taiza Co.,Ltd Tel:09-401573814

Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
1.	BK Ranger	Taizapen	Pendimethalin 33%w/v EC	P2020-5018

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

China's leading science institution launches international programme on synthetic cells



Ni Jun, a researcher at the School of Life Sciences and Biotechnology under the Shanghai Jiao Tong University, observes bottles filled with blue-green algae cells modified by gene editing in his lab in east China's Shanghai, 12 January 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) announced on Monday that it has launched an international programme on synthetic cells in Shenzhen, south China to promote frontier research in life sciences and biotechnological innovation on a global scale.

Leveraging the scientific prowess of the CAS Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology, the programme

aims to tackle groundbreaking research questions in the field of synthetic biology. Additionally, the initiative seeks to pool expertise worldwide and establish a cooperative paradigm to tackle common challenges faced by humanity, according to the CAS, China's top institution in terms of natural sciences. Synthetic biology is the science of building systems that mimic

the structure and function of living cells from scratch. Researchers combine tools from chemistry, materials science and biochemistry to develop functional and structural building blocks for constructing synthetic cell-like systems.

In recent years, the CAS has been committed to international collaborations in the field of synthetic cells. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

After Trami, Philippines braces for Typhoon Kong-rey

THE Philippines is bracing for heavy rainfall from the new typhoon, Kong-rey, which threatens to develop into a super typhoon as the death toll from the previous tropical storm Trami further rises to 125, with at least 28 still missing, authorities said Tuesday.

While emergency workers continue to find the missing people and rehabilitate the damaged roads, bridges, and houses ravaged by Trami, the state weather bureau warned of heavy rainfall that will be dumped by Kong-rey, which developed into a typhoon on Tuesday.

The bureau warned that flooding and rain-induced landslides are "likely", especially in the northern Philippines. It advised the public "to take all necessary measures to protect life and property".

On Tuesday, the bureau spotted the slow-moving Kong-rey 565 km northeast of Catanduanes province in the Bicol region, southeast of Manila. It was packing 130 kilometres per hour winds and gusts of up to 160 km per hour.

Kong-rey barreled Bicol as the region recovered from last week's brunt of Trami's wrath. Many of its residents have yet to return to their homes, which were submerged by floodwaters and mud. — Xinhua

Ex-Malaysia PM Mahathir discharged from hospital

FORMER Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, 99, has been discharged from the hospital after being admitted for a respiratory tract infection earlier this month, his aide said Tuesday.

The country's longest-serving premier was allowed to go home on Monday and appeared in court the following day for a hearing in his defamation suit against Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

Mahathir, who led Malaysia twice — between 1981 and 2003 and then between 2018 and 2020 — was hospitalized on 15 October after experiencing a bout of coughing.

In recent years, Mahathir has been in and out of the hospital. He has a history of heart issues. — Kyodo

Japan nuclear reactor near Fukushima to restart

A Japanese nuclear reactor with an upgraded anti-tsunami wall was set to restart Tuesday in a region near the crippled Fukushima plant, according to its operator.

Japan shut down all of its 54 reactors after the 2011 Fukushima disaster, but has since brought 12 of 33 still operable units online — although none in eastern and northern regions.

Unit number two at the Onagawa plant in the north-eastern Miyagi region, next to Fukushima prefecture, was to become the 13th on Tuesday, according to Tohoku Electric Power Company.

Japan has been turning back to nuclear power in order

to cut emissions, reduce expensive imports of fossil fuels and meet energy demand for data centres for artificial intelligence (AI).

"Nuclear power, along with renewable energy, is an important decarbonized power source, and our policy is to make maximum use of it on condition that safety is ensured", top government spokesman Yoshimasa Hayashi told reporters on Tuesday.

The 2011 earthquake and tsunami that killed around 18,000 people cut power lines and flooded backup generators at Fukushima Daiichi, sending three reactors into meltdown. — AFP



(FILES) This file photo taken on 5 April 2011 shows a general view of the Onagawa nuclear plant in Onagawa, Miyagi prefecture. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS

Rodri wins men's Ballon d'Or as Real Madrid boycott

MANCHESTER City and Spain midfielder Rodri was awarded the men's Ballon d'Or on Monday after winning a fourth consecutive Premier League title and Euro 2024, but Real Madrid boycotted the ceremony.

The decision to award the prize for the world's best player to the midfielder came as a surprise, with Real Madrid's Liga and Champions League double winner Vinicius Junior widely seen as the favourite.

Hours before the ceremony in Paris, the Spanish club announced its delegation would not attend the ceremony at Chatelet Theatre because of what it perceived as a snub of Vinicius.

Rodri, 28, played a key role as City held off Arsenal to win the Premier League title last season and was named player of the tournament at Euro 2024 as unfancied Spain emerged triumphant in Germany.

Rodri was diplomatic when addressing the question of Real's no-show in his



Barcelona's Spanish player Aitana Bonmati (L) and Manchester City's Spanish player Rodri kiss their trophies during the 2024 Ballon d'Or France Football award ceremony at the Theatre du Chatelet in Paris, France, 28 October 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

post-award press conference.

"They have their decision, they didn't want to be here for their reasons," he said. "I just focus on my club and my team-mates".

Despite the French organizers insisting that the identity of the winner was a closely-guarded secret this year, the news appeared to have leaked ahead of the festivities.

Barcelona and Spain star Aitana Bonmati earlier won her second successive women's Ballon d'Or, after leading her club to a historic continental quadruple of titles and claiming the Nations League with her country.

The drama started hours before the ceremony as Spanish and European champions Real said if Vinicius was not the winner, then the award should go to his teammate Dani Carvajal. — AFP

Myanmar to compete in 15th Singha Thailand Junior World Golf Championships 2024



Myanmar youth golfers depart for the 15th Singha Thailand Junior World Golf Championships 2024 on 29 October. PHOTO: MGF

THE 15th Singha Thailand Junior World Golf Championships 2024 will take place from 30 October to 3 November in Thailand, and the Myanmar youth golf team is set to participate. On the morning of 29 October, the team departed from Yangon.

The Myanmar golf team, led by Team Captain U Kyaw Min Min Latt (Executive Committee Member of the New Generation Youth Golfers Committee), includes players from Junior Golf Myan-

mar (JGM): Kaung Htet, Khant Phone Lyan, Arka Myo Thant, Locadio K, Kyaw Nay Soe, Lone Myo San, Kyaw Than Lwin Hein, Naing Oo Ko, Choi Hwan, Aung Than Htut, Cho Tha Aung, and Nan Seng Ohn Ngin, who will compete in various age categories.

The Myanmar youth golf team will compete in the men's 15-18 age group with Kaung Htet, Arka Myo Thant, Locadio K, Kyaw Nay Soe, and Khant Phone

Lyan. In the men's 13-14 age group, they have Lone Myo San, Naing Oo Ko, and Kyaw Than Lwin Hein. In the men's 11-12 age group, Choi Hwan and Aung Than Htut will represent, while Cho Tha Aung and Nan Seng Ohn Ngin will compete in the women's 13-14 age group.

The Myanmar Golf Federation is actively sending players to international competitions to gain valuable experience. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Artistes to perform traditional Chinlone at National Sports Festival



Myanmar artistes rehearse Chinlone performance for the National Sports Festival opening ceremony.

THE Fifth National Sports Festival's opening ceremony will feature a special performance by artistes showcasing the traditional Myanmar sport, Chinlone (cane ball sport), according to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO).

The association has collaborated with the Myanmar Chinlone Federation to bring this act to life, with both actors and Chinlone athletes training together at the MMPO's premises for over a month.

"This training is smoothly progressing as the actors involved are already familiar with Chinlone," said MMPO Vice-Chair U Aye Kyuu Lay. "During the ceremony, we will pay tribute to this traditional sport through song and an impressive Chinlone performance".

The actors set to perform include Moe Yan Zun, Kyaw Kyaw, Thu Htoo San, Phone Lyan, Nay Dway, and Eisi Kway, who have been diligently practising their roles for the opening event. — ASH/KZL

Manchester United target Amorim after axing Ten Hag

MANCHESTER United are reportedly in talks with Portuguese coach Ruben Amorim to become their next manager after sacking Erik ten Hag following a disastrous start to the season.

Time finally ran out for Dutchman Ten Hag with United 14th in the Premier League after a fourth defeat in nine league games at West Ham on Sunday.

Despite spending big in the transfer market this season, one of the world's wealthiest clubs have won only one of their last eight games in all competitions. Former United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy, a member of Ten Hag's coaching staff, was named interim boss.

According to multiple British media reports, United want to turn to Amorim, the 39-year-old Sporting Lisbon manager who is considered one of Europe's leading young coaches. Sky Sports reported United had held discussions with Amorim and are prepared to pay his release clause. — AFP

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WORLD



Chinese astronauts Cai Xuzhe, Song Lingdong and Wang Haoze, who will carry out the Shenzhou-19 spaceflight mission, meet the press at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China, 29 October 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

China unveils Shenzhou-19 crew for space station mission

CHINESE astronauts Cai Xuzhe, Song Lingdong and Wang Haoze will carry out the Shenzhou-19 crewed spaceflight mission, and Cai will be the commander, the China Manned Space Agency announced at a press conference on Tuesday.

The Shenzhou-19 crewed spaceship is scheduled to be launched at 4:27 am Wednesday (Beijing Time) from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China, said Lin Xiqiang, spokesperson of the agency.

Cai completed the Shenzhou-14 space mission in 2022. Song and Wang, among the third batch of Chinese astro-

nauts, are newcomers to space. Both of them were born in the 1990s.

Song was a former air force pilot before being selected as an astronaut, and Wang previously served as a senior engineer at the Academy of Aerospace Propulsion Technology under the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.

Wang is currently China's only female space flight engineer and will become the third Chinese woman to embark on a crewed spaceflight mission, the agency noted.

The Shenzhou-19 astronauts will

complete in-orbit rotation with the Shenzhou-18 trio and stay at the space station for approximately six months, witnessing the arrival of the Tianzhou-8 cargo craft and Shenzhou-20 crewed spaceship during the mission.

Many tasks await the new crew to complete: conducting space science and application tests, performing extravehicular activities, installing protective devices against space debris, installing and recycling extravehicular payloads and equipment. They will also engage in science education, public welfare activities, and other payload tests. — Xinhua

N Korean Foreign Head to visit Moscow Wednesday for talks with Russian officials

NORTH Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui will arrive in Moscow on 30 October to hold talks with Russian officials, a diplomatic source told Sputnik on Tuesday.

"The minister will be in Moscow tomorrow (on Wednesday), she is currently in Vladivostok," the source said, confirming that talks with officials are planned.

Russian President Vladimir Putin paid a two-day visit to Pyongyang in June, during which he and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un signed a treaty on the comprehensive strategic partnership. — SPUTNIK

Iran will increase country's defence budget by over 200% next year

IRAN'S defence budget will be tripled in the new calendar year that will take place on 21 March 2025, by more than 200 per cent, Iranian government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani said on Tuesday.

"In the budget, which should cover all the country's expenses, all efforts were aimed at meeting the country's defence needs, special attention was paid to this issue, therefore we witnessed a significant increase in the military budget by more than 200 per cent," Mohajerani told a press conference, as quoted by Iranian news agency. — SPUTNIK



Voters fill in their ballots at an early voting site in Queens, New York City, the United States, on 27 October 2024. New York City saw a big turnout in early voting for the 2024 general election, following the general trend. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Polls show majority of Americans support abolishing Electoral College

ACCORDING to a flurry of recent public polls, the majority of Americans favoured abolishing the Electoral College for the presidential election, a mechanism made the United States' executive president be indirectly elected via a group of presidential electors instead of decided by voters directly.

The Pew Research Centre survey released last month indicated that 63 per cent of Americans favoured a direct popular vote for the nation's president over the Electoral College, with around 80

per cent of Democrats and 47 per cent of Republicans in favour of doing away with the process. The Public Policy Institute of California's October poll also showed that seven out of 10 voters in California, the most populous state of the country, wanted the Electoral College abolished.

The University of Massachusetts Amherst League of Women Voters (UMass Amherst) poll published on Friday showed six out of 10 American women favoured abolishment of the Electoral College. — Xinhua