

## Plans underway for prestigious elections and Hluttaw meetings

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gave guidance that efforts must be made to convene prestigious Hluttaw meetings at different levels with the attendance of relevant representatives.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing discussed regional development measures at a meeting with members of the Bago Region government at the latter's office yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General spotlighted that only when appropriate persons from relevant regions have a chance to join the Hluttaws will they be representative of a broader trend.

Hence, he continued that elections would be held systematically, and then State responsibilities would be handed over to the elected government. He stressed that plans are underway to con-

After the election is held successfully, State responsibilities will be handed over to the elected government.

### Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at a meeting with the Bago Region government

1. Elections would be held systematically, and then State responsibilities would be handed over to the elected government. He stressed that plans are underway to convene prestigious election and Hluttaw meetings.
2. Administrators and members of the Myanmar Police Force to forge polite relations with the people.
3. Effective implementation of the rule of law and security measures at the grassroots level can contribute much towards the census-taken process and elections.
4. As Bago Region has sound foundations, turning out young intellectuals and intelligentsia can contribute to more remarkable development.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round the Kanbawzathadi Golden Palace after meeting with Bago Region government members yesterday.

vene prestigious election and Hluttaw meetings.

Regarding security measures, the Senior General underlined that Bago

Region needs to emphasize the sector on the rule of law and security measures.

He added that the government is initiating public security measures to

restore the rule of law through collaborative efforts by town elders, MPF members, and administrative bodies.

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Advanced Sewing Machine Operator Training (Batch 8) to open on 16 Sept



# NATIONAL

## Religious title presented at Myanmar Golden Temple in Lumbini



THE year 2024 conferring ceremony of Religious Title offered by the State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Most Venerable Bhaddanta Pandita, serving the religious duties, were presented religious title Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja and insignia by U Myo Myint Maung, Myanmar Ambassador to Nepal, at the Myanmar Golden Temple in Lumbini yesterday.

At the ceremony, the Myanmar ambassador and spouse, officials from the Myanmar Embassy, religious officers and local staff from the Myanmar Golden Temple, and Buddhist devotees presented and donated offerings to the Most Venerables. — MNA

Myanmar Ambassador to Nepal U Myo Myint Maung offers the religious title to the Most Venerable Bhaddanta Pandita in Lumbini yesterday.

## Myanmar, Sri Lanka to boost cooperation in Theravada Buddhism, cultural affairs

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a meeting to discuss and exchange the views on enhancing cooperation in religious and cultural affairs based on the teachings of Theravada Buddhism between Myanmar and Sri Lanka was held on 29 August at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

During the discussion, Myanmar's Ambassador to the

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Daw Marlar Than Htaik and the Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, Ms Aruni Wijewardane also exchanged view on rendering bilateral support at the United Nations meetings and making efforts by both sides on the matters of Sri Lankan citizens, arriving in the Myawady Area. — ASH/MKKS



Myanmar Ambassador Daw Marlar Than Htaik meets Sri Lanka's Foreign Secretary Ms Aruni Wijewardane of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka.



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

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

## Well Marked Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (19:00) hours MST on 30-8-2024

ACCORDING to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the Well Marked Low-Pressure Area over Westcentral Bay and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal (off North Andhra Pradesh and South Odisha, India) still persists. It is likely continue to move West-Northwestwards and may further intensify into a depression over North Andhra Pradesh and adjoining South Odisha Coasts during next 48 hours. — DMH

## Flood Bulletin

Issued at (08:30) hrs MST on 30-8-2024

### Flood condition of Thanlwin River

ACCORDING to the (07:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an has exceeded by more than 12 feet (48 cm) above its danger level 24.61 feet (750 cm). It may continue to fall from the present water level by about two inches during the next one day and may remain above its danger level. — DMH

## Plans to patent Myanmar ethnic costumes and legislate intangible cultural heritage



Myanmar's ethnic people's traditional costumes.

ACCORDING to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum, plans are underway to establish copyrights for Myanmar ethnic traditional costumes and to develop laws concerning intangible cultural heritage.

Traditional costumes of Myanmar's ethnic groups will be categorized separately for daily wear and event wear. Additionally, copyrights for these conventional costumes and laws regarding intangible cultural heritage will be drafted.

“To explore and verify the origins of the costumes of Myanmar's main ethnic groups – Mon, Bamar, Rakhine, Shan, Kachin, Kayin, Chin, and Kayah – and to ensure accuracy, the National Costume Determination Committee has been established and is currently operational. The goal is to patent each indigenous group's costumes and designate them as intangible heritage,” said an official from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum.

It is also reported that, to ensure accurate designation of traditional costumes, historical documents, field survey records, and relevant indigenous literature and cultural groups will be consulted. — ASH/TKO



# NATIONAL



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hears reports on the maintenance of the old moat and walls near Thayawady Gate at Hanthawady Palace in Bago Region yesterday.

## FROM PAGE 1

He urged administrators and members of the Myanmar Police Force to forge polite relations with the people.

The Senior General noted that effective implementation of the rule of law and security measures at the grassroots level can contribute much towards the census-taken process and elections.

The Bago Region chief minister reported on the yield of paddy, oil crops, pulses and beans, cultivation of industrial crops, preservation of water resources, raising agricultural productivity, and development of health and education sectors.

In his response, the Senior General urged all to boost the per-acre yield of summer pad-

## Plans underway for prestigious elections and Hluttaw meetings

dy and expand sown acreage of sunflower plantations.

In his guidance, the Senior General stressed that the Bago Region government has to manage manufacturing and industrial production based on agriculture and livestock farming tasks with expanding cultivation of rubber, coffee, sugarcane, cotton and tea as industrial crops.

The Senior General highlighted that as Bago Region has sound foundations, turning out of young intellectuals and intelligentsia can contribute to greater development of the region.

He said that the Bago Region government needs to implement plans for the restoration of peace and stability to enable students to learn education peacefully and boost the economy.

The Senior General explained political changes, the progress of the economic, education, and health sectors, the rule of law, and security measures, in addition to anticipating the State on a broader scale.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Council members General Maung Maung

Aye and General Nyo Saw, Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Southern Command, deputy ministers and officials.

After the meeting, the Senior General inspected the display of teak posts excavated from the site of the former tier-roofed ground hall of Kanbawzathadi Golden Palace and maintenance tasks in the palace in Bago.

During his visit, the Senior General gave guidance that maintenance of buildings

must be undertaken in detail to keep the palace area neat and tidy. Ancient utensils must be showcased without damage, he added. He stressed the need to maintain roads in the palace area with dredging drains.

The Senior General also viewed round the old moat and walls near Thayawady Gate at Hanthawady Palace and left instructions on the sustainability of the moat and reconstruction of the walls in original structures based on firm shreds of evidence. — MNA/TTA

## Union Information Minister visits Magway University Library



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn looks round the night market at the strand road in Magway.

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, in his capacity as chairman of Myanmar Libraries Development Cooperation, visited Magway University Library, together with Magway Region Chief Minister U Tint Lwin, and donated books and publications yesterday.

The librarian first clarified the electronic library system and rental services.

The Union minister then observed the library compound and donated public science treatises for students.

The Union minister also met students from Magway's universities/colleges.

The video clips of "Prevention of Toxic Media", "Opening and closing events of 2024 Paris Olympics", and "Opening of Paralympics Games Paris 2024" were screened.

In his speech, the Union minister said that unscrupulous people intentionally spread fake news and false information using media to mislead the people. In other words, they conduct destructive actions, poisoning the press.

Accurate information is required to consider the current situation of the country, and the youths should create

their futures with specific ambitions for their life improvement. They also need to read and understand the changes in the world.

He donated six DTH receivers and 15 DVB-T2 set-top boxes for universities and colleges. Then, Rector Dr Khin Maung Oo of Magway University explained the university operations, and the faculty members read out research papers to develop the MSMEs.

The Union minister and party then headed to the Kancha Mingala Lake upgrading worksite, sales of MSME products and night market on the strand road. — MNA/KTZH



# NATIONAL

## Security forces honoured with cash, food for national defence duties

DONORS have come forward to honour the security forces performing national defence and security duties with monetary and food contributions.

On 29 August and yesterday, families of employees from the Supreme Court of the Union, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office attended a ceremony.

During this donation drive, the families of Supreme Court of the Union employees contributed food worth K5,000,000 and additional food items worth K3,000,000. The families of

employees from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture donated food items worth over K10,600,000. The families of employees from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office donated K2,000,000, the families from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office also donated K1,000,000, and the families from the Amyotha Hluttaw Office contributed K1,000,000. Officials from the Hluttaw offices handed over the donated materials to the commander, who then presented a certificate of honour and delivered words of thanks.

Similarly, a ceremony was held yesterday at the guest hall of the Shan State government office to present food to security



Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung presents donations to Eastern Command Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Aung Kyaw San yesterday.

forces. Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung, Eastern Command Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Aung Kyaw San, and other relevant officials, including regional government staff, attended it. The deputy commander received the donation worth K10 million from the Shan State Chief Minister.

Additionally, on the after-

noon of 27 August, another presentation of food to the security forces took place at the reception hall of the Central Command. The event was attended by Commander of the Central Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Ko Htike, officials from the Mandalay Region government, and wellwishers. During the event, Mandalay Region government

officials presented food worth K20 million, generously donated by local contributors to the commander.

It has been reported that cash donations and food items will continue to be delivered to security forces diligently performing national defence and security duties on various frontlines. — MNA/TKO

### Counter-argument to false information

## False reports on transport restrictions from Kalay to Chin State

MISLEADING information has been circulating on social media, claiming that the transport of rice and electrical goods from Kalay, Sagaing Region, to northern townships in Chin State has been banned.

According to a local security official, permissions for transporting food and essential goods are being properly regulated and granted to

residents.

The false news being spread by malicious media outlets is intended to create confusion and mislead the public about security forces' actions. — MNA/KZL

This screenshot reveals false claims.



## Media accuses Tatmadaw of detaining 20 youths in Mandalay

SUBVERSIVE media spread fake news, claiming that Tatmadaw arrested about 20 youths for military training on 27 and 28 August in the wards of TadaU and Pyigyidagun townships of Mandalay Region.

An official from security forces clarified an actual event: security forces had not arrested youths for military training

in Mandalay, and they had just conducted security measures, surprise checks, and patrols around the township.

Relevant officials carried out conscription processes as per procedures, and the People's Military Service Law was also officially enacted.

Malicious media intentionally circulates wrong and fake



This screenshot validates misinformation.

news, misleading the people and deteriorating the stability in Mandalay. — MNA/KTZH

## Unauthorized maid employment in S'pore via brokers raises concern

IT is worrying that people are leaving for Singapore to work as maids connected with the brokers without official approvals, according to the agency community.

There is no official permission from the government to work as a domestic helper. Still, people who work as domestic helpers in foreign countries by connecting with brokers are travelling illegally, and if anything happens, the brokers will not take responsibility.

“Visiting as a maid is not legal. The maid has not been legally allowed to go to any country. From the very beginning of the departure, they are illegal, so it is a concern. The maid has never been allowed to go to any country. Because they are not allowed, they go with brokers. When the problem arises, the broker

runs away without solving it. Myanmar maids are not very comfortable there. They went to work with PV (passport for visits). So, they work as maids after connecting with brokers,” said an agency official.

An agency entrepreneur also said that employment agencies are not involved in sending such maids as it is not officially approved and is carried out by brokers. There is a widespread recruitment of maids in Singapore on social media platforms popular in Myanmar, including TikTok, and those who wish to work in this way are persuaded to leave through the credit system.

Currently, Myanmar workers are mainly sent to Thailand, Japan, Korea, Singapore, and other Middle Eastern countries through official channels. — MT/ZN



# NATIONAL

## Myanmar delegation joins 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of SEACEN Executive Committee online



CBM Deputy Governor Dr Lin Aung (L) participates in the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the SEACEN EXCO virtually yesterday.

THE Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Governor Dr Lin Aung of the Central Bank of Myanmar attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the SEACEN Executive Committee (EXCO) yesterday

hosted by the Reserve Bank of India virtually.

Deputy Governor Dr Michael Debabrata Patra of the Indian Reserve Bank and Acting Executive Director of SEACEN Dr Srichander Ramaswamy first made opening speeches.

The SEACEN acting executive director and deputy governors of 19 SEACEN members discussed the approved issues at the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, completed work plans, ongoing work plans of SEACEN Centre in 2024, prioritized training, discussions, research papers, SEACEN scholarships and budget estimate in 2025, plans to recognize

the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) as a strategic partner of the SEACEN Centre, payment and recruitment processes of the SEACEN Centre.

During the retreat of the central bank deputies, Deputy Governor Dr Michael Debabrata Patra of the Indian Reserve Bank discussed the appointment of a director post in the macroeconomic and financial policies management department, contract extension for mid-level staff of the SEACEN Centre and rules and regulations for the centre staff. — MNA/KTZH

## Chinese Embassy to Myanmar hosts traditional mooncake festival, China-Myanmar media meeting

A ceremony to hail the Chinese traditional mooncake festival was held in conjunction with the China-Myanmar media meeting at the Chinese Culture Centre in Ahlon Township of Yangon Region yesterday, attended by Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia.

The Chinese Ambassador highlighted her clarifications on the outcomes of Mr Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, on his tour of Myanmar, the morale of the Third Plenary Session of the 20<sup>th</sup> Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and other notable measures.

The Ambassador reaffirmed that China strongly supports Myanmar for its independence, sovereignty, and existence of the country, as well as for safeguarding the region. She added that China also firmly stands for Myanmar's activities on inter-

national peace and stability, economic development, and efforts to improve the socioeconomic life of the people.

She continued that China strongly encourages Myanmar to initiate political reconciliation to implement democratization through the general election. China totally opposes the activities of internal instability and wars in Myanmar; foreign forces' interference in the internal affairs of Myanmar; and any acts defaming China with attempts to instigate the China-Myanmar relations.

Moreover, she mentioned that the landscape in the international communication sector has not changed the concept that the Western Bloc is stronger than the Eastern Bloc. Developed countries are still controlling the leadership role of mouthpieces in the international arena. Additionally, the media is experiencing new challenges, such as fake news, misinformation, rumours, and one-sided opinions.



The China-Myanmar media meeting in progress at the Chinese Culture Centre in Ahlon Township of Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: TWA

She expressed her expectation, urging all China-Myanmar media to enhance friendly collaboration through united strength to amplify the voice of southern developing countries to the entire world.

The Chairman of Myanmar Press Council, those from Yangon Media Group, Skynet Me-

dia Group, Northern Myanmar Media, Insight Myanmar Media, Swemyo Pauk-Phaw Magazine and Xinhua, China Daily and CCTV News participated in discussions on the enhancement of media cooperation between the two countries, dissemination of accurate information between people from two countries, and

development undertakings including education and agriculture sectors.

The meeting was also attended by Minister-Counsellor Dr Zheng Zhihong, officials from the Chinese Embassy, chief editors, editors, and reporters from more than 20 Chinese and Myanmar media outlets. — ASH/TTA

### 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).



# NATIONAL

## DMH warns 11 rivers may exceed danger levels



THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) has announced that water levels in 11 rivers, including the Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers, may exceed dangerous levels at least once.

According to the announcement, water levels in the townships of Bago, Hpa-an, Myawady, Ngathaingyoung, Thaboung, Maubin, and Bilin may reach dangerous levels due to the rivers Bago, Thanlwin, Thaungyin, Ngawun, Toe, and Bilin from September to

October.

The Ayeyawady River is expected to rise above dangerous levels in the townships of Pakokku, NyaungU, Seiktha, Hinthada, and Zalun. Additionally, the Chindwin River in Kalewa, Mingin, Kani, and Monywa; the Myittha River in Kalay; the Dokhtawady River in Myitnge; the Sittoung River in Toungoo and Madauk; and the Shwegyin River in Shwegyin may also surpass their respective dangerous levels. — TWA/TRKM

This photo shows flood victims being evacuated to a temporary camp in Kalewa Township, Sagaing Region, on 9 July 2024.

## ‘Lancang-Mekong Impression’ video contest open until 30 Sept

ACCORDING to China News Service, short videos submitted for the ‘Lancang-Mekong Impression’ video contest will be accepted until 30 September.

Under the supervision of China News Service, videos for the competition have been invited since 24 April to mark the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation.

Filmmakers from the six Lancang-Mekong countries — China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam — can compete by submitting a vibrant and engaging video that captures the lively envi-

ronment and interactions within the region.

“For contestants, short videos should be uploaded to a private system (<https://actshow.chinanews.com/lm-video2024/user/login>). Participants can log in using the link above to submit their entries.

Entries will be accepted until 30 September 2024, and the competition organizer will select the winning works and award prizes.

For more details, visit <http://www.ecns.cn/m/cns-wire/2024-04-29/detail-ihczz-kiq6812202.shtml>, according to China News Service. — TWA/MKKS



This photo shows machine-powered launches operating on the Yangon River.

## Yangon forms committee to reduce watercraft accidents

A committee will be formed to ensure the systematic operation of private boats in Yangon Region to reduce water transport accidents, according to the Yangon Regional government.

The committee’s goal is to enhance safety for passengers travelling by water and ensure the secure transport of goods. It will oversee compliance with established regulations by boat operators, owners, and workers and manage the systematic organization of watercraft landing sites.

The initiative aims to follow maritime regulations closely

to minimize accidents. Efforts will focus on systematic registration and management of motor boats operating in the Hlaing and Yangon rivers, ensuring faster coordination for regulation enforcement and emergency response.

In Kyimyindine Township, there are 537 20-horse power motor launches for the 2024-2025 financial year. There are seven landing sites, including Seikkyi with 60 vessels, Setsan with 92 vessels, Outyone with 88 boats, Ahlechaung with 103 ships, East Ayeywa with 54 boats, Balode Nyunt with 74 boats, and Sat-

kalay with 66 ships.

Additionally, in Dala Township, six private-owned boat landing sites include Gaba Aung terminal with 180 boats, Yaykan with 22 launches, Tanlyat with 46 vessels, Sapachaung with 41 boats, Kyaungsu with 22 launches, and Kyaungsu branch with 20 ships.

The cooperative society’s boat landing sites include Thamada shore with 34 boats, Kamakathwe with 30 launches, Sat Myay with 33 vessels, Kamarkasit with 41 ships, and Mawset with 35 boats, totalling 504 boats. — ASH/KZL



This picture captures a scene from the ‘Lancang-Mekong Impression’ entry video.



## Myanmar imports 430,000+ tonnes of fertilizer in FY's first 4 months



A general view of No 4 Fertilizer Plant in Myaungtaga, Hmawby Township, Yangon Region.

MYANMAR has imported 434,000 tonnes of fertilizer as of 22 July in the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April.

Urea Fertilizer Purchasing and Distribution Steering Committee targeted to import 1.6 million tonnes of fertilizer this FY.

Fertilizer consumers can complain about those sellers who fail to follow the set reference prices of fertilizer for Yangon, according to the Myanmar Fertilizer, Seed and Pesticide Entrepreneurs Association (MFSPEA).

Under the guidance of the Urea Fertilizer Purchasing and Distribution Steering Committee, MFSPEA has instructed member companies to sell fertilizers that are highly demanded in the domestic market as per the set reference prices for Yangon from 16 August to 15 September.

The reference prices are K83,000 per 50-kilogramme

bag of Urea fertilizer (large granular), K115,000 per 50-kilogramme bag of Rock Phosphate

and K128,000 per 50-kilogramme bag of Di Ammonium Phosphate. Yet, MFSPEA has not confirmed

the reference price for Complex fertilizer. The prices may vary a bit de-

pending on transportation charges in other regions and states as the aforementioned prices are set for Yangon Region, MFSPEA stated.

Additionally, reference prices will be further announced as per rules and regulations. For overcharging, consumers can complain to the committee through contact numbers (067 410032 and 09 883353358).

At present, the Fertilizer Committee holds a quarterly meeting to ensure quality fertilizer for growers without facing shortages. Under the approval of the Fertilizer Technology Group, 11,573 fertilizer registrations have been granted after the 41<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Fertilizer Committee. With individuals' consent, 1,957 registrations were voluntarily cancelled. The department revoked 2,793 registrations for expiration of validity, and 6,823 registrations are still being processed. — NN/KK

## Myanmar exports 1.8M tonnes of maize duty-free

MYANMAR has delivered over 1.8 million tonnes of maize to Thailand with duty-free privileges so far this FY.

Thailand gives the green light for maize imports under zero tariffs (with Form-D) between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposes a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on maize imports to protect the rights of their growers if the maize is imported during the maize season of Thailand.

Myanmar's maize is primarily sent to Thailand and delivered to China, India, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

Additionally, China has been purchasing Myanmar's maize through cross-border trade under the alternative development

programme. Legitimate maize trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 Myanmar companies have been permitted to export maize.

Myanmar conveyed over 2 million tonnes of maize to foreign trade partners in the 2022 corn season, and the majority of them went to Thailand, according to Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

The corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah, and Kayah states as well as Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons: winter, summer, and monsoon season. Myanmar's annual corn output is estimated at 2.5-3 million tonnes. — NN/KK



A thriving corn plantation.

## Advanced Sewing Machine Operator Training (Batch 8) to open on 16 Sept



Dedicated female workers on the garment manufacturing line.

MYANMAR Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) will offer the Advanced Sewing Machine Operator Training (Batch 8) from 16 to 27 September 2024 at Myanmar Garment Human Resources Development Training Centre (MGHRDC).

The trainer will share sewing methods of parts of fabric such as bag covers, spiral, shoulder corner seams, pockets, different types of bags, different ways of inserting zippers, long sleeve shirts and 'A' skirts with belts. Additionally, six

special sewing methods, including buttonhole sewing machine, button attached machine, Bartack Machine, Overlock 4 threads, Overlock 5 threads and 2 Needle, will be provided to trainees.

It is currently conducting a Basic Sewing Machine Operator Training Course (Batch 242) from 26 August to 13 September 2024 at MGHRDC.

Those who wish to attend the training can enrol through the contact numbers of MGHRDC: 09 940858350, 09 450723262, 09 403912570, 09 784085794 and 09 952802635. — NN/KK

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# OPINION

## Contribute to census enumeration with public participation

MYANMAR is preparing for a nationwide population and household census in 2024, targeting an estimated 56 million people and 13 million households. The census will be conducted from 1-15 October 2024, with the reference date being midnight of 30 September. The government plans to deploy around 42,000 auditors and enumerators who will cover 80,000 census units across 110,000 plots nationwide. These enumerators will go door-to-door, asking 68 questions for households and 18 questions for organizations.

The use of modern techniques, including mobile tablets, will help ensure accurate data collection, which will be transmitted directly to the head office.

This efficiency aims to provide timely and reliable data for the pilot population of Myanmar. The census data will play a crucial role in compiling accurate voter lists for upcoming general elections, highlighting its importance in the democratic process.

The census-taken process is a must to compile the data on the correct and accurate population and socioeconomic conditions of the nation to be able to emerge a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and to build a Union based on democracy and federalism. As such, all the people have to actively participate in the census enumeration as a national duty to contribute to the restoration of peace and stability and development of the State.

Public participation is key to the success of the census. Citizens are encouraged to cooperate with enumerators by providing accurate responses, as this will directly impact the quality of the data collected. The government emphasizes the need for public awareness to ensure the successful implementation of the census and the subsequent voter list compilation.

The census-taking process involves several stages: preparation, enumeration, data compilation and analysis, and report release. As the census date approaches, relevant officials and staff are working to ensure smooth and accurate data collection. This preparation is vital for the success of the census, which will inform key decisions and policies for the country's future.

Historically, national censuses in Myanmar were conducted every ten years between 1891 and 1941 under British rule. After a hiatus, censuses resumed in 1973 and then continued in 1983. The 2024 census marks a continuation of this important practice, with the pilot report expected in December 2024. Detailed analyses and reports for Nay Pyi Taw, regions, and states will be released in 2025. This census represents a significant opportunity for Myanmar to update its demographic data, which will be essential for effective governance and development planning.

The census-taken process is a must to compile the data on the correct and accurate population and socioeconomic conditions of the nation to be able to emerge a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and to build a Union based on democracy and federalism. As such, all the people have to actively participate in the census enumeration as a national duty to contribute to the restoration of peace and stability and development of the State.

CYBER threats around the world have been increasing in number, and Myanmar has not been immune to the challenges posed by cyber threats.

When comparing Myanmar to the other ASEAN countries, its internet penetration percentage is lower. However, Myanmar's mobile telecommunications network has expanded rapidly across the nation over the past decade. This expansion has led to a substantial increase in mobile user rates.

The four major telecom operators – MPT, Ooredoo, Telenor, and Mytel – have played pivotal roles in this growth. The cost of a SIM card is now less than one dollar.

### Digital Development in Myanmar

Myanmar's Myanma Posts and Telecommunications issues four types of telecom licences. These licences differ based on the types of activities that they carry out, the application procedures and timeframes, and licence durations and renewal conditions.

As of 2019, there were 173 companies providing internet-related services in Myanmar, including four mobile phone companies and all other types of telecommunications-related companies.

### Financial Sector Reforms

In recent years, Myanmar has undertaken significant reforms in the financial sector. The Central Bank of Myanmar established Financial Network System Phase I (CBM-NET) in 2016 with the support of JICA, and Financial Network System Phase II (CBM-NET2) was successfully launched on 16 November 2020. The system facilitates 24/7 domestic MMK remittance across different banks, bulk payments such as payroll transfers, and automatic withdrawal of taxes and utility bills.

The National Payment System Governing Committee, chaired by the Central Bank of Myanmar and comprising representatives from other relevant ministries, was established on 17 May 2021. The committee is responsible for implementing the National Payments System Strategy (2020-2025) and ensuring a secure national payment system that effectively contributes to both financial stability and economic growth.

The CBM is striving to enhance payment service providers' platforms that offer digital transaction services nationwide, secure the digital payment system and reduce the use of cash among people.

The CBM has established the necessary infrastructure and regulatory framework to enable the operation of mobile wallet services. In 2006, the CBM enacted the Financial Institutions Law and Mobile Financial Services Regulations. As of 2022, the CBM has granted five companies, including Wave Money, OK Dollar, MPT, Ooredoo and Mytel mobile financial service providers. Additionally, the CBM has granted licences to 18 private banks for mobile banking under the Law and Regulations.



To combat the increasing threat of scammers and cyber crime, investing in robust digital security measures is essential for protecting personal and financial information. ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/PIXABAY

# Digital Development and Cybercrime in Myanmar

By Kyaw Thein Lwin

### Domestic Laws Development

The Computer Science Development Law (1996), the Electronic Transaction Law (2004) and the Telecommunication Law (2013) currently serve as the primary laws for computer related crimes.

The Law Amending the Electronic Transaction Law was enacted in 2021. The amendment law covers the areas of maintaining, protecting and systematically managing personal data. Moreover, the amendment law introduced new definitions for terms such as cyber resource, malware, cyberspace and cyberattacks, along with penalties for those convicted of spreading fake news or false news and for those convicted of cyberattacks.

The Cyber Security Law is currently in the drafting stage. It covers various areas, including the formation of the Cyber Security Central Committee and Steering Committee, protection of personal information, safeguarding critical information infrastructure, application procedures for digital certification licenses, registration requirements for digital platform service providers, provisions for cyber security service providers, digital platform service, cyber fraud and cybercrime, cyber security service, online gambling and online financial service, and offences and penalties.

The draft version (2022) is available online.

### Case 1: Online Scam Involving Impersonation of a Bank Staff

Scammers create a fake Facebook account using the KBZ Bank logo and pretend to be bank staff from KBZ Bank. These scammers contact mobile payment service users through Messenger or Viber. Mostly, they sent a message like:

- "Your mobile payment application requires an upgrade from level 1 to level 2. Please upgrade now. Otherwise, it will be shut down"
- "Our bank needs to verify your mobile payment account registration information. Please provide a copy of your NRC card and other necessary details."

Subsequently, the scammer logs into the payment application using the targeted phone number and waits. When the targeted user logs into the payment application and receives the OTP (One-Time Password) code sent by the bank, the scammer asks for the OTP code from the target.

After obtaining the OTP code, the scammer accesses the target's account with the OPT code and withdraws all funds.

Sometimes, the scammer sends a mes-

sage stating, 'We will upgrade your payment application account level. Please download and install the application first.' However, the downloaded application is actually remote access software, such as the AnyDesk application, and if you install it, the scammer gains the ability to manipulate your mobile payment application."

### Case 2: Package Delivery Scam

A scammer sent a friend request to the plaintiff through a Facebook account and established a friendship with her. Two weeks later, the scammer contacted the plaintiff and said that she was a Korean American citizen, and while serving in the Seria Peacekeeping Troop, she received gold bars and US dollars. She expressed difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic in retaining these assets and expressed a desire to entrust and deliver them to the plaintiff. The scammer also provided photographs of the gold bars and US dollars.

Two days later, the plaintiff received a phone call from a woman's voice. The caller informed her that the delivery package had arrived at the Yangon International Airport Logistic Division, and a fee of US\$1,250 was required to release the package. The plaintiff remitted the US\$1,250. However, the plain-

tiff received another phone call requesting additional US dollars for various reasons. Following the request, the plaintiff remitted around US\$5,000 to the specified bank account.

As a result of the police investigation, it was revealed that the scammer approached an individual with limited financial means to open a bank account and then purchased that person's bank account. This account was then utilized to deceive money from the plaintiff. The police arrested a Nigerian citizen who led the deception, along with another Myanmar woman in connection with the case, and seized 57 bank accounts along with other related materials. The scammers confess that they committed 51 cases across the country in 2020.

### Case 3: Online Loan Scams

Scammers create counterfeit Facebook accounts, using the identical name and logo of legitimate microfinance companies, gold and jewellery shops or banks to engage in online money lending schemes.

These scammers offer online money lending services through these counterfeit Facebook accounts. Upon encountering such a page, the plaintiff mistakenly believes it to be an authentic branch of the microfinance company, gold and jewellery shop or bank.

When the plaintiff contacts the fake accounts for the purpose of borrowing money, the scammer then requests the plaintiff to complete various forms and demands an upfront payment for registration. Once the plaintiff transfers the requested amount, the scammer subsequently asks for additional funds, such as fees for documents and forms.

In the final stage of the deception, the scammer blocks the plaintiff's phone number.

### Preventive Measure

The Myanmar government has made various efforts in recent years to tackle fraud and scams. These efforts include:

1. Re-registration of SIM users with correct personal information and ID card numbers;
2. Cancellation of SIM cards that are incomplete or incorrectly registered;
3. Registration of biometric data of citizens and the implementation of an e-ID database system;
4. Scrutinizing and comparing the SIM registration data with the biometric data;
5. Upgrading wallet users from Level 1 to Level 2 with the correct information for the KYC (Know Your Customer) process;
6. Investigation and prosecution of cyber-criminal activities;
7. Upgrading the legal framework;
8. Public awareness campaigns, and so on.

### Conclusion

The nature of cybercrime and its threats is complex and diverse. Cooperation and exchange of knowledge, best practices, and innovative solutions among government, the private sectors and organizations will strengthen cyber resilience and pave the way for a safer, more secure digital future.

### Reference:

- (1) Ministry of Post and Telecom, Licence Issued Lists (2019)
- (2) The National Payments System Strategy (2020-2025)
- (3) Ministry of Information website



**BAY INFERENCE:** According to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the Well Marked Low Pressure Area over Westcentral Bay and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal(off North Andhra Pradesh and South Odisha, India) still persists. It is likely continue to move West-Northwestwards and may further intensify into a depression over North Andhra Pradesh and adjoining South Odisha Coasts during next 48 hours. Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 31st August 2024:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Upper Sagaing, Magway Regions and Northern Shan, Kayah States, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay Regions and Kachin, Chin, Rakhine States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw and Eastern Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions. Degree of certainty is 100%.

**THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:** The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Magway Region and Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at time off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30-35 m.p.h. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Moderate monsoon.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31st August 2024:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31st August 2024:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.



# NATIONAL

## Myanmar attends 18<sup>th</sup> AMMTC and related meetings

THE Myanmar delegation led by Ministry of Home Affairs' Chief of Myanmar Police Force (MPF) Police Lt-Gen Win Zaw Moe attended the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime and its related meetings (18<sup>th</sup> AMMTC) in Vientiane, in Laos, from 27 to 29 August, and arrived back yesterday.

The opening ceremony of the 18<sup>th</sup> AMMTC and its related meetings was held at Latsavong Wanda Vista Hotel on 28 August, and ministers and senior officials of ten ASEAN member countries and observer Timor-Leste, the Secretary-General of ASEAN and relevant officials attended the event.

During the 18<sup>th</sup> AMMTC, the leader of the Myanmar delegation highlighted the severe impacts of drugs on millions of people around the world, saying the production and sale of drugs are related to money laundering, arms trafficking and terror acts, which affect state security, stability and the rule of law.

Although Myanmar is una-



ble to produce precursor chemicals, they enter into the drug manufacturing facilities at border areas through various ways. Although non-governmental armed organizations in Myanmar denied that they were not concerned with drug cases, they import the chemicals into their controlled areas. They produce drugs with the help of foreign

chemists.

He continued that the country conducted 40 special drug operations between 2023 and 2024 nationwide and Operation 39 in 2023 with the seizures of large sums of chemicals and drugs.

He then mentioned the online scam and financial frauds that led to human trafficking,

collaboration between Myanmar Police Force and foreign authorities, rescue of 54,373 victims until 20 August 2024, and sending 52,164 back to China while 1,992 to ASEAN countries.

The 18<sup>th</sup> AMMTC approved two concept papers, two instructions, one guidance, two declarations and five joint statements.

During the second-day

meeting on 29 August, the 14<sup>th</sup> AMMTC+ 3 (China, Japan, Korea) meeting, the 11<sup>th</sup> AMMTC+ China meeting, the 9<sup>th</sup> AMMTC+ Japan meeting and the 4<sup>th</sup> AMMTC+ ROK meeting were held.

During the 9<sup>th</sup> AMMTC+ Japan Meeting, regarding the discussion of the Japanese delegate on Myanmar affairs, the Myanmar delegate requested the Japanese delegate to follow the fundamental principles and policies stated in the ASEAN Charter and ASEAN Political and Security Community Blueprint (2025), especially the fact "non-interference in internal affairs of another country" as his discussion was contrary to the intention of the meeting.

The Myanmar delegation led by Myanmar SOMTC leader Officiating Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Zeya of Myanmar Police Force, Transnational Crime Division, attended the pre-coordination meetings of SOMTC, SOMTC+3, SOMTC+ China, SOMTC+ Japan and SOMTC+ ROK on 27 August. — MNA/KTZH

## ME Singapore: Myanmar citizens can pay tax without appointments



This photo shows both foreigners and Myanmar nationals arriving in Singapore for vacation.

THE Myanmar Embassy to Singapore has informed that Myanmar nationals who want to pay income tax do not need to make an appointment and can come and pay the tax on the embassy's office days.

According to the embassy's announcement, Myanmar citizens who wish to pay income taxes not to renew their passports do not need to make an appointment, and they can come in person or send a family member on their behalf from 9:30 am to 11:30 am to the embassy with original passport and IC card.

The embassy also notified us that income tax payable will start in October 2023. PR, EP, SP and Long-Term Pass ID cardholders who want to renew their passports should contact WhatsApp number +6581748993, while WP and Student Pass holders should contact WhatsApp number +6582468581, or they can make an appointment by sending their passport (first page) and IC card (front and back pages), it said.

The embassy stated that their names can be verified in the list, which will be announced every Friday. — MT/ZN

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.

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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

## Diverse illegal goods seized in multiple operations



Photos show confiscated illegal commodities and vehicles in different states and regions.

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat the illicit trade are being effectively carried out in accordance with the law.

On 26 August, combined duty teams made inspections under the management of the Customs Department. At Ywathagy Dry Port, a vehicle travelling from Hpa-an to Yangon was found carrying two types of foodstuffs without valid documentation, with an estimated value of K9.1 million, along with the Yutong bus transporting them, valued at K70 million.

Additionally, on 27 and 28 August, seven containers were found to contain undeclared industrial goods with an estimated value of K190.265 million at Myanma Industrial Port. On 28 August, at the Asia World container checkpoint, four containers were found to contain

industrial goods without valid documents, valued at K152.88 million, and one consumer good worth K28.35 million was seized at Yangon International Airport. In total, illegal goods worth an estimated K450.595 million were seized, and the action was carried out according to Customs procedures.

On 27 August, under the management of the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force, combined teams conducted inspections, resulting in the seizure of one consumer goods and one industrial goods without valid documentation, with an estimated value of K47.04 million, at Bayinnaung Market, Yoegyichaung Road, in Mayangon Township. Additionally, on 28 August, an unregistered Toyota Crown, valued at K4.5 million, was seized near Waibula Bus Stop, Thanthuma Road, Thingangyun Township. The total

value of goods seized amounted to K51.54 million, and the action was executed in accordance with relevant laws.

Moreover, on 28 August, under the management of the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force, combined teams conducted inspections, at the intersection of Htonebo Street and 67<sup>th</sup> Street in Amarapura Township, resulting in the seizure of ten types of motorcycle parts without valid documentation, valued at K124.32 million, along with a Mitsubishi Fuso truck and a Nissan Diesel truck transporting them, valued at K110 million. The total value of goods seized was K234.32 million, and the action was conducted in line with Customs procedures.

Furthermore, on 28 August, under the management of the Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force, a combined team conducted inspections at

the Thanlwin Bridge checkpoint, where a vehicle travelling from Hpa-an to Bago was found carrying one type of foodstuffs without valid documentation, valued at K7.84 million, along with a KIA Bongo light truck transporting them, valued at K15 million. The total value of goods seized was K22.84 million, and the action was taken according to Customs procedures.

On 29 August, under the management of the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force, a combined team conducted inspections in Bago District and Pyay District, resulting in the seizure of 5.220 tonnes of illegal teak, valued at K2.08 million, with the action being taken under the Forestry Law.

Additionally, on 29 August, under the management of the Taninthayi Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force, a com-

combined team conducted inspections in Shwe Pyi Soe Village, Kawthoung Township, where six unregistered motorcycles, valued at K7.6 million, were seized. The action was taken under the Import and Export Law.

On 29 August, under the management of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force, a combined team conducted inspections in Lewe District and Ottara District, resulting in the seizure of 19.804 tonnes of illegal teak, valued at K7.23 million, with the action being taken under the Forestry Law.

In total, from 26 to 29 August, a total of 19 cases were recorded, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods valued at approximately K776.20 million, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/KZL

## Drugs worth over K550M seized in Mandalay, Yangon

IN a series of successful operations, authorities have seized drugs valued at over K550 million in Mandalay and Yangon Regions. According to Myanmar Police Force reports the operations were conducted under the supervision of the Drug Inforcement Division.

At approximately 9 am on the morning of 27 August, the combined team apprehended Soe Tint at the bus terminal in Ngwetawkyigon, Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay Region. The seizure included 2.45 kilogrammes of the psychotropic substance known as Happy Water, which

was transported via motorcycle. The combined team also arrested Sai Kham Ti in Aungmyaythazan Township, who was found with psychotropic substances.

Further investigations led to the seizure of 4,900 tablets of ATS, 380 Happy-5 tablets, 950 grammes of ketamine, and a Toyota Fielder in Mangaladon Township, Yangon Region. The individual, Kan Htoo Tin Thein was arrested, and the drugs were found along with a car. At 11:00 am on 28 August, another arrest was made in Yaksawk Township, where Ma Wah Wah Lwin (aka) Sanda, a drug trafficker, was apprehended. The drugs

seized included 470 grammes of ICE, 25 grammes of ketamine, one kilogramme of collagen powder, and 700 tablets of Tramadol.

Overall, the operations on 27 and 28 August resulted in the seizure of psychotropic substances worth over K550 million. The seized drugs were being transported from Shan State to Mandalay and Yangon Regions for distribution in KTVs, clubs, bars, and restaurants. Legal actions have been taken against the offenders, and investigations are ongoing to identify further accomplices involved in drug trafficking. — MNA/KZL



Photos show offenders alongside seized drugs and vehicles.



# ECONOMY WORLD

## India hands over first payment for energy project to Sri Lanka

India is contributing US\$11 million to the project, which aims to benefit these off-grid islands.



High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Santosh Jha, on Thursday provided the initial payment for Hybrid Power Projects designed to address energy needs in Delft, Nainativu, and Analaitivu islands. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ SYNERGIA FOUNDATION**

HIGH Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Santosh Jha on Thursday handed over the first payment for Hybrid Power Projects aimed at addressing energy needs in Delft, Nainativu and Analaitivu islands, the Indian Embassy in Sri Lanka said in a statement.

Jha handed over the payment to Sulakshana Jayawardena, the Secretary of Ministry of Power and Energy and Chairperson of Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA), the statement said.

The project is aimed at catering to the needs of the people of the three islands, which are not connected to the national

grid. India is granting an assistance of US\$11 million for this project, as per the statement.

Earlier on 23 August, Jha visited the island's Eastern Province, where he met Governor Senthil Thondaman and State Minister of Trade and Environment S Viyalendiran and discussed various planned and ongoing projects in the Province under India's assistance.

Earlier on 22 August, Jha interacted with representatives of Batticaloa District Chamber of Commerce and Batticaloa Chamber of Commerce and Industry and advised them on avenues to enhance B2B engagement with India. — ANI

## Jena's prosperity highlights East Germany's economic revival amid AfD surge

WITH its shiny new housing estates, scores of building sites and bustling city centre, Jena represents the fresh face of the former East Germany.

"The former East German states now play a full part... in the success and strength of our economy," Chancellor Olaf Scholz said at a meeting in the city this week.

Economic problems and a general sense of being disadvantaged are often cited as

the reasons why support for the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) is particularly high in the once-communist East Germany.

In recent elections, the Alternative for Germany (AfD) has become a significant political force in eastern Germany, performing notably well in European Union elections and expected to make gains in regional polls in Thuringia and Saxony.

Despite this political shift, eastern Germany has seen positive economic developments. Over the past decade, economic growth in this region has outpaced the national average, with increasing investment, falling unemployment, and notable industrial progress.

Cities like Jena and Dresden are emerging as centres of expertise and technology, while Brandenburg's growth, bolstered by Tesla's electric car plant, has surpassed national figures.

Economic indicators highlight this progress, with eastern Germany's GDP expected to grow by 1.1 per cent this year, nearly three times the national average, and unemployment decreasing from 11.6 per cent in 2013 to 7.8 per cent in 2023.

However, rural areas face challenges like population decline and a pessimistic outlook, which may drive some residents towards extremist political views. — AFP



The city of Jena in eastern Germany is a world-renowned centre of expertise in the field of optics. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Australia's annual inflation falls to 3.5%



Passengers take a new metro line in Sydney, Australia, 19 August 2024. **PHOTO: MA PING/XINHUA**

AUSTRALIA'S annual rate of inflation slowed to 3.5 per cent in the year to July, official figures have shown.

According to data published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on Wednesday, the consumer price index (CPI), the headline measure of inflation in Australia, rose by 3.5 per cent in the 12 months to July, down from 3.8 per cent in the year to June.

Treasurer Jim Chalmers said the figures were encouraging.

"What these numbers show today is that we're making welcome and encouraging progress

in the fight against inflation," he told reporters.

"We'd like inflation to fall further and faster and we expect it to."

The Australian Associated Press (AAP) reported that economists had expected the annual rate of inflation to fall to 3.3 per cent in July. The ABS identified a 4.0 per cent increase in housing prices between July 2023 and July 2024 and rises in the prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages (3.8 per cent), alcohol and tobacco (7.2 per cent) and transport (3.4 per cent) as the biggest drivers of inflation. — Xinhua



# July foreigner hotel stays in Japan soar 35.2% to record 14.94 mln

The Japan National Tourism Organization reported a 41.9 per cent increase in foreign visitors to Japan, totalling 3.29 million for the same month.

THE number of overnight stays by foreigners at accommodation facilities in Japan soared 35.2 per cent from a year earlier to 14.94 million in July, a record high for a single month, boosted by a surge in inbound tourism on the back

of a weaker yen, government data showed Friday. The latest figure represents a 38.3 per cent rise from July 2019 before the coronavirus outbreak, according to the preliminary data from the Japan Tourism Agency.

The upbeat data on overnight stays at hotels, inns, private lodging and other facilities by foreigners reflect a 41.9 per cent surge in foreign visitors to Japan to 3.29 million in July in separate data released earlier in the month by the

Japan National Tourism Organization. The July figure for Japanese guests was up 1.9 per cent from a year earlier, reaching 44.22 million, and 7.9 per cent higher compared with the same month of 2019, the data showed. — Kyodo



File photo taken in 2013 shows Akasaka Excel Hotel Tokyu. PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

# BMW ramps up autonomous driving technology development in China

GERMAN carmaker BMW Group will accelerate the development of autonomous driving technology with new facilities to be launched later this year at its research and development centre in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province.

The Shenyang R&D centre plans to open an autonomous driving data processing centre and an autonomous driving test workshop in September and December this year, BMW Group said.

The data processing center will help to efficiently process autonomous driving test data,

while the autonomous driving test workshop will primarily validate autonomous driving functions for new local models.

The Chinese R&D team will expand the

possibilities and limits of autonomous driving technology and push for the realization of higher levels of autonomous driving technology, the carmaker said. — Xinhua



Cars are seen in production at a BMW Brilliant factory in Shenyang, Liaoning province. PHOTO: YANG QING/XINHUA/FILE

## Transferring Distributor for Registered Products

Distribution of following pesticides registered by Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Singapore) is transferring from JJ-Pun Trading Co., Ltd to Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch). Any Objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, West Gyogone, Insein Township within two weeks.

Sr	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of Reg.	Reg No.
1.	ABLE MAX	Cypermethrin 25 % w/w EC	Full	F2023-4466
2.	ARMOUR 200 SC	Imidacloprid 200 g/l SC	Provisional	P2018-4478
3.	Malanon 95 ULV	Malathion 950 g/l ULV	Full	F2014-939
4.	Quest MC	Lambda-cyhalothrin 25g/l MC	Full	F2020-2782
5.	Roban	Bromadiolone 0.05 g/kg RB	Full	F2020-2781
6.	Shield 50 SC	Fipronil 50 g/l SC	Full	F2023-4220
7.	SNIPER CG	Fipronil 0.05 % w/w CG	Full	F2023-4465
8.	Spar 1 % SG	Temephos 1 % SG	Full	F2017-1459
9.	VIC 80 SC	Bifenthrin 80 g/l SC	Full	F2020-2786
10.	VISTA 10 EC	Bifenthrin 100 g/l EC	Full	F2023-4464
11.	Safeguard 500 EC	Permethrin 500 g/l EC	Full	F2019-1883
12.	Protect Total	Azamethiphos 1 % GB	Full	F2019-1879

Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch). Room 209, Rangoun Business Centre; No. 97. West Shwe Gon Daing Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Tele: 09-5145328

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (V.128N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (V.128N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-8-2024** 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 MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB433A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB433A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-8-2024** 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 JAIRAN VOY.NO. (SCY1172)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V JAIRAN VOY.NO. (SCY1172)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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 LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS SDN BHD LINE**



# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## China to hold World Buddhist Forum in October



Photo taken on 11 November 2020 shows the opening ceremony of the Maitreya Cultural Festival of Xuedou Mountain in Ningbo, east China's Zhejiang Province. **PHOTO: HUANG ZONGZHI/XINHUA/FILE**

*The forum aims to foster global peace, enhance individual well-being, and build a shared future for humanity.*

THE sixth World Buddhist Forum is slated to take place in the city of Ningbo in east China's Zhejiang Province this October, with an aim to promote world peace, improve the well-being of all individuals, and gather wisdom and strength for building a community with a shared future for humanity.

First launched in 2006, the triennial forum has successfully organized five editions, and evolved into the largest and most influential multilateral platform for international Buddhist-related exchange and dialogue initiated by China.

ated by China.

The event will extend invitations to Buddhists, experts, scholars and delegates from about 70 countries and regions around the world. The upcoming forum aims to delve into the essence of Buddhism, as well as its ideological connotations and practical values, in the meantime, promote communication and cooperation with various Buddhist communities, academic circles, cultural sectors and individuals around the world, said Master Yanjue, head of the Buddhist Association of China. — Xinhua

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Humanitarian pause for polio vaccination in Gaza

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has said that an agreement had been reached with Israel to allow a mass polio vaccination campaign. The initiative will be made possible through humanitarian pauses beginning on 1 September.

Notably, Dr Rik Peepkorn, head of the UN World Health Organization (WHO) office for the West Bank and Gaza had announced that the polio vaccination campaign in Gaza would start on 1 September.

The UN agencies UNRWA, UNICEF, and WHO plan to vaccinate more than 6,40,000 children in Gaza in two rounds.

Sharing a post on X handle, the United Nations News Service, said, "UN health agency, WHO, alongside partners to start polio vaccination campaign on 1 September, says Dr Rik Peepkorn. Campaign to be conducted in two rounds; vital that it reaches at least 90 per cent coverage in both rounds." — ANI

#### IAEA chief to visit Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant

THE head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Thursday that he will visit the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (ZNPP) next week as nuclear safety situation there "remains precarious".

IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi said in a statement that he will hold high-level talks and assess developments at the ZNPP during his visit. Grossi's visit comes after what he called "recent deeply concerning incidents" at the ZNPP, including a fire that broke out at the plant's cooling tower and a drone strike close to the facility earlier this month.

"A nuclear accident must be avoided at all costs, and a nuclear power plant must never be attacked. The consequences could be disastrous, and no one stands to benefit from it," Grossi warned, adding that he remains determined to protect nuclear safety. — Xinhua

## Bangladesh floods: 18 million people affected

BANGLADESH is grappling with severe monsoon season which has impacted more than 18 million people, with over 1.2 million families trapped, according to the United Nations.

Sharing a post on X, the UN News Service said, "Over 18 million people in Bangladesh have been affected by se-

vere monsoon conditions, with more than 1.2 million families trapped as flash floods submerge vast areas of the country's east and southeast."

The UNICEF said that the worst affected regions in the country include Chattogram and Sylhet, where major rivers are "flowing well above danger

levels", further aggravating the situation.

The floods in Bangladesh have severely impacted people, with initial estimates indicating that five million people — including two million children — have been affected, many stranded without food and relief. — ANI

## Millions Americans under alerts as heat wave hits US Midwest

A heat wave brought record-high temperatures to US Midwest states this week, with more than 60 million people included in alerts over the conditions.

A late-season high-pres-

sure system over cities in the Midwest regions such as Chicago, Des Moines and Topeka has left them experiencing rare "extreme heat" for a long period of time, according to the US National Weather Service

(NWS).

Chicago is in the centre of an excessive heat warning that stretches north to Madison, Wisconsin, and south to Springfield, Illinois.

The dangerous late August heat wave will expand over the Midwest early this week before building into the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast by mid-week, according to the NWS Weather Prediction Centre. "Heat indices of 105-115 and lows in the mid/upper 70s will bring a heightened risk of heat-related illness," NWS posted.

The NWS warned the public of the combined dangers of heat and humidity associated with heat waves. — Xinhua



The temperature reads 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) on a sign in Baker, California, on 21 July 2022. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**



# SPORTS



The performance marked a strong start for India at the Paris Paralympics, with both Indian shooters finishing in the top three.  
**PHOTO: ANI**

## PM Modi hails Avani Lekhara, Mona Agarwal for winning medals at Paris Paralympics

*Modi highlighted that Lekhara is the first Indian woman to win three Paralympic medals.*

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Avani Lekhara and Mona Agarwal for winning medals in the women's 10-metre air rifle final at the ongoing Paris Paralympics on Friday.

Reigning Paralympic champion, Avani Lekhara maintained her streak and struck gold in the women's 10-metre air rifle final at the Paris Paralympics on Friday. Shooter Mona Agarwal bagged the bronze medal at the same event.

PM Modi took to his official X handle and hailed Lekhara for opening India's medal account at the Paris Paralympics.

for winning the coveted Gold in the R2

Women 10-metre Air Rifle SH1 event. She also creates history as she is the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian woman athlete to win 3 Paralympic medals! Her dedication continues to make India proud," PM Modi wrote on X.

While praising Mona Agarwal, PM Modi said that her remarkable achievement reflected her dedication. "Congratulations to Mona Agarwal on winning the Bronze medal in R2 Women 10m Air Rifle SH1 event at the Paris #Paralympics2024! Her remarkable achievement reflects her dedication and quest for excellence. India is proud of Mona," PM Modi wrote on X. — ANI

## Southampton sign Arsenal keeper Ramsdale

SOUTHAMPTON signed England goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale from Arsenal in a deal worth a reported £25 million (\$32 million) ahead of Friday's transfer deadline.

Ramsdale lost his place to David Raya last season, making just six appearances in the Premier League after the Spaniard's arrival in 2023.

The 26-year-old had been linked with Wolves but that move fell through and paved the way for his switch to St Mary's.

"I'm absolutely delighted. The way the manager wants to play, the way he was when I spoke to him, he was just full of so much enthusiasm," Ramsdale said.

"I'd never met him before, but he made me feel about eight feet tall, which is just what you want."

Ramsdale joined Arsenal

from Sheffield United in 2021 and made 89 appearances in all competitions.

He was voted into the PFA's Premier League Team of the Year for the 2022-23 campaign, but was surprisingly axed to make way for Raya as Mikel Arteta looked to improve a team that eventually finished as runners-up to Premier League champions Manchester City for a second successive season.

Ramsdale's father was critical of the way the Arsenal manager handled the situation after the keeper was dropped.

Arteta still paid tribute to Ramsdale for his contribution during three years at the Emirates Stadium.

"Aaron has been a top professional since joining in 2021 and has made many contributions during his time with us," Arteta said. — AFP



Southampton have signed England goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale from Arsenal. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Australia names squad for FIFA World Cup qualifiers

AUSTRALIA announced on Friday a 24-player squad for the Socceroos' opening third round qualifying games for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Coach Graham Arnold named an extended squad for September's World Cup qualifiers against Bahrain and Indonesia, with several key players

returning from injury for the national team.

The matches against Bahrain on the Gold Coast on 5 September and Indonesia in Jakarta on 10 September will be the first for the Socceroos in the third round of Asian Football Confederation (AFC) qualifying for the 2026 World Cup.

Craig Goodwin returns from a rib injury that had ruled him out of wins against Bangladesh and Palestine in June, with the 32-year-old Al Wehda winger having scored twice and provided an assist in the first two games of the Saudi Pro League season.

Socceroos captain and

first-choice goalkeeper Mat Ryan, who signed for Italian side Roma in July, returns to the squad after having been rested in June. Defender Lewis Miller and midfielder Aiden O'Neill - both based in Europe - have been selected after also missing June's fixtures due to injury.

Rising star Nestory Irankunda, 18, has overcome an injury sustained in midweek training with Bayern Munich to be included in the squad.

Arnold said in a statement that it was extremely important for the Socceroos to start the third round qualifying stage strongly. — Xinhua





## Pope heads to Southeast Asia in ambitious trip

**P**OPE Francis embarks Monday on a 12-day trip to Southeast Asia, the longest and farthest of his papacy that will challenge the 87-year-old's increasingly fragile health.

The pontiff will fly overnight and arrive on Tuesday in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, before heading to Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Singapore.

The distance covered — some 32,000 kilometres (almost 20,000 miles) — and time difference of up to eight hours would be enough to make a testing trip.

But Francis — for whom spreading the faith is a priority — will also deliver 16 speeches and hold several giant masses as he seeks to rally the region's growing Catholic community.

The trip — his 45<sup>th</sup> abroad — was originally planned for 2020 but postponed due to the Covid pandemic. And in those four years, the pontiff's health has suffered.

The Argentine now routinely uses a wheelchair to move around, underwent hernia surgery last year and has been plagued by respiratory issues.

He has not travelled abroad since visiting Marseille in France in September 2023, having cancelled a planned address at United Nations climate talks in Dubai two months later. — AFP

*Despite the physical demands and time zone changes, the Pope is focused on spreading the faith and will deliver 16 speeches and conduct several large masses.*



Pope Francis presides the Christmas Eve mass at St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican on 24 December 2023. PHOTO: TIZIANA FABI/AFP/FILE

## New Zealand's Maori king dies aged 69

*Celebrated as a symbol of national unity and Maori identity, he died peacefully surrounded by family, shortly after marking the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his coronation.*



The king of New Zealand's Indigenous Maori people, Kiingi Tuheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero VII (left), died on Friday. PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE

**T**HE king of New Zealand's Maori died on Friday after heart surgery, with aides saying the beloved 69-year-old monarch, praised as a symbol of national unity, had "passed to the great beyond".

Spokesman Rahui Papa said King Tuheitia died peacefully surrounded by family, just days after celebrating the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his coronation.

A symbol of Maori identity and kinship, Tuheitia occupied a largely ceremonial role and for most of his reign only spoke publicly once a year.

Nonetheless, he helped put New Zealand's rich Indigenous heritage at the centre of public life.

He campaigned to reduce high rates of Indigenous incarceration and for whales to be granted legal personhood, hoping to protect them from the ravages of evermore polluted and warming seas.

New Zealand's Maori currently make up about 17 per cent of the population, or about 900,000 people. — AFP

### NEW ALAMEIN CITY

## Egypt starts first green industrial complex

EGYPTIAN Minister of Housing Sherif El-Sherbiny on Thursday laid the foundation stone for the country's first green industrial complex, the ministry said in a statement.

The project, spanning over 400,000 square metres and with a total investment of 12 billion Egyptian pounds (about US\$247 million), is situated in the industrial zone of New Alamein City along the Mediterranean Sea.

The first phase of the complex will include three main factories and additional supporting facilities, the statement said, adding that the production will start in the second quarter of 2025, with 60-70 per cent of components being locally sourced. The complex is expected to create 2,000 jobs, it noted. The Egyptian government aims to use the green industrial complex as a successful model to attract foreign investment in industries related to metal equipment manufacturing and to advance technology localization in Egypt, it added. — Xinhua