

## SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla host dinner in honour of 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day 2024



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla warmly greet the attendees to the dinner in honour of the 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day 2024 yesterday.

**C**HAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla hosted a dinner in honour of the 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day 2024 at the square of the city hall of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

The Senior General and wife were

welcomed by SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Union Election Commission Chairman U Ko Ko and wife, Union ministers and their wives, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo and wife at the square of the city hall where the honorary dinner was to be hosted.

The Senior General and wife, and the Vice-Senior General and wife greeted ethnic traditional cultural troupes from regions and states, chairpersons and representatives of political parties, NCA signatory Ethnic Armed Organization leaders and representatives, economic ministers and ethnic affairs ministers of regions and states, MSME businesspersons, senior military officers from the Office of the Com-

mander-in-Chief and their wives, Union ministers, Union-level dignitaries and their wives, SAC members and their spouses, and the Council Secretary and wife.

The Senior General and his wife viewed fireworks launched in honour of the 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day 2024. The Senior General and wife had dinner together with all attendees.

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MSME products show & traditional food sale continue 3<sup>rd</sup> day

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Social security project covers more than 1,200,000 insured workers in January

### BUSINESS

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Myanmar investment statistics: Singapore leads, followed by China, Japan



# NATIONAL

## Visitors to Kyaiktiyo Pagoda surge during February holidays

U Soe Hla, chairman of the board of trustees, reported that over 30,000 visitors from across the country flocked to the renowned Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto, Mon State, during the February holidays.

“With three days off this week, we saw a daily influx of 20,000 pilgrims from all corners of the nation. On 10 February (Saturday) alone, we welcomed 15,110 pilgrims, comprising 13,225 men, 1,612 women, 171 monks, and 57 nuns, along with 16 male and 29 female foreigners,” U Soe Hla stated.

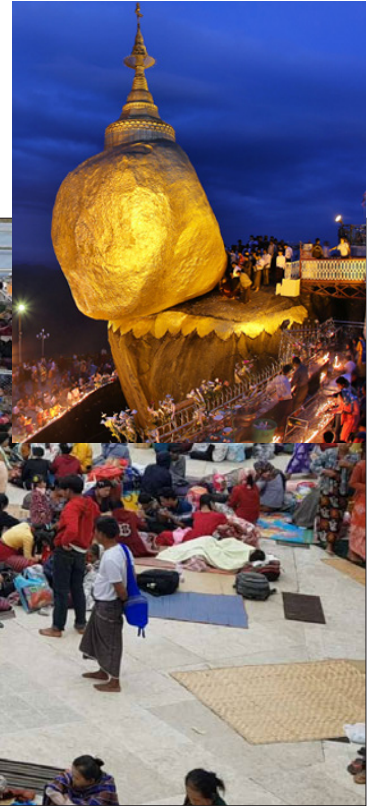
The number of pilgrims visiting the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda

increases daily. According to the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda Board of Trustees, most of the foreign visitors come from Thailand and Viet Nam, although there are also some from China, Russia, and other Western countries. Approximately 250 truck services are running up and down to the pagoda daily, and various accommodation and eateries are available to cater to visitors.

The Buddha Pujaniya Festival at Kyaiktiyo Pagoda is typically usually held from the full moon day of Thadingyut to the Kason full moon day, with the pagoda open to the public every day. — ASH/MKKS



The photo shows some pilgrims visiting the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda.



## 12<sup>th</sup> century sculpture of Queen Maya in childbirth draws visitors to Bagan Museum

A sandstone sculpture from the 12<sup>th</sup> century depicting Maya, the Buddha’s mother, amid childbirth is a captivating attraction at the Bagan Archaeological Museum in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region.

This remarkable piece, measuring 115 cm in height, 64.5 cm in width, and 33 cm in thickness, was unearthed at the Myinkaba Gupyaungke Temple in old Bagan City. It vividly portrays Mother Maya delivering her child in Lumbini Garden, with her sister Maha Pajapati Gotami providing assistance as the infant emerges from the right side of Maya’s abdomen.

From 1 to 10 February, the Bagan Cultural Heritage Zone welcomed over 120,000 local and foreign visitors, the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Bagan branch) reported.

U Myo Min Aung, assis-



The 12<sup>th</sup>-century sandstone sculpture depicting Maya, the Buddha’s mother, in the act of giving birth.



Local visitors at Bagan.

tant director of the directorate, noted that Bagan has steadily increased visitors since 2022. Local tourists, in particular, are drawn to the area during

peak periods such as Thingyan, Thadingyut, Tazaungdine, and the December holidays. Bagan remains a popular destination throughout the year. — ASH/NT

## Bagan’s lacquerware production attracts tourists

BAGAN’S lacquerware in NyaungU township of Mandalay Region is a significant attraction for tourists seeking authentic souvenirs and cultural experiences. So, the place hosts high tourist numbers, according to U Ba Nyein lacquerware business.

The lacquerware production involves multiple stages, and there are over 100 sorts of lacquerware products. Most lacquerware makers create bowls and tea-leaf salad serving bowls. From the Bagan era to the late Konbaung era, the Myanmar people used various lacquerware products. The people are still using Pa Loh (or) five-layer lacquerware bowl in Shwezigon, Ananda, Hngetpyittaung, Tuyintaung, Gadawpalin pagoda festivals and Shinpin Sarkyohla pagoda festival in Sale of Chauk

Township of Magway Region.

Various types of bamboo, such as Maetin Kah, Tin, Nan Htaung, and Mae Zar, are used to create lacquerware products. However, the makers use Maetin Kah bamboo the most.

There are 15 stages in creating lacquerware, such as first lacquering (thayo), drying, washing, polishing, decorating, and so on.

It is about K700,000 per bucket (10 visses) of resin, said the lacquerware makers. The tourists to the Bagan ancient cultural zone study the lacquerware production, ancient buildings and trees with the help of tour guides. However, tourism to the lacquerware industry is rising, with tourists from Italy, Germany, and the US. — Dipa Lin/KTZH



Caption

### COVID-19 report, 11 February 2024

NEW TESTS

12,986

NEW CASES

26

CASUALTIES

NIL



# NATIONAL

## SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla host dinner in honour of 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day 2024

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At the open-air theatre of the city hall, the Senior General and his wife enjoyed dances of artistes from the Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and traditional ethnic cultural troupes.

The Senior General and wife presented the flower basket to the ethnic traditional cultural troupes after the entertainment.

The dinner was also attended by the SAC Secretary and wife, the Joint Secretary and wife, council members and their wives, members of the SAC Central Advisory Board, retired senior military officers, union ministers, union-level dignitaries and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, advisers to the SAC Chairman, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy



The Senior General, his wife and dignitaries watch the performance presented by the ethnic traditional cultural troupes yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

ministers, economic and ethnic states, leaders and representatives from NCA signatory EAOs, chairmen and representatives of political parties, MSME businesspersons and guests. — MNA/TTA

## SAC member, officials attend 77<sup>th</sup> Union Day celebration in Sittway

STATE Administration Council Member Dr Ba Shwe, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin and his wife, responsible officials, teachers, and students attended the 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

of Union Day ceremony at the Khine Thazin Hall in Sittway, Rakhine State, yesterday.

Firstly, Dr Ba Shwe read the message from the SAC Chairman Prime Minister.

Following this, distinguished officials honoured the victors

of under-25 and over-25 chess matches commemorating the 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day and winners of essay competitions spanning primary, middle, and high school levels, along with those at higher education institutions.

The SAC member and his team also observed the monastery damaged by Cyclone Mocha. Later, they visited the Lawkananda Pagoda to pay homage and offer flowers and water.

Subsequently, he greeted the staff of the Department of

Ethnical Literature and Culture and expressed his commitment to finding a solution for armed conflicts. In the afternoon, he met with displaced staff members at the Rakhine State government's guesthouse meeting room. He reassured them to help relieve their challenges, including surging commodity prices.

The delegation also toured the Cyclone Mocha-affected Sittway University, assessing the maintenance progress of its main hall and convocation building. During the visit, he engaged with faculty members, providing updates on the status of ongoing armed conflicts and the efforts underway to maintain order.

The faculty members, in turn, provided Dr Ba Shwe with updates on the status of day and distance education students. — MNA/NT



SAC Member Dr Ba Shwe and dignitaries participate in the 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day event in Sittway yesterday.



# NATIONAL

## 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day 2024 observed



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win attends the 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day 2024 celebration yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

STATE Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win read the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing at the State flag-hoisting and saluting ceremony to honour the 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day 2024 at the square of the Nay Pyi Taw

city hall yesterday morning.

The 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day 2024 was held in accord with five national objectives: to protect the perpetuity of the Union by the entire ethnic people through the Union spirit, to join hands in harmony with the government, Tatmadaw, and the entire people to ensure the state stability and the rule of law, to promote all-inclusive livestock breeding-based manufacturing industries and MSMEs, ensur-

ing the socioeconomic development of the whole ethnic people, to make collaborative efforts of all ethnic nationals to ensure the prosperity of the nation and food security which are the two national visions, and to strive for the emergence a modern and developing country, as well as a Union based on democratic and federal systems, by all ethnic nationals.

At 5:30 am, the flag-hoisting troop hoisted the flag of the Re-

public of the Union of Myanmar together with ethnic people. The Vice-Senior General took the position on the dais and salute of the Guard of Honour. The Vice-Senior General and attendees saluted the State flag while the Guard of Honour played the national anthem. He read the message sent by the Senior General to the 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day.

Also present at the ceremony were Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers, the Union Au-

ditor-General, the Chairman of Union Civil Service Board, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, the Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairman, senior military officers, judges of the Supreme Court of the Union, deputy ministers, UCSB members, MNHRC members, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, departmental heads, staff, ethnic traditional cultural troupes and guests. — MNA/TTA

## 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day Ceremony held at People's Square in Yangon

THE State flag salute and reading of the message for the 77<sup>th</sup> Union Day took place at People's Square in Yangon at 7:30 am on 12 February 2024.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Zaw Hein, Chief Justice Daw Sanda Thwe of the Yangon Region High Court, Deputy Commander Colonel Tun Tun Oo, regional government ministers, senior military officers, department officials, representatives of national races, and invited guests attended the ceremony.

Firstly, the Yangon Region

chief minister took his place on the podium and received the salute of the Guard of Honour. He then saluted the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar together with the Guard of Honour and the attendees at the ceremony.

The chief minister then read the message for the 77<sup>th</sup> Union Day sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing, and the ceremony concluded. — Ko Ko Zaw (MNA)/TKO



The 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day 2024 celebration in progress yesterday in Yangon.



# NATIONAL

## MSME products show & traditional food sale continue 3<sup>rd</sup> day

THE third day of the MSME product show and traditional food sale took place in Tabaung Ground near Uppatasanti Pagoda, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday. The event was crowded with students, youths and those who participated in the Union Day ceremony and locals.

Ko Wai Yan, from Tatkon, said, "We can explore the culture, tradition, local products of ethnic people and well-known places in a single place. I have never seen such dances and costumes of ethnic people before, and I have



Visitors through the MSME products show and traditional food sale. PHOTO: PO PYAE SONE

never tried their traditional food. It is a significant event for me."

Another visitor, Daw Kay Thi Khine, said, "I came here from Magway as I am interested in MSME products. We can expand our knowledge regarding the local products from regions and states and the traditional food of ethnic people. Moreover, 42 international companies displayed 216 products at the Super Seven Stars Industrial Development gallery. Moreover, 14 high-end types of machinery and abilities of medium-sized entrepreneurs

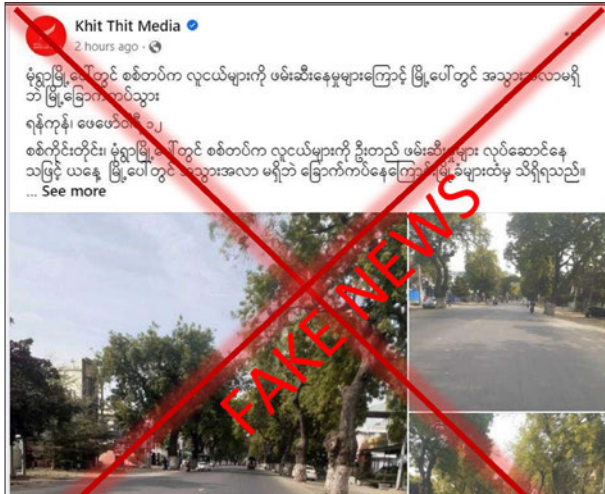
are also screened on 75-inch TVs, and the staff explained them. Therefore, it is very beneficial to those interested in MSME sectors."

The show also included entertainment programmes in the evening.

The MSME products and traditional foodstuffs from regions and states are available in a single place, and visitors can observe the traditions and customs of ethnics from 10 to 14 February. – Than Min Aung, Jaing Law/KTZH

## Counter-argument to false information

### Spreading false news that Tatmadaw arrested youths in Monywa



Screenshot validates the spreading of false news.

MALICIOUS media outlets are disseminating false reports claiming that Tatmadaw arrested over 40 youths in Monywa, Sagaing Region, on the evening of 11 February, causing fear and empty streets.

In fact, these reports are untrue, and locals from Monywa are continuing their daily activities without disruption. These subversive media outlets aim to undermine public patriotism and instil fear, particularly following the government's implementation of the People's Military Service Law. — MNA/TRKM

### Fake news: Tatmadaw's air bombardment destroys religious buildings and houses in Hsihseng Township

THE subversive media outlet Khit Thit is spreading false news alleging that Tatmadaw conducted an air attack and heavy weapon assault, destroying seven religious buildings and nearly 50 civilian houses in Aungchantha Ward in Hsihseng Township, southern Shan State.

However, residents and relevant regional security officials have refuted these claims, stating that on 10

February, Tatmadaw did not conduct any attacks or air operations. Instead, individuals purportedly associated with the PNLA, KNDF, and PDF terrorist groups deliberately set fire to civilian houses and religious buildings in Aungchantha Ward, Hsihseng Township, Shan State, due to dissatisfaction over food and other necessities.

Furthermore, false information circulating on social

media alleges that three men were burnt to death and Tatmadaw destroyed five houses in Seiktha Village, Madaya Township. According to relevant regional security officials, no Tatmadaw military operation occurred near Seiktha Village, and reports of casualties and house fires are unfounded.

These instances highlight the deliberate spread of fake news by the malicious Khit Thit media outlet. — MNA/TMT

### Confiscation of illegal items; timbers, foodstuffs, industrial materials and vehicles

ON 9 February, the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force confiscated 5.086 tonnes of illegal teak, valued at K9,612,918, near the Su San filling station in Mingaladon township. This enforcement was carried out under the Forest Law.

The following day, during inspections, the task force intercepted several vehicles carrying illegal goods. Among them were a Sunlong bus and a Mitsubishi Canter vehicle, transporting various items, including 240 bottles of Ensure Gold Vanilla and 30 bags of Dry White Fungus, without official document. At the Nyaungkhashay x-ray station, a Howo tractor head with a trailer was found to be carrying undeclared goods, such as 1,620 bottles of

foliar fertilizer solution and 1,500 bags of Miaow crackers. Illegal teak and other timbers were also seized in Bago and Thayawady districts. Actions were conducted under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

On 11 February, further confiscations took place in Toungoo, Nyaunglebin, and Nattalin districts, resulting in the seizure of illegal teak, hardwoods, and other timbers valued at K2,985,196. These enforcement efforts were also carried out under the Forest Law.

According to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, 15 arrests were made on three consecutive days from 9 and 11 February, with an estimated value of K242.217 million. — MNA/MKKS



Officials check illegal timbers.

# NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
 State Administration Council  
**Second Amendment to the Myanmar Police Force Discipline Enforcement Law**  
**State Administration Council Law No 16/2024**

2<sup>nd</sup> Waxing of Tabodwe 1385 ME  
 11 February 2024

THE State Administration Council hereby enacts the following Law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar: -

1. The Law shall be called the Second Amendment to the Myanmar Police Force Discipline Enforcement Law.
2. Section 3 of the Myanmar Police Force Discipline Enforcement Law shall be substituted as follows-  
 “3. The expressions in this Law shall have the meanings stated in the Panel Code. Moreover, the following expressions shall have the meanings given hereunder-  
 (a) **Ministry** means the Ministry of Home Affairs;  
 (b) **Minister** means the Union Minister for Home Affairs;  
 (c) **Chief of Police Force** means the Chief of Myanmar Police Force;  
 (d) **Police Force** means Myanmar Police Force. This expression contains the Headquarters, units and training depots.  
 (e) **Structure of the Police Force** means the structure of the Myanmar Police Force approved by the Cabinet under the provisions of this Law in consultation with the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services;  
 (f) **Force(s)** means the Border Guard Police Forces, the Security Police Units, the Nay Pyi Taw Police Force, the State and Region Police Forces, and the Myanmar Police Force Special Departments/Branches formed to carry out specific tasks. The term also refers to sub-units under the control of these forces, such as the District Police Forces and the Township Police Forces;  
 (g) **Gazetted Officer** means an officer at the rank of Police Captain and above;  
 (h) **Officer** means a person at the rank at Police Sub-Inspector and above;  
 (i) **Superior Officer**, when used in respect of a person who is subject to this Law, includes police officers and also Police Warrant Officers and Police Corporals;  
 (j) **Police Corporal** means a person who is currently holding the rank of a Police Corporal in the Myanmar Police Force;  
 (k) **Member of the Police Force** means persons who have been appointed as members of the Police Force in the Myanmar police Force;  
 (l) **Police Deserter** means a member of the Police Force who, with the intention of leaving the Myanmar Police Force permanently, is absent without leave or who is absent without leave for 21 days or more;”
3. The word “Officer” contained in Sub-sections (a), (b) and (c) of Section 4 of the Myanmar Police Force Discipline Enforcement Law, Sub-sections (a) and (b) of Section 5, Sub-section (b) of Section 6, Sub-section (j) of Section 14, Sub-section (a) of Section 29, Section 31, Section 40 and Sub-section (b) of Section 54 shall be substituted with the expression “Police Officer” respectively.
4. The word “Police Commanding Officer” contained in sub-section (a) of Section 5 of Myanmar Police Force Discipline Enforcement Law, the introductory part of Section 9, Section 36 and sub-sections (a) and (b) of Section 45 shall be substituted with the expression “Sub-unit Commander”.
5. The word “Divisional or State Police Force Commander” contained in the introduction of Section 7, Sub-section (c) of Section 10 and Sub-section (a) of Section 29 shall be substituted with the expression “the rank of Police Colonel and above Head of Unit or Commander or Commandants of Police Unit or Police Training Depots”.
6. The Sub-section (b) of Section 7 shall be substituted as follows: -  
 “(b) may reduce to a lower rank any person subject to this Law and serving under his command, except for an officer, or a warrant officer, or reduce to the rank of a police constable.
7. The Sub-section (b) of Section 10 shall be substituted as follows: -  
 (b) Sub-unit Commander, District Police Force Commander, Commander of Police Forces at Self-Administered Division or Self-Administered Zones, Deputy Commandant, Head of Branch or Officer not below the rank of Police Major may pass an order for permission to place under house arrest or jail custody a member of the Police Force under arrest, for more than 24 hours and up to seven days”.
8. The word “Criminal Court” contained in Sub-section (f) of Section 10, Sub-sections (a) and (b) of Section 20, Section 26, Section 38 and Section 47 shall be substituted with the expression “Court”, and the word “magistrate” mentioned in Sub-section (c) of Section 45 and Sub-section (b) of Section 49 shall be substituted with “criminal justice”; the expression “the Code of Criminal Procedure” stated in Sub-section (b) of Section 49, and Section 50 shall be substituted with “Criminal Procedure Code”, and the word “the Code of Criminal Procedure” in Section 50 shall be substituted with the expression “the Penal Code”.
9. The expression “criminal force” mentioned in Sub-section (a) of Section 15 shall be substituted with “offensive force”, and the word “criminal breach of trust” mentioned in sub-section (c) of Section 18 shall be substituted with “offensive breach of trust”.
10. Section 21 of Myanmar Police Force Discipline Enforcement Law shall be substituted as follows:-  
 “21. If a person subject to this Law: -  
 (a) is unable to perform his duty due to taking liquor and is in a state of intoxication, he shall, if he is a police officer, be punished with dismissal or such less punishment as is mentioned in this Law and if he is a Police Warrant Officer, Police Corporal and Police Constable be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or such less punishment as is mentioned in this Law;  
 (b) is in such a state of intoxication as to bring discredit to the Police Force due to taking liquor, he shall be punished with dismissal from the service or such lesser punishment as is mentioned in this Law.  
**Explanation** - Liquor means liquids which can cause intoxication, such as alcohol, beer, brew fermented preparation of rice and molasses, toddy sap, Nipa sap and ethnic traditional brews.
11. Section 28 of the Myanmar Police Force Discipline Enforcement Law shall be substituted as follows: -  
 “28. (a) Chief of Myanmar Police Force may pass any of the following punishment after a summary trial in the prescribed manner on an officer below the rank of Police Lieutenant Colonel who has been charged with committing any offence contained in this Law: -  
 (i) reduction of salary within the scale of salary;  
 (ii) stoppage of promotion;  
 (iii) stoppage of increment;  
 (iv) severe reprimand;  
 (v) causing compensation to be made from salary.  
 (b) Police Colonel and above Head of Police Corps or Commander or Commandants of Police Unit or Police Training Depots may pass any of the following punishments after a summary trial in



the prescribed manner on a IP or SIP who has been charged with committing any offence contained in this Law: -

- (i) reduction of salary within the scale of salary;
- (ii) stoppage of promotion;
- (iii) stoppage of increment;
- (iv) severe reprimand;
- (v) causing compensation to be made from salary.

(c) Police Colonel and above Head of Police Corps or Commander or Commandants of Police Unit or Police Training Depots": -

may pass any of the following punishments after a summary trial in the prescribed manner on a Police Warrant Officer, Police Corporal and Police Constable who has been charged with committing any offence contained in this Law: -

- (i) imprisonment in police custody for up to three months;
- (ii) dismissal from service;
- (iii) termination of service;
- (iv) in the case of Police Warrant Officers and Police Corporals, reduction in rank;
- (v) reduction of salary within the scale of salary;
- (vi) stoppage of promotion;
- (vii) stoppage of increment;
- (viii) severe reprimand in the case of Police Warrant Officers and Police Corporals;
- (ix) causing compensation to be made from salary.

12. The following expression Section 28 (a) shall be added after the provision of Section 28: -

"28-a- Police Officer not below the Police Brigadier General assigned by Chief of Myanmar Police Force may exercise the power of Police Colonel and above Head of Police Corps or Commander or Commandants of Police Unit or Police Training Depots".

13. Section 33 of Myanmar Police Force Discipline Enforcement Law shall be substituted as follows: -

"33. The Police Court shall have the power to try a person subject to this Law for any offence punishable under this Law and to award, subject to the provisions of Section 34, one or more of the following punishments:-

- (a) imprisonment as per this Law
- (b) dismissal from service
- (c) termination of service
- (d) reduction in rank

- (e) stoppage of promotion
- (f) reduction of police service for pension
- (g) fine

14. Section 34 of Myanmar Police Force Discipline Enforcement Law shall be substituted as follows: -

"34. The Police Court -

- (a) If the punishment mentioned in Sub-section (a) of Section 33 is awarded, the punishment contained in Sub-section (b) shall also be awarded;
- (b) If any punishment mentioned in Sub-sections (a) and (b) of Section 33 is awarded, it shall not be awarded in combination with any punishment contained in Sub-sections (c), (d), (e) and (f).
- (c) If any punishment mentioned in Sub-section (c) of Section 33 is awarded, it shall not be awarded in combination with any punishment contained in Sub-sections (d), (e) and (f).
- (d) Punishment contained in Sub-section (d) of Section 33 shall not be awarded to a person of the rank of Police Constable.

15. Section 57 of the Myanmar Police Force Discipline Enforcement Law shall be substituted as follows: -

"57. To carry out the provisions of this Law-

- (a) the Ministry may issue rules and regulations as may be necessary, with the approval of the Government;
- (b) the Ministry and Headquarters of the Myanmar Police Force may issue notifications, orders, directives and procedures".

I hereby sign under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sd/

**Min Aung Hlaing**  
**Senior General**  
**Chairman**  
**State Administration Council**

## Kaunghmulon Pagoda to host Buddha Pujaniya festival for 12 days

THE Buddha Pujaniya festival will kick off at the ancient historic Kaunghmulon Pagoda in Machanbaw township, Kachin

state, from 13 to 24 February with a large number of pilgrims, said U Ye Htun, member of Kaunghmulon Pagoda Board of Trus-

tees.

"The opening ceremony of the Buddha Pujaniya festival will commence on 13 February, and

the recitation of seven Abhidhamma treatises will be included from 14 to 22 February for nine days. The festival will feature the Up-

patasanti Paritta reciting ritual by 27 Sayadaws, the offering of trust funds, the Htamane-making ceremony, the Mathoe Robe Weaving ceremony on 23 February as well as the light offering ceremony at the Pagoda Square in the evening," said U Ye Htun.

The consecration and Mathoe Robe Weaving offering ceremonies will be hosted at the nine Buddha Images of Kaunghmulon Pagoda at 5 am on 24 February. Additionally, the event of sacred water pouring into the Malikha river at 8 am and the successful conclusion of the Buddha Pujaniya festival with sharing merits will be started at 9:30 am. — ASH/MKKS



The photo shows the Buddha Pujaniya festival of Kaunghmulon Pagoda in the previous year.

# OPINION

## Try to achieve success on all for students in examinations

BASIC education schools are gearing up to conduct examinations, a pivotal moment that determines students' academic progress in accord with the government directive for all students to complete at least the KG+9 scheme. As such, these students have dedicated over eight months to their studies, diligently working through various grade levels to amass knowledge and receive a comprehensive education.

Regardless of socioeconomic backgrounds, students — from basic education primary to high schools, encompassing private and monastic institutions — have invested time and energy and made sacrifices in pursuit of their education. Their collective aspiration is to see a well-deserved reflection of their learning endeavours. This commitment is not exclusive to those from economically disadvantaged families; even students from affluent backgrounds recognize the necessity of putting forth their utmost efforts in preparation for examinations.

By fulfilling their respective duties, these stakeholders contribute to creating the best possible examination process for students. It is not merely about passing examinations; the emphasis is on steadily advancing the learning grade each year. When parents, teachers, and authorities discharge their duties dutifully, the examination process becomes a pinnacle of success for all students involved.

safe and sound examination facilities. Protection against potential dangers posed by saboteurs and destructive elements is crucial. This involves comprehensive control over security personnel, including members of the Myanmar Police Force, ward/village administrators, and influential town elders. With diligent oversight, examination centres can be safeguarded, creating an environment devoid of danger and disturbances.

By fulfilling their respective duties, these stakeholders contribute to creating the best possible examination process for students. It is not merely about passing examinations; the emphasis is on steadily advancing the learning grade each year. When parents, teachers, and authorities discharge their duties dutifully, the examination process becomes a pinnacle of success for all students involved.

If the quadruple efforts can be made in full swing for successful completion of basic education examinations, they all will have to enjoy the best results. Students will have to ensure that they step up their learning grade on a yearly basis. It can be said that they all efficiently spend valuable time in their lives. If they can make concerted efforts, they will succeed in all aspects.

## Foods that fight back cancer

By Saya Norm

**T**ODAY, cancer is the second leading cause of death after cardiovascular Disease worldwide. It causes about 1 in every six deaths all over the world, more than AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria combined. According to the statistics from WHO, approximately 20 million new cases of cancer were found in 2020 alone, and among them, nearly 10 million patients died. It is predicted there will be 28 million new cancer cases worldwide each year by 2040.

Many scientists say we are winning the war against cancer because of advanced technology. The morbidity and mortality rate of cancer seem to be declining in recent years, but new cases are increasing each year in real situations. Practising the wrong lifestyle and environmental pollution push cancer to move forward.

However, we can reduce the number of new cancer cases and deaths through proper food, exer-

The ancient Egyptians believed that eating mushrooms brought long life.

Modern scientists are likewise discovering that mushrooms have some fascinating medicinal properties. Among 14,000 different species of mushrooms, approximately 700 species have been reported to exhibit medicinal properties.

The bioactive compounds found in mushrooms include polysaccharides, proteins, fats, ash, glycosides, alkaloids, volatile oils, phenolics, flavonoids, carotenoids, enzymes, organic acids and some vitamins. The active compounds in mushrooms responsible for conferring anti-cancer potential are lectin, Lentin, krestin, hispolon, calcaelin, iludin-s, psilocybin and Helicium polysaccharide A, B (HPA and HPB).

Mushroom-specialized lectins recognize cancer cells and prevent these cells from growing

regular consumption of green tea, the result rocketed to an amazing 89 per cent.

One of the important polysaccharides, beta-glucan, stimulates the immune system as a non-self molecule by inducing the production of cytokines that activate phagocytes and leucocytes, which can destroy abnormal cell growth. Lentin had shown cytotoxic effects on cancer cells. A major anti-cancer compound in cordyceps species, cordycepin, exerts apoptosis (self-destruct) effect on cancer cells. Hispolon, an active phenol compound, has been reported to exert potent anti-neoplastic properties and enhance the cytotoxicity of chemotherapeutic agents.

Mushrooms are powerful to protest against breast and other hormone-related cancers because they inhibit the enzyme called aromatase, which produces estrogens. The important fact for mushrooms is that they shouldn't be taken as raw. Cooked mushrooms are harmless. Most raw mushrooms contain agaritine, a natural toxin that has been found to be carcinogenic. This toxin is destroyed by heat, so as long as eating cooked mushrooms may prevent poisoning and further cancer outcomes. And you should avoid wild ones unless you're absolutely certain they are edible and not poisonous. Gout patients should avoid mushrooms.



Mushrooms.

cise and lifestyle changes. Eating foods as medicines is more practical because a man can't live without them. Most medicinal foods for cancer prevention and treatment are handy and affordable. Let's see some of them.

### Mushrooms

Mushrooms have been used in traditional medicines of East Asia due to their immunomodulatory, anti-cancer and anti-inflammatory activities.

and dividing. Lectins are notorious proteins which bind carbohydrates and have harmful consequences, but some of them, such as the ones in mushrooms, can be beneficial. Polysaccharides are the most potent mushroom compounds with anti-tumour and immunomodulating properties. According to the studies, eating one medium-sized fresh mushroom per day is less likely to develop breast cancer by 64 per cent. When it is combined with

### Cruciferous vegetables

Cruciferous means those vegetables have four-petal flowers that resemble a crucifer ( a cross ). In this vegetable group, broccoli, Brussel sprout, arugula, cauliflower, kale, mustard green, turnips and collards are included. They could be some of the most potent nutritional superheroes on the planet.

Components in those vegetables can protect us from free radicals that damage our cell's DNA and cause cancer. They might also help us eliminate cancer-causing chemicals. Studies



# ARTICLE

## US: Oregon reports first human case of Bubonic plague in nearly a decade

Health officials have contacted all close contacts of the patient and their pet, providing medication to prevent illness, while the condition of the individual and their cat remains unknown, the case being diagnosed and treated early to mitigate risks to the community.

THE Oregon state of the US reported its first human case of bubonic plague in nearly a decade, the New York Post reported on Saturday, adding that the patient was likely infected by their cat.

According to the report, contracting the bubonic plague is extremely rare in the US, with an average of 5 to 15 cases occurring each year in the West, according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

The disease is typically found in rural to semi-rural areas where wild rodents are more common.

The infected person was identified as a 'local resident' of Deschutes County, a rural part of central Oregon, and is believed to be the only person infected other than the symptomatic pet American-based news daily reported, quoting the health officials.

"All close contacts of the resident and their pet have been contacted and provided medication to prevent illness," Deschutes County Health Officer Dr Richard Fawcett said in a statement.

### Little risk to the community

The person and their cat's conditions are not yet known, but officials said the case was diagnosed and treated early, posing

little risk to the community.

The bubonic plague, famous for ravaging Europe in the 14th century, is carried by squirrels, chipmunks and other wild rodents and their fleas. When an infected rodent becomes sick and dies, its fleas can carry the infection to other animals or humans through bites.

According to the New York Post, those infected come down with a high fever, lethargy, and swollen lymph nodes called buboes. Symptoms arise between two to eight days after exposure.

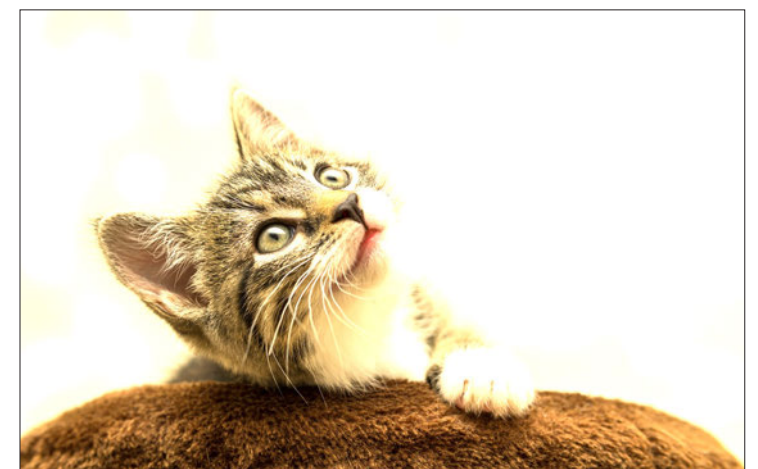
While there is no vaccine, the plague is treatable with antibiotics if caught early. It can be fatal if left untreated.

The confirmed case is the first to hit the state since 2015, when a teenage girl contracted the disease from a flea bite during a hunting trip.

There have only been nine human cases of the plague in Oregon since 1995, with no reported deaths.

Officials recommend people avoid any contact with wild rodents, especially sick or dead ones, and should never feed squirrels or chipmunks. People should also keep their pets away from wild rodents to avoid infection.

SOURCE: ANI



Pets might carry fleas into the home, which then bite humans. ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY



Cruciferous vegetables

have linked increased consumption of cruciferous vegetables with decreased rates of breast, lung, colorectal and prostate cancers.

The vegetables contain glucosinolates and an enzyme called myrosinase. Chopping, chewing or blending with other ingredients to cook breaks up the plant cells, allowing myrosinase to come into contact with glucosinolates, initiating a chemical reaction that produces thiocyanates and isothiocyanates which are called Indole three carbinols (ITCs). ITCs have been shown to detoxify and remove carcinogens and to stimulate a process called apoptosis, in which cancer cells destroy themselves.

These compounds have higher anti-cancer properties and can inhibit cancer cell proliferation. ITC treatment stimulates the reactive oxygen species (ROS), cell cycle arrest, programmed cell death and autophagy. Human enteric microflora can also convert the unhydrolyzed glucosinolates into ITCs.

Cruciferous vegetables can be shredded, cleaned and eaten raw. They can also be broiled, steamed, and cooked. But

high-temperature cooking can substantially reduce the activity of ITCs. So, taking them as raw or salads after soaking them in the boiled water for a few minutes is preferred.

Another option is taking them as vegetable juice using a juicer or Smoothies using a blender. Using them in Myanmar-style chickpea soup or Italian minestrone-style mixed vegetable soup is a good choice.

### Celery

Celery contains mostly water, and it is rarely regarded as a nutritional powerhouse. But this crunchy food has been known for its health-giving properties since the 9th century, when it was used as medicine.

The crispy green stalks of celery contain two anti-cancer compounds, apigenin and luteolin, both of which are bioactive flavonoids that work as antioxidants and neutralize free radicals in the body.

Apigenin is effective at making apoptosis (natural cell suicide) in many cancer cells. Luteolin is effective at blocking the signal pathways necessary for the growth of cancer cells.

When Lab mice suffering from man-made bone cancer were supplemented with luteolin in their diet, tumour development rate dropped nearly 50 per cent, and tumour progression also slowed.

And also in human studies performed in China showed eating just two medium-sized celery two or three times per week could reduce the risk of lung cancer by an amazing 60 per cent. Other studies have found celery to be potentially effective at ovarian, pancreatic, prostate, breast and liver cancers.

Beyond apigenin and luteolin, celery contains other plant compounds that have powerful antioxidant properties. They are selinene, Limonene, Kaempferol and p-coumaric acids. Celery is naturally rich in vitamins A, C, K, folate and minerals such as potassium. And it is rich in fibre, so celery can help prevent constipation.

Most Myanmar use celery as a spice vegetable in meat curries. For cancer patients, celery juice alone or in mixed vegetable smoothies can be used. Celery is suitable for most people but can trigger severe allergies, including hives, swelling and difficult breathing.

So, someone with cancer should taste a small sample to know whether it is allergic or not.

In conclusion, medicinal foods should be combined with conventional cancer treatments in advanced stages for better outcomes.

Different vegetables have different medicinal phytonutrients with different therapeutic properties, so eating varieties of vegetables in combination is preferred. A proper diet is a reliable and better way to prevent and treat cancer.



Celery



# NATIONAL

## Yangon National Eye Bank provides emergency corneal transplant treatment

YANGON Eye Hospital says the Yangon National Eye Bank offers emergency treatment for patients requiring corneal transplants.

“If the cornea is damaged and appears white, transplant treatment is scheduled for these patients, and emergency transplant treatment is provided depending on the patient’s requirements,” stated a doctor on duty at Yangon Eye Hospital.

Corneal donations are made both before and after death, as per the wishes of the deceased’s family. Officials from



Irene Zinmar Myint's donations to National Eye Bank (Yangon) in 2020.

the National Eye Bank educate living individuals who wish to donate their corneas on preventing corneal dryness after death. The eye bank receives corneal donations daily.

“Within four hours of the cornea donor’s death, the donor’s family must notify the eye bank. Individuals with cataracts, glasses wearers, diabetes patients, those with high blood pressure, and individuals up to 75 years old can donate corneas. During cornea donation, only the top layer of the eye is removed, not the entire eye,”

explained an official from Yangon Eye Hospital.

During corneal surgery, a donated cornea is transplanted into a recipient with a damaged cornea. This procedure is suitable for individuals of any age, and approximately 90 per cent of transplant treatments are successful.

The National Eye Bank (Yangon), established in 1993, is located in Yangon and Mandalay and is responsible for collecting, examining, and distributing corneas to needy hospitals. — TWA/TKO

## Social security project covers more than 1,200,000 insured workers in January

IN January, a total of 1,235,989 workers covered by insurance under the social security project received healthcare services, as reported by the Social Security Board (SSB) under the Ministry of Labour.

The SSB extended its Social Security Project to insured workers from industrial zones in Yangon, Mandalay, and Bago regions, deploying three mobile medical units to provide healthcare services.

Furthermore, the SSB offers healthcare services to insured workers through three SSB-owned hospitals, 96 township social security clinics, 60 SSB departmental clinics, 61 contracted

clinics, 28 contracted clinics offering specialist OG OPD, 14 contracted hospitals/labour rooms providing maternity services, and a traditional clinic.

During 9-15 February, the SSB will administer appropriate medical treatment, laboratory tests, and ECG tests to insured workers. This includes 5,657 workers from four workplaces in the Shwelinpan Industrial Zone and Hlinethaya Township in Yangon, 1,173 workers from 13 workplaces in PyinOoLwin Township, 2,286 workers from 85 workplaces in Gyobingauk Township, and 837 workers from 48 workplaces in Nattalin Township. — TWA/MKKS



The Social Security Board-SSB provides the healthcare services to insured workers in Mingaladon Industrial Zone with two mobile medical units.

## New quality control laboratory enhances assessment of agricultural produce



The opening ceremony of the agricultural quality control laboratory on 11 February honouring the 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day.

THE Department of Agriculture, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation, inaugurated a new quality control laboratory on 11 February at the Pyinmana Institute of Agriculture in Nay Pyi Taw.

This facility will utilize modern equipment such as Liquid Chromatography and Inductively Coupled Plasma Spectrometry (LCICP MS) to assess the quality and nutritional content of agricultural produce.

The laboratory’s primary focus will be on checking for

heavy metals like arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, and nickel, which are crucial for ensuring compliance with Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and meeting export standards. Additionally, it will analyze samples of soil and water for the presence of these heavy metals.

Furthermore, the laboratory will employ advanced technology to measure various attributes such as sweetness, acidity, vitamin C content, beta-carotene, and antioxidants in fruits, all of which contribute to deter-

mining the overall quality of agricultural produce.

This rigorous quality control process, along with the issuance of certificates attesting to the quality of agricultural produce, will enhance the standards of locally produced goods, enabling them to compete effectively in the market. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation has plans to establish another agricultural produce quality control laboratory in Mandalay to further support this initiative. — TWA/TRKM



## Myanmar investment statistics: Singapore leads, followed by China, Japan

STATISTICS from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations reveal that Singaporean investments in Myanmar rank highest between February 2023 and January 2024.

The report indicates that China holds the second position in Foreign Direct Investment in Myanmar, with US\$236.264 million, following Singapore with US\$346.407 million. Japan occupies the third position with US\$99.353 million.

From February 2023 to January 2024, 77 businesses were permitted to expand their investments across eight sectors,

amounting to US\$774.084 million. Of these, US\$374.525 million was allocated to the electricity sector; US\$189.38 million to the industrial sector, and US\$93.276 million to the service sector, as per the report.

During the same period, 74 Myanmar national businesses were given the green light to expand their investments across nine sectors, amounting to K1,295.254 billion. K876 billion was earmarked for the industrial sector, K169.843 billion for the electricity sector, and K117.05 billion for the livestock and fishery sector. — ASH/ TMT



The Shwepyitha Industrial Zone operating with foreign investments.

## Myanmar Coffee Association to offer intermediate coffee processing, CQI intro PHP class in PyinOoLwin



Coffee beans from PyinOoLwin.

THE Myanmar Coffee Association (MCA) will organize the Coffee Processing Intermediate Course and CQI Intro PHP class at the MCA Knowledge Center and MCG coffee factory in PyinOoLwin in late February.

These intensive courses will offer know-how and standards of coffee processing to meet international standards for coffee beans, processing methods and its products through practical and technical approaches.

The class CQI Intro PHP 2/2024 (Coffee Quality Institute - CQI Introduction to Post-Harvest Processing) that will be conducted on 24 and 25 February at the

MCG's factory in PyinOoLwin will share the same curriculum (CQI Introduction to Post-Harvest Processing) offered at the US's Coffee Quality Institute. The trainees will receive the completion certificate for the CQI Post-Harvest Processing Class. The class fee is K450,000.

Additionally, the second batch of Coffee Processing Intermediate Course will be opened at MCA Knowledge Centre and MCG coffee factory from 26 to 29 February 2024, with fees of K600,000. Members of the MCA who have paid an annual membership fee can save 50,000 at a discount.

It will also cover the history of coffee,

coffee processing, basic principles and practices of coffee standards, influencing factors to coffee processing, characteristics of ripe coffee beans, methods of coffee harvesting and benefits, analysis of coffee bean sample and quality control, device to measure coffee moisture and refractometer to test sugar content and tests for coffee ripening, and coffee processing methods from harvesting, processing, roasting to brewing.

Moreover, technical and practical approaches to the Wet Processing Method, Dry Processing Method and Honey Processing Method, index scores during step-by-step coffee processing from ripe coffee beans, the ideal ratio for coffee, speciality coffee, coffee fermentation-microbe to coffee flavour and yeast inoculation introduction, requirements for coffee processing and post-processing practices will be unveiled as well.

Those courses are suitable for those engaged in coffee processing who would like to expand their knowledge of coffee processing systematically and who are willing to be involved in coffee institutions or commercial businesses. Those who enrol in both courses will get a special price of K950,000. The enrollment policy is first-come-first-served. Those enthusiastic can register for the courses through the MCA Email: [mca@myanmarcoffee.org](mailto:mca@myanmarcoffee.org) or Ph: 09 784888808 by 20 February 2024 with full payment. — NN/KK

## Exports from manufacturing sector cross US\$7.6 bln in 10 months

THE export value from the manufacturing sector reached US\$7.6 billion in the past ten months of the current financial year 2023-2024, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Finished industrial goods exports earned \$9.5 billion in the corresponding period last FY, indicating a significant drop of \$1.9 billion this FY compared to the year-ago period.

Myanmar exports agricultural produce, livestock products, fisheries, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods and other goods. At the same time, it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, raw materials by CMP garment factories and consumer goods.

Myanmar has been implementing the National Export Strategy (NES) 2020-2025 to bolster exports. The priority sectors of the NES comprise agricultural production, garment and apparel, industrial and electronic device, fishery business, forest product, digital manufacturing and service, logistic service, quality management, trade information service, innovation and entrepreneurship sectors. — NN/EM



# NATIONAL

## Free business management course, job creation for youth



The Followership signing ceremony in progress.

IN addition to the chance to join a free business management course, the programme will also create jobs for youths who have no work experience at Myanmar Tourism Bank, said Kudos To You Professional Development Academy's chief trainer and founder U Kaung Nyein Soe.

To implement the project, a memorandum of understanding was signed between MTB officials and Kudos To You Professional Development Academy, and those who want to work in the banking and financial service industry will have the opportunity to learn free about necessary basic skills and work-

place experience.

"The age limit is between 18 and 25, and they must have at least matriculation level education. This is the first project in 2024. Before COVID-19, we also provided a followership programme but without scholarships. Myanmar Tourism Bank gave us sponsorship this time as they have job vacancies. We will proceed with these programmes very soon and cooperate with other companies," he said. This programme will train for sales and marketing and service skills in particular, as well as HR and finance knowledge, ethics and etiquette for 40 hours, plus 30-day internship training

at Myanmar Tourism Bank. MTB would employ outstanding interns.

"Youths should not be unemployed because they have no experience. That is why we will implement this programme to help youths get access to job opportunities. The duration is a week, and a one-month internship will be included. After that, they will have to take exams, and thorough examination will follow," said U Kaung Nyein Soe.

Young people who have a passion for working in the banking and financial service industry can apply, and applicants will be interviewed and selected. — MT/ZS

## Zalun sesame area to expand to 70 acres amid rising export demand

ACCORDING to sesame traders, sesame cultivation in Zalun township will be expanded to 70 acres in response to growing export demand.

The State's economic fund will provide seeds for these 70 acres under the contract farming of the Department of Agriculture.

"As the sesame demand from China rises, we educate and encourage farmers to cultivate. The Department of Agriculture is carrying out its seed requirement after connecting with Nay Pyi Taw. We are also helping

them by providing technology and inputs for 70 acres in Zalun," said an official from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. In the domestic market during this week, the price of black sesame (Samone) is stable at K350,000-K390,000 per 45 visses, while those of white sesame (ordinary), white sesame (Japan) and brown sesame are K360,000-K380,000, K400,000-K405,000 and K310,000-K315,000 respectively, with a decrease of K5,000-K10,000 per bag, according to Mandalay wholesalers. — Thit Taw/ZN



The State's economic fund will provide seeds for these 70 acres under the contract farming of the Department of Agriculture.

## Bean price good, farmers and daily wage workers earn good incomes

THIS is the bean harvesting season that helps beans price well, and the income of farmers as well as daily wage workers is also fine, according to an official from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

"Beans are harvested not only by machines but also by hand. Harvesting of black gram and green gram is especially, done by humans. Currently, beans are harvested by both machines and humans, so daily wage workers earn K5,000-K6,000 just for a morning shift. Farmers

have snapped up workers, that is why it is the time daily workers can earn pretty good," he said.

Labour costs for harvesting beans have climbed up now and good beans prices have also helped farmers' income much better.

"The price of black gram is now above K100,000 a basket, so a farmer who can yield about 1,000 baskets can receive about K100 million. That is why farmers are doing pretty well in this harvesting time," he said. — Thit Taw/ZS

## Local garment industry flourishes amid sustained trade



Diligent workers seen working at a garment factory.

ACCORDING to the industry, the garment trade in the local market is doing well with continuity.

"At present, the textile busi-

ness is doing well continuously. People like cotton or spandex, and it sells depending on its popularity," said a seller at the Sanmadi Garment Shop.

With foreign-made fabrics gaining more market share than locally-made traditional garments in Myanmar, local weavers face challenges and struggle to expand the local market.

Moreover, traditional garment players are trying to increase their production with better designs to be competitive in both quantity-driven local markets and quality-driven export markets, depending on the demand.

In addition to exciting and beautiful designs, they must sell at optimal fair prices, according to their industry. — Thit Taw/ZN



## African coffee producing countries urged to add value to coffee export

WHILE specialty coffee from Africa is gaining popularity among consumers across the world, officials of the African Fine Coffees Association (AFCA) have urged African coffee traders to boost value-added coffee export, and cease export of unprocessed coffee to the international market.

The remark came during the 20<sup>th</sup> African Fine Coffees Conference and Exhibition and the First African Coffee Week that took place from 6 to 10 February in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, with the aim of advocating the export of value-added coffee from Africa.

The event has brought together more than 800 regional and international coffee roasters, traders, producers, buyers and professionals to discuss policies, sustainability, access to finance and international market regarding coffee industry.

Amir Hamza, chairperson of the AFCA, said coffee exporting African countries need to concentrate on value addition and apply better marketing strategies to boost their earnings from the coffee export.

“The biggest problem Africa is facing is

poor marketing approaches and export of unprocessed coffee, something the AFCA is trying to solve. Africa has the best coffees, but they are not marketed as they should be,” Hamza told Xinhua in an interview.

He encouraged African coffee exporting companies to intensify trade promotions, broaden markets while concentrating on quality raising and processing to meet the demands of importing markets and to establish brands for sustainable exports.

“After the green beans are exported from Africa, they will be blended and roasted by companies outside the continent, particularly by those companies in Europe and the United States and then they will be sold in the Middle and Far East as coffee products from other origins,” he said.

According to data obtained from AFCA, coffee exports from Africa were valued at over 3.6 billion US dollars in 2022. Ethiopia was the leading exporter, earning around 1.5 billion US dollars, followed by Uganda with an export value of nearly 813 million US dollar during the same year. — Xinhua



People make coffee during the 20<sup>th</sup> African Fine Coffees Conference and Exhibition and the First African Coffee Week in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, 8 February 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Daihatsu partly resumes domestic output after safety test scandal



Photo taken on 12 February 2024 shows Daihatsu Motor Co's plant in Oyamazaki, Kyoto Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

DAIHATSU Motor Co resumed part of its domestic production on Monday, around one and a half

months after suspending its entire output in Japan due to safety test rigging. Daihatsu, the small-

car unit of Toyota Motor Corp, restarted production of two models at its factory in Kyoto Prefecture after

earning clearance from the transport ministry in January for shipments of those vehicles.

The two models are the Probox commercial van, which Daihatsu produces for Toyota, and the Familia Van for Mazda Motor Corp.

In December, Daihatsu admitted to having falsified data in safety tests for most of its models, resulting in the halt of all shipments at home and abroad as well as production at its domestic assembly plants.

Daihatsu has also restarted shipments in Malaysia and Indonesia after obtaining approval from local authorities. — Kyodo

## China's industrial enterprises register steady recovery in 2023

CHINA'S industrial enterprises saw steady recovery in 2023 and their combined revenues increased for a fifth straight month, official data showed.

Last year, revenues of major industrial firms with annual main business revenue of at least 20 million yuan (about 2.82 million US dollars) went up 1.1 per cent year on year, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

In the fourth quarter of 2023, the revenues of these enterprises rose 3.2 per cent year on year, while the growth rate was 2.9 per-

centage points faster than in the previous quarter.

The operation of industrial enterprises maintained an expansion trend and showed strong resilience, creating favourable conditions for the continuous recovery of their profits, said NBS statistician Yu Weining.

In the next stage, China will expand domestic demand, stimulate the vitality of various business entities, promote self-reliance in high-level science and technology and accelerate the development of a modern industrial system,



An employee works at a wheel loader assembly line of a Develon subsidiary in Yantai, east China's Shandong Province, 26 December 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

as part of efforts to promote the high-quality development of the industrial economy, Yu added. — Xinhua

### Notice for Change of Pesticides Trade Name

The foreign manufacture Agrinova Cropcare Pte., Ltd will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board Changing trading name.

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	A.I	Reg: Type	Reg: No.
1	PharOu-Naing 30SC	Hmo Sone Naing 30SC	Ethirimol 20% + Pyraclostrobin 10%SC	Provisional	P2023-5169

It is therefore announced to come and reject within 14 days to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of herbicide.

Address-Wi Sar Ra International Co., Ltd. No. (33), Shwe Padauk Yeik Mon, Bayint Naung Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon Region, The Republic of Union of Myanmar.



# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Biscuits and hugs: Argentina's Milei mends fences with Pope

POPE Francis and Argentina's President Javier Milei held their first official talks on Monday, meeting at the Vatican as they seek to mend fences amid the explosive economic situation in their native country.

Milei, a liberal economist, had sharply criticized his compatriot while campaigning for election last year, accusing the pope of political interference and calling him an "imbecile" who "promotes communism".

But in an interview this weekend the president described Francis, a former archbishop of Buenos Aires, as "the most important Argentine in history".

The two men were all smiles Sunday during a brief meeting following a papal mass at St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican to canonize Argentina's first female saint.

Milei gave a bear hug to the 87-year-old pope as he sat in his wheelchair, which Francis began using in 2022 due to knee pain.



This photo taken and handout on 12 February 2024 by The Vatican Media shows Pope Francis during a private audience with Argentinian President Javier Milei in The Vatican. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / VATICAN MEDIA / AFP**

At Monday's formal audience, Milei gave the pope several presents, as is traditional, including Argentine biscuits that the pope is said to enjoy, a government spokesman said.

During their meeting, the president and pontiff — both of them born in Buenos Aires — will likely discuss a possible papal trip to Argentina.

The pontiff had called Milei in November to congratulate him on his election win, and the president in turn asked Francis to return to Argentina.

The pope has not been back to his home country since becoming head of the Catholic church in 2013. He has said he would like to return, but no date has been set. — AFP

## Vessel reports missile attack off Yemen's coast: security firms

A vessel reported coming under a missile attack off Yemen's southern coast on Monday while transiting the strategic Bab al-Mandeb strait, security agencies said.

Yemen's Huthi rebels, who have repeatedly targeted Red Sea shipping in recent months, said they had attacked a US ship with "suitable naval missiles", though it was not immediately clear they were referring to the same incident.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) agency said in an incident report that the attack occurred before 0400 local time (0100 GMT).

"The crew are reported safe and the vessel is proceeding to next port of call," UKMTO said.

Another security firm, Ambrey, said the ship was a Marshall Islands-flagged, Greece-owned bulk carrier

and that it "was targeted by missiles in two separate incidents" within 20 minutes.

It "was reportedly hit and sustained physical damage on the starboard side", Ambrey said, adding that a private armed security team was on board.

The group owner and operator of the bulk carrier targeted on Monday regularly trades cargo with Iran, "so this was assessed to be the likely destination", Ambrey said.

"The group owner of the bulker was also listed on the US stock market index NASDAQ, which was identified as the likely reason for the attack," it said.

The Huthis, part of the anti-Western, anti-Israel "axis of resistance" of Iran-backed groups, have been targeting Red Sea shipping vessels since November, triggering US and British reprisal attacks. — AFP



Two ex-prisoners released from the US-run Guantanamo prison get off a plane in Kabul, Afghanistan, 12 February 2024. **PHOTO XINHUA**

## Last 2 Afghan prisoners released from Guantanamo prison, arrive in Kabul

THE last two Afghan prisoners who had been in the US-run Guantanamo prison for years were set free and returned to Afghanistan's capital Kabul on Monday, the state-run Bakhtar news agency reported.

"Two Afghan prisoners formerly held at the Guantanamo Bay detention camp have returned to Kabul, marking the completion of the release process for all detainees associated with the Islamic

Emirate," the news agency said, without providing more details. Following the invasion of US-led coalition forces in Afghanistan in late 2001, which led to the dismissal of the then Taliban-led Islamic Emirate, the US military arrested a large number of Afghans including Taliban members on the charge of cooperation with the al-Qaida terror network and shifted them to the Guantanamo jail. — Xinhua

## Safety worries for Paris balconies ahead of Olympics

REAL estate experts in Paris have warned about the danger of people cramming on to balconies around the city to catch a glimpse of the Olympics in July and August this year.

The National Real Estate Federation (FNAIM) has alerted local authorities to the risk of collapses and accidents unless balconies that are often designed for two or three people are checked beforehand for their structural soundness.

The issue is set to be particularly pressing for residential blocs that overlook the river Seine, which athletes will sail down during a spectacular opening ceremony being planned by organizers on 26 July.

"We need to be absolutely sure that the balconies can take the weight and that handrails are well sealed in to avoid

any sort of incident," the head of FNAIM in the Paris region, Olivier Princivalle, told AFP.

Accidents involving balconies are a rare but sometimes deadly occurrence in France, with two people left seriously injured in the southeast of Paris in May last year when their fifth-floor balcony gave way.

Four people died in the central city of Angers in 2016 when a balcony collapsed during a party.

The Paris Olympics from 26 July-11 August, followed by the Paralympics from 28 August-8 September, are set to take place at locations across the City of Light where many buildings are hundreds of years old.

The issue of balcony safety underlines the immense organizational complexity faced by local authorities as they prepare

the first Games in Paris in 100 years.

The opening ceremony — the first time a summer Olympics has begun outside of a stadium — represents a huge challenge for French police who have been asked to secure a 6.0-kilometre (four-mile) stretch of the river that will be used during the parade.

The Paris police department told AFP that checking balconies did not fall under its responsibilities, but it was working with the industry and its partners to address the issue.

Under French law, building owners or managers have responsibility for checking their structures, but "something can slip through the cracks", a French source with knowledge of the preparations told AFP, on condition of anonymity. — AFP



# SPORTS

## Marathon world record holder Kiptum killed in car crash

MARATHON world record holder Kelvin Kiptum died Sunday in a car accident in his native Kenya, local media reported.

The 24-year-old was killed along with his coach, Rwanda's Gervais Hakizimana, while driving on a road in western Kenya.

Kiptum set the men's marathon world record of 2 hours, 35 seconds in last October's Chicago Marathon, bettering countryman Eliud Kipchoge's previous mark by 34 seconds.

He was one of World Athletics' Athletes of the Year in 2023 and was expected to be among the gold medal contenders at this summer's Paris Olympics. Kiptum was driving



Kelvin Kiptum of Kenya poses with his medal and the clock after setting a world record marathon time of 2:00:35 at the Chicago Marathon on 8 October 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

when the car rolled, killing him and his coach, while injuring a third occupant of the car, AFP quoted local police as saying.

World Athletics President Sebastian Coe said he was "shocked and saddened to learn

of the devastating loss".

"On behalf of all World Athletics, we send our deepest condolences to their families, friends, teammates and the Kenyan nation," Coe said in a statement. — Kyodo

## YUFC, RUFC appoint foreign head coaches for upcoming season

ACCORDING to the respective clubs, Yangon United Football Club and Rakhine United Football Club have appointed relevant foreign head coaches before the 2024 Myanmar National League.

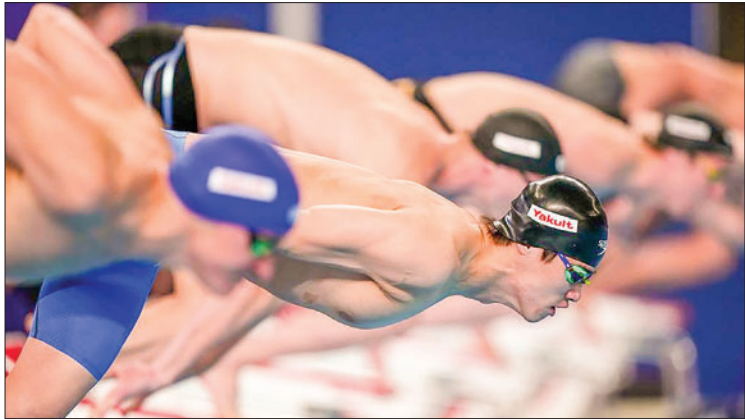
After failing to extend coach Gerd Friedrich Horst Zeise's contract, YUFC appointed German professional football manager Frank Bernhardt as a head coach for one season, and the new head coach will arrive in Yangon soon.



PHOTO: YUFC

He has also worked as a coach and technical director for Azerbaijan, Estonia, and Malaysia football associations. He managed the Malaysia Super League club Kelantan as a head coach before joining YUFC. Similarly, Rakhine United Football Club appointed Portuguese coach Paulo Jorge Silva and recruited new local and foreign players as part of preparations for the new season.

As such, Yangon United and Rakhine United, under the leadership of foreign head coaches, will take part in the forthcoming MNL, while other clubs will be under national head coaches. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



Pan Zhanle (C) of Team China competes during the men's 4x100m freestyle relay final of swimming event at the World Aquatics Championships 2024 in Doha, Qatar, 11 February 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Pan's world record break leads China to relay gold at swimming worlds

DOHA ushered in the opening day of the swimming events on Sunday night, marked by Chinese swimmer Pan Zhanle setting a new men's 100-metre freestyle world record.

In the men's 4x100m freestyle relay, Pan clocked 46.80 seconds, surpassing Romania's David Popovici's previous record of 46.86 seconds.

"I'm extremely happy. Breaking a world record brings joy to me, proving that the training has paid off," the 19-year-old remarked. "My goal now is to go even faster. I can't predict how fast I can swim, but I hope my record won't be broken too soon."

Inspired by Pan's show, China's subsequent swimmers Ji Xinjie, Zhang Zhanshuo and Wang Haoyu delivered stellar performances, ultimately securing China's first gold medal in swimming events with a time of three minutes and 11.08 seconds.

Italy, represented by Alessandro Miressi, Lorenzo Zazzeri, Paolo Conte Bonin and Manuel Frigo, claimed silver exactly one second behind China. The United States quartet of Matt King, Shaine Casas, Luke Hobson and Carson Foster clinched bronze in three minutes and 12.29 seconds. — Xinhua

## Inter-Club Badminton Championship 2024 winds up

THE Inter-Club Badminton Championship 2024, organized by the Myanmar Badminton Federation of the Department of Sports and Physical Education, took place at the National Badminton Court in Lanmadaw Township of Yangon yesterday afternoon.

After the final matches,

Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Htay Aung, President of the federation U Aung Paing, Director U Kyaw Min Than of the Department of Sports and Physical Education and officials presented individual medals and cash awards to first-prize winning Aung (A) team, second-prize

winning HPP team and joint third-prize winning Champion (A) and Aung (B) teams respectively.

Some 160 athletes from eight teams and clubs competed in 28 championship matches from 9 to 12 February 2024. — Bala Soe/TTA



The final match in men's doubles event of the Inter-Club Badminton Championship 2024. PHOTO: BALA SOE





Employees of the Codelco's Chuquicamata copper mine work in Calama, Antofagasta province, Chile on 11 April 2023. PHOTO: AFP

## Chile on green hydrogen investment hunt in Europe

CHILE is embarking on a European hunt for investors in solar, wind and green hydrogen technologies as it looks to decarbonize copper mines and other industries reliant on fossil fuels.

Marcos Kulka, CEO of H2Chile, a hydrogen association of 102 public and private companies, travelled to Europe to outline his government's energy strategy amid renegotiations of an EU-Chile trade and investment deal.

Kulka told AFP that, "given the resources it has", Chile can become carbon neutral by 2040 — 10 years earlier than the global net-zero target set in the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Hyvolution energy trade show in Paris

this month, Kulka said 24 per cent of the reduction in emissions in Chile will come from hydrogen and its derivatives.

Hydrogen, which emits only water vapour when consumed, is touted for potential use in high-polluting heavy industries such as steel, metals, cement, and chemicals, as well as in shipping and transport.

But producing it at mass scale is a major challenge, as costs remain high and the infrastructure is lacking so far.

It is considered a "green" fuel when it is produced by using electricity generated by renewable energy to split water molecules.

Hydrogen can also be made through a more controversial method using

natural gas, so-called "blue hydrogen" which needs to be paired with carbon capture equipment to be considered climate-friendly.

The International Energy Agency said last month that only seven per cent of projects announced worldwide to use renewables to produce hydrogen this decade are expected to come online by 2030.

But Kulka said Chile "could become one of the cheapest hydrogen producers in the world".

The country plans to shut down its coal-fired plants by 2040 and replace them with renewable energy sources which will themselves be deployed to produce green hydrogen. — AFP

## Cambodia reports 4<sup>th</sup> human case of H5N1 bird flu in 2024

A 16-year-old boy from northeastern Cambodia's Kratie province has been confirmed for H5N1 human avian influenza, bringing the number of the cases to four so far this year, the Ministry of Health said in a statement on Monday.

"Laboratory results from the National Institute of Public Health showed on Sunday that the boy was positive for

H5N1 virus," the ministry said.

"The patient has no symptom of respiratory illness and is the brother of a nine-year-old boy, who died of the virus on 8 February," the ministry added.

A team of health experts is looking into the source of the infection and is examining any suspected cases.

H5N1 influenza is a flu that nor-

mally spreads between sick poultry, but it can sometimes spread from poultry to humans, and its symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, and severe respiratory illness.

The ministry said bird flu still poses threat to people's health, especially children, calling on people not to eat ill or dead poultry. — Xinhua

## Israel frees 2 hostages while killing over 100 in Gaza's Rafah — media

THE death toll in the Israeli army's heavy strikes on the southern city of Rafah and surrounding areas of the Gaza Strip exceeded 100 on Monday, with hundreds of injuries, including women and children, reported the official Palestinian news agency WAFA.

About 40 airstrikes on the Rafah area in the early hours of Monday were conducted by the Israeli army, with intensive ground shelling, it said.

The Israeli army said it rescued two hostages after a special forces operation in Rafah. The two were then hospitalized and "in good medical condition".

Israel conducted "a series of strikes on terror targets" in southern Gaza on Monday, the Israeli army said in a statement earlier.

On Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US President Joe Biden discussed the ongoing efforts to free hostages held in Gaza and to facilitate more aid into the Palestinian enclave over the phone.

An Israeli government official told Xinhua that the conversation focused on the hostages, approximately 100 of them are still in Gaza after being kidnapped during Hamas's attack on 7 October 2023.

Additionally, the two leaders discussed Israel's declared plan to launch a ground offensive in Rafah, as well as the facilitation of more aid into Gaza.

Since the start of the conflict, about half of the residents there have fled to Rafah, adjacent to Egypt, in search of safety.

The border city, which receives food and medicine aid from foreign countries and UN agencies through the Rafah crossing, is crowded with tents on empty agricultural lands, in schools and along roadsides. — Xinhua



Smoke rises after an Israeli strike in the southern Gaza Strip city of Khan Younis, on 11 February 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA