Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Yangon University of Economics produces exceptional individuals excelling in various fields

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sent a video speech to the ceremony marking the 60th Anniversary of the University of Economics of the Ministry of Education on 13 December 2024. The full text of the translated message is as follows: -



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Everybody, Mingalaba!

First of all, I would like to extend my best wishes for the health and well-being of all the distinguished guests and responsible individuals who attended today's ceremony commemorating the 60th anniversary of Yangon University of Economics. This includes officials from the State and regional governments, scholars, rectors and faculty members from universities, students, and invited dignitaries.

Yangon University of Economics, which was established in 1964, celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2024. It is a source of pride and joy to be able to commemorate this 60th anniversary with such a grand and vibrant celebration.

Economists play a crucial role in driving the continuous economic development of a country. The 60-year history of Yangon University of Economics, which has been nurturing such vital economists, is indeed a source of pride.

Looking back at the history of Yangon University of Economics, it can be seen that it was established in the 1923-1924 academic year as the Faculty of Economics under Yangon University. Initially, only the subject of Economics was taught. Later, in the 1940-1941 academic year, the subject of Commerce was introduced, followed by accounting in 1953. By 2024, the Faculty of Economics reached its centennial milestone. On 7 September 2024, the centenary celebration of the Faculty of Economics was held.

In 1955, the Department of Economics and the Department of Accounting were able to be organized as separate faculties. In addition to these three faculties, the Departments of Psychology, Political Science and History, and Sociology and Social Work were merged to form the Faculty of Social Sciences in 1958. According to the University Education Law of 1964, the Institute of Economics was established as a separate university on 1 October 1964. Teaching began on 2 November 1964. The Institute of Economics became the only university in Myanmar specializing in economic disciplines.

In 1964, due to the integration of four supporting departments — Myanmar Language, English Language, Geography, and Mathematics — there were a total of seven teaching departments. In 1966, the Department of Research and Management Studies was established at the University of Economics (Hline Campus), which marked the beginning of national research initiatives.

On 5 February 1988, under a new university organizational setup, the core departments were reorganized, with the Applied Economics Department and the former Research and Management Department being restructured as the Department of Management Studies. In 2021, the Department of Applied Statistics was expanded, bringing the total number of teaching departments to ten.

With the aim of regional economic development, the Monywa University of Economics and the Meiktila University of Economics were established after 1998. As a result, with the addition of these three economics universities, the original University of Economics was renamed Yangon University of Economics.

In the year 2000, the Yangon University of Economics (Ywathagyi Campus) was officially opened, and it has since been joined by two other campuses in Kamayut and Hline, making a total of three university campuses. At these campuses, various academic programmes are offered, including undergraduate, honours, Master's, and PhD courses, as well as post-graduate diploma courses. Degree programmes such as Bachelor of Economics, Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Business Administration, Master's in Economics, Master's in Commerce, Master's in Business Administration, and Diploma in Management and Administration (DMA) have been offered since before 1964. Additionally, PhD courses have been available since the 1998-99 academic year.

In addition, to align with the market economic system being practised in the country, it was observed that in 2001, courses for accounting degrees, business management degrees, development studies degrees, public administration degrees, and demography degrees were introduced. Furthermore, in 2003, a Master's degree in Statistics was launched, and in 2004, a Master's degree in demography was also offered.

In order to fulfil the economic goals of the nation and meet market demands, the Yangon University of Economics launched the Master of Business Administration (MBA) programme in 1995, under the Human Resource Development Programme. Since then, it has successfully produced 2,920 MBA graduates.

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Thailand launches e-visa system for Myanmar nationals starting 1 Jan

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MoI Union Minister encourages rehearsals for National Sports Festival closing ceremony

NATIONAL PAGE 12



Toungoo to open third MSME sales centre

NATIONAL

Fostering a Love for Forests: Cultivating Trees for a Greener Future

Embracing a love for forests and nurturing the growth of all planted trees is essential.
Trees must be systematically cultivated to ensure a lush, green environment and favourable weather for future generations.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the first monsoon tree-growing ceremony 2024 of Tatmadaw families at the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) on 7 June 2024)

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of Dr Nu Nu Yi, Rector of Yangon University of Distance Education of the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education, on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.



Yangon University of Economics hosts 60th anniversary

THE 60th anniversary of Yangon University of Economics was marked at the university yesterday.

It was attended by Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Myint, regional governmental officials, experts, Rectors, Pro-reactors, faculty members and alumni of the university.

First, Union Ministers Dr Kan Zaw and Dr Nyunt Pe, Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Myint and Rector of Yangon University of Economics Dr Tin Tin Htwe cut the ribbon to inaugurate the ceremony.



Union Ministers Dr Kan Zaw and Dr Nyunt Pe, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, and dignitaries unveil the 60th anniversary of Yangon University of Economics yesterday.

Then, the video message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the occasion was screened.

Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe expressed gratitude, and the graduate students in 1984 and university students sang the song to mark the 60th anniversary of the Yangon University of Economics and performed song entertainments marking the 60th anniversary of the university.

After the documentary video of Yangon University of Economics was played, Rector Dr Tin Tin Htwe presented gifts to the attendees.

The Union Ministers and officials also gave honorary gifts to the businesspersons who contributed to the ceremony.

The rector spoke words of thanks.

They then observed the photo exhibition marking the 60th anniversary of Yangon University of Economics. — MNA/KTZH

Thailand launches e-visa system for Myanmar nationals starting 1 Jan

THE Royal Thai Embassy in Myanmar announced that Myanmar nationals and other foreign nationals in Myanmar are eligible to apply for visa by new e-visa system for all kinds of visas starting from 1 January 2025 before arriving in Thailand.

Applicants no longer need to come in person to present their passport and other necessary documents at the embassy for applying visa but can apply for all kinds of visas at https://www.thaievisa.go.th/ and visit it to learn the e-visa application process, it said. After the e-visa application is submitted, payment (USD in cash) can be made at the embassy on the appointment date from 9 am to 11:30 am and further announcements on the online booking system will be continued.

After the visa fee is paid, 11-15 days will be taken for assessment of visa application forms and if necessary, documents are not complete or fake documents are found, the visa application will be rejected, it warned.

When the visa application form is approved, an approval letter will be sent to the applicant's email and it will need to be printed out to present it at the airport and Thailand Immigration. Applications for visa appointment date at https://www.thaiconsularyangon.com/ visa will be accepted until 24 December and the acceptance of applications will be stopped from 25 to 31 December, it said. — MT/ZS



This image depicts the Thailand official electronic visa application website.

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)

Yangon University of Economics produces exceptional individuals excelling in various fields

FROM PAGE 1

The Master's in Public Administration (MPA) programme was launched in the year 2000, with a total of 1,631 graduates. The Master's in Development Studies (MDevS) programme began in 2002, producing 924 graduates. The Master's in Banking and Finance (MBF) programme, aimed at systematically developing Myanmar's banking and financial sectors, was started in 2012 and has since graduated 637 MBF individuals.

Since 2017, it has been observed that various master's degree programmes, including Master of Applied Statistics, Master of Marketing Administration, Master of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Master of Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and Master's degrees in Insurance Business and Insurance Science, have been expanded and made available.

The Human Resource Development Programme, which began in 1998, has also been able to offer additional training courses, including the Diploma in Development Studies (Dip DS) for university graduates, the Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing Management (PGDMM), the Postgraduate Diploma in Human Resource Management (PGDHRM), and the Postgraduate Diploma in Research Studies (PGDRS).

After successfully completing the university entrance exam, programmes such as the Certificate in Business Studies (CBS) and Certificate in Advanced Business Studies (CABS) were introduced to enhance business knowledge and skills. These programmes are designed to help individuals improve their understanding of business concepts. Additionally, those who successfully completed these courses were also given the opportunity to pursue further studies with the Diploma in Business Studies (DBS).

Since 2019, Yangon University of Economics has been offering remote degree programmes under the "One Campus, Two Systems" initiative, providing specialized courses in Economics and Business Management.

In order for the country to develop and progress, it is necessary to widely distribute the economic knowledge needed. Therefore, as experts from Yangon University of Economics, we have observed the involvement in various programmes and training sessions at institutions such as former workers' college, distance education universities, National Management Degree College, project department, the Auditor-General Office, Civil Services Academy (Lower Myanmar), educational management training schools, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the National Defence College. In addition to delivering lectures on relevant subjects, there is also active participation in supervising and inspecting theses.

As a government, in line with the economic objectives we have adopted, we are working to enhance the nation's economic driving force through MSME businesses to promote exports. To achieve this, skilled human resources are necessary. Therefore, during the 2022-2023 academic year, the Yangon University of Economics led the initiative to open BA (Economics) degree programmes at 39 universities of arts and science. In the future, graduates with a BA (Economics) degree will be able to use their economic knowledge and perspectives to contribute to the development of their regions and the progress of society.

Since 1964, for 60 years, Yangon University of Economics has produced 110 graduates with doctoral degrees, 7,587 with master's degrees, 61,850 with bachelor's degrees, 1,217 with honours degrees, and 7,708 with diploma certificates. Currently, the university is continuing its educational programmes with 4,359 on-campus students and 4,618 distance-learning students enrolled.

Graduates with an MBA from the Universities of Economics are now skilled entrepreneurs in various sectors of private businesses and are working as senior managers in the field of management. Graduates with an MDevS degree are successfully working in the government sector, private sector, and NGOs and INGOs. Those with an MBF degree can also be found in senior positions as experts and managers at the Central Bank of Myanmar, government and private banks, and financial organizations.

I would like to express my gratitude and pride as I recognize that graduates of business schools are contributing to the nation's development. They serve as skilled public servants, private sector employees, and business leaders, making significant contributions in various sectors for the economic and social progress of the country.

Similarly, graduates of Yangon University of Economics are also found to be prominent figures in various fields such as politics, economics, and social affairs. Among the graduates of the university are individuals who hold senior positions in the government, including the President of the country, Union Ministers, Union Auditors-General, Central Bank Governors, advisors, Chief Ministers and Ministers of States and Regions, Deputy Ministers, and Directors-General. This is a source of pride and admiration.

In recognition of the 60th anniversary of Yangon University of Economics, which plays a key role in the nation's development, a series of events will be held, including an exhibition of historical photographs showcasing the growth of the university, research paper readings, and research poster presentations. Additionally, a ceremony will be held to honour the distinguished professors and faculty members who have taught over the years, and a grand commemoration event will take place to celebrate this milestone.

Yangon University of Economics has completed its 60th anniversary and, as a prominent institution, has contributed significantly to the country's economic and social development by nurturing exceptional individuals who excel in various fields. Moving forward, may it continue to produce knowledgeable and talented generations who value and take pride in their education. I wish for the university to remain permanently steadfast, thriving, and perpetual existence from the celebration of the 60th anniversary and beyond.

Thank you all.

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NATIONAL

SAC members award winners at Inter-Ministry and Inter-State and Region sports events of 5th National Sports Festival


Deputy PM Admiral Tin Aung San presents prizes.


SAC Member Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae awards prizes.


SAC Member U Wunna Maung Lwin gives out prizes.


SAC Member Daw Dwe Bu offers prizes.


Deputy PM U Win Shein presents prizes.


Deputy PM U Than Swe delivers awards.

FINAL matches and prize awarding ceremonies for the 5th National Sports Festival 2024 were held at relevant stadiums and gymnasiums in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The third-placed match and the final of the Inter-State and Region Sepak Takraw sports took place at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium A in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

SAC members awarded first, second and third prize winning Sagaing Region, Kayin State and Mandalay Region teams in the men's double regu event, Mon State, Rakhine State and Yangon Region teams in the women's double regu event and Mandalay Region, Yangon Region and Magway Region teams in the men's regu event.

SAC Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and SAC Member Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San awarded first, second and third winning Ayeyawady, Rakhine and Bago teams in the women's regu event and Sagaing, Mon and Yangon teams in the men's four-player event.

SEE PAGE 5

MoI Union Minister encourages rehearsals for National Sports Festival closing ceremony

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn watched and encouraged the rehearsals of ethnic groups, ethnic peoples, and students who will perform at the Fifth National Sports Festival closing ceremony at Ywataw Transit Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

The rehearsals included 167 ethnic performers from various regions and states showcasing traditional dances, and 320 students from Basic Education High Schools performing the song 'Shwe Pyitaw Thoh Ahtu' (We Go Together to the Golden Land). The Union minister expressed gratitude for the active preparation and highlighted the festival's importance for the country. He emphasized the successful opening ceremony and the significance of the closing ceremony, which will feature a celebration of Myanmar's Thingyan Festival being recognized as a UNESCO World Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The Union minister urged those to report difficulties to the relevant authorities and stressed the importance of health. He also provided food to dancing trainers, supervisors, ethnic performers, and students, offering words of encouragement. — MNA/TS

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn reviews rehearsals for the Fifth National Sports Festival closing event.

NATIONAL

FROM PAGE 4

Likewise, athletes from first and second-prize winning teams and joint-third prize-winning teams were awarded in the men's -81 kilogrammes attack event, men's -90 kilogrammes attack event, men's -100 kilogrammes attack event, men's +100 kilogrammes attack event, women's -63 kilogrammes attack event, women's -70 kilogrammes attack event, women's -78 kilogrammes attack events, women's +78 kilogrammes event and team-wise judo attack event respectively.

Winners in the Inter-State and Region Swimming events were awarded at Wunna Theikdi swimming pool. Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Than Than Swe, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Toe Yi and U Ko Ko Kyaw, Ayeyawady Region, Bago Region and Kachin State social affairs ministers and officials presented prizes to winners in the women's 400-metre freestyle event, men's 400-metre freestyle event, women's 200-metre singles four-stroke event, men's 200-metre singles four-stroke event, women's 100-metre breaststroke event, men's 100-metre breaststroke event, women's 100-metre backstroke event, men's 100-metre backstroke, women's 100-metre butterfly event, men's 100-metre butterfly event, women's 100-metre freestyle event, men's 100-metre freestyle event, women's 50-metrex4 shuttle four-stroke event, and men's 50-metrex4 shuttle four-stroke event respectively.



SAC Member Porel Aung Thein hands out prizes.

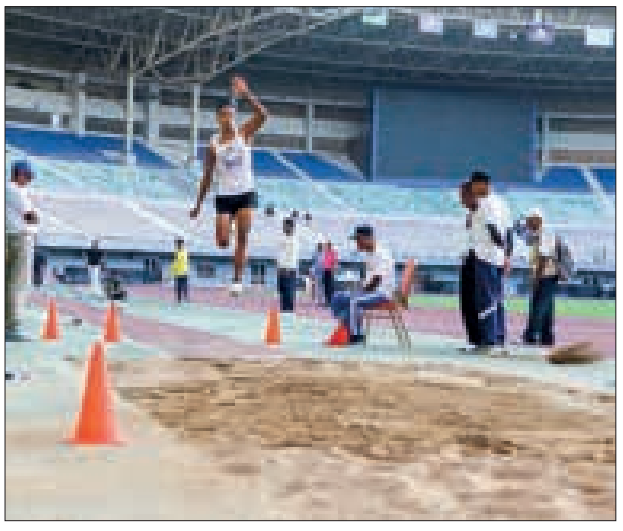


Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn bestows prizes.

Concerning the Inter-State and Region Athletics sports, former selected athletes, state and regional ministers, Union Minister U Min Thein Zan and Union Election Commission Chairman U Ko Ko presented prizes to winners from regional and state teams in men's 1,500-metre race, women's 1,500-metre race, women's javelin, men's 100-metre race, women's 100-metre race, women's 400-metre relay race, and men's 400-metre relay race, respectively. Officials also gave prizes to winners in the men's javelin, men's marathon and women's marathon events.

Union Ministers Dr Soe Win and U Hla Moe and officials handed prizes to winners in the men's shot put, women's long jump, women's shot put, men's 10,000-metre race, women's 10,000-metre race, men's 100-metre relay race, women's 100-metre relay race and men's long jump events.

CBM Deputy Governor Dr Lin Aung, Union Civil Service Board Member U Ye Naing, Deputy Minister U Min Thu and Union Auditor-General Dr Khin Naing Oo awarded winners in the men's 55-60 kilogramme Vovinam attack, women's 50-55 kilogramme event, men's doubles sword attack event, men's hands event, men's long stick event, women's hands event, women's doubles sword event and men's 60-65 kilogramme attack event respectively. — MNA/TTA



Inter-Ministerial athletics (long jump).



Kachin versus Yangon in ISR Sepak Takraw.



Shan versus Kayin in ISR Women's Bovinam finals.



NATIONAL

5th National Sports Festival 2024: Heated sports competitions continue





Photos reveal enthusiastic spectators cheering a futsal match of the Fifth National Sports Festival in Nay Pyi Taw.

SPORTS events of the Fifth National Sports Festival 2024 continued at relevant stadiums and gymnasiums in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday morning.

Officials awarded winners in the Inter-State and Region U-21 athletics competitions. They presented prizes and medals to winners in the men's and women's marathon, men's 400-metre relay race, women's 400-metre relay, men's javelin, men's 1,500-metre race, women's 1,500-metre race, men's 100-metre race, and women's 100-metre race respectively.

Winners were awarded in the men's 100-metre butterfly event in the Inter-State and Region swimming sports, women's 100-metre butterfly, men's 400-metre, women's 400-metre and men's 200-metre singles four-stroke event, women's 200-metre singles four-stroke, men's 100-metre breaststroke, women's 100-metre breaststroke, men's and women's 100-metre backstroke events, men's and women's 100-metre freestyle events, men's and women's 50-metre x 4 shuttle four-stroke events respectively.

Officials gave prizes to winners in the women's 55-60 kilogrammes and women's double swords attack events of the Vovinam sports at Shwekyapin gymnasium. Moreover, winners in the women's single sword skill and Vovinam one woman + three men armed skill events were awarded.

At Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium C, winners were awarded in the mixed team event of Inter-State and Region Judo sports.

Moreover, athletes from regions and states participated in the snooker 6 red singles, 9ball singles, billiard singles, and snooker 15 Red singles event at Wunna Theikdi stadium.

The quarter-final matches of the ISR U-25 women's football took place at Wunna Theikdi Stadium 3 and 4, Bawgawady Sports Ground and the sports ground in Lewe Township.

The third-placed match and final match in the Inter-State and Region men's four-player Sepak Takraw event were held at Wunna Theikdi Stadium A.

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Photos show sports fans cheering Inter-Ministerial and Inter-State & Region competitions in football, tennis, Taekwondo, and Sepak Takraw.

NATIONAL

Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills 46/2024 concludes

THE closing ceremonies of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills 46/2024 conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were held simultaneously on 13 December 2024 at the Lawkanat Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Nay Pyi Taw) and at the Winzinminyarzar Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Yangon) respectively. Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo delivered the closing remarks in Yangon. Present at the occasions were the permanent secretary, directors-general and other responsible officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, retired Myanmar ambassadors, senior diplomats, professors, lecturers, and trainees.

The Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills 46/2024 was conducted in two sessions in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, for twelve weeks from 23 September 2024 to 13 December 2024. A total of 216 trainees, including civil servants and individuals from the private sector interested in international relations and diplomacy, attended the course. This course covered subjects related to diplomacy, international relations, current international affairs, international law, economics and general knowledge. — MNA



Deputy Minister U Lwin Oo delivers the closing address at yesterday's event in Yangon.

First coord meeting for 77th Independence Day Reception & Dinner



The first coordination meeting for the 77th Independence Day Reception and Dinner in progress yesterday, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe.

THE first coordination meeting of the Sub-Committee for the 77th Independence Day Reception and Dinner was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, who is the Chairman of the Subcommittee, attended the meeting along with subcommittee members, working group chairmen, and officials from relevant departments. In his opening remarks, the Deputy Prime Minister discussed the work to be carried out by the subcommittee to ensure the successful holding of the reception and dinner. The participants also discussed points to be submitted to the Central Committee for Organizing Independence Day Celebration and other issues to be negotiated within the subcommittee.

The Deputy Prime Minister addressed necessary issues related to the presentations. — MNA/TS

5th National Sports Festival 2024: Heated sport ...



ISR Billiards-snooker match.

FROM PAGE 6

Taekwondo attack events were held at Wunna Theikdi Stadium. Phone Htut Aung of Yangon Region won over Saw El Lin Oo from Kayah State. The Yangon Region team secured the first prize in men's bantam SR-63 kilogramme event.

Semi-final matches of the men's feather 63-68 kilogramme event, women's fly 46-51 kilogramme event, and the final match of women's 46-50 kilogramme event were held.

State and regional teams participated in the group matches of the men's tennis and women's tennis sports. Men's 55-kilogramme event and women's 45-kilogramme event of the Inter-State and Region weightlifting sports were held at Wunna Theikdi Stadium.

Officials presented prizes to winners in the inter-ministry men's javelin, men's shot put, women's javelin, women's shot put, women's long jump, men's and women's 10,000-metre races, and men's and women's 100-metre x 4 relay events at Wunna Theikdi Stadium.

The Inter-Ministry men's and women's volleyball group matches continued at the volleyball court of Wunna Theikdi stadium. The group matches of the Inter-Ministry men's open football tournaments were held at Paunglaung Stadium, Shwekyapin Stadium, and Lewe TC-2 sports ground. The Inter-Ministry men's futsal group matches took place at the futsal ground of Wunna Theikdi Stadium. Likewise, the Inter-Ministry men's Sepak Takraw double regu event was held at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium A.



Inter-Ministerial competition in men's volleyball.

The sports competitions were attended by union-level dignitaries, deputy ministers, regional and state ministers, departmental officials, officials from sports federations, staff, students and sports fans people. — MNA/TTA

Strive for peace and development through unity

MYANMAR has been facing over 70 years of instable situations, beginning with armed conflicts that emerged alongside its independence. Successive governments have attempted to achieve domestic peace through various means. However, due to ethnic, ideological, pride-driven, and ego-centred divisions, peace has remained elusive, appearing fleetingly like a glimmer of hope before disappearing again — an ongoing loss for the nation.

Peace is a fundamental cornerstone for the economic development of the nation, the improvement of the social well-being of its people, the harmony and prosperity of the Union, and the rule of law. Mutual respect and understanding among ethnic groups foster collaboration and cooperation, reducing misunderstandings and conflicts, which can be resolved through negotiation. A relationship based on trust enables the resolution of numerous challenges together, ultimately fostering a more harmonious coexistence and paving the way for durable peace and stability.

This is the time for all national brethren to foster mutual trust, free from suspicion and misunderstandings, and to set aside unnecessary ideologies. They must collaborate with mutual respect, trust, and affection to forge durable peace. If so, the Union will remain peaceful and respective regions flourish in harmony. By exercising the rights granted under the Constitution, everybody must work together in unity to achieve national stability, peace, and sustainable development.

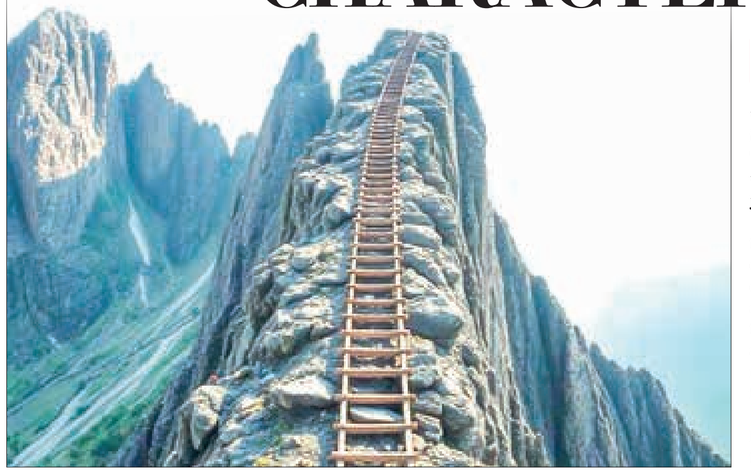
Due to the lack of peace, it is well-known that people are living in a state of great worry and concern. The consequences of these conflicts have severely impacted the socio-economic lives of local ethnic communities. Therefore, solutions must be sought through peaceful means to promote the well-being of one's region and people.

If political issues are not resolved through political means but rather through armed conflict, even in an independent nation, the people would find themselves living in poverty-stricken, turbulent lives. Although the nation may be independent, it is everyone's responsibility to prevent a situation where its citizens are forced to live uncertain and unstable lives. Everybody must ensure that future generations can live peacefully, happily, and securely by making their lives a lasting part of history.

The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) is a historic pact for peace, and it is essential for all ethnic armed organizations to respect and adhere to it. The State Administration Council has been engaging in dialogue with political parties and ethnic armed organizations to achieve lasting peace. The outcomes and agreements reached during these bilateral discussions have been documented to ensure they can be deliberated and ratified in future parliamentary sessions.

This is the time for all national brethren to foster mutual trust, free from suspicion and misunderstandings, and to set aside unnecessary ideologies. They must collaborate with mutual respect, trust, and affection to forge durable peace. If so, the Union will remain peaceful and respective regions flourish in harmony. By exercising the rights granted under the Constitution, everybody must work together in unity to achieve national stability, peace, and sustainable development.

CHARACTER IS POWER



Uttbana literally means to go up or to rise. To succeed in life man must be filled with enthusiasm and energy, he must be fired with ambition and a strong desire to succeed. He must strive to be the best. **ILLUSTRATION: SNAPSHOT FOR PRESENTATION**

By Sann Ni Lar Win

IN the civilization of mankind, spiritual culture and physical culture play an important role. I compete with internationals, to be regarded as civilized and good-natured people, we have to obey the teachings of our parents, our first foremost mentors, since the day we were born.

As Myanmar is generally Buddhists, they obey lord Buddha's preaching. Buddha's preaching is propagated by Sanghas. They lead to physical and mental well-being by Sasana.

The famous Greek philosopher Aristotle said that when wealth is lost, nothing is lost when health is lost. Something is lost; when character is lost, everything is lost.

I remember that since attending primary school which is situated in a monastery compound, we learned lessons concerning stealing someone's own. In this lesson, a young son always steals someone's property and money, and then he conferred with his mother. But she used to accept them greedily. One day, her son was arrested on account of a theft case as a thief, and he was sentenced to imprisonment by the judge. Suddenly he called his mother and bit her ear because she didn't admonish him.

Today the world has never experienced such phenomenal material progress as it is realizing in the age. However, despite this wonderful progress, it is not unfortunate that mankind tends to neglect spiritual well-being.

Mankind appears to have been blinded by material achievements thinking that materialism is the end all of everything. Mankind has forgotten that materialism alone does not provide the true happiness or spiritual well-being sought after by mankind.

In our human society, corruption and bribery are a kind of stealing. Corruption impairs investment with consequent effects on growth and jobs. Countries capable of confronting corruption use their human and financial resources more efficiently alter more investment and grow more rapidly.

According to a survey study, the following factors have been attributed as causes of corruption.

Greed of money, desire

Higher levels of market and political monopolization

Low levels of democracy week civil participation and low political transparency

Corruption is a crime, let's destroy it before it destroys us. Anti-Bribery and Anti. Corruption calls that collectively prohibit bribery and corruption.

Corruption also erodes the trust we have in the public sector to act in our best interests. It wastes taxes and rates meant for important community projects. This results in poor quality services or infrastructure, or projects never getting off the ground.

International Anti-Corruption Day is observed on 9 December each year. This data was chosen because if marks the anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2003, a significant milestone in the global fight against corruption.

United against Corruption. Build a Brighter Future, Break the Chain, End the stain, and choose integrity. No bribas, No Lios, Just a fairer Rise. Corruption Dosen't Balong, let. Make it gone.

A person who does bad things will get bad results. A person who does good action will likewise get good results.

Bribery and corruption can be compared to the fear of poisonous snakes. There is a discourse in "Anguttara Nikaya" (အင်္ဂုတ္တရနိကာယ်) in which Lord Buddha talks about the virtues that are conducive to material benefits in the present. When practised constantly, these virtues, which are four in number, enable one to succeed in life bringing in happiness and prosperity. They are called as follows:

(1) Utthana Sampada = Being endowed with energy (ဥဋ္ဌာနသမ္ပဒါ)
(2) Arakkha Sampada = Being endowed with vigilance for protection (အာရက္ခ သမ္ပဒါ)
(3) Kalyanamittata =Association with good people (ကလျာဏမိတ္တတာ)
(4) Samajivita =Leading a balanced life (သမဇီဝိတာ)

The first virtue, Utthana Sampada, is the most important thing to begin with. Uttbana literally means to go up or to rise. To succeed in life man must be filled with enthusiasm and energy, he must be fired with ambition and a strong desire to succeed. He must strive to be the best.

Wealth and fortune come to those who work best. But are cannot get rich if one does not know how to protect or take care of what has already been acquired. We must therefore practice the second virtue.

The second virtue, Arakkha Sampada, advises us to be vigilant, not careless, about what we have earned or possessed. We must know, for example, how to use our money properly so it will give us maximum benefit. Strange though it may seem, many people don't know how to use their money. They waste it on cigarettes, drinks, and drugs, which only enslave them and drag them toward a premature death impoverishing them in the process. Many people lose their fortune in gambling, shamelessly running their families, and many are forced into crime or illicit occupations, and end up in prison.

The third virtue, Kalayanamittata, is no less important for achieving the desired success. Man can not live all alone by himself, he needs friends, associates, and colleagues (in addition to relatives, of course). These people play a significant role in his life. They can influence his thoughts, change his views and character, and even promote or ruin his life. If you are very close, for instance, to a friend who is foulmouthed, arrogant and has no respect for his parents, and if you keep company with him long enough, you will gradually imitate his evil character.

A balanced life in Samajivita mena is wisely conducted neither too economically nor extravagate a Dharmic life, which is noble, useful and contented. A Samajivita person lives according to his means; he is not carried away by the "high fashion" of the day. His life is exemplary free from pretensions and harm. It is a life of service rather than selfishness living in this way ensures not only that whatever has been acquired is well protected, but also that whatever is spent is wisely and usefully spent.

Especially, if the government in a country can fix corruption and bribery, we have to get a clean government and good governance. The types of consciousness, and thoughts, that are accompanied by these bad roots of greed, hatred (ill-will) and ignorance or called bad. Any deed is done or word uttered with bad thoughts, purging them of three bad roots greed, hatred and ignorance.

In conclusion, character is the best power for every person with innocence. I believe that all stakeholders such as government, citizens and the private sector need to work together to eradicate corruption and bribery. I realize that every citizen should be vigilant and commit to higher standards of support to fight against corruption and bribery.

References:

(1) သူတိုနှင့် ကျွန်တော် ကျွန်တော် နှင့်သူတို့ (စန်းနီလာဝင်း၊ ဂုဏ်ထူးစာပေ 2006 ခုနှစ် ဒီဇင်ဘာလ)
(2) Basic Buddhism Course by Phra Sunthon Plamintr, PhD, Buddhadharma Meditation Centre USA, 1991, June)

Partners in Progress or Rivals for the Future?

By Laura Htet (UDE)

THE swift advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has fuelled both optimism and apprehension. From autonomous vehicles to virtual assistants, AI is infiltrating nearly every aspect of modern life. Some dream of a utopian future where AI handles mundane tasks, leaving humans free to focus on creativity and connection. Others fear a dystopian reality where machines dominate and displace human expertise.

Amidst these contrasting perspectives, one pressing question emerges: Could AI ever fully replace human professions, particularly in the field of education? To answer this, we must examine AI's capabilities and limitations, the intricate roles humans play in various jobs, and the distinct attributes that make teaching a uniquely impactful profession.

AI's Growing Capabilities Across Fields

AI has already made significant strides in transforming industries. In healthcare, AI algorithms have been able to detect diseases earlier than human doctors in some cases. In the legal field, AI-powered tools can scan and analyze thousands of documents in mere seconds. In creative fields like design and music, generative AI produces works of art and compositions that are often indistinguishable from those created by humans. AI's proficiency lies in processing vast amounts of data, identifying patterns, and executing repetitive tasks with unmatched speed and accuracy.

The Complex Reality of AI in Human Professions

While AI excels at tasks that require data processing and logical analysis, its limitations are evident when it comes to handling ambiguity, emotional intelligence, and creativity. For instance, AI may be capable of designing a structurally sound bridge, but it cannot envision an entirely new concept. It might be able to diagnose a disease, but it cannot provide the emotional support and empathy that a human doctor or nurse can offer to a patient in need.

The Unique Challenge of Replacing Teachers

Among the various professions, teaching presents one of the most challenging fields for AI to replace. Teaching is not merely about conveying information; it's a deeply human activity that involves mentorship, inspiration, and emotional connection. Consider this scenario: An AI-powered classroom assistant monitors each student's progress, identifies weaknesses, and provides personalized learning resources. Sounds efficient, right? But what happens when a child feels left behind, not just academically but emotionally? When a student doubts their abilities or struggle with self-esteem, can AI step in as a source of encouragement?

In classrooms, teachers are often the first to notice when a student is struggling, whether academically or personally. They adapt their teaching methods to engage students and create a learning environment that fosters curiosity and growth. Teachers inspire a lifelong love of learning by sharing their own passions and experiences. AI may be able to teach formulas and historical facts, but it cannot replicate the magic that happens when a teacher connects with a student on a personal level.

Why AI Struggles to Replace Human Teachers

1. **Lack of Emotional Intelligence**
   AI systems, no matter how advanced, lack emotional intelligence. A great teacher doesn't just teach subjects—they read emotions, mediate conflicts, and inspire through empathy. A student feeling overwhelmed by exams may not need more data-driven insights but a simple, heartfelt, "I believe in you."

SEE PAGE 13



AI-powered tools can help students with disabilities by providing adaptive learning technologies. **ILLUSTRATION: ARTWORK FOR DISPLAY /THE ACADEMIC**

NATIONAL

MoRAC Union Minister attends handover event for conservation of 11 earthquake-damaged pagodas in Bagan

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin attended the fourth coordination meeting for drafting a comprehensive master plan for Shwezigon Pagoda at the office of the Shwezigon Pagoda Board of Trustees yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister urged the experts of the Myanmar Architect Council, Myanmar Engineering Council, Myanmar Engineer Association and the department concerned to make concerted efforts in drafting a master plan to complete in time.

The Mandalay Region Social Affairs minister and the Myanmar Architect Council President reported on the collected data and recommendations for the master plan.



Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin addresses the coordination meeting to draft the comprehensive master plan for the Shwezigon Pagoda in Bagan yesterday.

Group 1, 2, 3 and 4 attendees coordinated the discussion, and the Union minister made proper instructions.

At noon, the Union minister attended the "handing over of 1st (22 works) of the project titled Conservation of 11 Earthquake Damaged Pagodas at Bagan". It is the India-Myanmar friendship project initiated by ASI of India.

At the ceremony, the Union minister, the Indian ambassador and the Indian consul-general made remarks and observed the recorded photos of 11 pagodas taken during the renovation period.

They also viewed the completed Nathlaung Temple and Thikyapone Pagoda.

The country signed an MoU with the Indian government to conserve and restore the earthquake-damaged 72 pagodas and temples (89 works) in Bagan on 11 May 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw.

It is a 10-year project containing Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 3. The maintenance of 12 ancient buildings and pagodas started in 2020 as Phase 1, and among these 12 ancient buildings and pagodas, 11 (22 works) were completed.

The Union minister attended the dinner event hosted by the Indian ambassador at Aureum Palace Hotel. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar delegation attends ASEAN HLTF-ACV 19th meeting

THE Myanmar delegation led by Dr Wah Wah Maung, Eminent Person (EP) of Myanmar for the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision and Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, attended the 19th meeting of the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision (17th HLTF-ACV), which was held in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 10-12 December 2024, accompanied by officials from the ASEAN Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Drafting sessions of the high-level representatives were also held on the sideline of the 19th meeting of HLTF-ACV and concluded the fifth reading with 98 per cent completion of the draft ASEAN Political and Security Community (APSC) Strategic Plan.

The 19th HLTF-ACV meeting was co-chaired by Eminent Persons (EP) of Lao PDR and Malaysia, as the permanent shepherd Member State, and attended by eminent persons, high-level representatives and officials from the ASEAN member states, representatives from Timor-Leste as well as the ASEAN deputy secretary-general for APSC and officials from the ASEAN Secretariat.

At the meeting, the HLTF-ACV had an Interface meeting with the Chair of the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration (HLTF-EI), Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Development of ASCC Post-2025 Strategic Plan and Chair of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and the respective pillars have updated their progress in developing their respective ASEAN Vision 2045 strategic action plans. The meeting exchanged views on the development of the respective strategic plans, placement of the elements of institutional strengthening-related strategic measures and cross-cutting issues.

In addition, the HLTF-ACV had an interface with the ASEAN Youth Organization Chair and the respective stakeholders have updated their works and contributions to the ASEAN Community Vision and shared the priorities and challenges to be addressed in the future ahead by providing their recommendations. The meeting exchanged views on the emerging challenges and recommendations made by the respective stakeholders on the development of the APSC Strategic Plan in a friendly, cordial and candid manner.



Deputy Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung participates in the ASEAN HLTF-ACV 19th meeting in Laos on 10-12 December 2024.

During the 19th HLTF-ACV meeting, Deputy Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung commended the over 95 per cent progress of works in developing respective strategic plans of ASEAN pillars and connectivity of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision. The deputy minister emphasized the critical importance of institutional strengthening for the three ASEAN community pillars and ASEAN connectivity. She urged to prioritize discussions on pillar-specific improvements within the framework of institutional strengthening strategic measures. Highlighting the distinct nature and roles of each ASEAN community pillar, she called for tailored strategic measures aligned with their unique mandates and encouraged each pillar to deliberate on these specific actions to strengthen ASEAN's institutional framework. She further underscored the continued role of the ASEAN political-security community (APSC) in providing general recommendations for efficient and effective implementation of ASEAN institutional strengthening. The deputy minister concluded by calling for the APSC pillar to take the lead in implementing these strategic measures, while other pillars to contribute support and collaborate for the success of ASEAN's institutional strengthening.

The upcoming 20th HLTF-ACV meeting scheduled in January 2025 will look into further discussion of the strategic plans of the ASEAN community pillars. In addition, the meeting will also focus on the need to address issues such as ensuring harmonization among strategic measures of the relevant community pillars, avoiding duplication of strategic measures, and strengthening linkages and coordination among sectoral bodies. The meeting will also emphasize further deliberation on the timely conclusion of the strategic plans for their adoption at the 46th ASEAN Summit in May 2025 in Malaysia. — MNA

NATIONAL

Myanmar delegation attends First Conference on Tourism for Rural Development

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine attended the First Conference on Tourism for Rural Development jointly hosted by UN Tourism and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam on 10-11 December in Hoi An.

The First Conference on Tourism for Rural Development focused on the power of tourism in rural development and cooperation with national level, regional governmental organizations and international organizations.

On 10 December, the Union Minister and party attended the conference, and Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam Mr Pham Minh Chinh, Minister for Culture, Sports and Tourism Mr Nguyen Van Hung, Deputy Minister Mr Ho An Phong, Secretary of Quang Nam Province Mr Luong Nguyen Minh Triet and Executive Director of UN World Tourism Organization Ms Zoritsa Urosevic made an opening speech respectively.

The conference discussed different topics regarding policy frameworks for rural tourism development, growing agriculture and tourism synergies to drive sustainability, market access and integration, innovative digital tools and funding mechanisms to support rural destinations, entrepreneurs and community-led initiatives.

The Myanmar delegation attended the dinner event hosted by the Vietnamese Minister for Culture, Sports and Culture in the evening.

On 11 December, the Myanmar delegation visited the Tra Que village, the best tourist village in 2024, Thanh Ha village, Hoi An ancient town, and observed the Hoi An cuisine which was recognized as an intangible cultural heritage, over 500-year old pottery industry, eastern and western cultural buildings, artworks, over 400-year old Cau pagoda and other unique handmade businesses.



Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine is pictured during the observation tours in Vietnam on 10-11 December.

On 12 December, the Myanmar delegation arrived back in Myanmar. — MNA/KTZH

2-day illegal trade crackdown secures items worth K1.551B

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

During inspections on 11 December, the combined Customs on-duty teams impounded illegal teak weighing 0.222 tonne and illegal timbers weighing 2.883 tonnes valued at K485,787 in Myanaung District and an unregistered Honda 110 motorbike valued at K200,000 in Wakema Township. The action was conducted under the Forest Law and the Export and Import Law.

Similarly, the combined teams nabbed Hyundai Starex (approximately K16 million), travelling from Meiktila to Mandalay, carrying 28 bags of smuggled charcoal worth K89,600 at the Htonbo checkpoint in Amarapura Township and illegal teak weighing 3.432 tonnes worth K4.225 million in TadaU Township and illegal timbers weighing 3.07 tonnes valued at K291,100 in Yamethin Township. The action was conducted under the Forest Law.

Additionally, on 12 December, the combined on-duty teams seized an unregistered Honda Fit (approximately K10 million) at the Yadanabon bridge combined checkpoint in Sagaing Township, illegal teak weighing 1.030 tonnes worth K906,000 in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, illegal teak weighing 18.835 tonnes and illegal hardwoods weighing 0.674 tonne and illegal other timbers weighing 1.942 tonnes valued at K6.779 million in Bago, Nyaunglebin and Pyay Districts and an unregistered Toyota Alphard (estimated value of K9 million) in Shwetaung Township. The action was taken under the Export-Import Law and the Forest Law.

Similarly, the Customs on-duty teams confiscated industrial materials worth K535.109 million without official documents from 14 containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, industrial materials valued at K488.117 million without official documents from 10 containers at the Thilawa Port and industrial materials and consumer goods worth K474.591 million without official documents from 18 containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port. The action was carried out per Customs procedures.

Foodstuffs valued at K5.715 million that were smuggled and piled up by the side of a road was captured in Sinphyu market in Muse Township and the action was conducted following Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 28 arrests on 11 and 12 December, with an estimated value of K1.551 billion. — MNA/MKKS

Counter-argument to false information

False reports claim security forces attack Sagyin Village with heavy weapons

MALICIOUS news media falsely reported that security forces fired heavy weapons at Sagyin Village in Madaya Township, Mandalay Region, killing three civilians, including a child, and burning villages.

A local security official clarified that no such attacks happened. Security forces are only targetting areas where PDF terrorists are hiding are combing the area according to the law. The official also stated that there was no unnecessary burning or destruction of villages. Instead, terrorists have been burning villages and killing civilians who do not support them.



This screenshot validates misinformation.

The false reports aim to cover up these acts and create misunderstandings about the efforts of security forces working to keep the area peaceful. — MNA/KZL

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NATIONAL

Myanmar, China discuss intangible cultural heritage exchange in Yangon



This photo showcases attendees present at the Myanmar-China intangible cultural heritage exchange discussion in Yangon on 11 December 2024.

A discussion on the China-Myanmar intangible cultural heritage exchange was held in Yangon in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar and the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon).

The event took place in Yangon on 11 December and focused on the recent inclusion of the "Chinese Spring Festival - Social Activities Celebrating the Chinese People's Traditional New Year Festival" and "Myanmar Traditional New Year - Thingyan" as UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. As cultural heritage shared by all of humanity, these two traditional festivals have been successfully inscribed on the World Heritage List, attracting widespread attention from the international community.

During the discussion, delegates discussed the uniqueness of the intangible cultural heritage of the two countries, their preservation and utilization, and cooperation regarding China-Myanmar's intangible cultural heritage.

The discussion was attended by Mr Li Qianguo, Attaché of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar, Dr Kay Thi Htwe, Rector of the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon), and representatives from local education, media, culture, and tourism sectors. — ASH/TKO

Myanmar citizens facing difficulties in Cambodia safely repatriated

THE Myanmar government, prioritizing the well-being of its citizens abroad, has taken swift action to repatriate four Myanmar nationals, including Ma Thazin Myo Nyunt, who faced difficulties in O Smach, Cambodia.

Through the collaborative efforts of the Myanmar Embassy in Phnom Penh, relevant Cambodian authorities, and Myanmar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, individuals facilitated safe passage back to Myanmar. On 13 December, they departed Siem Reap of Cambodia arriving in Yangon in the evening.

Myanmar embassies and consulates-general remain committed to assisting citizens facing hardships abroad. The families of the repatriated individuals expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Myanmar government and its diplomatic missions for their timely support and efforts. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KZL



Myanmar returnees. **PHOTO : KANU**

Toungoo to open third MSME sales centre

THE third MSME sales centre will be opened in Toungoo Township, Bago Region, according to the Consumer Affairs Department (Yangon Region).

The centre will showcase local products from Bago Region and will be located in a building owned by the Bago Region Development Committee in Toungoo Township. The Toungoo City Development Committee is currently renovating the building to accommodate the sales centre, while the Toungoo District Consumer Affairs Department is preparing the booths and collecting the products to be sold.

By opening these sales centres, consumers can purchase local food products from Bago Region at affordable prices, all in one place. MSMEs will also have opportunities to improve their products and increase their profits.

This photo captures an MSME sales centre in Bago Region.

In addition, MSMEs can expand their markets and connect with domestic and international consumers.

More than 80 types of domestic food products, consumer goods, traditional medicines, kitchen equipment, and agricultural machinery will be sold daily at these MSME product sales centres, representing 28 townships in Bago Region, at affordable prices set by manufacturers.

As part of efforts to develop the MSME sector, local product sales centres have already been opened on 19 October at the Oktha Market in Bago and on 19 November at the Boshukhan Building, in front of the Bogyoke Aung San statue in Bago Region, under the supervision of the Bago Region government. — ASH/MKKS

Preliminary interviews for Academy Award receptionists set for 15 Dec

ACCORDING to U Aye Kyu Lay, Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO), the preliminary interview for selecting receptionists for the 2024 Myanmar Academy Award Ceremony will take place at the Golden Jubilee Hall of MMPO on 15 December.

The application forms for the receptionist positions were accepted from 26 November to 6 December.

"We will conduct a preliminary interview to select receptionists for the 2024 Myanmar Academy Award Ceremony on 15 December. All notified applicants must attend the interview.

We will select 20 receptionists this year, 10 females and 10 males. The selected candidates will have exclusive opportunities for future artistic endeavours," said U Aye Kyu Lay.

The receptionist selection team includes Academy Award winners, and senior artistes such as Yan Aung, Ye Aung, Soe Myat Thu Zar, May Than Nu, and others. The 2024 Myanmar Academy Award Ceremony will take place in February 2025. — ASH/TRKM

ARTICLE
BIZ WORLD/AD

Partners in Progress or Rivals for the Future?

FROM PAGE 9

2. **Nuanced Problem-Solving**
Human teachers are adept at responding to unpredictable situations. When a classroom discussion takes an unplanned turn, they can adapt and turn it into a learning opportunity. AI, confined to its programmed knowledge, lacks the spontaneity to make such connections.
3. **Role Model and Mentor**
Teachers serve as role models, shaping students' values, behaviours, and aspirations. They lead by example, not just through lectures but through their actions, attitudes, and beliefs. AI, devoid of personal experiences, cannot fulfil this essential role of shaping young minds.

What AI Can Contribute to Education

While AI may never fully replace teachers, it does have the potential to transform certain aspects of the teaching profession:

- **Personalized Learning**: AI can analyze individual students' strengths, weaknesses, and learning styles to offer tailored learning resources. This can help address the unique needs of each student, improving overall learning outcomes.
- **Automating Repetitive Tasks**: Teachers often spend significant amounts of time grading assignments, tracking attendance, and planning lessons. AI can help automate these tasks, allowing educators to focus more on teaching and student interaction.
- **Enhancing Accessibility**: AI-powered tools can help students with disabilities by providing adaptive learning technologies. Furthermore, AI can break down language barriers by translating lessons into multiple languages, helping make education more accessible to students around the world.

Yet, these advancements should be seen as enhancements, not replacements. The human element remains irreplaceable.

Can AI Replace Other Professions?

Beyond education, AI's impact extends to many other fields. While AI can revolutionize industries like manufacturing, healthcare, and finance, it is unlikely to replace every profession.

Creative Arts

While AI can generate music and artwork, true artistic expression stems from human experiences, emotions, and intentions. AI may be able to compose a symphony, but it cannot capture the heartbreak that infuses a piece of music or the rebellion that fuels a painting.

Healthcare

AI can perform diagnostic tasks with incredible precision, but it lacks the human touch required in healthcare. A nurse's comforting words or a doctor's moral judgment in complex cases cannot be replicated by machines.

Social Work and Counseling

Professions rooted in human connection, such as social work and counselling, cannot be replaced by AI. These fields require empathy, trust-building, and deep understanding, qualities that machines lack.

Leadership and Governance

Leaders inspire, negotiate, and unite people. Governance requires not just logic but moral judgement, adaptability, and cultural understanding — traits AI lacks.

The Future: Collaboration, Not Replacement

Rather than seeing AI as a threat, we should embrace its potential to collaborate with humans. In education, the future might feature AI tools that assist teachers by tracking student progress, suggesting new strategies, and providing personalized learning resources. However, teachers will remain at the heart of the classroom, cultivating curiosity, inspiring creativity, and nurturing the human connections that are vital to the learning process. As long as humans crave connection, empathy, and mentorship, AI will remain a powerful tool, but never a replacement.

In the end, the future of AI and humanity lies not in competition but in collaboration. As William Arthur Ward once said, "The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." And inspiration, as we know, is something no machine can replicate.

■

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Notice to call Extraordinary General Meeting of Yankin Kyay Oh Group of Companies Limited (the "Company") for selective buy-back

Notice is hereby given as required by Section 121 (d) of the Myanmar Companies Law that:

(1) the Company incorporated in Myanmar with Certificate of Incorporation No. 192143462 and having its registered office at Building No. (24-26), South Racecourse Street, 7th floor, Race Course Condo, Tamwe Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar will call an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the selective buy-back of shares ("**Selective Buy-Back**"), and

(2) the Company had filed the notice of meeting and associated documents with regard to the Selective Buy-Back to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration through Myanmar Companies Online (MyCO).

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V J LUCK VOY.NO. (2411)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V J LUCK VOY. NO. (2411)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-12-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AIPT-3** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S ELDER TRIUMPHANT SHIPPING LINES PTE., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (V.138N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (V.138N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-12-2024** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (447W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (447W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-12-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BEREKET M VOY.NO. (8/2024)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEREKET M VOY.NO. (8/2024)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-12-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MKH** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
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ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

China's green tech lead helps unlock Southeast Asia's potential energy sustainability, forum hears

ASEAN holds a competitive edge as the prime destination for China's green investments due to its vast renewable energy resources and critical minerals.

CHINA'S huge lead in new and renewable energy technologies combined with the market readiness of members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will unlock the region's sustainable and new energy potential, analysts told a forum here on Friday. This would not only benefit the region's people but also keep trade and cooperation between China and ASEAN dynamic and resistant to the expected disruptions stemming from the protectionist and regressive trade policies of certain countries, Belt and Road Initiative Caucus for Asia-Pacific President Ong Tee Keat said in his welcoming remarks on the "BRI 2.0: Ushering in the new phase of high-quality development amid green transition" forum.

"ASEAN has the comparative advantage and competitive edge in becoming the target destination for China's green investments due to its vast renewable energy and critical mineral potential," he said. — Xinhua



An aerial drone photo taken on 21 May 2024 shows a wind power project in Baoying County of Yangzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA/LI BO**

France's Macron names centrist ally Bayrou as PM

PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron on Friday named centrist leader Francois Bayrou as prime minister, handing him the daunting task of hauling France out of months of political crisis.

Bayrou, the 73-year-old head of the MoDem group which is allied to Macron's party, was appointed nine days after Michel Barnier's government was ousted by parliament in a historic no-confidence vote following a standoff over an austerity budget.



Suspense mounted over Emmanuel Macron's pick for prime minister. **PHOTO: AFP**

"The President of the Republic has appointed Mr Francois Bayrou as prime minister and tasked him with forming a government," the French presidency said in a statement, giving no more details.

Bayrou is the sixth prime minister of Macron's mandate after last week's toppling of Barnier, who became France's shortest-serving prime minister and lasted only three months.

He is also Macron's fourth prime minister of 2024. — AFP

Japan's upper house election likely on 13 July

JAPAN'S House of Councillors election will likely be held on 13 July, given the envisaged 21 January start of a parliamentary session, administration officials said Friday, in what would be the first nationwide poll for Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba as head of a minority government.

Under this scenario, a 150-day parliamentary session is expected to run from 21 January to 19 June with no extension, followed by a campaigning period for the upper house likely starting on 26 June.

An election must be held before 28 July, when the current six-year terms for half of the upper house members end. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli airstrikes disrupt Hamas plot to hijack humanitarian convoys

ISRAEL launched airstrikes on Hamas terrorists in southern Gaza overnight after intelligence determined they were gathering at two locations to hijack humanitarian aid trucks, the Israel Defence Forces disclosed on Thursday.

"The terrorists operated on the humanitarian corridor in the southern Gaza Strip. The strike was intended to ensure the safe delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians in the Gaza Strip," the army said. "All of the terrorists that were eliminated were members of Hamas and planned to violently hijack humanitarian aid trucks and transfer them to Hamas in support of continuing terrorist activity, preventing them from reaching Gazan civilians, as was done in previous cases."

The IDF stressed that no delivery trucks were struck and that the humanitarian corridor remains open for aid deliveries.

Since mid-November, Hamas and criminal gangs associated with the terror group stepped up their stealing of deliveries of food, water, medicine and other humanitarian supplies. – ANI

SCO defence officials convene in Beijing to enhance cooperation

THE Chinese Ministry of National Defence hosted the 22nd Expert Working Group Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting on Thursday in Beijing.

More than 30 representatives from SCO member states and the SCO Secretariat attended the conference, the ministry's spokesperson Wu Qian announced during a press conference on Friday. The participants engaged in in-depth discussions on strengthening substantive cooperation in defence and security, as well as on improving cooperation mechanisms, Wu noted.

China has taken the rotating presidency of the SCO for 2024-2025, and will host the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO next year. – Xinhua

SPORTS

Long-distance equestrian race to be held in Bagan

A long-distance equestrian competition will be held on 30 December 2024 at Tuyin Valley, near the base of Tuyin Mountain in the Bagan ancient cultural zone, NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, organized by the Myanmar Equestrian Federation in preparation for the 33rd Southeast Asian Games in Thailand.

The event will feature three categories: FEI 1* Endurance Qualification Round 4 (100 kilometres), FEI 1* Endurance Qualification (85 kilometres), and FEI 1* Endurance Qualification (45 kilometres), with awards presented for all. An international referee and a veterinarian from the Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) will oversee the event, alongside an Endurance VET Update Programme for local veterinarians.

Participants must meet specific criteria, including horses being at least four years old, in good health with a resting heartbeat below 40 bpm, and athletes aged 14 or older with good health and endurance.

The combined weight of riders and equipment must be at least 70 kilogrammes, and all competitors must register with the federation, either in advance or on the competition day. Riders and horses are required to compete as pairs throughout, ensuring a high standard for this endurance race. — Arkar Linn/KZL



Equestrian athletes are seen riding gracefully on horses, dressed in elegant sports attire, competing with precision and style.

Team Myanmar finalizes 19 players for AFC Women's Futsal qualifiers



Myanmar national women's futsal team during the ASEAN Futsal Championship. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE Myanmar national women's futsal team has been officially formed with 19 players for the 2025 AFC Women's Futsal Championship qualifiers.

The Myanmar Football Federation has appointed Thailand's Boonlert Charoenwong as the team's head coach, replacing U Htay Myint. The squad comprises 19 players and 11 coaching and management staff. Key players include May Thet Paing, Su Wah Lwin, Yoon Mie Mie Lwin, Aye Aye Htwe, Khin Moe Wai, Thuzar Lwin, and other renowned athletes.

Training sessions will begin on 15 December. The qualifiers will take place in January, with Group D matches scheduled from 15 to 19 January in Yangon. Myanmar is grouped with Vietnam, Chinese Taipei, and Macau. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

England to face Serbia in 2026 World Cup qualifying

ENGLAND were placed in a group with Serbia as the draw for the 2026 World Cup qualifiers in Europe took place on Friday.

As they prepare to begin life under new coach Thomas Tuchel, England were also drawn alongside Albania, Latvia and Andorra in the five-team Group K.

England, who have qualified for every World Cup since missing the 1994 tournament in the United States, played Serbia in their opening game at Euro 2024, winning 1-0 thanks to a Jude Bellingham goal.

Matches will take place between March and November next year, with the group winners qualifying directly for the World Cup in North America. — AFP

Saudi Arabia views 2034 World Cup as transformative moment, says Saudi bid head

SAUDI Arabia is stepping onto the global stage with ambitions to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup, reflecting readiness and enthusiasm rooted in its expanding sports infrastructure and passion for football, said Hammad Albalawi, head of the Saudi World Cup Bid, in an interview with Xinhua.

Saudi Arabia was awarded the right to host the 2034 World Cup at an Extraordinary FIFA Congress on Wednesday when Morocco, Portugal and Spain were chosen to co-host the 2030 World Cup.

Albalawi emphasized Saudi Arabia's preparations and the synergy between sports and Vision 2030, the kingdom's transformative economic and social blueprint.

"We have great football, great tourism, great projects, and great infrastructure," he said. — Xinhua



Hammad Albalawi, head of the Saudi World Cup Bid, speaks at an interview at the Saudi Arabia Wolrd Cup bid exhibition in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 2 November 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

China's green tech lead helps unlock Southeast Asia's potential energy sustainability, forum hears
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WORLD

India Middle East Europe corridor discussed between PM Modi and UAE deputy PM

PM Modi emphasized the implementation of the IMEEC as a "historic initiative" to boost regional connectivity and prosperity.

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi has emphasized on the implementation of the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEEC) as a 'historic initiative' to foster regional connectivity and prosperity during his meeting with United Arab Emirates Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

During the talks on Thursday, PM Modi also conveyed his warm wishes for UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, according to the Ministry of External Affairs statement.

PM Modi expressed satisfaction at the frequent high-level visits and exchanges, including the visit of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to India in September 2024, which marked a generational continuity in bilateral relations.

The two leaders emphasized strengthening Comprehensive Strategic Partnership including in the areas of technology, energy, and people-to-people ties, as per the statement. UAE Foreign Minister Zayed Al Nahyan shared the UAE's perspective on the prevailing situation in West Asia and Prime Minister reiterated India's commitment to support long-term peace, stability and security in the region.

According to MEA, the Prime Minister thanked the leadership of the UAE for ensuring the welfare of the large and vibrant Indian community in the UAE. — ANI



United Arab Emirates Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan shared insights on the West Asia situation, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated India's commitment to promoting long-term peace, stability, and security in the region. **PHOTO: ANI**

TIME Magazine names Donald Trump as 'Person of the Year' 2024



Donald Trump's political resurgence is described as "unparalleled in American history". **PHOTO: ANI**

Trump narrowly survived an assassination attempt during a rally in July.

A recent report highlighted Donald Trump's remarkable political comeback, calling it "unparalleled in American history".

Despite a controversial end to his first term, marked by his attempts to overturn the 2020 election results and the Capitol attack, Trump reemerged as a dominant political force. After announcing his 2024 candidacy in 2022, amid scepticism and criminal investigations, Trump quickly cleared the Republican field, securing a swift presidential primary win. Even facing legal challenges, including a conviction as the first former president convicted of a crime, Trump maintained strong support. He narrowly survived an assassination attempt during a rally in July. Trump won the 2024 election, securing the popular vote and all seven swing states. His victory reshaped American politics and remade the Republican Party.

Trump's success marked only the second time a president served two non-consecutive terms, after Grover Cleveland, with his first term from 2016 to 2020. — ANI

Israel orders troops to 'prepare to remain' in Syria buffer zone through winter

ISRAELI Defence Minister Israel Katz has ordered the military to "prepare to remain" throughout the winter in the UN-patrolled buffer zone that is supposed to separate Israeli and Syrian forces on the Golan Heights.

Israel seized the demilitarized zone on the strategic plateau on Sunday, just hours after Syrian rebels swept president Bashar al-Assad from power.

Since then, the Israeli military has launched hundreds of air and naval strikes against Syrian military assets, targeting everything from chemical weapons stores to air defences to prevent them from falling into rebel hands. – AFP