

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



## Athletes must foster unity and mutual trust

Athletes have to pour out physical and mental strengths to be the persons who can bring honour to the State from Tatmadaw.

**A**S achievements in the sports sector successfully uplift the physical and mental capabilities of citizens, it is a root cause to develop human resources of the State directly, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in his opening speech at the ceremony to kick off the 2024 Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Sports Competitions at Zeyathiri Tatmadaw Sports Ground in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that Tatmadaw has formed the Tatmadaw Sports and Physical Education Administration Board and the Tatmadaw Sports Committee to turn out highly qualified Tatmadaw athletes to bring honour to the State. The annual sports calendar has been schemed to hold sports and games in relevant military commands so as to turn out new generation athletes for the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Sports competitions, he added.

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### Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the opening of the 2024 Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Sports Competitions

1. Athletes have to pour out physical and mental strengths to be the persons who can bring honour to the State from Tatmadaw.
2. It is necessary to forge strength, perseverance, industry, and diligence in serving the defence duty of the State.
3. Athletes have to forge unity and bilateral trust among themselves through the spirit of teamwork.



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing (top) addresses the opening ceremony of the 2024 Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, and Air) Sports Competitions (above) yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

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Phyusin Myitta to donate K127.5M worth of roofing sheets to villages in Tatkon Township

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Flood-stricken villages west of Inlay Lake still require aid

# NATIONAL



## Four (4) days remain until the National Census.



### 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)**

## Appointment of Algerian Ambassador to Myanmar agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Sofiane Chaib as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Hanoi.

Mr Sofiane Chaib was born on 5 September 1986. He obtained a Diploma from the National School of Administration of Algiers, a Master's degree from Jean-Moulin Lyon University, France, and a Doctorate from the French Institute of Geopolitics, France.

He served in various positions as Head of Office, Directorate General Europe in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from August 2008 to August 2011, as Cabinet Attaché to the Minister of Maghreb and African Affairs and League of Arab States from August 2015 to May 2017, as Cabinet Attaché to the Minister of Foreign Affairs from June 2017 to August 2017, as Counsellor at the Secretary-General and the Special Envoy in charge of the National Community Abroad from August 2021 to May 2022, as Deputy Director at International Economic, Financial and Commercial Affairs, General Directorate of Multilateral Relations from June 2022 to November 2022, and as Director at Cabinet of the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Community Abroad from December 2022 to April 2024. As overseas assignments, he served as Diplomatic Attaché at the Embassy of Algeria in Morocco from September 2011 to July 2015 and as First Secretary at the Embassy of Algeria in Belgium from September 2017 to July 2021. From July 2024 to date, he has been serving as Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. — MNA

## Announcement: Donations accepted for flood-stricken victims

IT is announced that donations will be accepted at ceremonies held at 2 pm on 28 September 2024 to support victims struck by the floods due to heavy rains from the remnants of Typhoon Yagi and the deep depression in the Bay of Bengal. These ceremonies will take place in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

Those wishing to donate can contact the relevant state and regional governments, as well as the following representatives from the Disaster Management Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

1. Daw Lei Lei Aye, Director-General, Phone 09 2021491
2. U Win Shwe, Deputy Director-General, Phone 09 254170011
3. Daw Su Su Tun, Director, Phone 09 43009291

*National Disaster Management Committee*

## Art exhibition to donate proceeds to Pynmana flood victims

THE proceeds from the sale of paintings at the fourth art exhibition of Hline Me Yaypyin (Waveless Water Expanse) will be donated to the people affected by the flood in Pynmana township, according to artist Bagyi Hla Tun Aung, an official of the exhibition.

The fourth Waveless Water Expanse Art Exhibition, organized by Win Foundation artists and volunteers, will be held in Yangon from 26 to 30 September at Mandalay Art Gallery, opened in room 105, Aung Chantha Housing near Tamway Ocean, East Shwegondine Street, Bahan



Township. "Our main purpose is to donate to flood victims. We plan to connect with a Parahita group in Pynmana for donations. Many painters also want to donate. As we cannot donate a huge lump sum, we will sell the paintings

ဝင်းမောင်မောင်နှင့်ပန်းချီဆရာများအဖွဲ့မှ ဦးဆောင်ကျင်းပပြီး ဓမ္မာနာရုံပန်းချီဆရာများ ပါဝင်ပြသလှူဒါန်းကြမည်



**စတုတ္ထအကြိမ်မြောက်**  
**ဂျိုင်းမဲ့ရေပြင် ပန်းချီပြပွဲ**  
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 ပျဉ်းမနားမြို့နယ်အတွင်းရှိရေဘေးသင့်ပြည်သူများ  
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**26.9.2024 to 30.9.2024**  
 9:00 Am to 5:00 Pm

**Mandalay** Build ( 6 ) Room - 105, Aungchanthar Housing, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar  
 Phone - +959 5402275  
 E-mail - artisthlahtunaung56@gmail.com

This image showcases a poster for the Waveless Water Expanse Art Exhibition.

and donate the proceeds. We plan to hold an exhibition together with the like-minded artists," he said.

The artists who want to participate in the art exhibition and donate can contact the group at room 105, Aung Chantha Housing near Tamway Ocean, East Shwegondine Street, Bahan township, starting from 18 September.

The exhibition will be on display at the Mandalay Art Gallery from 9 am to 5 pm every day. Those interested in the paintings can contact 09 5402275 to enquire about purchasing and donating. — Thit Taw/ZN

# 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)*

## Athletes must foster unity and mutual trust

### FROM PAGE 1

He continued that sports competitions held by Tatmadaw aim to select nationally selected athletes from the players chosen from Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) teams and turn out new generation athletes continuously.

The Senior General noted that sports must be done with physical strength and mental capability. Taking sports exercises can help strengthen the body organs of individuals and improve mental capacity. Hence, Tatmadaw holds the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) sports competitions yearly except during the period of breakout of COVID-19. This year's competition comprises ten sports events for teamwork in addition to individual events, he added.

He highlighted that achievements in the sports sector successfully uplift the physical and mental capabilities of citizens, and it is a root cause of the direct development of human resources of the State. Tatmadaw athletes could compete in international and regional sports competitions with high qualifications and secured medals for bringing honour to the State, he noted.

The Senior General underscored that it is necessary to forge strength, perseverance, industry, and diligence in serving the defence duty of the State. Athletes have to forge unity and bilateral trust among themselves through the spirit of teamwork. All different levels of Tatmadaw members have to dutifully serve assigned duties with full strength

and capacity due to the demands of the State, he said.

Chairman of the Tatmadaw Sports and Physical Education Administration Board and Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Soe Min Oo and Commander Maj-Gen Soe Min of Nay Pyi Taw Command released the balloons bearing the opening banner.

The Senior General took the salute of the flag bearer and athletes led by the parade commander.

The Senior General and party watched the match between the Nay Pyi Taw Command team and the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) team in the second-round stage of the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Football Tournament. At the match, both

teams put pressure on each other, but the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) could create linkages among its players to control the football. After the final whistle, the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) team thrashed Nay Pyi Taw Command team 4-1.

Also, present at the ceremony were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, Vice-Chairman of SAC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Council member Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye and his wife, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers and their wives, senior Tatmad-

aw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, officers, other ranks and families of the offices and departments under the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air), senior officer trainees of National Defence College, officers, other ranks and families from regiments and units under Nay Pyi Taw Command, trainees from Tatmadaw Football Academy, invitees and athletes.

The sports competition consists of football, Karatedo, men's and women's track & field, men's and women's Myanmar martial arts, boxing, men's and women's volleyball, men's and women's Judo, golf, Sepak Takraw and Taekwondo events which will last till 11 October. — MNA/TTA

## MoI Union Minister awards 2024 Men's Sepak Takraw Minister's Cup winner

THE Ministry of Information organized the final match and awarding event of Men's Sepak Takraw of the 2024 Minister's Cup at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his speech, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn said that sports emerge the patriotism and willingness to defend the country as per the motto "promoting the sports means protecting the country", and so the government initiates sports competitions every season.

The government set objectives to elevate the health and sports sectors inclusive of all the people and to nurture the youth sector, bringing out versatile, physically strong, knowledgeable, morally upright,



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn awards the first prize to the MRTV team at yesterday's event.

socially adept and economically empowered young individuals poised to lead the nation's development efforts. Therefore,

the staff should prepare for the sports in advance and be a united ministry.

During the third-place match, the News and Periodical Enterprise team beat the Media Development Department team 2-0.

The MRTV team beat the Information and Public Relations Department team 3-0 in the final match.

After the matches, the relevant officials presented cash prizes to the consolation prize-winning Union Minister Office team and Printing and Publishing team, as well as the fourth-prize-winning Media Development team.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information

presented an award to the third-prize-winning News and Periodical Enterprise. Deputy Minister U Ye Tint presented medals, cash prizes and trophies to the second-prize-winning Information and Public Relations Department.

The Union minister then gave medals, cash prizes and the Union Minister Cup to the first-prize-winning MRTV team.

The Union minister also presented the best player award and gifts to the judges from the Ministry of Sports and Youth.

The Union Minister Cup Men's Sepak Takraw was held from 23 to 25 September with six teams under the Ministry of Information Minister Office and the ministry. — MNA/KTZH

# NATIONAL



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn meets Mr Alexander Ostrovskiy, Second President of the Russian Association for Friendship and Cooperation (RAFC), in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

## MoI Union Minister receives RAFC delegation

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn received the delegation led by Mr Alexander Ostrovskiy, Second President of the Russian Association for Friendship and Cooperation (RAFC), in the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at noon yesterday.

They cordially discussed the cooperation between the Russia-Myanmar bilateral media sector, the co-planning and broadcasting of television series between the two countries, cultural exchange, the promotion of the tourism sector, and the improvement of communications between the people of the two countries.

Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, Permanent Secretary U Win Kyaw Aung and heads of department were present at the event. — MNA/TS

## MoC Union Minister-led delegation arrives back



Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn is pictured on his arrival back in Yangon yesterday.

THE delegation led by Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn attended the opening ceremony of the 21<sup>st</sup> China-ASEAN Expo held in Nanning, Guangxi Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China, from 21 to 25 September 2024, and returned to Yangon from Kunming yesterday afternoon by

China Eastern Airlines. The delegation led by the Union minister was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Economic Attaché Mr Ouyang Daobing of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and officials from the Ministry of Commerce. — MNA/TS

## MoRAC Deputy Minister departs for ASEAN meeting in Laos

A Myanmar delegation led by Daw Nu Mra Zan, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, left for Laos yesterday afternoon to participate in the 32nd ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council Meeting, which the Lao People's Democratic Republic will host in its capacity as the rotating ASEAN Chair.

The meeting is scheduled to take place from 25 to 27 September 2024 in Vientiane, Laos. The delegation departed from Yangon International Airport via Myanmar Airways International, and officials from the

Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture bid farewell to the delegation at the airport. — MNA/KZL



Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Daw Nu Mra Zan seen at the Yangon International Airport yesterday before leaving for Vientiane, Lao PDR.



### Objectives of 25<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2024

- (a) To uplift national prestige and integrity and to preserve the cultural heritage and national characteristics
- (b) To explore, preserve and uplift the traditional cultural heritage of performing arts of ethnic nationals and national cultural characteristics
- (c) To explore and preserve the traditional cultural heritage for the young generation and further propagate the national spirit
- (d) To serve as a national cultural entity for State development, peace, and stability



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# NATIONAL

## Myanmar pursues UNESCO Global Geopark

EFFORTS are being made for Mount Popa National Geopark to be recognized as one of the 213 UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Mount Popa National Park was declared the country's first national geopark on 6 December 2023. The site is rich in geosites and biodiversities and is a promising area for tourism development. Currently, it has 15 geosites, and 15 new geosites are being developed.

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



The image features the Mount Popa National Geopark, set against the backdrop of the iconic Mount Popa's Popa Taungkalat. PHOTO: BUMI (ZWL)

Among them, Popa Taungkalat, Kyauk Koepwint Hill, Linn Museum, Ngwetwin Hill, Chaungphya Ancient Iron Furnace and Royal Elephant Camp are recognized as additional

eight geosites.

"Myanmar does not possess global geopark, but some ASEAN countries do. We declared

Mount Popa National Park as a national geopark. It contains 15 geosites, and we are trying hard to become a UNESCO Global Geopark. We completed field studies to place the road directions and notice boards in these 15 geosites from 16 to 21 September. We also recognized eight out of 15 proposed geosites. If a nation has a geopark, it can bring benefits such as environmental conservation, research, tourism, and job opportunities. It is also a source of pride for the country," said U Zaw Win Lwin, staff officer of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration.

At present, 213 geoparks are found in 48 countries. In Asia, 44 geoparks were found in China, whereas ten were in Indonesia, two in Thailand, two in Malaysia and one in the Philippines. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

## Myanmar hosts online ASEANSAT Workshop on SDG Audit



The ASEANSAT Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Audit of SDG Implementation hosted by Myanmar virtually in progress yesterday.

MYANMAR hosted the ASEANSAT Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Audit of SDG Implementation virtually at the Union Auditor-General Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the workshop, Union Auditor-General Dr Khin Naing Oo said the

office will share the knowledge on the audit of sustainable development goals implementation received while working with international auditor-general offices. Moreover, the auditor-general offices of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand will share their audits of SDG implementa-

tion, which will bring benefits.

She then urged participants to work together through solid communication by sharing experiences, imagination and information.

Afterwards, Malaysian Auditor-General ASEANSAT Knowledge Sharing Committee Chairperson Mrs Datuk Wan Surya Wan Mohd Radzi gave a speech via video message.

Director Daw Mya Zin and Deputy Director Daw Mya Thet Mon of the Union Auditor-General Office and other attendees also discussed the audit of sustainable development goals implementation, forest management and impacts on the environment.

The second-day workshop will continue on 26 September. — MNA/KTZH

## Thumb replantation performed successfully at Yangon General Hospital

THE medical team of Yangon General Hospital successfully performed a thumb replantation operation on 30 July.

The patient was Maung Sai Zaw Htike, 26, who lives in Hline-thaya Township, Yangon. He encountered a cutting accident at his workplace, the construction site, and got right thumb traumatic amputation.

He was taken to Yangon General Hospital, and the thumb replantation was started at 7:35 pm and completed at 11:35 pm on that day.

The thumb replantation was performed by a hand operation

group led by Dr Khine May Oo, Dr Ye Naing Oo and Dr Min Min Aung, an anaesthetic team led by Dr Darli Soe Win, Dr Htet Aung Lin and Dr Aung Ko Ko and nurse team led by Daw Poe Khant Htoo and Daw Hnin Eainzali.

As the health condition and blood circulation of the right thumb showed improvement, he was allowed to be discharged on 12 August (after 13 days of replantation).

Moreover, the healthcare service was provided to him as an outpatient, and the thumb was in normal condition after 28 days of replantation. — MNA/KTZH



The medical team of Yangon General Hospital's thumb replantation operation in progress at Yangon General Hospital on 30 July 2024.

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# NATIONAL

## Phyusin Myitta to donate K127.5M worth of roofing sheets to villages in Tatkon Township

THE Phyusin Myitta Philanthropic Association (Yangon) is set to donate roofing sheets worth K127.5 million to villages submerged by flooding in Tatkon Township, according to sources.

The Phyusin Myitta Philanthropic Association (Yangon) donated 20 roofing sheets (valued at 500,000 kyats) per house to 22 houses in Yetwinphyu village, 23 houses in Nyaungbintha village, five houses in Chaungkhwa village, 27 houses in Naungkham village, ten houses in Letpankone village, and 13 houses in Shaukone village, all located in Tatkon Township, which were affected by the floods.

Furthermore, the association

will continue donating roofing sheets to 10 houses in Gyogon village, 15 houses in Phaungtaw village, 16 houses in Thitseintpin village, 66 houses in Ngatezu village, 16 houses in Letpanpu village, 27 houses in Kangyi village, five houses in Thayetoak village, and houses in Kinthalankwe village, according to the association's announcement.

"We will provide 20 roofing sheets per house to a total of 255 households, amounting to a total donation of 127.5 million kyats. I have personally contributed 50 million kyats, and together with our partner organizations such as Setkarnwel (Bago), Anagut Kwelpwint Blood Donor Asso-



Plans underway to make donations to flood victims in Wundwin, Kalaw, Inlay, and Nyaungshwe

ciation (Bago), Myitta Shwesein (Bago), and others like Ko Alone (Waw) and Phyusin Myitta Philanthropic Association (Yangon), we are collectively carrying out this good cause. If more villages are identified as needing roofing sheets, I will continue to donate," said a member of the Phyusin Myitta Philanthropic Association (Yangon).

Similarly, preparations are underway to provide relief items, including rice, instant noodles, assorted snacks, purified water, blankets, pots, spoons, and plates, to victims of natural disasters in the Wundwin, Kalaw, Inlay, and Nyaungshwe areas. — Htun Htun/TKO

## Donors in Japan contribute ¥1.1M for Myanmar flood relief efforts



This photo showcases Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Soe Han accepting a donation of ¥1 million from the Japanese Theravada Buddhist missionary group led by Ms Yoshida Ikuko.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, donors in Japan visited the Myanmar embassy in Tokyo on 24 September, and they contributed ¥1.1 million for relief and rehabilitation efforts for flood victims in Myanmar.

Myanmar Ambassador U Soe Han received ¥1 million from Bhaddanta Nyana Ottara of the Theravada Dhammasari Monastery and the Japanese Theravada Buddhist mission

led by Ms Yoshida Ikuko, and ¥100,000 from the Sakura Industrial Cooperative Group Co Ltd at the embassy.

Additionally, on 19 September, the Honorary Consul of Myanmar, Mr Toshio Nishimura, visited the embassy to donate ¥300,000 for flood relief and rehabilitation measures.

Donations will be transferred to the relevant department through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — ASH/MKKS

## ME seeks China, regional investments at 21<sup>st</sup> CAEXPO Roundtable

MYANMAR Embassy invited investments from China and regional countries during the second China-ASEAN Industrial Cooperation and "Two Countries, Twin Parks" Project Sharing Roundtable Discussion of the 21<sup>st</sup> China-ASEAN Expo held on 23 September at Hotel Wo Sheng, Nanning of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China.

The discussion aims to boost China-ASEAN industrial cooperation and facilitate bilateral trade and investments. Myanmar Ambassador to China U Tin Maung Swe gave an opening remark.

The China-ASEAN Industrial Cooperation and "Two Countries and Twin Parks" Project Sharing Roundtable discussion plays a pivotal role in bolstering trade relations and ties between ASEAN and China. It will bring about fruitful results for both parties, as well as socioeconomic development and cultural exchanges and people-to-people connections.

Despite challenging factors, ASEAN and China remain the most significant

trading partners. ASEAN is a promising and dynamic region that is exploring innovation and expanding businesses. It plays an integral part in promoting investments and trade.

ASEAN builds resilient supply chains in global value chains. Promising market opportunities to sell regional goods in international trade are expected. I, hereby, would like to invite investments in agriculture, livestock, transportation, communication, energy, infrastructural building, manufacturing and

industry sectors, he highlighted.

Vice Administrator of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, secretary-general of ASEAN-China Centre, Assistant Secretary of Cambodia's Ministry of Commerce, and President of Bataan Freeport Area, the Philippines also gave the remarks, respectively.

About 700 guests, economic delegates and representatives from China and ASEAN attended the discussion. — ASH/KK



The 21<sup>st</sup> China-ASEAN Expo's related meeting.

## Belgium leads Myanmar rice imports in first 5 months this FY

BELGIUM is ranked first in leading countries that import Myanmar's rice and broken rice, with over 162,900 tonnes in the first five months of the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

China is placed as the second largest buyer of Myanmar rice, with 157,200 tonnes, followed by Indonesia, which has over 145,000 tonnes.

Myanmar also sent 26,500 tonnes of rice to Mozambique, over 19,500 tonnes to Spain and 16,500 tonnes to the Netherlands.

Myanmar's rice and broken rice exports hit over 718,000 tonnes in April-August 2024, with an estimated value of \$353 million.

The federation aims to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice exports in the 2024-2025 financial year (April-March).

The Ministry of Commerce



File photo shows export rice sacks being loaded to the ship by cargo cranes at the jetty.

has been cooperating with departments and institutions concerned to achieve export targets and beyond depending on the supply volume of rice, broken rice, pulses, corn, rubber and fisheries from the respective companies.

Ministry of Commerce is

working together with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Industries Association,

Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association to meet monthly export targets and facilitate exports.

The Central Bank of Myanmar's monetary policy to control export earnings impeded rice

exports, hurting exporters financially. The El Nino weather condition also hampered rice export, the chairman of the Myanmar Rice Federation affirmed.

The federation aimed to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice export in the FY 2023-2024, generating earnings of one billion dollars. However, rice exports fell short of the target with 1.6 million tonnes worth \$845 million.

The Central Bank of Myanmar's monetary policy to control export earnings impeded rice exports, hurting exporters financially. The El Nino weather condition also hampered rice export, the chairman of the Myanmar Rice Federation affirmed.

Myanmar exported 2,261,203 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners in the past 2022-2023 FY (April-March), with an estimated value of \$853.472 million. — NN/KK

## YGEA to offer 34<sup>th</sup> gold training course for free on 1 Oct

YANGON Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) will conduct a gold training course (34<sup>th</sup> Batch) for free at its office located at No 42/50 on Shwbontha Street, Pabedan Township, from 1 to 10 October.

The YGEA will also provide an awareness course (17th Batch) on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT course).

The respective experts will disseminate education and knowledge about gold mining, gold refining, gold trading, basic calculations to run a gold shop, goldsmith, gold mortgage, gold

rate calculation, gold/silver coins and jewellery.

Those enthusiastic people can take out registration forms for free at the association office. As the number of trainees is limited, they can contact YGEA's contact numbers 09450049282 and 09251992727 for further details.

The precious metal dealers' licences can be sought only with the completion certificate of the AML/CFT course, according to Chapter 2 Section 3 (G) of Directive 2/2022 issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs' Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering. — NN/KK



A goldsmith makes a ring.

## Flood submerges 55,000 acres of crops in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

MORE than 55,000 acres of various crops, including 50,000 monsoon paddy fields, were submerged in Nay Pyi Taw council area.

As of 21 September, over 30,000 acres of flooded fields were affected, and 20,000 were damaged. Post-flood farm recovery and repair works are systematically carried out in flood-hit fields so as not to impact crop yields.

Strong wind and torrential rains in Nay Pyi Taw caused flooding in paddy fields. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation demonstrated how to use inputs (fertilizer, nutrients) in the flood-hit fields for farm recovery in Kyopin village, Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw on 23 September.

The Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation addressed that overflowing lakes, ponds and dams triggered by heavy rains and



This photo shows a submerged location.

impacts of the typhoon in September caused devastating floods in paddy fields. He urged the farmers to replant them if they are connected to irrigation channels.

The ministry has prepared rice seedlings to provide them to farmers in need. The growers can contact the nearest Agriculture Department to get access to pedigree seeds of other crops and ploughing requirements. The farmers need to cooperate in farm recovery efforts and replanting in flood-battered paddy fields to mitigate the impacts on yield. He reiterated that today's demonstration on how to repair the flood-hit fields aimed to encourage farmers to replant them after learning the know-how of post-flood recovery management.

Afterwards, the chairman

of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area discussed matters regarding crop damage conditions, food security, replanting crops to mitigate loss of farmers' income and Nay Pyi Taw Council's cooperation with related departments in farm recovery activities.

The director-general of the Agriculture Department explained pest control measures in flood-stricken areas, agricultural input methods to repair the damaged fields and farmers' awareness of farming technologies.

The Union minister and chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area provided urea, potash and Rock Phosphate fertilizer to farmers from Zeyathiri, Pobbathiri, Ottarathiri, Pynmana, Lewe and Tatkon townships at the event. — NN/KK

# OPINION

## Let's cultivate Myanmar seafarers to shape the maritime industry

**A**N internationally significant day, namely World Maritime Day, honours seafarers from various global countries who serve aboard vessels in multiple capacities, as well as shipping lines transporting passengers and cargo to provide smooth and swift transport facilities to global countries.

As many kinds of transport facilities are being utilized on a daily basis, waterway transport among all types of transport is the cheapest facility. Cargo ships and trawlers, in addition to cruise liners, are contributing to the improvement of maritime transport services to the people. As a result, maritime transport is still booming, along with other transport facilities. Hence, World Maritime Day is marked yearly in all global countries, not to forget its essential benefits.

'Navigating the future: safety first!' is the International Maritime Organization's 2024 World Maritime Theme. The theme reflects IMO's work to enhance maritime safety and security, in tandem with the protection of the marine environment, whilst ensuring its regulatory development process anticipates the fast pace of technological change and innovation safely.

Although seafarers have been working aboard vessels for many decades, today's Myanmar females are penetrating the seafarer arena by showing off their brilliant skills. Those youths will be the new strength of Myanmar and will influence Myanmar's water territory. Hence, those Myanmar youths have to stand shoulder to shoulder with those from the international community in serving their duties in international waters steadfastly.

International shipping transports over 80 per cent of global trade to communities around the world, which emphasizes the importance of a safe, secure, and efficient international shipping industry in future sustainable green economic growth. IMO promotes sustainable shipping and sustainable maritime development, including through the development of global standards, energy efficiency, and maritime security.

In Myanmar, the government encourages the improvement of maritime transport, turning out mercantile cadets, engineering cadets and other technicians in addition to graduates in the marine realm. Some students emphasize shipbuilding techniques, whereas some students are interested in maritime engineering. Likewise, many other youths are focusing on naval architecture, Nautical Science, Port and Harbour Engineering, River and Coastal Engineering, Marine Electrical Systems and Electronics, and Marine Mechanical.

Although seafarers have been working aboard vessels for many decades, today's Myanmar females are penetrating the seafarer arena by showing off their brilliant skills. Those youths will be the new strength of Myanmar and will influence Myanmar's water territory. Hence, those Myanmar youths have to stand shoulder to shoulder with those from the international community in serving their duties in international waters steadfastly.

# Collaborative Strength of School, Family and Community in Education

**O**F course, education looks like the united states where schools, families and communities are concentrated, figuratively. Most administrators have consistently recognized the importance of effective school-family-community collaboration and the desirability of maintaining good public relations in education. School-family-community collaboration should be a cooperative process which is both honest and responsive.

If a school wants to be a good and safe atmosphere, family and community involvement with the school must be enhanced. Correctly done, the collaboration improves schools, strengthens families as well as neighbourhoods, and leads to a marked reduction in youth problems. Poorly implemented

collaboration can, however, end up being another reformed effort that promised a lot, did little good and even did some harm. Strong school-family-community partnerships are critical in impoverished communities where schools are often the most prominent pieces of public real estate and may also be the single largest employer. Although it is relatively simple to make informal links, establishing a major long-term collaboration is complicated. The complications are readily seen in any effort to develop a comprehensive, multifaceted and integrated approach to promoting healthy development and addressing barriers to growth as well as learning. System changes are too required to improve and evolve formally institutionalized sharing of a broad spectrum of

responsibilities and resources. Building comprehensive collaboration calls for stakeholder readiness, cohesive policy, an enlightened vision, creative leadership, and newly multifaceted roles for professionals who work in schools and communities, as well as for family and other community members who are willing to assume leadership. As noted, in connecting families, schools and communities, the hope is that integrated resources will have a greater impact not only on meeting at-risk factors but also on providing all-round development. In fact, collaboration is often established due to the desire to address a local problem or in the wake of a crisis. However, in the long run, school-family-community collaboration must be driven by a comprehensive vision

of strengthening youngsters, families, schools and neighbourhoods. Such cooperation is about building potent, synergistic, stable and sustainable working relationships between well-designed mechanisms for performing tasks, solving problems and mediating conflicts.

A collaboration could do with financial support. The core operational budget can be direct funding and in-kind contributions like providing space for collaboration. The governance and leadership of the collaborative must be designed to equalize power so that decision-making appropriately reflects all stakeholder groups and all are equally accountable. All participants must share the workload, pursuing clear roles and functions. What is more, collaboration must be open to

all who are willing to contribute their talents. True partnership involves more than meeting and talking. That is, actions work together, offering essential results. For this to happen, a series of steps must be taken to ensure that the collaboration can be effective. Such a collaboration takes the training, time, support and authority to carry out various roles and functions. Furthermore, it is when such matters are ignored that groups find themselves meeting and meeting but going nowhere.

Schools are located in communities, and families send their children to school. All these entities affect each other for good or ill. Because of this, they share goals related to education and socialization of the young, schools, homes and communities collaborating with each other if they are to minimize problems and maximize results. Dealing with such multiple, interrelated concerns as poverty, child development, education, violence, crime, safety, housing and employment needs mixed, interdependent solutions. Promoting well-being, resilience, and protective factors to empower families, communities, and schools also requires the concerted effort of all stakeholders. Here, schools are more effective and caring environments when they are an integral and positive part of the community. That plays out as enhanced academic performance, fewer discipline problems, high staff morale and improved use of resources. Reciprocally, family and community entities can enhance comprehensive, multifaceted schoolwide and community-wide approaches in such a way that fully integrates approaches with school improvement efforts at every school site. Above all, school-family-community collaboration in education is responsive and accountable.

Really, concern about violence at school gives opportunities for enhancing connections

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)



Researchers at King's College London have discovered a novel link between lipids and disorders affecting children's metabolism, which could provide an early warning system for ailments including liver disease. ILLUSTRATION: VISUAL REPRESENTATION/SHUTTERSTOCK

## Breakthrough Blood Test Identifies Children at Risk of Obesity-Related Diseases

*The study contests the common idea that cholesterol is the leading cause of complications around obesity in children, identifying new lipid molecules that contribute to health risks like blood pressure, which are not solely correlated with a child's weight.*

**S**CIENTISTS have developed a novel blood test that uses lipids to identify children who are more susceptible to obesity-related problems, such as type 2 diabetes, liver, and heart disease.

A novel link between lipids and disorders affecting children's metabolism has been discovered by King's College London researchers, and this finding may provide an early warning system for ailments including liver disease. The study was published in Nature Medicine.

The researchers propose that this could assist medical professionals in identifying early disease indicators in children more quickly and facilitating their access to the appropriate treatment by using blood plasma testing machines already in use in hospitals.

The findings also contest the common idea that cholesterol is a leading cause of complications around obesity in children, identifying new lipid molecules which contribute to health risks like blood pressure but are not only correlated with a child's weight.

Lipids have traditionally been thought to be fatty acids in the body, either good or bad types of cholesterol or triglycerides, fats found in the bloodstream that is the most common in the human body. Recent studies from the same group of scientists have suggested that the picture is more complex. Using a technique associated with chemistry called mass spectrometry, current evidence puts the types of different lipid present in the body in the thousands, each with separate functions.

Taking a control sample of 1,300 children with obesity, the team assessed their lipids in blood. Afterwards 200 of them were put on the HOLBAEK-model for a year, a lifestyle intervention for people with obesity popular in Denmark. SOURCE: ANI



Collaboration among schools, families, and communities must be both responsive to needs and accountable for outcomes. ILLUSTRATION: VISUAL REPRESENTATION/FREEPIK

# NATIONAL

## Donors contribute support to livestock businesses impacted by floods

A ceremony to provide donations of funds, animal feedstuffs, and medicines for livestock affected by the recent floods was held yesterday afternoon at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation's Office No 36 in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the event were Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi, officials from relevant departments, the chairman of the Myanmar Livestock Federation, and representatives from the affiliated associations.

At the ceremony, Dr Mya Han, Chairman of the Myanmar Livestock Federation, delivered a speech explaining the donation process, followed by a



The ceremony to provide donations of funds, animal feedstuffs, and medicines for livestock affected by the recent floods in progress at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

message of appreciation from Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi.

During the donation proceedings, the Myanmar Livestock Federation contributed K200 million in cash and K8 million worth of animal feed. Additionally, Myanmar Sun Thiri Company donated K60 million worth of 18 types of animal medicine, while Fortune International Limited offered K38.78 million worth of drugs and medical supplies. The deputy minister and officials formally accepted the donations, which will be handed over to the Central Natural Disaster Management Committee for distribution to flood-stricken areas. — MNA/KZL

## Australia pledges additional US\$1.7M in aid for Myanmar flood victims

FOR people affected by the recent natural disaster in Myanmar, further assistance worth US\$1.7 million will be provided, said the Australian Embassy in Myanmar.

It said in a statement that Australia felt sorry for all people affected across Myanmar. For people who are in need of help, Australia has continued assisting through development and humanitarian aid, and it has worked on ensuring on-

going assistance to be used in flood relief response as a priority among its partners. It has requested that the respective officials make sure humanitarian aid is delivered to all those who are in need of help.

They approved the additional aid of \$1.7 million to be utilized in flood relief response, said the statement. The funding will be used to provide food, water and shelter for flood victims, it said. — MT/ZS

## Relief efforts, healthcare services ongoing in flood-hit areas



Fire Brigade personnel are actively engaged in cleanup efforts.

awareness sessions for displaced people. Contributions of relief items, including clothing, daily necessities, food, and donations from Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, and Air), government departments, organizations, and private donors, continue to flow into the affected regions. Additionally, Sangha (Buddhist monks) are also receiving support through donations.

The Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, regional commanders from the military headquarters, and other officials are visiting the affected areas to oversee relief efforts and provide necessary assistance. Food supplies, relief materials, and financial aid are being distributed to those in need.

In parallel, repair work are underway on roads and bridges damaged by the flooding. Temporary Bailey bridges are being installed to restore transportation links as quickly as possible. The remaining bridges will be repaired promptly to restore normalcy in these regions. — MNA/KZL

IN response to the recent floods affecting various regions, including Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, coordinated relief and rehabilitation efforts remain in full swing. As of yesterday, relief activities were actively conducted in Zeyathiri, Pyinmana, Tatkon, Lewe, and Pobbathiri townships, as well as in Shan State (South), particularly Kalaw, Langkho, and Maukmai townships. Similar efforts are also underway in Loikaw, Kayah State, Thazi Township in

Mandalay Region, and Toun-goo Township in Bago Region.

These efforts involve relocating affected people to safer areas, cleaning public spaces, and clearing debris such as fallen trees and logs left behind by the floodwaters. Local authorities and social teams, in collaboration with locals, are actively addressing these challenges.

In the temporary flood shelters, health teams are providing essential medical care and conducting health



**အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ သက်ကြီးပုဂ္ဂိုလ်များနေ့**  
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS

သက်ကြီးပုဂ္ဂိုလ်များ ဂုဏ်သိက္ခာရှိစွာရပ်တည်ရေး ကမ္ဘာအနှံ့ဘက်စုံပြုစောင့်ရှောက်ရေး  
“Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons Worldwide”

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# NATIONAL

Counter-argument  
to false information

## Tatmadaw accused of forcing monks to disrobe for conscription in Magway

MALICIOUS media outlets intentionally spread fake news, claiming that Tatmadaw detained youths by force for recruitment in Wetmasut village-tract in Yenangaung Township, Magway Region, and youths and men fled their regions, some entered into monkhood, and Tatmadaw raided the monastery to detain monks for conscription.

The media circulate such misinformation to disturb relations between the public and Tatmadaw. Currently, the people's military servant training courses are successfully conducted, and it reaches Training 5, and those who completed the training serve duties at their designated places. Therefore, subversive media outlets fabricate news stories to mislead the public, said an official. — MNA/KTZH

## Flood-stricken villages west of Inlay Lake still require aid



Photos depict the Pynmana Sangha Hospital team and Myanma Railways medical team delivering aid at the flood relief camp in the Nyaungwun Village Monastery and other villages in Inlay Lake.

LOCATED at the west of Inlay Lake in Shan State, villages that were impacted by the recent flood but are lesser known are still in need of assistance, said Dr Than Min Htut, who went to offer aid to flood victims around the area of Inlay.

Water has still been above 10 feet in villages in Inlay, and some houses have still been underwater, he said on his Facebook page.

Most of the volunteers and donors reached villages and wards at the east of Inlay and in Nyaungshwe, but no one came to villages at the west of the lake,

he said, and a woman from Pindaya was quoted as saying in his post that some families didn't eat anything for two days.

The Pynmana Sangha Hospital team and Myanma Railways medical team went to the flood relief camp in the Nyaungwun Village Monastery in Inlay Lake on 22 September. They delivered assistance to 320 families in Nanpanyataw village and 90 families in Shan village at the west of the lake.

Moreover, relief aid was delivered to 182 families who have taken refuge

at the camp, he said. They offered relief aids totalling K17.7 million to a total of 592 families, about K30,000 per family, he said.

They set up a temporary clinic at Nyaungshwe train station and provided free medical treatments to 35 patients.

According to the follow-up report, 240 houses and 356 families, totalling 1,008 people, have still been in need of help at the Yaytha Monastery. Therefore, he urged donors to help them and provided a contact number: 09 797930864, Ko Bo Bo Tun. — MT/ZS

## Confiscated illegal goods: Timbers, industrial materials, consumer goods, foodstuffs, motorbikes and vehicles

SUPERVISED by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, action is being taken against illicit trading across the nation in accordance with the law.

During inspections on 23 and 24 September, the combined on-duty teams under the supervision of the Magway Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force nabbed illegal teak weighing 0.270 tonne, other illegal timbers weighing 0.917 tonne valued at K380,280 in Magway, Minbu and Thayet districts and three unregistered motorbikes (approximately worth K5.7 million). The action was taken under the Forest Law and the Export-Import Law.

On 24 September, the combined teams managed by the Customs Department seized three types of industrial materi-

als and three kinds of consumer goods worth about K730 million without official documents from 23 containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, three types of industrial materials valued at about K79 million without official documents from a container at the Thilawa Port and five kinds of industrial materials valued at K46.79 million without official documents at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk). The action was conducted as per Customs procedures.

Similarly, on 24 September, the combined teams captured illegal teak weighing 2.113 tonnes and other timbers weighing 0.227 tonnes, approximately valued at K1.215 million in Lewe and Ottarathiri districts, 6,000 kilograms of ammonium nitrate worth K6 million without official



Confiscated illegal items in different regions and states.

documents near Naungngang village in Myitkyina township and five unregistered vehicles (approximately worth K50 million) in Mohnyin township. The action was conducted under the Forest Law, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law and the Export-Import Law.

Additionally, the combined teams impounded three vehicles (estimated value of K97 million) carrying 23 kinds of

consumer goods and 13 kinds of industrial materials valued at K18.932 million without official documents near 21-mile post on Mandalay-PyinOoLwin and a Hino Profia truck (estimated value of K30 million) carrying four kinds of consumer goods valued at about K24.543 million without official documents on the outskirts of Mandalay. The action was taken in line with Customs procedures.

The combined teams supervised by the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force captured a Mitsubishi Canter truck (estimated value of K30 million) carrying foodstuffs valued at K6 million without official documents at the Tawwin Htun bus station in Bago highway bus compound, illegal teak weighing 19.014 tonnes worth about K8.647 million in Pyay district

and two kinds of smuggled industrial materials worth K6.9 million in Muse township. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

On 25 September, the combined on-duty teams seized an unregistered Honda Fit (estimated value of K15 million) at the Kantalu combined checkpoint in Sagaing township, foodstuffs and a kind of consumer goods worth K19.5 million without official documents at the Shwe Sin Satkya Express bus station in Myeik township. The action was conducted under the Export-Import Law and Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 53 arrests were made on three consecutive days from 23 to 25 September, with an estimated value of K1,175 million. — MNA/MKKS

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Tourist arrivals in India trail global trend, but forex earnings from tourism are up: Crisil

THE post-pandemic recovery in tourist arrivals in India is lagging the global trend. In the first half of 2024, foreign tourist arrivals into India stood at 4.78 million, about 90 per cent of that in the first half of pre-pandemic 2019, as per a Crisil report.

Research firm Crisil cited a couple of factors that are at play behind these weak tourist arrivals.

It asserted that reduced demand from Bangladesh on account of the current political scenario there and the suspension of direct flights from China are impacting tourist footfalls in India. Both these countries were a major source of tourists for India and accounted for 27 per cent of the arrivals in 2019.

*Competing destinations like Qatar, Dubai, Vietnam, and Sri Lanka have surpassed their pre-COVID arrival numbers, offering more affordable options and favourable visa policies.*



Crisil suggested that India must simplify the visa process by expanding the e-visa and visa-on-arrival programmes, as seen in countries such as Thailand and Sri Lanka. **PHOTO: ANI**

Besides, countries such as Qatar, Dubai, Vietnam and Sri Lanka are drawing tourists with more affordable options and favourable visa policies, Crisil said in its report. These destinations have exceeded their pre-Covid levels, with foreign tourist arrivals in Qatar up 47 per cent, Dubai 11 per cent, Vietnam four per cent and Sri Lanka 0.2 per cent in the first half of the current calendar.

“Additionally, aggressive campaigns by emerging destinations such as Azerbaijan,

Georgia and Kazakhstan are competing for tourist spends,” the report said.

Crisil suggested that India must simplify the visa process by expanding the e-visa and visa-on-arrival programmes, as seen in countries such as Thailand and Sri Lanka.

It also called for enhanced direct flight connectivity with markets, especially those with high tourist outflows, to further ease travel. These efforts can be amplified by leveraging social media influencers in target regions, it suggested.

On the positive side, when it comes to foreign exchange earnings, it rose 23 per cent for India in the first half of 2024 over the same period in 2019. — ANI

## Germany’s Deutsche Boerse targeted in EU antitrust probe

GERMAN stock market operator Deutsche Boerse confirmed Tuesday it had been raided as part of an EU investigation into possible antitrust violations involving financial derivatives.

The European Commission said Monday evening it had carried out surprise inspections at two financial services firms in connection

with the investigation, without naming the companies.

A spokesman for Deutsche Boerse told AFP the company was one of those targeted by the EU’s probe, confirming earlier media reports.

Deutsche Boerse was “cooperating fully” with investigators, he said.

“We do not comment on

ongoing investigations,” he added.

The other company reportedly under investigation is Nasdaq, according to the Financial Times and Bloomberg.

The European Commission said Monday it had “concerns that the inspected companies may have violated EU antitrust rules that prohibit restrictive business practices”.

“The products concerned by the inspections are financial derivatives,” it added.

Financial derivatives are financial contracts whose value is derived from the performance of underlying assets such as bonds, stocks or commodities.

The EU said the raids do not mean the firms are considered guilty of anti-competitive behaviour.

Unannounced investigations are a preliminary investigatory step, it said, adding there was no legal deadline to complete inquiries into anti-competitive conduct. — AFP



German stock market operator Deutsche Boerse has confirmed that it was one of the companies targeted by the EU’s probe, and is cooperating fully with investigators. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

## Defying experts, Trump vows tariff-driven US economic boom



Economists estimate that the various versions of Donald Trump’s tariff plan would cost US households between \$2,000 and \$6,000 extra a year. **PHOTO: AFP**

DONALD Trump pledged Tuesday to deliver a historic windfall for the United States through a business-friendly economy that would reward companies manufacturing domestically — but heavily penalize those selling Americans foreign-made goods.

With the presidential election just six weeks away, the Republican candidate and his Democratic rival Kamala Harris are in a dead-heat race that influential pollsters have said is as close as

any they have seen in years.

As the election approaches, Trump is focusing on undecided voters in battleground states, emphasizing a protectionist economic strategy to boost US manufacturing. In a recent speech in Georgia, he reiterated his proposal for significant tariffs on foreign imports, threatening 100 per cent tariffs on Mexican cars and suggesting 10-20 per cent tariffs across the board, especially on China. — AFP

# ANA not to offer air taxi service at 2025 World Expo in Osaka

*Despite the cancellation of commercial services, all four operators will still conduct demonstration flights at the event.*

ANA Holdings Inc said Wednesday it will not offer a commercial flying taxi service at the 2025 World Exposition in Osaka, viewed as one of the highlights of the event.

Japan Airlines Co is also reconsidering its plan to provide air taxis at the expo, sources familiar with

the matter said, meaning all four flying car operators that had planned commercial services at the event are unlikely to offer them.

ANA has found it difficult to obtain safety certification from authorities in time, it said. All four operators will still conduct demonstration flights, ac-

ording to the companies.

Air taxis were expected to provide access to the event's venue on Yumeshima, an artificial island in Osaka Bay.

ANA has been working with Joby Aviation Inc. to operate electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft developed by the US start-



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on 12 September 2024 shows the Great Ring, a gigantic wooden structure symbolizing the site of the 2025 World Exposition on an artificial island in the western Japan city of Osaka. **PHOTO: KYODO**

up, while JAL is preparing to use vehicles developed by Volocopter GmbH from Germany.

The other two operators, Japan-based flying car startup SkyDrive Inc and Japanese trading

house Marubeni Corp, already said they would not operate commercial flights at the expo. — Kyodo

# Volkswagen crisis pits homegrown leaders against each other

VOLKSWAGEN managers and workers representatives will start crunch talks in Hanover on Wednesday, following the German group's announcement that drastic cost-cutting measures are needed to keep the carmaker competitive.

Two homegrown figures who have spent their entire careers at Volkswagen — group CEO Oliver Blume and head of the works council Daniela Cavallo — will face off at the meeting.

Blume wants to seal a "package" of measures

this year to shore up the carmaker, which has struggled with weak demand and a difficult transition to electric vehicles.

Cavallo has promised "bitter resistance" to the plans that include the possible closure of production sites in Germany — an unprecedented step in the 87-year history of Volkswagen.

A mechanical engineer by training, Blume plotted his career through the different brands — Audi, Seat and then VW — before becoming CEO of Porsche in 2015. — AFP

# Rarest Pokemon card sold for \$360,000

ONE of the rarest and most highly coveted Pokemon cards in the world fetched \$360,000 at a Sotheby's auction Tuesday in New York.

The Japanese 1998 "Pokemon Illustrator" holographic card, depicting the iconic franchise cartoon character Pikachu, is one

of only 39 official copies. In addition, the card put up for auction this time is the only one known to have been signed by Takumi Akabane,

one of the three founders of the trading card game, said Sotheby's. The seller and successful bidder have not been disclosed. — Kyodo

# Air India enhances Delhi-London service with Airbus A350

AIR India has upgraded its Delhi-London service with the new Airbus A350 as part of its Vihaan.Ai initiative to enhance the passenger experience on long-haul routes.

The A350 features a three-class layout, including 28 private suites in Business Class, 24 Premium Economy seats, and 264 Economy seats. Each seat is equipped with the

advanced Panasonic eX3 in-flight entertainment system, offering over 3,000 hours of content in multiple languages.

Business and Premium Economy passengers

will receive exclusive amenity kits designed by Ferragamo and TUMI, along with a revamped dining experience featuring India-inspired chinaware. — ANI



Volkswagen has been hit by high manufacturing costs, a stuttering switch to electric vehicles. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3421S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3421S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-9-2024** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (187N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (187N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-9-2024** 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 SHIPPING LINE**

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## ‘Monumental step’ as Thai king signs same-sex marriage into law

*The law, passed by parliament in June, will take effect in 120 days, with the first weddings expected to take place in January.*

THE Thai king has signed same-sex marriage into law, the official Royal Gazette said Tuesday, making Thailand the first country in Southeast Asia to recognize marriage equality.

King Maha Vajiralongkorn gave royal assent to the new law, passed by parliament in June, which will take effect in 120 days — meaning the first weddings are expected to take place in January.

Activists hailed a “monumental step” as Thailand becomes only the third place in Asia where same-sex couples can tie the knot, after Chinese Taipei and Nepal.

The law on marriage now uses gender-neutral terms in place of “men”, “women”, “husbands” and “wives”, and also grants adoption and inheritance rights to same-sex couples.

The king’s formal approval marks the culmination of years of campaigning and thwarted at-



Activists celebrated a “monumental step” forward as the Thai king has signed same-sex marriage into law. PHOTO: LILLIAN SUWANRUMPHA /AFP

tempts to pass equal marriage laws.

“The law is a monumental step towards equal rights in Thai-

land,” Waaddao Chumaporn, an LGBTQ rights advocate, told AFP.

She plans to organize a mass

wedding for more than a thousand LGBTQ couples in Bangkok on 22 January, the first day the law takes effect.

“We are all delighted and excited. We’ve been fighting for our rights for over 10 years, and now it’s finally happening,” Siritata Ninlapruet, an LGBTQ activist, told AFP, her voice shaking.

Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra posted congratulations “for everyone’s love” on social media platform X.

“Thank you for the support from all sectors. It is a joint fight for everyone,” she wrote with the “lovewins” hashtag.

Thailand has long had an international reputation for tolerance of the LGBTQ community, and opinion polls reported in local media have shown overwhelming public support for equal marriage.

However, much of the Buddhist-majority kingdom retains traditional and conservative values and LGBTQ people say they still face barriers and discrimination in everyday life. More than 30 countries around the world have legalized marriage for all since the Netherlands became the first to celebrate same-sex unions in 2001. — AFP

## Israel carrying out ‘extensive’ strikes in Hezbollah strongholds

THE Israeli military said on Wednesday it was carrying out “extensive” air strikes in south Lebanon and the eastern Beqaa Valley after Hezbollah fired a ballistic missile that, for the

first time reached the Israeli city of Tel Aviv. It was intercepted before causing any harm.

“The IDF (Israeli military) is currently conducting extensive strikes in southern Leba-

non and the Beqaa area,” the military said in a statement.

It said it was striking Hezbollah targets and weapons storage facilities. It also said that some 40 projectiles had crossed into northern Israel from Lebanon, setting off warning sirens in the area. “Several projectiles were intercepted,” the military said.

“The Hezbollah terrorist organization continues to launch projectiles towards civilian areas and facilities on the Israeli home front.”

Hezbollah said its ballistic missile targeted Israeli spy agency Mossad’s headquarters near Tel Aviv because recent attacks on the militant group had been planned there. — AFP



A cloud of smoke erupts during an Israeli air strike on the village of Sujud in southern Lebanon PHOTO: AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### China calls for joint efforts to advance global governance

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday called on the international community to “take good care of our common home” and make joint efforts to advance global governance, as “humanity has only one planet Earth to call home, and we belong to the same world community”.

Facing profound changes unseen in a century, it was highly relevant that world leaders gathered at the Summit of the Future and, together, adopted the Pact for the Future to galvanize their collective efforts for world peace and development, and to map out the future of humanity, said Wang, who is also special representative of Chinese President Xi Jinping and a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, in his statement at the summit.

Wang noted that with this goal in mind, Xi has put forward the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, advocated high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and proposed the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative. — Xinhua

# SPORTS

## Madrid's Mbappe suffers thigh injury before Atletico derby

REAL Madrid striker Kylian Mbappe has sustained a thigh injury ahead of this weekend's La Liga derby with Atletico, his club said on Wednesday.

The French superstar was taken off during the 3-2 win over Alaves on Tuesday and appeared to be suffering some discomfort.

Spanish media suggest Mbappe will miss around three weeks injured.

"Following tests carried out today by Real Madrid's medical services on our player Kylian Mbappe, he has been diagnosed with an injury to the biceps femoris in his left leg," said the Spanish champions in a statement.

Mbappe scored a superb goal in the thriller at the Santiago Bernabeu with Alaves and has netted five times this season in seven league appearances.

Asked about Mbappe's condition after the game, Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said: "He's fine, he's fine, a little overloaded, he asked me for the change to avoid problems." Madrid, a point behind leaders Barcelona ahead of the Catalans' match on Wednesday against Getafe, visit the Metropolitano stadium on Sunday to face rivals Atletico. — AFP



Real Madrid's French forward Kylian Mbappe with coach Carlo Ancelotti as he walked off against Alaves. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Aung Thu out of Myanmar matches due to knee surgery



MYANMAR'S national team striker, Aung Thu, will miss upcoming friendly matches, including the fixture against Uthai Thani FC, due to recovery from knee surgery. Aung Thu, who has been dealing with a lingering knee injury, reportedly underwent surgery on 24 September.

The striker, along with Aung Kaung Mahn, was initially not included in the national team's preliminary squad for international friendlies. Aung Thu had previously planned surgery during his time with Lamphun Warriors, but due to various reasons, the procedure was delayed until now.

Following the surgery, his wife, actress Poe Ei Ei Khant, expressed her support, saying, "Wishing my strong and determined husband a speedy recovery from knee surgery. Your strength on and off the field inspires me every day. You've got this!" She added, "A leg that fought hard for our family, now deserving of rest and care".

Aung Thu is expected to need three to six weeks of recovery before he can return to full training. The Uthai Thani FC has confirmed that he will rejoin the team once he is fully fit. — Htun Htun/KZL

This photo shows Aung Thu with his wife before entering the operating room. A small circular image captures Aung Thu's knee (right side) post-surgery.

## Shan United faces defeat in AFC Champions League group stage

IN the opening match of the 2024-2025 AFC Champions League group stage, Myanmar's Shan United suffered a 4-3 defeat against Indonesia's Makassar at an away venue.

Having previously lost to Vietnam's Thanh Hoa in their opening match, Shan United aimed to secure points in this game. However, despite their efforts, they conceded a late goal that sealed their fate as the final whistle approached.

In the squad, Shan United featured only one foreign player, striker Rintaro, alongside local players. The team managed to score three goals in the latter part of the match, but a late goal from Makassar led to their loss. Makassar's goals came from Nammin in 33 minutes, Neto in 36 minutes, Faul in 49 minutes, and Rahaman in the 90+2 minute. Shan United's goals were scored by Rintaro in the 45+2 minute, Machaki in 56 minutes, and Barkayo in 67 minutes.

Following this match, Makassar accumulated four points from two games, while Shan United remained without points after losing both of their matches. Shan United is set to face



A Shan United player (white) snatches the ball between two Makassar players. **PHOTO: PSM MAKASSA**

Malaysian club Tiran Ganu at home on 8 January as their next group-stage fixture. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## World Cup winner Varane retires

FRANCE World Cup winner Raphael Varane on Wednesday announced his retirement from football at the age of 31, adding that he will remain at Como in a non-playing capacity.

Former Real Madrid and Manchester United centre-back Varane had joined the Italian club for this season but was then excluded from their Serie A squad having suffered a knee injury in August.

"A new life begins off the pitch," Varane said on social media.

"I will remain with Como. Just without using my boots and shin pads.

"Something I am looking forward to sharing more about soon," the four-time Champions League winner added.

Varane came through the academy at French club Lens before join-

ing Madrid as an 18-year-old in 2011.

He claimed the first of his three La Liga titles in his maiden season in his first season in the Spanish capital.

In 2014 he secured the first of his four Champions League crowns with a league and European double three years later.

Varane joined United in 2024, lifting a League Cup and an FA Cup with the English club. — AFP



Varane with the World Cup trophy in 2018. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**



# BRICS civilization dialogue deepens understanding, friendship: organizers

**T**HE BRICS Civilization Dialogue was held Tuesday in the Russian city of Kazan with the participation of more than 300 experts, scholars and young representatives from various fields and institutions from the BRICS countries.

The event, themed "Gathering the Power of Cultural Exchange to Build a Better Future for BRICS", was jointly organized by the Information Office of the State Council of China, the government of the Republic of Tatarstan of the Russian Federation, and the Chinese Consulate-General in Kazan, and undertaken by the China International Communications Group and the Kazan Federal University.

The organizers stated that cultural exchange and mutual learning are important driving forces for the progress of human civilization and the peaceful development of the world.

Participants at a recent BRICS event emphasized the importance of cultural dialogue to strengthen mutual understanding and friendship among member countries.

They advocate for active engagement in the Global Civilization Initiative, using "BRICS+" cooperation to deepen cultural exchanges. Leyla Fazleeva, Deputy Prime Minister of Tatarstan, highlighted the ongoing cultural collaboration and the expansion of mutual learning among BRICS nations. She expressed hope for enriched exchanges and a robust cooperation network to realize the vision of "BRICS+" in cultural diplomacy. — Xinhua

*Organizers highlighted that cultural exchange and mutual learning are vital for advancing human civilization and promoting global peace.*



Artists from China play classic works of BRICS countries on traditional Chinese musical instrument guzheng in Kazan, Russia, 24 September 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Supercars line up at Cambodia's Angkor Wat temples



The centuries-old temples of Cambodia's famed Angkor Wat played host to a parade of Rolls-Royces, Ferraris and Lamborghinis Tuesday, although drivers were banned from revving their supercharged engines. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE centuries-old temples of Cambodia's famed Angkor Wat played host to a parade of Rolls-Royces, Ferraris and Lamborghinis Tuesday, although drivers were banned from revving their supercharged engines.

The event was intended to promote the environmentally sensitive UNESCO-listed World Heritage site, where the ruins of the Khmer empire's greatest monuments are surrounded by lush forests and giant trees.

Tourism is vital to the Southeast Asian country and received around 6.6 million visitors a year before the COVID-19 pandemic, when numbers nosedived to below 200,000 in 2021.

Last year, Cambodia welcomed nearly 5.5 million visitors, generating over \$3 billion in revenue, though still below pre-pandemic levels. — Xinhua

### ROUTINE MILITARY EXERCISE

## PLA launches intercontinental ballistic missile to high seas

THE Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Rocket Force launched an intercontinental ballistic missile carrying a dummy warhead into the high seas in the Pacific Ocean on Wednesday morning, according to the Ministry of National Defence.

The missile fell into expected sea areas, the ministry said, adding that this was a routine arrangement in the annual training plan and relevant countries had been notified in advance.

The launch tested weaponry performance and military training effectiveness and achieved desired goals, the ministry noted. — Xinhua