

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



The image captures neatly organized export rice sacks in the warehouse.

## MRF targets 2M tonnes of rice exports in FY2024-25

**M**YANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) is committed to meeting two million tonnes of rice and broken rice export target in the coming 2024-2025 financial year, beginning 1 April.

The federation aims to bag one billion dollars from rice exports.

The European market is the primary destination for Myanmar's rice exports. Additionally, the MRF will prepare for rice exports to Asian countries such as China, Indonesia, the Philip-

pinas with better quality and at reasonable prices, an official of the MRF said.

This FY 2023-2024 (April-March), Myanmar is forecast to export 2.5 million tonnes of rice with an estimated value of US\$1 billion, the MRF announced.

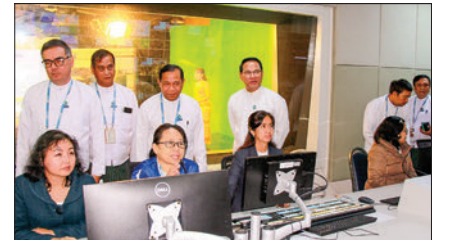
Nonetheless, only 1.16 million tonnes of rice and broken rice were shipped to foreign trade partners in the past ten months of the current FY, generating \$574 million.

As a result of this, Myanmar may

fail to meet rice export targets for the FY 2023-2024. The president of the MRF commented that exporters faced challenges owing to the monetary policy of the Central Bank of Myanmar to govern export earnings, hindering rice exports. Also, the El Nino threat to the world's rice supplies impeded the rice exports.

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

**NATIONAL** PAGE-3



MoI Union Minister inspects MRTV (Tatkon) in Nay Pyi Taw

**NATIONAL** PAGE-4



Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman clarifies salient points in People's Military Service Law

**BUSINESS** PAGE-7

Indonesia emerges as leading rice importer from Myanmar

**NATIONAL** PAGE-10



Travellers to Saleaintan Beach near Yangon surge on weekends, holidays

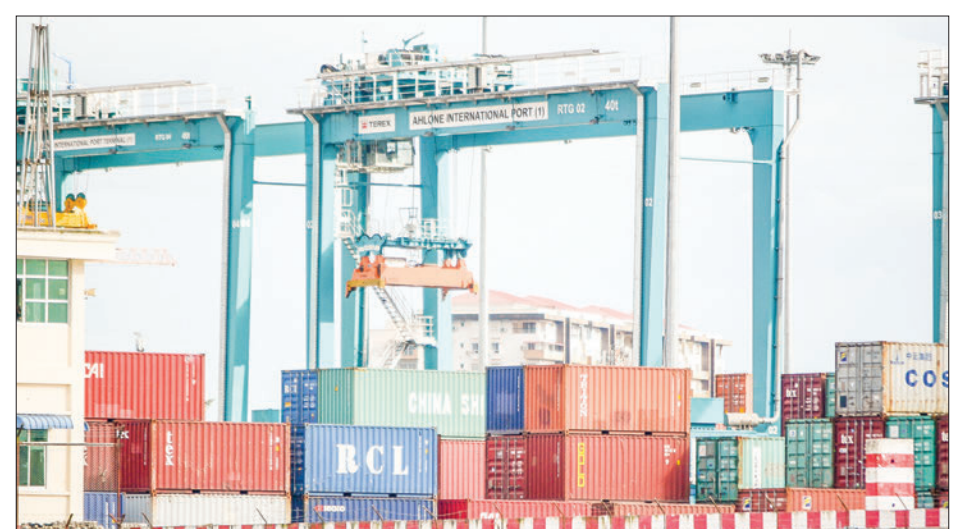
## 55 container vessels slated to call in March

A total of 55 container vessels are scheduled to arrive at the Yangon Port in March 2024, the Myanma Port Authority announced.

In March, seven container vessels run by Maersk Line, six each by Cosco Shipping Line and Samudera Shipping Line, five each by MSC Line and SITC

Shipping Line, four each by CMA CGM Line and Ti2 Container Line, three each by Evergreen Line, ONE Line and RCL Line, two each by Bay Line, BLPL Shipping, Land and Sea, and PIL Line and one by IAL Shipping Line, are slated to enter the Yangon Port.

**SEE PAGE-2**



# NATIONAL

## Objectives of 79<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2024

- (A) To safeguard the State with the sacrifice of life by upholding Our Three Main National Causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty as the national policy of Tatmadaw;
- (B) To actively participate in implementing the processes of two national visions of the State: the prosperity of the country and food security by Tatmadaw members together with the government and ethnic people in their respective sectors;
- (C) To steadfastly implement enhancement of three capabilities in accord with the work process of Tatmadaw, such as study, practise and obey in building a modern patriotic Tatmadaw with powerful strength and sharpening prowess;
- (D) To provide necessary assistance to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election by Tatmadaw to ensure peace and stability, solidarity and development, which are actual needs of the State and to emerge a Union based on democratic and federal systems.

### Myanmar Gazette

## Head of Service Organization transferred and appointed

THE State Administration Council has transferred and appointed U Htet Aung, Director-General of the Union Minister Office of the former Ministry of Union Government Office, as Director-General of the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar Announcement of Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

5<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tabodwe 1385 ME  
29 February 2024

IT is necessary to control Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) infection continuously. So it is now announced that public requests, orders, notifications and directives (except for easing restrictions) released by Union-Level Organizations and Union Ministries up to 29 February 2024 have been extended to 31 March 2024 for prevention, control and treatment on Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

## 55 container vessels slated to call in March

### FROM PAGE-1

Myanma Port Authority stated that 49 vessels in January and 53 in February docked at the Yangon Port.

Yangon Port handled 629 container vessels in 2023. Thanks to the draft extension, the international ocean liners can access the inner port for now, according to the Myanma Port Authority's statement on 22 June 2022.

After the new navigation

channel (Kings Bank Channel) accessing the inner Yangon River had been explored, the draft extension work was accelerated. After that, the port can now handle larger ships. The container vessel (185.99 metres LOA, 35.25 metres Beam, 29,232 GRT and 2,698 TEU), Hong Kong-based SITC Shipping Line, docked at Asia World Port Terminal for the first time on 22 June 2023, which is the largest ship that AWPT Port handled.

From May 2021, the arrival of the ships at terminals in Yangon has increased again. To fulfil the seaborne trade requirements, three new container vessels by Maersk Line Myanmar (SeaLand Maersk) started to run in 2021. Earlier, the larger ships had draft problems preventing their manoeuvring on the Yangon River. With the draft being extended up to 10 metres, more giant ocean liners can enter the Thilawa Port. — NN/EM

## Condition of El Nino during March 2024

Issued at 28-2-2024

- (a) The Sea Surface Temperature (SST) over the Tropical Pacific Ocean near the Equator and atmosphere phenomena is moderate condition. According to the Numerical Weather prediction models of the International Meteorological Agency, are expected to remain moderate El Nino condition during March 2024.
- (b) Although the El Nino condition occurs in the Pacific Ocean, the effect of El Nino may cause generally extreme weather events such as irregular rainfall patterns, rising temperature, irregular storm formation and drought.
- (c) Therefore, it is advised to prepare in advance for all related sectors. El Nino Condition will be updated in time.

## EVs, e-motorcycles, related accessories arrive at Yangon Port



WITH the approval of the National-level Steering Committee on Development of Electric Vehicles and Related Accessories, Aiqar eQ3 electric vehicles import-

Battery electric vehicles (BEVs), e-motorcycles and motorcycle accessories, which were imported on 29 February.

ed by Myanmar Great Motor Co Ltd, Kanbo electric motorcycles imported by Aung Kan Bo Motorcycle Industrial Co Ltd, and YADEA electric motorcycles and relevant accessories imported by Myanmar Arr Thit Man Motor Co Ltd arrived at Yangon Port. They were allowed to be claimed on 29 February under rules and regulations. — MNA/TRKM

# NATIONAL

## MoI Union Minister inspects MRTV (Tatkon) in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn inspected the Screen Test of news anchors for respective channels of MRTV and work plans conducted with capital expenditure of MRTV at the MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) yesterday.

First, the Union minister observed the conference room where 14 new recruits underwent a screen test for news presentation for MRTV channels and encouraged them.

Then, the Union minister explained the actual situation of the country and stressed the need to be served in media ways regarding the responsibilities to defend the country, ethnic unity, public awareness, and security measures.

Next, MRTV Director-General U Ye Naing reported on



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views round the MRTV (Tatkon) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

four projects being conducted with MRTV's capital expenditure and one new project to be undertaken in 2024-2025FY.

The Union Minister also inspected the broadcasting system, lighting and sound systems of TMW Enterprise

company that won upgrading SD to HD system tender with K1,570 million at the News Studio (1).

He also observed the work processes of Elevate Broadcast Myanmar company that won the tender for upgrading SD to HD system for Presentation Work Stations 3 and 4 with K3,380 million.

He then looked into the LED Wall at the Auditorium being executed by tender-winning company TMW Enterprise with K549 million and the completed work of Constructive Engineers company that won the tender with K1,240 million for the second phase of upgrading the air condition system of the MRTV main building.

He also inspected the working mechanism of the Convergence News Room System to be upgraded in 2024-2025FY and made proper instructions. — MNA/KTZH



The photo shows a CMP garment workplace.

## Myanmar garment industry draws intense interest from Euro markets

THE chairperson of the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) has reported that the European market, particularly Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom, and Germany, has shown significant interest in Myanmar garments.

MGMA Chair U Myint Soe highlighted this during a product exhibition held in France. He stated, "Italy and Spain have shown very high interest in Myanmar garment products. Following them, the UK and Germany also demonstrate some interest to a certain extent."

Currently, some brands are

withdrawing their companies from the Myanmar garment industry. However, other small brand companies continue to receive orders.

Exports of CMP garments contribute the most to foreign currency earnings in the country's export sector. Within nine and a half months of this financial year, a total of US\$3.38 billion was generated from the CMP industry. CMP products rank first in Myanmar's export sector, followed by natural gas. For the import sector, petroleum products rank first, with textiles and fabric ranking second. — ASH/ TMT

## Bank of China grants stipends to 100 Yangon University students for academic year

A ceremony was held in Yangon on 25 February to award stipends provided by the Bank of China for the current academic year to 100 students from Yangon University, as announced by the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar.

Ms Cao Jing, Minister Counsellor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, stated during the ceremony that China-Myanmar financial institutions and businesses as-

pire to play a significant role in the development of Myanmar and the advancement of its people's interests. She encouraged the students to study diligently to become competent individuals and a major driving force for China-Myanmar cooperation.

At the event, Daw Khaing Shwe Wah, Director-General of the Central Bank of Myanmar, commended the active contributions of Chinese banks and companies to Myanmar's so-

cioeconomic development. Dr Daw Cho Cho, Pro-Rector of Yangon University, along with some students, expressed gratitude on behalf of the recipients of the stipends.

The Bank of China confirmed its commitment to awarding stipends to students of Yangon University in 2022 and continuing to provide stipends to 100 students annually from Yangon University. — ASH/ MKKS



The photo shows the commemorative group photo with scholarship students and attendees.

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

# NATIONAL

## Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman clarifies salient points in People's Military Service Law

A talk concerning People's Military Service Law took place in the compound of Nay Pyi Taw Council Office yesterday morning.

At the talk, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Than Tun Oo highlighted some fabricated news and misinformation items spread on the media with attempts to undermine peace and stability of the region and cause a panic among the people. According to the law, those learning education, those looking after old parents, State service personnel and those receiving medical treatment among the eligible age of adults for serving the military service will be temporarily suspended for serving, and those inappropriate for serving military service



Nay Pyi Taw Council Chair U Than Tun Oo greets town and village elders yesterday.

will not be recruited. Currently, there is no plan to recruit women for military services, according to the press release. The first priority for initiating the aspiration of the people to forge the genuine, disciplined democratic system is peace and stability of the nation. As such,

the government is implementing the five-point roadmap and nine objectives, he added.

Pyinmana District Administration Body Chairman U Aung Ko Ko Oo and member Col Tun Lin Oo and District Law Officer U Hla Soe clarified matters related to the law.

The Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman viewed lending books to youths by Lewe Township Information and Public Relations Department in Thetkeyin Village and presented cash to the fund of the library.

In Thetkeyin Village-tract, the chairman urged village elders to conduct necessary training courses for youths to have a broader knowledge and organize sports competitions. — MNA/TTA

### Tatmadaw (Air) fighter jet crashes during flight training

A Tatmadaw (Air) fighter jet crashed near Yepokgyi village during a training flight around Magway due to a sudden mechanical malfunction, resulting in a fire on the ground. The pilot successfully ejected in an emergency and was safely rescued. The cause of the mechanical malfunction will be investigated. — MNA/TKO

### Counter-argument to false information

## Malicious media attempts to discredit security forces

THE malicious media outlet, Khit Thit, intentionally spread false news to discredit the security forces, claiming that the combined security forces raided PhalangO, Chaing and Yaykyi villages in Myitchay of Magway Region and took the precious pieces of jewellery and also torched the villages on 27 February.

The relevant security official reported that the information was not valid, and the media spread such false information to discredit the security forces.

A local informed the security forces that the PDF terrorists did their actions in some villages of Myitchay, asked for money and killed the

residents.

Following the tip-off, the security forces took security measures, and the PDFs launched attacks and retreated after exploding mine in PhalangO village. Therefore, the malicious media attempted to mislead the people over the security forces. — MNA/KTZH



The screenshot validates misinformation.

### Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit [www.moi.gov.mm/mal](http://www.moi.gov.mm/mal), [www.moi.gov.mm/km](http://www.moi.gov.mm/km), [www.moi.gov.mm/nlm](http://www.moi.gov.mm/nlm) and [www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper](http://www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper).

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



#### CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

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

#### ADVERTISING & MARKETING

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

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

#### Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email [aunghuya@gnlm.com.mm](mailto:aunghuya@gnlm.com.mm) with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

# NATIONAL

**M**ANDALAY Region Department of Archeology and National Museum, under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, has documented 75 kinds of intangible cultural heritage in Mandalay Region, an official from the department told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) yesterday.

“Intangible cultural heritage is something like a custom, tradition, creation and fine arts accepted by a country, race, or community. The current list includes oral history or stories, descriptive languages, performing arts, traditional social practices, natural and universal knowledge and related traditional practices, traditional arts and crafts,” the



hoisting pagoda umbrella ceremony, Vesak Day celebration by pouring water at banyan trees (Bo trees), Mandalay water festival (Thingyan), traditional hairdo art and, Pantthaku celebrations in Tazaungdaing festival are documented for social customs and traditions list.

Myanmar traditional medicine is recorded under the list of natural and universal knowledge and related traditional practices. A total of 75 business categories, including stone carving art, traditional paper crafting art, Pyu-period beads manufacturing, bronze casting, iron umbrella, jam varieties production, Montseinpaung snack, gold foil

## MoRAC documents 75 intangible cultural heritage items in Mandalay Region



official said. In addition, Mandalay, preserving a great cultural tradition, is in a position to gather additional lists, and there is still a lot left

to collect in the performing arts section. In performing arts, the Myanmar Puppet Show, Myoma Band and Magalulin long drum



band are listed. Unique pagoda festivals, traditional events and ceremonies, including Taungpyone festival, Waso Chinlone playing (Cane Ball) festival,

Novitiation ceremony for boys and ear-piercing ceremony for girls (Shinpyu & Natha Ceremony), elephant festival, clayware festival, traditional boat racing,



Photos depict some works and ceremonies related to intangible cultural heritage.

packing paper manufacturing, Poneyaygyi (horse gram paste) and Montlinmaya (husband and wife snack) snack businesses are documented for traditional arts and crafts.

Data regarding Myanmar’s intangible cultural heritage has been collected since 2014 to protect and preserve them. — ASH/TH

## YCC to host Myanmar 8 Build Expo 2024

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation, the Myanmar 8 Build Expo 2024 is scheduled to take place from 29 to 31 March at the Yangon Convention Centre (YCC) in Mayangon Township, Yangon.

The exhibition is organized by Silver Sea International Co Ltd in collaboration with the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation (MCEF) and the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies (Fed.MES). It will feature the Myanmar 8 Build, Myanmar Real Estate & Property Expo, Renewable Energy & EV Myanmar.

U Nay Lin, a member of the central committee from the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation (MCEF), mentioned that the exhibition will showcase construction materials, technologies, domestic and international housing, household furniture, home interior decorations, electronics, solar energy, and renewable energy products at 170 booths. — ASH/MKKS

## Hass avocado cultivation to expand by 500 acres in PyinOoLwin, Nawngkhio

PYINOOLOWIN in Mandalay Region and Nawngkhio in Shan State are the main areas for growing avocados in Myanmar, with plans to expand Hass avocado cultivation by more than 500 acres, according to the vice-chairperson of the Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association (MAVO).

Most avocado producers in Myanmar choose high-quality Hass avocados for cultivation in special plots, primarily for export.

“Most avocado cultivation investments are concentrated in PyinOoLwin. With companies

providing services for avocado cultivation and production, there are now many avocado growers and producers. We have learned that approximately 500 acres will be added for cultivation in the upcoming avocado growing season in areas between PyinOoLwin and Nawngkhio. However, these cultivation areas will not be contiguous,” the MAVO vice-chairperson explained.

Currently, ground-cleaning processes are underway for the expanded cultivation acres. The expanded cultivations will adhere to the Global Good Practice guidance and focus on growing



high-quality Hass avocado species exclusively for export, the report stated.

Avocados are primarily grown in Shan State, Chin State, Mandalay Region, and the upper part of the Sagaing Region in Myanmar, covering approximately 25,000 acres across the country. — ASH/ TMT

# NATIONAL



People choosing Aungbarlay Lottery tickets at a lottery shop. PHOTO-XINHUA

## 60<sup>th</sup> Aungbarlay Lottery sale yields over K4.9 billion

AUNGBARLAY Lottery Directorate under the Internal Revenue Department (IRD) announced that the 60<sup>th</sup> Aungbarlay Lottery, which will be opened on 1 March, earned sales volume of more than K4.9 billion.

For the 60<sup>th</sup> lottery, a total of 490,912 lottery ticket booklets

were sold. The total amount of the 59<sup>th</sup> lottery ticket sale was over K5,522.76 billion, more than K613.64 billion than that of the 59<sup>th</sup> lottery ticket sale.

For the 60<sup>th</sup> Aungbarlay Lottery, one prize of K500 million, one prize of K200 million, one prize of K100 million, two prizes of K50 million, two prizes

of K20 million, five prizes of K10 million, eight prizes of K5 million, 12 prizes of K2 million, 13 prizes of K1 million, 30 prizes of K300,000, 300 prizes of K200,000, 3,000 prizes of K100,000, 20,000 prizes of K50,000 and 100,000 prizes of K10,000 will be awarded. — TWA/TKO

## Drills of fire prevention at jetty of Cherry ferries in Dala Township

ON 27 February, the talks and drills of fire prevention were performed at the jetty of Cherry ferries in Dala township.

The staff from the Fire Services Department of the township performed the drill of the fire prevention by showing how to put out the fire in the fastest way, how to use the fire extinguisher, how to put out the fire

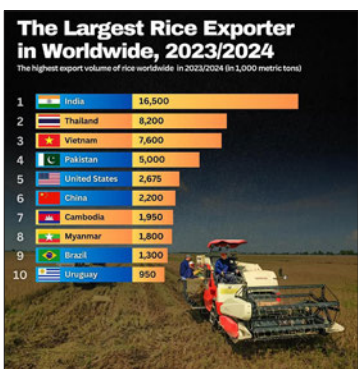
from the gas stove with the staff from the Department of Marine Administration.

Officials and staff from the Department of Marine Administration, the staff officer and the staff of the township Fire Services Department and the township Red Cross branch attended the ceremony. — TWA/TRKM



The photo showcases the drill of fire prevention at the jetty of Cherry ferries.

## Myanmar ranks 8<sup>th</sup> among world's top 10 rice-exporting countries



MYANMAR ranks eighth among the top 10 rice exporters in the world in 2023-2024FY, according to Seasia Stats.

The Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) exports 2.1 million tonnes of rice every year, earning nearly US\$800 million. Although the rice export volume declined

this FY, the income did not fall as the rice prices were still high in foreign countries. The country receives \$574 million from rice and broken rice exports within ten months of this FY, according to MRF.

The rice export volume will be reduced to stabilize the local rice market this FY. The country will export only more than one million tonnes of rice this year instead of 2.1 million tonnes. Therefore, the government will earn \$700 million, according to MRF.

The country exported 2.4 million tonnes of rice in the 2022-2023 financial year and clinched fifth among the world's largest rice exporters. — Pwint Thitsa/KTZH

## Over 260 workers sent to ROK through EPS

A total of 267 Myanmar workers were despatched to the Republic of Korea on 27 February under the Employment Permit System (EPS), as reported by the overseas employment agency POEA.

The labour attaché of the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul welcomed them at the airport,

providing necessary assistance.

The Department of Labour reported that a total of 10,611 Myanmar workers were despatched to South Korea under the EPS system in 2023.

EPS workers are being despatched to South Korea via the Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) for the

manufacturing, construction, farming, and agricultural industries. A total of 11,000 workers from Myanmar are reportedly set to go this year.

Currently, over 70,000 Myanmar workers are working under the EPS system in the Republic of Korea. — TWA/MKKS



Myanmar workers seen before leaving for South Korea.

Advertise

with us / Hot Line :



09251022355

# Indonesia emerges as leading rice importer from Myanmar

INDONESIA is the largest rice export destination for Myanmar, with over 230,000 tonnes shipped in the past ten months of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, the Myanmar Rice Federation's figures showed.

The most common destinations for rice and broken rice exports in the past ten months are Indonesia (232,000 tonnes), China (207,000 tonnes), the Philippines (over 127,000 tonnes), Belgium (over 122,000 tonnes), Spain (over 48,200 tonnes), the Netherlands (over 43,600 tonnes), Viet Nam (over 36,500 tonnes), Malaysia (over 32,500 tonnes), Poland (over 26,500 tonnes) and Turkiye (over 22,000 tonnes).

The federation aims to achieve rice exports of 2.5 million tonnes in the current FY, generating earnings of US\$1 billion.

Myanmar's rice export exceeded 1.16 million tonnes in the past ten months, with an estimated value of \$574 million.



Diligent workers seen carrying and stacking export rice bags in the warehouse.

The export volumes were registered at 87,648 tonnes worth \$36 million in April 2023, 110,706 tonnes worth \$48 million in May, 62,725 tonnes worth \$28 million in June, 58,334 tonnes worth \$26 million in July, 59,971 tonnes worth \$28 million in August, 84,773 tonnes worth \$42 million in Sep-

tember, 119,526 tonnes worth \$63 million in October, 175,990 tonnes worth \$90 million in November, 195,829 tonnes worth \$99 million in December and 213,605 tonnes worth \$111 million in January 2024 respectively.

Therefore, the rice export volume was recorded as the

highest in January, followed by December and November. The figures indicated a drop in June, July and August.

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

million.

Last FY, China was the primary buyer of Myanmar's rice and broken rice with over 775,000 tonnes, followed by Belgium with 323,000 tonnes, Bangladesh with over 239,000 tonnes and the Philippines with over 202,000 tonnes. — NN/EM

## Black gram price shows downtick

THE price of black gram plunged to K2.94 million per tonne on 28 February after it edged up to K3.222 million per tonne on 27 February, indicating a sharp drop of K280,000 per tonne.

The price fluctuation is closely tied to the demand of the leading buyer, India, and the kyat-dollar exchange rate.

The price hit a new peak of K3.5 million per tonne of black gram on 5 February 2024.

India also imports the black gram (urad) from Brazil and other countries. Yet, they prefer Myanmar's black gram on account of better quality and higher availability of supply. India extended the free import policy of black gram (urad) and pigeon pea (tur) up to March 2025.

Additionally, India's pulse output dropped more than expected due to erratic weather in India, prompting them to import a large quantity from abroad. India was reportedly



A customer seen evaluating beans at the market.

to bring in 400,000 tonnes of pigeon pea (tur) and 1 million tonnes of black gram (urad) from Myanmar in two months (Jan-Feb) 2024, citing reports by foreign news agencies.

Myanmar conveyed over 1.4 million tonnes of various pulses worth US\$1.182 billion over the past ten months of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

Myanmar mainly exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black gram and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India, while green grams are exported to China and Europe.

India has growing consumption requirements for black grams and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum

of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that yearly quota.

Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association stated that black grams, which India primarily purchases, are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia. — NN/EM

## Rubber price remains constant in Feb

THE price of rubber has stayed high at over K1,700 per pound in Mon State's rubber market since the last week of January.

The prices hit K1,730 per pound of Ribbed Smoked Sheet Local 3 and K1,710 for sun-dried rubber on 28 February. The prices stood at only K1,610 per pound for sundried rubber and K1,630 for RSS Local 3 in early January.

Global demand for rubber, rubber production of the Southeast Asian nations and the market supply is positively related to Myanmar's rubber prices.

The rubber price in Mon State, a major rubber production state in Myanmar, is closely tied to those factors as well, the traders elaborated. Myanmar's annual rubber production is estimated at 300,000 tonnes. Seventy per cent of rubber produced in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries.

Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association

aims to achieve rubber exports of 300,000 tonnes in the current 2023-2024 financial year beginning 1 April.

Myanmar shipped 114,855 tonnes of rubber with an estimated value of US\$144.046 million as of 29 December in the current financial year 2023-2024 FY beginning 1 April.

The rubber production in the last FY 2022-2023 reached over 360,000 tonnes, and more than 200,000 tonnes of rubber were shipped to foreign trade partners.

Rubber is commonly produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber season data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres.

Myanmar generated more than \$449.102 million in revenue in rubber exports in the 2020-2021 FY. — NN/EM

# OPINION

## Set aside discrimination against each other in society

**D**ISCRIMINATION within Myanmar's society is a deplorable phenomenon, especially given the predominantly Buddhist population that adheres to the teachings of Lord Buddha. The majority of Myanmar's Buddhist population views discrimination as an act beneath individuals of any social standing. The essence of Buddhism underscores the equality of all living beings, regardless of their economic status. Rich and poor alike share fundamental human rights, emphasizing the commonality of the human experience.

Myanmar has witnessed a commendable shift where women, possessing ample capabilities, have entered various sectors, challenging stereotypes. In fields such as education, auditing, accounting, garment production, and handicrafts, women exhibit control, leveraging their patience, tolerance, and strong mental attributes. The evolution is not just limited to men but encompasses both genders

engaging in competitive efforts to establish their careers. It is imperative for individuals from diverse backgrounds to unite against discrimination and extend support to one another.

Youth in contemporary Myanmar comprehend the detrimental effects of discrimination and actively champion measures for peaceful coexistence. Recognizing the global importance of eradicating discrimination, the United Nations General Assembly designated the day of 1 March as Zero Discrimination Day. This day serves as a platform to promote awareness, inclusion, compassion, and a collective movement for positive change, fostering global solidarity to eliminate all forms of discrimination. Hence, countries around the world have been marking Zero Discrimination Day yearly since 2014. In accord with the theme of 2024: "To protect everyone's health,

protect everyone's rights", the day is celebrated.

Zero Discrimination Day aligns with the broader objective of promoting equality before the law and in practice across all UN member countries. Organizations like UNAIDS, dedicated to combating discrimination against individuals living with HIV/AIDS, particularly highlight this day. The call to oppose discrimination extends to all spheres, be it economic disparity, educational differences, or employment status. Embracing a universal understanding of humanity is essential to foster an inclusive society.

The United Nations Development Programme recognized the struggles faced by LGBT individuals with HIV/AIDS in 2017, paying tribute to their resilience against discrimination. It underscores the collective responsibility of individuals to eschew discrimination, viewing it as a societal duty to cultivate peace, stability, empathy, and prosperity. The emphasis is on embracing peace and compassion as shared values, aiming to eradicate the lingering consequences of historical discrimination. Through such collective efforts, societies worldwide can strive towards a future where happiness and equality prevail for all.

**I**N THE tapestry of my life, the inhaler has woven a thread of comfort and relief for over four decades. Like many, I initially took its presence for granted, blissfully unaware of its potential impact on my well-being. It wasn't until I crossed the threshold of 40 that the inhaler emerged as a steadfast companion, providing solace during moments of dizziness and unexpected discomfort.

In my younger years, the inhaler remained tucked away, overshadowed by the vigour of youth and a sense of invincibility. Breathing came effortlessly, and the need for external aids seemed a distant concern. Little did I know that the inhaler, with its potential to restore balance and alleviate discomfort, would become an integral part of my daily life.

The turning point came unannounced – a persistent bout of dizziness that refused to loosen its grip. Seeking refuge in clinics proved futile, and the unsettling sensation persisted. It was during this time of uncertainty that my aunt, with the wisdom borne of experience, extended to me her inhaler, branded "Pax". I hesitated, dismissing the notion that a small inhaler could hold the key to relief.

However, fate intervened in the form of a stubborn, runny nose. The discomfort reached a crescendo, compelling me to seek immediate relief. At a nondescript stall, I procured an inhaler – a humble solution to an inconvenient ailment. Little did I anticipate the transformative effect that awaited me within the confines of that small canister.

As the mist enveloped me, a wave of unexpected relief swept through. The runny nose, a persistent nuisance, gradually abated, allowing me to reclaim a semblance of normalcy within the hour. It was a revelation – an inhaler, once underestimated, emerged as a silent hero, combating discomfort with unparalleled efficacy.

From that moment forward, my perspective on the inhaler shifted. It ceased to be a mere accessory, relegated to the depths of a pocket or purse. Instead, it became a lifeline, a source of reprieve in moments of physical unease. The inhaler transformed from an overlooked item into a trusted ally,

standing by me through bouts of dizziness and the occasional runny nose.

The benefits of the inhaler extended beyond the physical realm. It became a symbol of empowerment, granting me the ability to navigate life's unpredictable twists with greater ease. The once-dismissed Pax inhaler earned my respect, and with each use, I marvelled at its ability to restore equilibrium in the face of discomfort.

In embracing the inhaler, I discovered a newfound appreciation for respiratory health. No longer taken for granted, each breath became a testament to the importance of caring for the very essence of life – the act of breathing. The inhaler, with its ability to enhance this fundamental function, became a silent guardian of my well-being.

The journey with the inhaler has been one of self-discovery and resilience. It taught me that vulnerability does not equate to weakness but is an opportunity for growth and adaptation. The occasional dizziness, once a source of frustration, became a signal to reach for the inhaler – a gesture of self-care and acknowledgement of my body's unique needs.

As the years unfolded, inhalers evolved alongside advancements in medical technology. The once-simple devices transformed into sophisticated tools, offering precision in dosage and enhanced ease of use. The continuous improvement in inhaler technology mirrored the commitment of the medical community to refining respiratory care and ensuring a better quality of life for individuals like myself.

In the grand tapestry of my life, the inhaler stands as a testament to the interconnectedness of health and gratitude. Its presence is a reminder that even in the face of physical challenges, there exists a simple yet profound tool that can restore balance and offer respite. The inhaler, once a stranger, is now an integral part of my narrative – a chapter that speaks of resilience, adaptation, and the enduring partnership between an individual and a seemingly unassuming device.

In reflecting on the inhaler and myself, I am reminded that sometimes, life's most significant transformations come in

# The Inhaler, A Breath of Life

By Yin Nwe Ko



The inhaler, in brief, once a modest device with roots in ancient healing practices, has evolved into a symbol of hope and autonomy for millions worldwide.

the form of small, unnoticed moments – a runny nose, a bout of dizziness, and the unexpected relief that follows. The inhaler, a humble ally, has etched its place in the story of my well-being, forever intertwined with the ebb and flow of breath and life.

Moreover, in the realm of medical advancements, few innovations have had as profound an impact on respiratory health as the humble inhaler. For individuals like myself, who have relied on this portable device for decades, the inhaler has become an indispensable companion in the journey towards better breathing. Here, I would like to mention the history, evolution, and global usage of inhalers, exploring their transformative

role in managing respiratory conditions.

### Historical Roots

The origins of inhalers can be traced back to ancient civilizations, where individuals sought relief from respiratory ailments by inhaling various substances. Early inhalation therapies involved inhaling vapours from hot liquids infused with medicinal herbs. However, it wasn't until the 19th century that inhalers, as we recognize them today, began to take shape.

One pivotal moment in the history of inhalers was the development of the first modern inhaler by Dr Siegfried Einhorn in 1864. This device, known as the "steam spray inhaler", al-

lowed patients to inhale a mist of medicated solution, providing localized treatment to the respiratory system. As medical understanding progressed, so did the design and functionality of inhalers.

### Inhalers and Asthma: A Life-saving Partnership

The widespread adoption of inhalers gained momentum in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, particularly with the rising prevalence of asthma. Asthma, a chronic respiratory condition characterized by inflammation of the airways, presents a significant health challenge. Inhalers emerged as a revolutionary solution, offering rapid relief and improved management of asthma symptoms.

The development of pressurized metered-dose inhalers (pMDIs) in the 1950s marked a significant leap forward. These inhalers allowed precise doses of medication to be delivered in aerosol form, ensuring efficient and targeted treatment. The portability of pMDIs further empowered individuals to carry their inhalers wherever they went, fostering independence for those managing chronic respiratory conditions.

### Evolution of Inhaler Technologies

Over the years, inhaler technologies have continued to evolve, driven by the pursuit of enhanced effectiveness, user-friendliness, and minimal side effects. Some notable milestones include the introduction of dry powder inhalers (DPIs), which eliminate the need for propellants, and the development of breath-activated inhalers, streamlining the administration process.

Nebulizers, another category of inhalation devices, have played a vital role in delivering medication to individuals with

severe respiratory conditions. These machines convert liquid medication into a fine mist, allowing for deeper penetration into the lungs. While not as portable as handheld inhalers, nebulizers provide a crucial option for patients requiring more intensive treatment.

### Global Utilization and Accessibility

Inhalers have become a global phenomenon, transcending borders and reaching individuals across diverse landscapes. The accessibility of these devices has improved significantly thanks to advancements in manufacturing, distribution, and awareness. However, challenges related to affordability and healthcare infrastructure persist, particularly in resource-constrained regions.

In developed countries, inhalers are readily available and often covered by health insurance plans, ensuring that individuals can manage their respiratory conditions without financial barriers. On the other hand, in developing nations, efforts are ongoing to increase access to inhalers and raise awareness about the importance of respiratory health.

### Cultural Perspectives on Inhaler Use

The cultural significance of inhalers varies across the globe, reflecting diverse attitudes towards healthcare and respiratory conditions. In some societies, there may be a stigma associated with using inhalers, leading individuals to underutilize these lifesaving devices. Education campaigns are crucial in dispelling myths and fostering a positive perception of inhaler use.

Conversely, in many communities, inhalers are embraced as vital tools for maintaining good health. Support groups and advocacy organizations play a pivotal role in empowering individuals with respiratory conditions fostering a sense of community and shared experiences.

### Inhalers and Environmental Considerations

As the world grapples with environmental challenges, the impact of inhaler use on the planet has come under scrutiny. Traditional pMDIs often

utilized chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) as propellants, contributing to ozone layer depletion. In response, the pharmaceutical industry has shifted towards more environmentally friendly propellants, such as hydrofluoroalkanes (HFAs), reducing the ecological footprint of inhaler production.

Moreover, the development of recyclable materials and efforts to minimize packaging waste contribute to sustainable inhaler practices. These eco-conscious initiatives align with the broader global commitment to creating a healthier planet for future generations.

### Inhalers in the Digital Age

The integration of technology into healthcare has given rise to smart inhalers, ushering in a new era of personalized respiratory management. Smart inhalers are equipped with sensors that track usage patterns and provide real-time data to healthcare providers. This innovation not only enhances adherence to treatment plans but also facilitates timely interventions and adjustments based on individual responses.

The connectivity of smart inhalers to mobile applications allows users to monitor their respiratory health, set reminders for medication doses, and share data with healthcare professionals. This digital approach not only empowers individuals but also contributes to a more data-driven and personalized approach to respiratory care.

### Challenges and Future Prospects

While inhalers have un-

doubtedly transformed respiratory care, challenges persist in ensuring equitable access, affordability, and optimal utilization. Addressing these challenges requires collaborative efforts from healthcare providers, policymakers, and the pharmaceutical industry.

The future of inhaler technology holds promise, with ongoing research focused on developing innovative formulations, improving drug delivery mechanisms, and tailoring treatments to individual genetic profiles. Precision medicine approaches may pave the way for personalized inhaler therapies that optimize outcomes for each patient.

The inhaler, in brief, once a modest device with roots in ancient healing practices, has evolved into a symbol of hope and autonomy for millions worldwide. Your journey of three decades with the inhaler mirrors the broader narrative of progress and resilience in the field of respiratory medicine. From steam sprays to smart inhalers, the evolution continues, promising a future where respiratory health is not just managed but truly optimized. As we celebrate the milestones of inhaler technology, let us also remain vigilant in addressing disparities in access and fostering a global commitment to respiratory well-being.

The breath of life, encapsulated within the small canister of an inhaler, serves as a reminder of the remarkable strides humanity has taken in conquering the challenges of the breath itself.





# NATIONAL

## Yaw Sayadaw reverently presents 100-tical gold to Shwedagon

YAW Sayadaw, Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida, Tipitakadhara Dhamma Bhandagarika, Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sirinda Bhavamisa, donated over 100 ticals of gold to Shwedagon Pagoda and the ceremony was held without any ostentation as per the wish of the Sayadaw, said lay attendant U Win Thein on the Facebook.

To offer gold plates to the Shwedagon Pagoda in the highest devotion to the Buddha's omniscience, Yaw Sayadaw donated a viss of pure gold, one gold coin and the state-awarded Thiri Pyanchi Title (six-tical gold) to

Shwedagon Pagoda Board of trustees and Regional Chief of Religious Affairs on the morning of 27 February.

Members of the Myanmar cybercommunity were incredibly ecstatic, and their expressions of appreciation spread to every corner of many Facebook pages and posts.

"We published the news of Yaw Sayadaw's donation of gold to Shwedagon Pagoda. We wished people would joyfully recite Sadhu three times when they saw and heard it. Some people complained that they had not been able to attend the ceremony. The



owner family of a gold shop that has been successful in Yangon for many years and who are Sayadaw's close donors addressed appropriately to Sayadaw, and they donated as the Sayadaw wished," U Win Thein wrote.

Three trustees, including U Win Thein, were brought before



The donations of over 100 ticals of gold to Shwedagon Pagoda in progress on 27 February 2024.

the Sayadaw in early February and ordered to donate all gold pieces to the pagoda.

"In all procedures from beginning to end regarding this do-

nation, we followed the Sayadaw's instructions to carry it out in a simple manner without any superficial show," he wrote. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN

## MNA announces vacancy for experienced flight attendants



A Myanmar National Airlines aircraft at Yangon International Airport.

EXPERIENCED flight attendants have been invited to work for Myanmar National Airlines to serve local and overseas flights, and those who meet the requirements can apply, announced the airline.

Requirements are those who are 25 years old and not older than 35 years on 1 March must be unmarried, and female candidates must be at least five feet and three inches in height and have relevant body mass index.

Candidates must be healthy, have a medical test, be able to swim and have a swimming test.

Candidates must have writing, reading and speaking skills in English, and those who are skilled in other foreign languages are preferred.

Candidates must have good social skills and experience serving on an ATR aeroplane. Selected candidates will be employed if they pass MNA's medical test and must be able to work for at least five years.

Along with resume, copy of ID card, household list, passport and recommendation letter from the police and ward administration and other necessary documents, two 4 inches by 6 inches sized photos in front and right side as well as three passport sized photos, applications can be submitted in person to MNA head office at No 104, Strand Road, Kyauktada township, Yangon Region, by 22 March 2024. For more information, they can contact 01 379471 during office hours. — Thit Taw/ZS

## Applications for 2024 Japan scholarship open on 1 March

THE scholarship programme offered by the Daiozu Memorial Foundation can be applied as of 1 March, announced by the Myanmar Embassy to Japan.

Those who graduated from universities in Tokyo, Chiba, Saitama, Kanagawa, Ibaraki, Tochigi and Gunma prefectures and those who are reg-

istered for Master's degree and PhD, those who have family earnings below 6,000,000 yen a year and international students who gained admittance to above second year in April 2023 are eligible to apply.

The scholarship programme will select 25 international students, and yearly

funding is 360,000 yen (monthly 30,000 yen), which will be given two times per year.

The application can be submitted to <http://www.daiohs-zaidan.or.jp> as of 1 March 2024, and the deadline is 20 May 2024; detailed information is available at [info@daiohs-zaidan-or.jp](mailto:info@daiohs-zaidan.or.jp). — MT/ZS

## Travellers to Saleaintan Beach near Yangon surge on weekends, holidays

DAY and night trips to the recently famous Saleaintan Beach in Kungyangon near Yangon are on the increase during weekends and long holidays, according to the locals.

"As this is the dry season, there are regular visitors. More people come to the beach on weekends and religious holidays. Those who don't like

crowded places and families come to the beach during the week. During the holidays, the restaurants sell more due to more visitors. You can see the rising tide on the beach on full moon days and no moon days," said a food vendor.

Some people come for day trips, while others stay overnight in the bungalows near the

beach.

"Some go on day trips while others stay quietly in the bungalows near the beach for the night. Accommodation costs around tens of thousands of kyats," said a local. As it is the beach nearest to Yangon, many people visit Saleaintan Beach in Saleaintan village by car. — MT/ZN



Beachgoers enjoy fresh air and swimming at Saleaintan Beach near Yangon.

# Ghana passes controversial anti-homosexuality bill amid international outcry

Sam George, a key sponsor, announced the milestone on X, formerly Twitter, calling it the “Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Act” after three years of debate.

GHANA’S parliament made headlines on Wednesday as it unanimously approved a contentious anti-homosexuality bill, eliciting widespread international condemnation, CNN reported.

Sam George, a key sponsor of the legislation, announced the milestone on X, formerly known as Twitter, stating, “After three long years, we have finally passed the Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Act.”

Introduced in 2021, the bill not only criminalizes LGBTQ re-

lationships but also targets individuals who advocate for LGBTQ rights.

Many African nations still uphold colonial-era laws criminalizing same-sex activity, and recent bills across the continent have sought to clarify or strengthen these laws, according to CNN.

A CNN investigation raised concerns about alleged ties between a US nonprofit and the formulation of such homophobic laws, although the group denied any connections. Despite the



Uganda’s parliament on 2 May 2023 passed one of the world’s strictest anti-LGBTQ bills mostly unchanged, including long jail terms and the death penalty. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ TWITTER

parliamentary approval, the bill awaits the president’s signature before becoming law. — ANI

## Poor sleep health is linked with muscle dysmorphia: Study

GETTING adequate sleep is critical for our bodies to maintain basic health processes, and it is especially necessary for teenage and young adult development. A recent study discovered a link between poor sleep and indications of muscle dysmorphia, a growing trend among young people.

The study, published in the journal *Sleep Health*, included over 900 adolescents and young adults. Over two weeks, participants who reported hav-

ing more muscle dysmorphia symptoms reported getting fewer hours of sleep and having a harder time falling or staying asleep.

“Poor sleep can have significant negative impacts for adolescents and young adults, including increased negative mental health symptoms,” said lead author Kyle T Ganson, PhD, MSW, assistant professor at the University of Toronto’s Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work. — ANI



The study involved over 900 adolescents and young adults, revealing that those with more muscle dysmorphia symptoms reported getting fewer hours of sleep and experiencing difficulty falling or staying asleep. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY

## Stars turn out for Dior’s 60s homage

STARS including Jennifer Lawrence and Natalie Portman were on the front row Tuesday as Dior paid homage to its sixties pop-culture heyday at Paris Fashion Week.

The collection highlighted the origins of “Miss Dior” during the 1960s, the moment when the label started feeding the masses with ready-to-wear collections.

The first look on the catwalk was a demure beige suit emblazoned with the “Miss Dior” as if screen-printed.

There was a heady mix of nouveau riche fantasy, from gabardine to the little white dress, via tweed and more urban denim and leopard-print styles.

The white, beige and gold palette was borrowed from Marc Bohan, who headed Dior’s creation for a quarter-century after the founder, and who died in September.

The “Miss Dior” line appeared amid the revolutionary tumult of 1968, with a daring new vision of femininity with psychedelic touches, and short, daring cuts. — AFP



The show paid homage to the 1960s ‘Miss Dior’ line. PHOTO: AFP

## Jon Stewart tearfully announces his dog ‘Dipper’ death on ‘The Daily Show’

COMEDIAN and talk show host Jon Stewart broke down in tears on Monday’s episode of “The Daily Show” while announcing that his family’s dog ‘Dipper’ died, reported New York Post.

Comedian and political influencer Stewart revealed that the three-legged pup passed away on Sunday.

The 61-year-old host, while talking on his show, said, “He

was ready. He was tired, but I wasn’t.”

“And the family, we were all together,” he added. “Thank goodness we were all with him.” — ANI

# ECONOMY WORLD

## UAE launches new Trade-Sustain-AI initiative to rewrite future of trade

*This initiative aims to harness artificial intelligence in supply chains to enhance global trade's role in addressing climate change.*



The United Arab Emirates's Minister of State for Foreign Trade Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi speaks during the opening ceremony of the 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference (MC13) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, 26 February 2024. **PHOTO: WTO/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

THE UAE has launched a new initiative designed to combine the transformative power of technology with the sustainability and inclusivity of global trade during the TradeTech Forum, which is taking place in parallel to the 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference (MC13) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

The 'Trade-Sustain-AI' initiative seeks to leverage the rapidly advancing power of artificial intelligence in supply chains to boost the contribution of global trade to the battle against climate change.

It has identified a number of ways it can make an immediate impact, including optimising shipping routes to reduce fuel consumption and

carbon emissions; improving logistics operations such as inventory management and freight movements; developing climate-resilient trade infrastructure and forecasting extreme weather events; and improving traceability and transparency in global supply chains, ensuring visibility into the sustainability of traded goods. — ANI

## Israel minister says Arab trade ties unphased by Gaza war

ISRAEL'S economy minister on Tuesday said trade relations with Arab states had not been affected by the Gaza war, the cost of which he added his country was able to bear.

"There is no change at all" in trade relations, Nir Barkat told journalists on the sidelines of the World Trade Organization's 13<sup>th</sup> ministerial meeting in Abu Dhabi.

"Things are very stable... I think the leadership understands we have the same goal, which is to collaborate in a peaceful way."

When asked about Israel's economic losses due to the war, Barkat said it could add "anywhere between 150 to 200 billion

shekels (\$42-55 billion)" to the country's national debt.

"That's not something Israel cannot bear mid- to long-term," he said.

In January, Israel's cabinet approved an additional 55 billion shekels (\$15 billion) to meet the cost of the war, while the mobilisation of reservists and the displacement of communities on the borders with Gaza and Lebanon have disrupted the economy.

The war began when the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas launched an unprecedented attack on Israel on 7 October that resulted in the deaths of about 1,160 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official figures. — AFP



Cars pass by beneath Israeli and United Arab Emirates flags lining a road in the Israeli coastal city of Netanya, on 16 August 2020. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ JACK GUEZ/AFP/FILE**

## Japan population down by largest margin in 2023, births at record low



Photo taken in July 2022 shows a parent and their child playing in a park in Toyokawa, Aichi Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

*The country's population, including foreign residents, also experienced its largest-ever decline, with deaths surpassing births by 831,872.*

THE number of babies born in Japan in the year 2023 fell to a record low from a year earlier as the country's population shrank by its largest ever margin, government data showed, according to a report by Kyodo News.

The figure for babies was down by 5.1 per cent to 758,631, according to preliminary data released by the health ministry on Tuesday, the Japanese news agency reported.

A country's birth rate is the

ratio of live births to the total population in a given year. It's usually expressed as the number of live births per 1,000 people.

The figure has remained below the 800,000 mark since the year 2022. Japan's population, including foreign residents, fell by 831,872, with deaths outnumbering births.

A forecast by the Japanese government's National Institute of Population and Social Security Research has estimated births in

the country to decline to below 760,000 in the year 2035.

The fast pace of dip in newborns has been attributed to late marriages and people staying single, Kyodo News reported stating that Prime Minister Fumio Kishida administration has termed the period leading up to 2030 as "the last chance" to reverse the trend. The number of births hit a peak in the year 1973 at around 2.09 million babies and fell to below 1 million in the year 2016. — Kyodo

## Mysterious billboards tease Bitcoin Halving Campaign amidst record price surge

MYSTERIOUS billboards hint at upcoming Bitcoin Halving Campaign earlier this month, Bitcoin crossed the historic USD 63,000 price threshold for the first time since December 2021.

As Bitcoin continues its rally, curious citizens in Istanbul and Manila were greeted with an unusual sight on 26 February — a large billboard advertising a Bitcoin Halving 2024 promo video with the statement “Bitcoin Halving, a story of Less is more”.

The mysterious advertisement piqued public interest and speculation over who was behind it.

What is Bitcoin Halving?

Occurring roughly every four years, Bitcoin Halving refers to a built-in mechanism that cuts Bitcoin’s block reward — the amount of Bitcoin miners receive for processing blockchain transactions — by 50 per cent.

The upcoming halving, expected in 2024, will reduce the block reward from 6.25 bitcoins to 3.125 bitcoins. This predictable tightening of issuance reduces the inflation rate over time, making Bitcoin an increasingly scarce digital asset, like “digital gold”.

As bitcoin becomes scarcer, halvings are seen as bullish events that push up its price over the long term. — ANI

## Passenger flights between China, US to rise to 100 per week

PASSENGER flights between China and the United States will increase significantly from 31 March, Dai Jun, an official with the Civil Aviation Administration of China, said on Thursday.

Starting from 31 March, Chinese and US airlines can operate a total of 100 scheduled passenger flights per week, Dai told a regular press conference.

“China currently has regular passenger flights with 64 countries, of which 48 are Belt and Road partner countries,” Dai said.

The number of flights between China and 22 countries, including Singapore, Australia, the



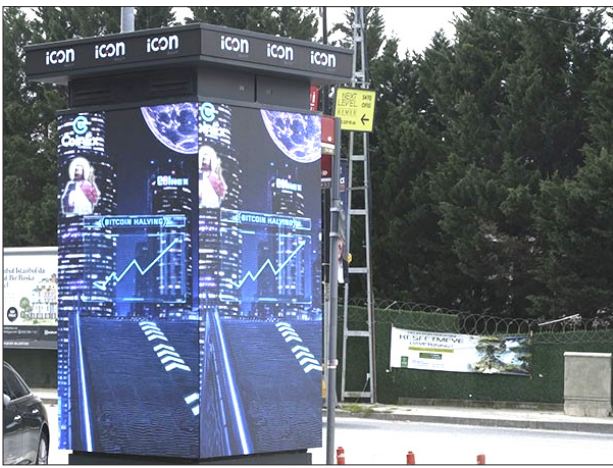
Stewardesses from Air China demonstrate sign language during an aviation industry event in Beijing, capital of China, 3 November 2023. The China Air Transport Association (CATA) hosts its first aviation conference from 3-5 November in Beijing. PHOTO: XINHUA/LI HE

United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and Italy, has exceeded the

pre-epidemic level, he said.

China will continue to promote the resumption

of international flights to better meet the needs of personnel exchanges, Dai added. — Xinhua



Mysterious billboards hint at upcoming Bitcoin halving campaign, sparking speculation. PHOTO: ANI

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PADIAN 4 VOY.NO. (0UV6EE1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PADIAN 4 VOY.NO. (0UV6EE1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-3-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V T12 APPLE VOY.NO. (2409E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V T12 APPLE VOY.NO. (2409E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-3-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S T12 LOGISTICS PTE LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB407A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB407A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-3-2024** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (218N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (218N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-3-2024** 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 CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (067N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (067N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-3-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE**

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Putin delivers his annual address to Russia's Parliament

*Vladimir Putin is set to evaluate the Federal Assembly's performance and outline key foreign and domestic policies.*

VLADIMIR Putin on Thursday will assess the work of both chambers of the Federal Assembly (Russia's parliament) and outline the main directions of foreign and domestic policy.

The president is expected to discuss the special military operation in Ukraine, security and economic issues in the light of

current geopolitical challenges.

About one thousand people have been invited to the ceremony, including members of parliament, the government, representatives of the presidential administration, heads of the Constitutional and Supreme Courts, diplomats, Russian and foreign journalists. — SPUTNIK



Russian President Vladimir Putin, second right, and Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, right, take part in a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Alexander Garden on Defender of the Fatherland Day, in Moscow, Russia, Friday, 23 February 2024. **PHOTO: ALEXANDER KAZAKOV/POOL/AFP**

### TOP NEWS

## Explosive truth of US' Nord Stream sabotage could 'destroy' NATO

On Monday, Denmark became the second European country to officially close its investigation into the explosion of the Nord Stream gas pipeline. for Ukraine's proxy war against Russia. Lazare lists a number of figures benefiting from the phenomenon, including Donald Trump in the US, Marine Le Pen in France, Geert Wilders in the Netherlands, and Giorgia Meloni in Italy.

In September 2022 a series of explosions disabled both branches of the Nord Stream pipeline between Russia and Germany. Completed in 2012, for almost a decade the pipeline provided Russian natural gas to Western Europe. Although the United States expressed unease over the act of cooperation between Russia and its European allies, the Nord Stream played a crucial role in fueling German industry and providing low-cost energy throughout the continent.

Observers immediately blamed the United States for the act of industrial sabotage, pointing to US President Joe Biden's cryptic promise to "bring an end" to the project if Russia moved to intervene in Ukraine's attacks on the ethnically Russian Donbass region. Denmark's inquiry indeed found the explosions were an act of "deliberate sabotage," although Danish officials refused to investigate who bore responsibility. — SPUTNIK

## Korea seeks talks with striking medics as return to work deadline looms

SOUTH Korea said Thursday it was seeking its first talks with striking junior doctors, warning them to return to hospitals

ahead of a looming deadline or risk legal action over work stoppages that have plunged hospitals into chaos. Nearly

10,000 junior doctors — about 80 per cent of the trainee workforce — handed in their notice and walked off the job last week to protest government plans to sharply increase medical school admissions to cope with shortages and an ageing society. Doctors say the plan would hurt the quality of service, and the Korean Medical Association (KMA) has slammed the government's "intimidation tactics".

Under South Korean law, doctors are prohibited from striking, and the government has threatened to arrest and suspend the medical licences of medics who do not return to work by Thursday. — AFP



The government plans to sharply increase medical school admissions to cope with shortages and an ageing society. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**



India's Ambassador to Nicaragua Sumit Seth and Nicaragua's Minister of Health Martha Reyes signed the MoU between two nations. **PHOTO: ANI**

## Nicaragua becomes first Spanish speaking country to recognize India pharma standards

*India and Nicaragua sign historic MoU on Pharmacopoeia.*

INDIA and Nicaragua have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Pharmacopoeia on cooperation in the field of the regulation of medicines. With this MoU, Nicaragua has become the first nation in Spanish speaking world to recognize Indian

Pharmacopoeia.

India's Ambassador to Nicaragua Sumit Seth and Nicaragua's Minister of Health Martha Reyes signed the MoU between two nations.

In a post on X, Indian Embassy in Nicaragua stated, "The Government of India and Nic-

aragua signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Pharmacopoeia on Cooperation in the field of the regulation of medicines. The MoU was signed by Ambassador of India to Nicaragua Dr Sumit Seth & Minister of Health of Nicaragua Dr Martha Reyes." — ANI

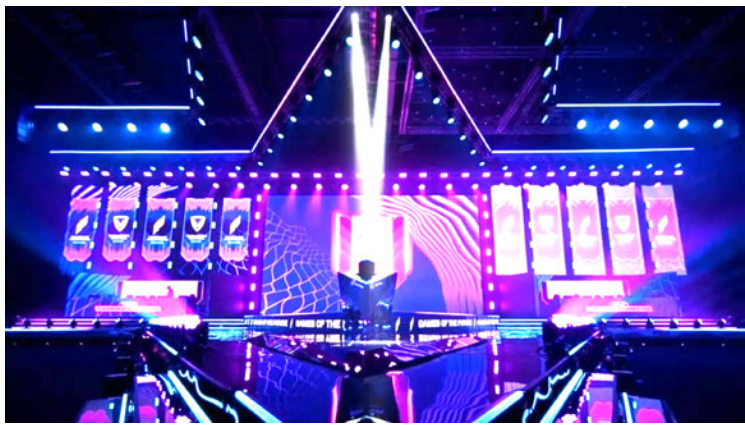
# SPORTS

## Mobile Legends: Bang Bang 1/8 final matches at Games of the Future ignite global interest

THE 1/8 final matches of the Mobile Legends: Bang Bang category at the Games of the Future event in Kazan have drawn global attention, showcasing an intense competition among teams from around the world. In a noteworthy battle, the Turkish team Fire Flux Esports clinched a victory against the Cambodian team BURN X FLASH, propelling them into the quarterfinals.

This victory, along with other matches, underscores the event's unique 'phygital' format, blending physical prowess and digital strategy.

The Games of the Future event in Kazan stands out for its innovative approach to esports, combining physical and digital challenges. In this year's Mobile Legends: Bang Bang category, teams from various countries, including Saudi Arabia, Myanmar, Russia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Türkiye, and Viet Nam, competed for dominance.



Fire Flux Esports Triumphs in Mobile Legends at Games of the Future, Advances to Quarterfinals. PHOTO: GO FUTURE GAMES

Notable matches included Twisted Minds from Saudi Arabia facing a defeat by Burmese Ghouls from Myanmar, and DeusVult from Russia losing to Homebois from Malaysia. Additionally, Royal Cybersport Club from Russia secured a win against Team Flash from Viet Nam, highlighting the intense competition and diverse strategies employed by teams from across the globe. — en.gofuture.games



Harbin, the capital of Northeast China's Heilongjiang province, will host the 9th Asian Winter Games in 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Competition schedule confirmed for 2025 Asian Winter Games

*The sports include biathlon, curling, ice hockey, skating, skiing, and ski mountaineering, with skating encompassing speed skating, short track speed skating, and figure skating.*

THE 2025 Asian Winter Games will take place in Harbin, the capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province from 7-14 February, according to the competition schedule unveiled by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

The Games will feature six sports, 11 disciplines and 64 events, with the men's and women's ice hockey and curling competitions to start on 5 February, two days ahead of the opening ceremony.

The six sports are biath-

lon, curling, ice hockey, skating, skiing and ski mountaineering.

Skating comprises speed skating, short track speed skating and figure skating, while skiing consists of alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, freestyle skiing (aerials, halfpipe, slopestyle, big air) and snowboard (halfpipe, slopestyle, big air).

Speed skating offers the most gold medals with 14, followed by short track with nine.

The ice events will be held in Harbin, using the existing venues from the 1996 Asian

Winter Games, while the snow events will be in Yabuli, 193 kilometres from Harbin.

Harbin International Conference, Exhibition and Sports Centre will host the opening ceremony on 7 February and the closing ceremony on 14 February. Harbin was awarded the 2025 Asian Winter Games by the OCA at its 42nd General Assembly held in Bangkok, Thailand in July 2023. The slogan, emblem and mascots for the Games were officially unveiled on 11 January. — Xinhua

## Girona seek to reignite shock La Liga title charge

SURPRISE contenders Girona seemed to have stumbled in their La Liga title bid when they went three games without a win earlier in the month but victory on Monday moved them back into second.

Michel's side required two late goals from Savio to ensure the much-needed points against Rayo Vallecano with a 3-0 victory, ending a run of one draw and back-to-back defeats.

A crushing 4-0 defeat on 10 February to Real Madrid followed up by a 3-2 loss at Athletic Bilbao opened up a six-point

gap between Madrid and Girona, who had been neck and neck for months at the top of the table.

The welcome return to winning form on matchday 26 leapfrogged Girona back above Barcelona and into second place, restoring a two-point cushion between them and their Catalan neighbours.

"There is still a lot to do, but the team needed to win after three games without a victory," Girona coach Michel said after the Rayo success.

The Rojiblancos travel to Mallorca on



Sunday seeking to put their poor recent form firmly behind them and also to enact revenge upon the side that knocked them out of the Copa del Rey quarter-finals in January.

But by the time Girona kick off they could find themselves nine points adrift of Madrid after Carlo Ancelotti's charges visit ninth-placed Valencia on Saturday.

The league leaders will still be without top scorer Jude Bellingham and have struggled for goals since his injury in the handsome win against Girona. — AFP

Johnny Cardoso (L) celebrates scoring his team's third goal against Athletic Bilbao on Sunday. PHOTO: CRISTINA QUICLER / AFP/FILE



# Cambodia elected as Asia's leading cultural destination by World Travel Awards

**C**AMBODIA has once again been elected as Asia's leading cultural destination by the World Travel Awards for 2023, the country's Tourism Minister Sok Soken said on Wednesday.

"This remarkable achievement further reaffirms our destination appeal as an absolute must-visit for all avid cultural enthusiasts," he said in a message released in his official Telegram channel.

The Ministry of Tourism's Secretary of State and Spokesperson Top Sopheak said Cambodia is a cultural and ecological tourism destination.

"The kingdom is renowned for the Angkor Archaeological Park, a world heritage site, in northwest Siem Reap province, and a beautiful bay in southwest Sihanoukville," he told Xinhua.

Besides, the country has three other world heritage sites — the Temple Zone of Sambor Prei Kuk in central Kampong Thom province, and the Temple of Preah Vihear and the Koh Ker archaeological site in northwest Preah Vihear province.

Tourism is one of the four major sectors supporting Cambodia's economy.

The Southeast Asian country reported some 5.45 million international tourist arrivals in 2023, earning a gross revenue of 3.08 billion US dollars, which contributed 7.5 per cent to gross domestic product (GDP), according to the Ministry of Tourism. — Xinhua

*Cambodia was named Asia's top cultural destination for 2023 by World Travel Awards, reaffirming its appeal to cultural enthusiasts. Tourism Minister Sok Soken lauds the achievement, highlighting the country's rich cultural and ecological offerings.*



Tourists visit the Angkor Wat in Siem Reap province, Cambodia, on 10 February 2024. **PHOTO: SAO KHUTH/XINHUA**

## Russian energy exports to China, India key to thwarting US sanctions: Ex-IMF Official

US sanctions on Russia have not had the desired consequences of slowing Moscow's economy due to the continued flow of Russian energy exports, former member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) executive board Hossein Askari told Sputnik.

Askari highlighted that while the US is hesitant to sanction China and India which are Russia's key gas importers, the Russian economy will develop.

"Two countries that need oil and gas are China and India, these are big countries that are willing to defy secondary US sanctions," Askari said. "As long as the price of oil and gas is at an acceptable discount and they



A worker patrols the Kovykta natural gas field in Russia's Irkutsk region in December, days before the gas field began operations on 20 March 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

know that the US cannot afford to sanction them too, especially not China." Askari added that Russia

has learned some lessons on how best to evade certain sanctions. — SPUTNIK

### TEXAS PANHANDLE ABLAZE

## Wildfires in Texas grow to one of largest in the US state's history

THE US state of Texas suffered a devastating loss as a group of wildfires scorched the Texas Panhandle on Wednesday. The wildfire, which first ignited on Monday, has raged across 850,000 acres — larger than the US state of Rhode Island — becoming one of the largest fires ever seen in the state.

The fire, which moved quickly, consumed small towns and cattle ranches. The blaze is being referred to as the Smokehouse Creek Fire, and has covered more than 1,300 square miles (3,370 square kilometres) and travelled into parts of the US state of Oklahoma which it borders. Officials have encouraged those in Roger Mills County (western Oklahoma) to evacuate.

Fueled by strong winds, unseasonably high temperatures and dry conditions, the blaze is projected to grow as only three per cent of the flames have been contained, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. Wind conditions on Thursday are expected to be lighter, which could help firefighters battling the fire, though heavy winds and dry conditions are expected to return on Friday. — SPUTNIK