

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Everyone must respond thoroughly to the questions, as this contributes to a data collection process that benefits themselves, their families, future generations, and the State



**C**hairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday delivered a video speech to the people in commemoration of the population and household census enumeration for 2024. His speech is as follows: —

I extend greetings to all esteemed Myanmar people and all national brethren with best wishes for enjoying all auspiciousnesses and physical and mental well-being.

The population and household census which has been enumerated in our country once every ten years will be collected in the entire nation from 1 to 15 October simultaneously. If we count it starting today, thirty days remain until the census-taken process.

The census concerning population, economic and social measures is to be taken for everybody simultaneously in the entire nation or a set plot.

Enumerating the census is very wide with a large workload, spending a large sum of money. The majority of global countries conduct the cen-

sus-taken process once every ten years. Census measure is concerned with everybody and it is a must to be done. Hence, even developed countries which have full data of identity registration statistics regularly enumerate the census.

In 2024, Myanmar will conduct its census again, ten years after the previous one in 2014. Moreover, as the State actually needs correct and accurate population data to manage present and future development projects of the nation, we decided to collect the census.

Our government is arranging enumeration process of the population and household census in the entire nation in accord with the international standards. As different steps of preparatory processes have been conducted since previous years, now is ready to collect population data on the ground.

Data from the census mentions not only total population but age and gender of the people residing in the nation as well as socioeconomic

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#### Symbols of Socio-Political Ideologies in Buddhist Architecture

By Dr Myo Nyunt Aung

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Japan to recruit over 1,400 Myanmar workers

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Eels can survive more in natural rather than living in ponds: research



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers a speech at a meeting with region and state chief ministers, members of Yangon Region cabinet and regional-level departmental officials at the office of Yangon regional government yesterday.

## Census-taken process starting 1 October to contribute to holding election

Data from the census-taken process which is beneficial for the State will be used in serving much interest of the State.

**S**enior General Min Aung Hlaing pointed out that officials from regions and states have to participate in successfully gathering population and household census.

**SEE PAGE 3**



# NATIONAL



**Twenty-eight (28) days remain until the National Census.**




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

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



**၂၀၂၄ ခုနှစ်၊ နိုဝင်ဘာလ ၈ ရက်နေ့**  
**International Literacy Day 2024**



အပြန်အလှန် နားလည်မှုနှင့် ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးအတွက် စာတတ်မြောက်ရန်အပ်လို့ ဘာသာစကားစုံပညာရေးကို မြှင့်တင်ကြပါစို့

Promoting multilingual education: Literacy for mutual understanding and peace

၂၀၂၄ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လ ၈ ရက်

ရုံးအမှတ် (၁၃)၊ နေပြည်တော်

## Maintenance work underway at eastern moat of King Pyinpya's Palace in Bagan

ACCORDING to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, excavation and maintenance works have been engaged at the eastern moat of the King Pyinpya's Palace located in Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone, NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region.



Excavation and maintenance works are underway in the eastern part of the moat of King Pyinpya's Palace.

Current work is being conducted at the site where an excavation project was halted in 1990. Although the construction structures of the moat from the Bagan era, along with its original characteristics, brick courtyards, and the position of the moat, are visible, it is difficult to predict what might be discovered beneath the

ground during further excavation. "Current work involves excavating the northern part of the moat. The eastern and some northern sections were excavated in 1990.

This time, the goal is to uncover the moat to reveal its original position," an officer from the department said. Since Bagan City is a World Heritage Site, the implementation of

archaeological research strategies, protection of the heritage, research and maintenance works will be carried out in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund. — ASH/TMT

## MAI and Mingalar flights from Mandalay continue to operate normally

FLIGHTS from Myanmar Airways International (MAI) and Mingalar Airlines from Mandalay continue to operate normally. As more passengers opt to purchase domestic and international flights directly through online platforms and with a growing network of authorized ticketing agents in Mandalay, MAI and Mingalar Airlines have announced the closure of their physical ticket office in Mandalay effective 1 September 2024.

Airlines will continue to operate their office at Mandalay International Airport to address inquiries. Additionally, passengers can purchase tickets through the convenient online booking options available on the official websites of MAI and Mingalar, as well as through authorized ticketing agents and the Mandalay hotline for further assistance.

The airlines will maintain their effective service through their online platforms and authorized ticketing agents. The company would like to clarify that recent social media information regarding the closure of the Mandalay branch are false.

MAI, in collaboration with Mingalar, offers convenient flights from Mandalay to major destinations across Myanmar, including Yangon, Tachilek, Myitkyina, and PutaO. Weekly flights are available to Homalin and Kalay, while daily direct flights to Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi and Don Mueang airports provide international travel options. — TWA/TRKM

## Japan to recruit over 1,400 Myanmar workers

ACCORDING to statistics released by the Myanmar Embassy to Japan on 30 August, up to 430 Japanese companies will recruit over 1,400 Myanmar workers.

nounced about 431 demand letters, which were submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after verification until 18 July 2024. According to it, 431 Japanese companies will

offer jobs to more than 380 Myanmar male workers and more than 1,000 Myanmar female workers. The embassy has carried out timely verifications of demand letters received from the Ministry

of Labour via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it said. It verifies whether labour supervisory companies and factories or companies that offer jobs in Japan are officially established and re-submits

its findings and remarks to the Ministry of Labour through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to the announcement on 15 August, up to 370 Japanese companies would employ

more than 1,300 Myanmar workers. Myanmar workers have been officially migrating to Thailand, South Korea, Singapore, and the Middle East, in addition to Japan. — MT/ZS

# NATIONAL

## Everyone must respond thoroughly to the questions, as this contributes to a data collection process that benefits themselves, their families, future generations, and the State

### FROM PAGE 1

measures and household data. So, it can be said that the census-taken process is of great importance for all. Such a process can show accurate population conditions and their lifestyles, and applying these data, we can implement the national interests of the State.

Our country is a Union blessed with natural beauties such as forests, mountains and waters as well as natural resources in harmony with diverse culture and customs of national races, and their languages. Our citizens have to forge the Union spirit forever and to comprehensively know our country. Likewise, it is necessary to coordinate diversities to bring advantages to the State.

### Esteemed Myanmar people

In studying development of a country, everybody needs to analyze population and socio-economic statistics released by

the relevant country. As such, it is important to compile correct and accurate statistics of the whole nation. These statistics reflecting development of a country is dubbed the mirror of the county.

Census data used in adopting the policies for ensuring proportional development of social, economic and management sectors of a country and implementing the plans can be obtained from the census.

Data from the census are essential for drawing the effective development projects at different levels of administration and management arenas and making decisions based on evidences. Moreover, allotment of natural resources of the State, allocation of the finance and re-assessment of the territorial areas are based on the population.

As data from the census will be analyzed and utilized in construction of infrastructures such as schools, hospitals,

health units, roads and bridges as well as doing research, such a census is much essential and important for the State.

In addition, the census can be used in compilation of correct and accurate voter lists which is basic needs for successfully holding a free and fair multiparty democratic general election which is the ultimate mission of the State Administration Council.

Furthermore, census data can contribute to analyzing external and internal development programmes to implement the Sustainable Development Goals—SDGs of the United Nations as well as the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan—MSDP.

It can be said that data from the census are figures on development of the State to be handed down not only to the tenure of our government but to forthcoming successive governments. To be able to correctly compile

these valuable data, the census will gather information from all residents of the nation regarding population and household statistics.

In this regard, I would like to say that everyone must respond thoroughly to the questions, as this contributes to a data collection process that benefits themselves, their families, future generations, and the State. Hence, I would like to urge all to cooperate in the national census-taken process with thorough replies in order to initiate future of the State, anticipation of the people and their requirements.

### Esteemed ethnic national races,

Although any measures cannot be concerned with every person across the world, due to any restriction the census process currently focuses on factors such as race, religion, age, and gender. The result of census is crucial for the State

and benefiting individuals. So, everybody needs to accept gathering of census for fully enjoy the valuable right. They all need to participate in such a process. They have to thoroughly reply to all questions for all households as well as organizations raised by enumerators through door-to-door system without worries for the sake of new generations. I would like to note that the Population and Household Census Law, issued in 2023 for the census process protects the biometric data of individuals.

The census provides insight into the country's current situation, including population data by region, age, and urban or rural locations. It also classifies education levels, types of workplaces, and people's lifestyles. And then, the census can provide basic resources to be used in adopting necessary plans in relevant regions and indicate necessary workforces. If so,

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### FROM PAGE 1

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning met region and state chief ministers, members of Yangon Region cabinet and regional-level departmental officials at the office of the regional government to talk about regional development.

In his speech, the Senior General stressed the need to take lessons on strong and weak points in State economy in successive eras so as to strive for boosting the State economy.

As such, he noted that all citizens are responsible for development of the State economy as economy and politics are relied on each other.

Only when State economy improves will the politics be peaceful and stable and will the people enjoy physical and mental well-being.

He continued to say that efforts must be made for boosting the State economy so that individuals are convenient in needs of food, clothing and shelter.

The Senior General underlined that it is necessary to strive for increasing cotton cultivation with efforts to produce quality textile products and production and to encourage cotton-based industries.

With regard to farmland utilization,

## Census-taken process starting 1 October to contribute to holding election

### Salient points in the speech delivered by the Senior General at the meeting with region/state chief ministers and departmental officials

1. Data from the census-taken process which is beneficial for the State will be used in serving much interest of the State.
2. It is necessary to the need to take lessons on strong and weak points in State economy in successive eras so as to strive for boosting the State economy.
3. All citizens are responsible for development of the State economy as economy and politics are relied on each other.
4. As prices of commodities are hiking rather than deserved prices, it is necessary to raise manufacturing of export products for earning foreign currency.

the Senior General gave guidance to authorities of regions and states to systematically manage farmland utilization process as lesser farmland areas due to using them in other ways can harm agricultural production.

He added that absence of implementing projects on the farmlands, virgin and fellow lands must be verified under the law.

In the commodity sector, the Senior General underscored that as prices of

commodities are hiking rather than deserved prices, it is necessary to raise manufacturing of export products for earning foreign currency.

In the education sector, the Senior General highlighted that the government has appointed an adequate number of teachers, while basic education schools in regions and states must align with the characteristics of their respective schools.

The Senior General spotlighted that it is necessary to restrict renewal of grant

term for land plots included in the road areas prescribed in the Highways Law as such a law has set the road areas.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant and region and state chief ministers reported on development for MSME businesses, production from relevant industrial zones, participation in the census-taken process and efforts for peace and stability of the regions, repairs of damaged roads and bridges in monsoon season, distribution of quality strains of crops, provisions of quality paddy strains to farmers to re-grow paddy in the flooded areas, extended breeding of layers, broilers and dairy cows

After the meeting, the Senior General cordially greeted the attendees to the meeting.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Council members General Maung Maung Aye and General Nyo Saw, Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant, chief ministers from regions and states, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and officials. — MNA/TTA



# NATIONAL

## SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla pay homage to Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon)



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits the Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon) in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, yesterday.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and officials yesterday morning paid homage to the Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon) built on Dhammapala Hill in Mayangon Township of Yangon Region. The Senior General and party offered flowers, water, oil lights and fruits to the pagoda. The Senior General and his wife presented collective cash donation by families of

Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) for overall renovation of the pagoda to members of the pagoda board of trustees who returned Dhamma gifts.

The Senior General and party paid homage to the replica tooth relic of the Lord Buddha kept in the pagoda.

The Senior General inspected maintenance works for ensuring long term existence of the pagoda and instructed officials to carry out cleaning and beautifying the pagoda and overall renovation of the pagoda including cleaning of the terrace.

The Senior General beat the bell of the pagoda.

The Senior General, his wife and party paid homage to Rector of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Mahadhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Dr Bhaddanta Hsekinda and supplicated propagation of the Buddhism and development of education sector before seeking the advice.

The Senior General and his wife donated cash and kind to the Sayadaw. — MNA/TTA

## Everyone must respond thoroughly to the questions, ...

### FROM PAGE 3

capacity-building courses and proficiency courses can be conducted for turning out skilled workers. Likewise, preparations can be made for implementation of social security, aged care and aid for the persons with disabilities.

The census is useful for private economists and businesspersons to have the chances to seek the market, estimate number of consumers, manufacture

products, give education and healthcare services whereas it can be applied in environmental conservation and rescue and relief measures for natural disaster-affected victims.

### Esteemed people and brethren,

The national census-taken process will be implemented as a national duty soon for having figures, data and topics to be applied without fail in develop-

ment measures of the State and other processes.

In conclusion, I would like to note that the population and household census to be enumerated from 1 to 15 October 2024 is a self-reliant national process based on internal human resources. Just a single person or an organization cannot implement such a process, and all citizens and national brethren across the nation have to successfully gather the

census through the united strength as part of showing off capability of the State to the world. On other ward, it is a great chance to post a milestone through the collaborative efforts of the entire ethnic national people. That is why I would like to urge entire ethnic people to actively participate in the census-taken process as a national process of the State in accord with the motto: "Let's enumerate census with public participation".

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# NATIONAL

## 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of BSI celebrated in Nay Pyi Taw

THE 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Bureau of Special Investigation under the Ministry of Home Affairs was commemorated yesterday morning in the assembly hall of Office No 49 of the Bureau of Special Investigation in Nay Pyi Taw.

The event was attended by Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Member of the State Administration Council and Union Minister for Home Affairs, along with Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Toe Yi, Permanent Secretary U Khaing Tun Oo, and

senior officers from various departments under the ministry.

During the ceremony, Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae delivered a congratulatory speech. Attendees also watched a video showcasing the activities of BSI. The Union Minister, along with other guests, provided supplies to staff and presented awards to a Best Trainee award winner and three other outstanding trainees from the Sub-Inspector of Police Training Course 114/2023.



Member of the State Administration Council Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae presents award to an excellent winner of the Bureau of Special Investigation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Toe Yi awarded a trainee who excelled in law and another who excelled in training in the SIP

course 114/2023. Permanent Secretary U Khaing Tun Oo awarded a third-place winner in the Basic Diplomatic Skills Course

and the BSI Director-General, a student who passed the 2023-2024 matriculation exam with six distinctions. — MNA/TKO

## Myanmar participates in International Transport Summit, BRICS Forum in Moscow



Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo takes part in the International Transport Summit (2024) and the International Municipal BRICS Forum (2024) in Moscow, the Russian Federation.

A Myanmar delegation, led by Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, participated in the International Transport Summit (2024) and the International Municipal BRICS Forum (2024) in Moscow, the Russian Federation, from 21 to 29 August 2024.

On the morning of 22 August, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman attended the opening ceremony of the International Transport

Summit (2024) at the Situation Centre in Moscow, where he signed a joint declaration for the Urban Transport Data Project. In the afternoon, the chairman, along with the delegation, visited the Sokolniki Electric Vehicle Production Plant (SVARZ) in Moscow.

The Myanmar delegation took part in the international roundtable discussions at the Situation Centre on the morning of 23 August. During these sessions, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman spoke

on the topic of “Transport, Ecology, and Health in Nay Pyi Taw” in Session 2.1, while the Yangon Region Chief Minister talked about “Safety and Traffic Management” in Session 1.2. In the afternoon, they toured the Menege exhibition at the Central Exhibition Hall.

In the evening, the delegation attended a welcome reception hosted by the Moscow government for the Summit’s international representatives.

Throughout the visit, the Myanmar delegation explored key sites in Moscow, including the Kremlin Palace, Moscow Planetarium, Moscow River and Triumphal Gate by electric vessel, Panorama 360 Tower, and Ostankino Tower.

The delegation also attended the opening ceremony and plenary session of the International Municipal BRICS Forum. U Than Tun Oo participated in a discussion on “Trends in the Development of Tourism Infrastructure in Nay Pyi Taw”. The delegation returned to Myanmar, arriving back in Yangon on the evening of 30 August. — MNA/TKO

## Techniques shared for commercial use of natural fertilizers made of agricultural waste

ACCORDING to the Agricultural Mechanization Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI), farmers are being provided with techniques for the commercial use of natural fertilizers made of agricultural waste. This initiative aims to meet the growing demand for fertilizers in various regions.

Currently, the rising costs of agricultural inputs, including fertilizers, have led farmers to seek alternatives such as natural fertilizers. The department has reported that technology for producing natural fertilizers from agricultural waste is being shared with farmers to help them reduce the impact on agricultural lands and the natural environment.

“The Agricultural Mechanization Department has developed a method to produce high-quality compost using an air-blowing system, which farmers can utilize as a small-scale business. We plan to share this technique with MSME businesses as well as farmers,” said an official from the department.

This technique uses materials like straw, leaves, and cow dung as raw inputs. Initially, farmers in Tatkon, Lewe, Pyinmana, and Zabuthiri townships were introduced to this technology. Additionally, state and regional ministries, departments, and experts plan to provide techniques for producing natural fertilizers from kitchen waste and paddy husk ash fertilizers. — ASH/TMT



Farmers are being shared the technology for commercial use of natural fertilizers from agricultural waste.



# NATIONAL

## Over 50,000 victims rescued from online scams in 8 months



This photo shows Chinese citizens involved in fraudulent activities using communications and online networks being arrested and repatriated to China in northern Myanmar in 2023.

OVER 50,000 human trafficking victims have been rescued from online fraud in eight months, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

As a result of Myanmar's ongoing fight against online scams and gambling, as well as its operational cooperation with neighbouring nations, 54,373 persons had been rescued as of 20 August.

Among them, 52,164 people have been handed over to China, and 1,992 people have been repatriated to ASEAN countries.

According to the analysis,

only 10 per cent of the rescued people were legal migrants, and the remaining 90 per cent were illegal migrants, said Chief of Myanmar Police Force (MPF) Police Lt-Gen Win Zaw Moe at the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime held in Vientiane, Laos.

Additionally, Myanmar formed the Action Task Force in March to reduce and eliminate these crimes. The task force is taking decisive action by arresting and prosecuting individuals involved in these online-based crimes. — TWA/MKKS

## National Complaint Mechanism (NCM) to deal with forced labour complaints

THE Myanmar government has been dealing with forced labour complaints in cooperation with ILO and relevant ministries since 2007. Since 2020, forced labour complaints have been settled through the National Complaint Mechanism (NCM), which includes representatives of the National Human Rights Commission, employer organizations, employee organizations, and relevant ministries, including the Ministry of Labour.

Nowadays, it is reported that forced labour

victims can safely contact and complain to the Office of the State Administration Council, Region and State governments, the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, the ILO Liaison Office (Yangon) and other organizations or to the Ministry of Labour Office No 51, Nay Pyi Taw, in person or in writing via 067 3430184, 067 3430229, 067 3430274 and [directorgeneral.dol@gmail.com](mailto:directorgeneral.dol@gmail.com), [moloffice51@gmail.com](mailto:moloffice51@gmail.com), and [research.org.dol.mm@gmail.com](mailto:research.org.dol.mm@gmail.com). — MNA

## Embassy aids Myanmar national in South Korea

MYANMAR Embassy has provided necessary assistance to a Myanmar national who is in trouble in South Korea, according to the embassy's Facebook page.

After receiving a contact from Seobu police station in Busan, the embassy has worked on giving help to the Myanmar national, Nan Lin, and trying to connect with his family in Myanmar, it said.

The embassy says he's unable to share his personal information; therefore, it has requested Myanmar nationals in South Korea to call its phone number or comment below the

post if they know him.

Many Myanmar nationals gave comments, and according to them, the man was from Myingyan Township. He was found vomiting on the railway platform, and Busan police station called 119 for help. He was unable to recall the factory address or other personal information.

The embassy has continued assisting his family in Myanmar. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS



The Myanmar Embassy shows the picture of a Myanmar national who is in trouble in South Korea.

## YRTC to drug test 2,300+ YBS drivers with multiple traffic violations

DRUG tests will be conducted for over 2,300 YBS drivers who violated the traffic rules more than three times, according to Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC)'s joint secretary U Lyan Cing Mang during a press conference held at YRTC head office at 1 pm on 30 August.

From 1 January to 31 July 2024, 846 drivers violated the rules by overtaking, racing and driving with doors ajar more than three times, 1,462 drivers did more than five times, and there are a total of 2,308 drivers. About 100 to 150 of them will be trained every week, and they will be tested whether they used

drugs.

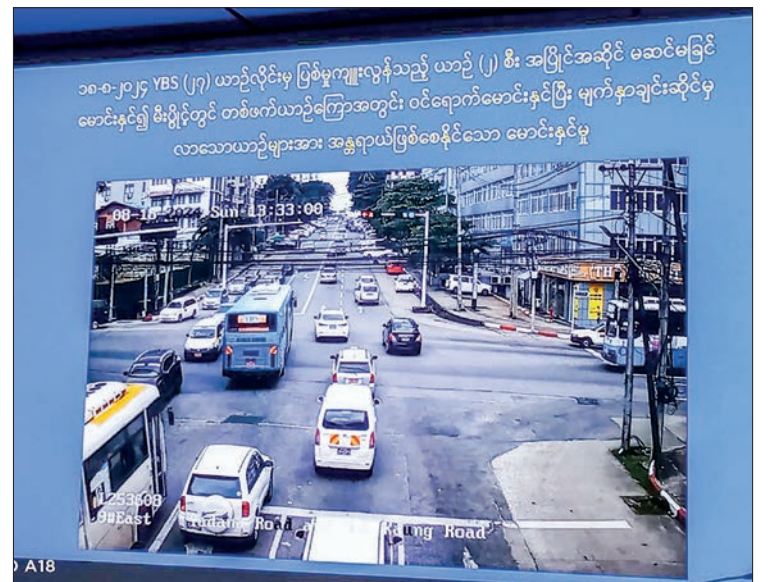
"Despite our actions, violations do not decrease. We fined them, but they continued driving with the side door open and overtaking. They don't care about the fine anymore. There are about 2,300 drivers who break the traffic rules by overtaking or driving with the side door open more than three or five times. We will train them and conduct drug tests on them. Some drivers are not normal. We mainly want to control them," he said.

Drug tests will be made at the National Health Laboratory (NHL).

"First, they were examined

at the Mental Health Hospital (Ywathagyi). As the number increased, the hospital suggested checking them at the NHL. So, we train about 100-150 undisciplined drivers every week, and drug tests will be conducted," he said.

Thirty-five people died and 127 people were injured in 2023 traffic accidents, and as of 29 August 2024, 30 people died, and 89 people got injured, according to YRTC's statistics. There are 21 YBS companies under the supervision of YRTC, which operate 131 bus lines, running every day with 3,800 vehicles to serve about 1.4 million commuters in Yangon. — MT/ZN



An illustration of how two recklessly racing vehicles can enter the opposite lane and cause danger to oncoming cars.



## Eels can survive more in natural rather than living in ponds: research

IT has been found that eels can survive better if they are raised in natural environments rather than in ponds, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF).

The MFF stated that eels would be more viable if bred in natural settings, based on research findings. The organization continues to carry out research activities to achieve successful breeding results.

The rainy season is when eels spawn and are also caught the most, which risks the extinction of the species. The Myanmar Fisheries Federation is working to provide awareness programmes that include releasing baby eels into natural habitats, implementing natural breeding systems instead of using ponds, and distributing technology to prevent the extinction of fish species.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is launching initiatives to encourage and promote the production of fish, shrimp, and other aquatic products. It is also holding technical seminars to facilitate collaboration between experts and farmers



Eels are seen being raised in a natural pond.

in developing eel farming. Additionally, the ministry is working to implement policies related to livestock and fishery research successfully.

Last year, Myanmar was able to

export about 13,000 tonnes of eel abroad and is prepared to meet foreign demand. The country is making efforts to increase the production of aquatic products in the future. — TWA/MKKS



Shan traditional food khaw pote gains overseas orders

## Shan traditional food, khaw pote receives overseas orders

A Shan traditional food, khaw pote, steamed and pounded glutinous rice, has received lots of orders from Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

Khaw pote is a traditional food and it is consumed the most in upper Myanmar from Shwebo to Kachin State.

“As a traditional food, khaw pote is consumed the most in upper Myanmar-Indaw, Shwebo, Mandalay and Kachin State’s Myitkyina. Its consumption is quite high. So the trade is doing well. I am a wholesaler and through Myawady, I export it to overseas countries — Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand which places orders highest,” said an official from Shan Malay local foods and snacks retail and wholesale distributor.

Goods from Myawady Township have overseas orders a lot, according to local foods and snacks trader.

Shan khaw pote price is pretty good this year and it is also transported to Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and other cities. — Thit Taw/ZS

## Pindaya muskmelons receive orders from multiple cities

MUSKMELONS produced from Pindaya, Shan State, have gained orders from Kyaukse, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw, including Yangon, and the price is low.

Muskmelon is an export item; however, the trade has to rely on the domestic market for now due to massive supply, helping consumers enjoy the fruit at a low price, said farmers and traders in Pindaya Township.

“Now the supply is massive, and the price also falls. But demand is still low because we only consume domestically. Muskmelon has received orders from Kyaukse, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon. For consumers, it is good because they can buy it cheaply,” said a muskmelon farmer in Pindaya.

In December 2023, muskmelon prices were pretty good, and trade was also acceptable. Price is likely to change in the following months, depending on plantation acres.

“Muskmelon price was good in December 2023, and trade was also good. Exports will resume later, so we have to rely on the domestic market now. Price will change over the next month, depending on plantation acres; price will fall if supply is large or rise if supply is low,” he said. — Thit Taw/MT



This photo showcases muskmelons being grown in Pindaya.

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# OPINION

## Seek ways how to manage electronic waste

**D**ESPITE daily efforts by cleaning workers across the country, improper disposal of waste remains a significant issue throughout the world. Public awareness campaigns by the government have attempted to address this, but a portion of the population continues to disregard proper waste disposal practices. Chemical and electronic waste, among the various types of garbage, is particularly harmful to society. Chemical waste is the most dangerous due to its severe impact on daily life, and electronic waste closely follows, with its components — whether decayed or not — reacting with oxygen in the atmosphere to pose serious risks.

Recognizing the dangers of electronic waste, Myanmar's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation issued a directive on 7 August to prioritize recycling waste batteries and other parts discarded from electric vehicles (EVs).

The directive prohibits the import of waste batteries and EV components to prevent environmental pollution and safeguard public health. Violators of this directive will face legal consequences under the Environmental Conservation Law.

While technological advancements continue at a rapid pace, the side effects of electronic waste pose significant challenges to society. Electronic waste can severely impact human health and the environment, particularly due to the acids used in refining and processing the elements found in electronic products. Many countries have introduced legislation to tackle the issue of electronic waste due to its contribution to environmental degradation.

A report released by the United Nations on 21 May 2024 highlights the global scale of this problem. According to the survey conducted in 2022, approximately 62 million tonnes of electronic waste were scattered across the world. That includes items such as old cell phones, refrigerators, and e-cigarettes, marking a new record for the volume of electronic waste. Unfortunately, this figure is five times higher than the amount of e-waste that is recycled or reused.

Addressing the issue of electronic waste requires a collective effort. Governments must continue to enforce strict regulations, while individuals need to adopt responsible waste disposal habits. Recycling and reducing the use of hazardous electronic products are crucial steps to mitigate the harmful effects of electronic waste on human health and the environment.

By working together, everybody can create a cleaner, safer world for future generations. As electronic waste becomes a worse challenge for people in a daily routine throughout the world, authorities need to manage the reuse and recycling process of these wastes and prevent unacceptable impacts from electronic waste.

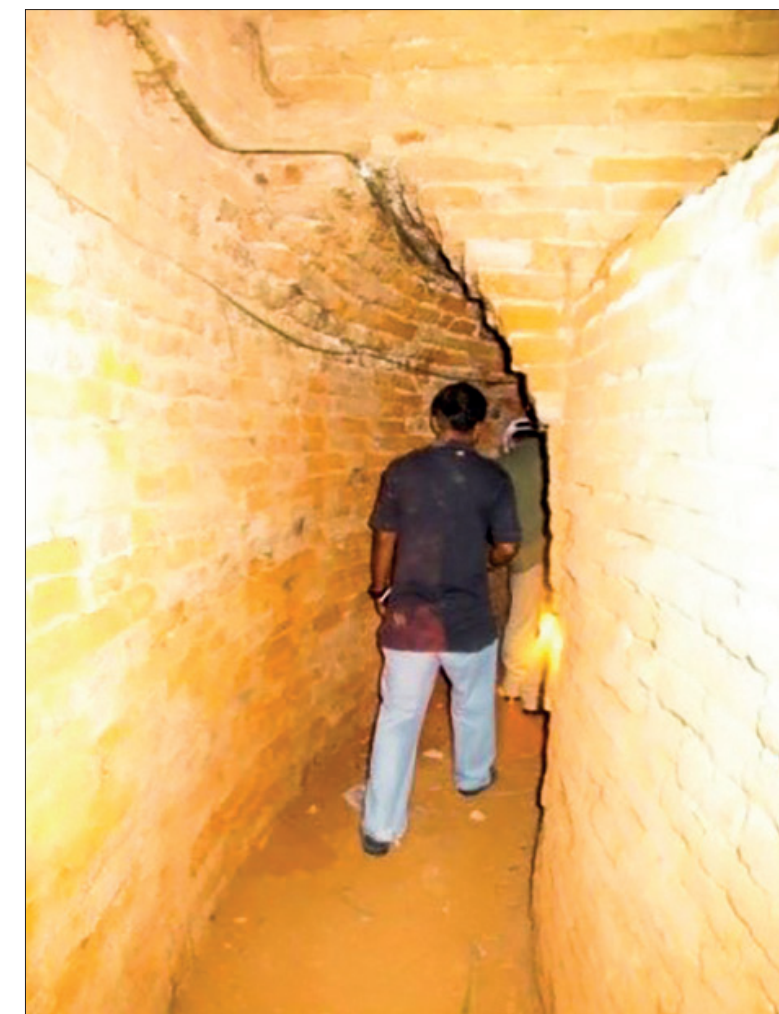
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### Introduction

Bagan was the heart of the largest Buddhist empire in the medieval world, serving as a centre of economic, socio-political, and cultural networks that actively exchanged ideas and goods with other regions. The Buddhist culture of Bagan was enriched by a synthesis of Pala Indian styles and local doctrines, fostering religious and royal interactions that were reflected in its extensive architecture, mural paintings, and epigraphic records. The construction of Buddhist monuments in Bagan facilitated exchanges between donors and the royal court, establishing Bagan as the capital of this empire from the 10<sup>th</sup> century CE, with its peak period occurring between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries CE. During this time, Bagan became the primary focus of religious activity, with the tradition of merit-making playing a crucial role in its development. Many religious structures from this era still survive in Bagan today.

The socio-political ideology in Bagan was characterized by the integration of social and political life, with village life (the heart of Bagan) being centred around Buddhism and the support of the monastic community.



A Gallery Path between the Older and Encased Outer Stupas at Phra Pathom Stupa, Thailand.

# Symbols of Socio-Political Ideologies in Buddhist Architecture

Stupas and temples manifested royalty and social hierarchy by demonstrating power through donatory activities. The kings who ruled during the Bagan period exemplified proper actions and morals, reinforcing the Buddha's teachings through artistic works such as murals, glazed plaques, and terracotta plaques.

Numerous socio-political ideas are reflected in Buddhist monuments across India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Myanmar. At various Buddhist sites in India, such as Kapilvastu in Nepal, original mud Buddhist structures have been discovered. These structures were often enlarged and encased with bricks or stones by subsequent donors to ensure their longevity and durability, reflecting the socio-political ideas of the time. Inscribed reliquaries, such as those found at the Piprahwa and Bhattiprolu stupas,

reveal insights into the relics of the Buddha. Similarly, reliquaries from Stupa 3 at Sanchi and Stupa 2 at Satdhara contain inscriptions regarding the relics of the Buddha's chief disciples, Sariputta and Mahamoggallana. Additional inscribed reliquaries discovered at Sanchi Stupa 2 and other Bhilsa Tope sites relate to a group of Hemavata teachers led by an individual named Gotiputa, providing valuable insights into religious and socio-political ideas.

An inscribed copper relic casket was discovered at Shahji-ki-Dheri, the site of an ancient Kanishka stupa in Peshawar, Pakistan, while inscribed stone burial urns and a gilded silver relic casket were found at Srikshetra, Myanmar. The ashes of heroic kings of Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Myanmar, buried in stupas, also contribute to understanding socio-political ideas. Additionally, some Buddhist monuments in India, Thailand, and Myanmar feature circumambulatory paths. These paths were designed not only for veneration and movement around the stupa but also for observing the sculptures and decorations as symbols of political stature, highlighting the importance of durability and grandeur in Buddhist structures. Epigraphic records from the Pinya period indicate that King Uzana enlarged and reinforced eight original small stupas built by primary donors, reflecting the overarching socio-political ideas of the time aimed at promoting the growth and development of Buddhism and its structures.

### Enlarged Buddhist Structures from South and Southeast Asia

In Kapilvastu, located in what is now Dhamnihawa, Nepal, ancient India, there are twin stupas. According to Rijal, the

larger stupa, dedicated to the father of the Buddha, was constructed during the Northern Black Polished Ware (NBP) period in the 6th century BCE, while the smaller stupa, dedicated to Queen Maha Devi, the mother of the Buddha, was built later. The centre of the larger stupa originally consisted of a mud structure. In the second phase of construction, this mud stupa was encased in tapered bricks (Rijal, 1979, pp 39-42). Archaeological evidence indicates that the inner stupa of the larg-



Inscribed Gilded Silver Relic Casket Found at the Khinba Mound, Srikshetra.

er structure was initially made of mud and was later encased and enlarged with bricks. This process of encasement and enlargement by secondary donors aimed to strengthen and elaborate the original structure, re-

flecting socio-political ideas and ensuring its longevity for the development of Buddhism and Buddhist structures. Excavations at Dhamnihawa suggest that the inner mud structure may have been constructed dur-

ing the lifetime of the Buddha.

In Vaishali, a Buddha's relic stupa originally built by the Lichchhavis was encased and enlarged by later kings in successive periods. The original inner structure, which may date back to pre-Asokan times, was made of mud and was encased with bricks four times to strengthen and elaborate it. Most Buddhist stupas in India from the pre-Asokan period were constructed of mud, while those from the Mauryan period were made

of both mud and brick (Mitra, 1971). Archaeological excavations reveal that the inner stupa at Sanchi was originally built of brick and was later encased and enlarged with stones during the Sunga period to enhance its durability. During the Mauryan period, inner stupas were often made of mud, which deteriorated easily, whereas later structures were primarily of brick. Concerned with the preservation of these original mud structures, subsequent donors encased and enlarged them with stones or bricks, often performing this process five or six times. These actions reflect the socio-political ideas influencing the growth and prosperity of Buddhism and its structures. While the original Mauryan-period structures were simple in design, later constructions were more elaborately decorated (Mitra, 1971; ASI, 1996, pp 85-88). Typically, the inner stupas are older and smaller, whereas the outer stupas are younger and larger in India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Myanmar. This pattern indicates that later donors were motivated to build more elaborate and larger structures than those created by the primary donors, driven by socio-political ideas. Encasement thus plays a crucial role in the development of stronger and larger Buddhist structures, contributing significantly to the socio-political context of the time.

Epigraphic records indicate that King Uzana, during the Pinya period, encased and enlarged eight stupas, including the Tamote Shwegugyi temple. The Shwegugyi stupa stone inscription, dated 1325 CE and located in the ancient city of Makkhaya, Kyaukse region, records that King Uzana enlarged and encased a previous small stupa known as the Mahtaw stupa (Moe, 2008). Similarly, the Nan Oo stupa stone inscription, dated 1329 CE, mentions that King Uzana also enlarged and encased a small stupa to make it larger, stronger, and more elaborate (Nan Oo stupa stone inscription, 2007).

According to the Mahtaw Zedi stone inscription, dated

1335 CE, King Uzana enlarged and encased the Mahtaw Zedi stupa, originally located to the south of Tapekon village in the ancient city of Myin Khone Taing, Kyaukse region, Myanmar. The enlarged stupa measured 28.80 metres in diameter (Nyein Maung, 1983, Vol 3, pp 351-352). The Thayegu Phaya stone inscription, dated 1336 CE, notes that a small ruined stupa was rebuilt and encased by King Uzana, resulting in a more elaborate and larger stupa with a diameter of 27.89 metres. This inscription was originally found at the Thayegugyi pagoda to the east of Kinton village, Myin Khone Taing region, Kyaukse District (Nyein Maung, 1983, Vol 1, p 357).

According to the King Uzana stone inscription dated 1340 CE, found between the farmyards of U Tha Paw and Daw Tin May in TadaU Township, Mandalay, Myanmar, King Uzana, a secondary donor, encased an inner stupa originally built by his son Saw Htwe. The original stupa measured 13.72 metres in diameter, and King Uzana enlarged and elaborated it to make it stronger (Nyein Maung, 1983, Vol 4, p 13). The Moathtaw Phaya stone inscription, inscribed by King Bodaw Phaya in 1785 CE (DHRNL, 2014, Vol 6, pp 35-38), describes a small Moathtaw stupa in the Makkhaya region that was encased and enlarged by King Uzana to a diameter of 48.00 metres in 1325 CE. Another Moathtaw Phaya stone inscription at Manpaw village in the ancient city of Myin Khone Taing, also inscribed by King Bodaw Phaya in 1785 CE (DHRNL, 2014, Vol 6, pp 94-96), mentions that a small Moathtaw stupa was encased and enlarged by King Uzana to a diameter of 28.80 metres in 1335 CE.

These stone inscriptions reveal that King Uzana encased and enlarged numerous inner stupas during his reign, contributing to the prosperity and development of Buddhism. The epigraphic records confirm how underlying socio-political ideas played a crucial role in the growth and durability of Buddhist structures, illustrating the significance of encasement concepts in Myanmar as evidenced by these inscriptions.

TO BE CONTINUED

# ARTICLE

Dr Myo Nyunt Aung  
Researcher (Archaeology)  
Bagan



# NATIONAL



Photo displays Anti-venom produced by Insein Pharmaceutical Factory.

## Insein Pharmaceutical Factory to purchase 1,600 snakes for anti-venom production

THE Insein Pharmaceutical Factory has announced its intention to purchase 1,600 snakes, specifically 1,200 vipers and 400 cobras, to produce anti-venom.

The factory is seeking snakes caught in the Yangon, Mandalay, Ayeyawady, Magway, Bago, and Sagaing regions.

Each snake must weigh at least fifty ticals, with vipers priced at K10,000 each and cobras at K15,000 each. Payment will be made in cash directly at the time of sale, and sellers can bring the snakes to the Insein Pharmaceutical Factory in West Gyogon Ward of Insein Township. — TWA/TKO

## 66<sup>th</sup> Aungbarlay Lottery: Ticket B-402071 wins K500 million grand prize

IN the 66<sup>th</sup> Aungbarlay lottery draw held on 1 September 2024, ticket number B-402071 won the grand prize of K500 million, as reported by the Aungbarlay Lottery Directorate under the Department of Internal Revenue.

During the event, a special prize of K200 million was awarded to ticket number H-336842, while another special prize of K100 million went to ticket number G-660383. The names of the winners for these top prizes were not released until approximately five hours after the event, according to distribution updates.

For this draw, tickets ranged from 'A' to 'H', with a total of 552,276 tickets sold, generating nearly K5,600 million in revenue. Of this amount, 70 per cent or K3,865.93 million will be allocated as prize money, and K250 million confiscated from previous time of lottery will be allocated to relevant winners.

The prize distribution is as follows:

one prize of K500 million, one prize of K200 million, one prize of K100 million, four prizes of K50 million each, five prizes of K20 million each, nine prizes of K10 million each, twelve prizes of K5 million each, sixteen prizes of K2 million each, fourteen prizes of K1 million each, thirty prizes of K300,000 each, three hundred prizes of K200,000 each, three thousand prizes of K100,000 each, twenty thousand prizes of K50,000 each, and one hundred thousand prizes of K10,000 each.

The K250 million confiscated fund will be allocated to award four prizes of K1 million, twenty prizes of K300,000, two hundred prizes of K200,000, and two thousand prizes of K100,000 each. The revenue from ticket sales for the 66<sup>th</sup> Aungbarlay lottery aligns with the results of previous draws (62<sup>nd</sup>, 63<sup>rd</sup>, 64<sup>th</sup>, and 65<sup>th</sup>), as confirmed by earlier reports from the Department of Internal Revenue. —TWA/KZL

## Yangon UDE to offer 18<sup>th</sup> PGDL online course starting in October



Yangon University of Distinct Education.

THE 18<sup>th</sup> Post-Graduate Diploma in Law (PGDL) online course offered by Yangon University of Distance Education is scheduled to begin in October.

Starting from 5 September 2024, registration forms can be

submitted online via the university's website at <https://law.hrd.yude.edu.mm>.

Candidates who successfully complete the online admission process and meet the required qualifications will receive an acceptance notification by email.

The course will commence

on 1 October and will run for ten months. Admitted students must enrol at Yangon University of Distance Education during office hours between 23 and 30 September. — TWA/TRKM



Aungbarlay Lottery Directorate.

## Thai Festival 2024 to feature performances and exhibitions in Yangon

THE Thai Festival 2024 will take place at Junction City in Yangon from 27 to 29 September. The event will feature performances by artistes from both Myanmar and Thailand, according to actor Hein Thit.

The festival will be held in the promotional area of Junction City, showcasing Thai products, customer services, and food. Attendees can enjoy film screenings, cultural displays, and music performances by artistes from Myanmar and Thailand.

Notable performers include Paing Takon, Sea & Keen, Aun & Ashi, Palaphol, Gun Napat, Lula, Oak Soe Khant, Wyne Lay, and Hein Thit, among others. The festival will also offer Thai fashion, demonstrations of Muay Thai, and a semi-final and final of the T-Pop Star Challenge. Over 100 lucky draws will be held, and Thai products will be available at special promotional prices at the Market Place of Junction City.

The festival, organized by "Discover Thailand's BEST" and managed by the Thai Embassy in Yangon, is the first Thai festival in Myanmar. It is a collaboration involving the Thai Trade Promotion Department, Thai Business Association in Myanmar, Thai-Myanmar Commerce Association, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), and Shwe Taung Group.— ASH/ TRKM

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a collaboration involving the Thai Trade Promotion Department, Thai Business Association in Myanmar, Thai-Myanmar Commerce Association, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), and Shwe Taung Group.— ASH/ TRKM



# Explosive Trump biopic to hit US theaters before election: reports

A controversial biopic of Donald Trump that depicts the former president raping his wife and which has drawn legal threats from his attorneys will hit US theaters this October, it was reported Friday.

Tiny indie studio Briarcliff Entertainment plans to release "The Apprentice" for US audiences less than a month before Trump takes on Kamala Harris in the country's razor-tight presidential election, the Hollywood Reporter said.

Representatives for Briarcliff did not immediately respond to AFP queries.

The explosive film about Trump's younger years caused shockwaves at the Cannes Film

*Trump's lawyers have threatened legal action, denouncing the film as defamatory.*



Sebastian Stan, right, as Donald Trump in "The Apprentice".  
PHOTO: CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

Festival in May.

Its most talked about scene shows Trump raping his first

wife, Ivana, after she belittles him for growing fat and bald.

In real life, Ivana accused

Trump of raping her during divorce proceedings but later rescinded the allegation. She died in 2022.

The movie also shows Trump suffering erectile dysfunction, and undergoing liposuction and surgery for hair loss.

Just hours after "The Apprentice" premiered in May, Trump's lawyers vowed to sue the producers, calling the film "garbage" and "pure malicious defamation."

Further complicating the film's prospects for US release is that one of its early financial backers was pro-Trump billion-

aire Dan Snyder, who was reportedly displeased with its depiction of Trump and sought to block the movie.

He has now been bought out of his financial stake in the movie, according to the Hollywood Reporter. The film is set to be released in US theaters 11 October, the Los Angeles Times said.

Sebastian Stan's lead performance as young New York property tycoon Trump received largely positive reviews at Cannes.

The film's screenplay was written by Gabriel Sherman, a journalist who covered real estate for the New York Observer and regularly spoke to Trump. — AFP

## Beijing schools to implement longer inter-class break for better student health

BEIJING will extend the original 10-minute break between classes for compulsory education to 15 minutes starting this autumn semester, local education authorities announced on Friday.

The move aims to provide teachers and students with ample break time between classes while encouraging students to spend time outdoors to further promote their

physical and mental well-being, said the municipal education commission.

In primary schools, the morning arrival, afternoon dismissal and lunch break remain unchanged, while

junior high schools will see only a

slight 5-minute delay in dismissal, with the rest of the schedule unaffected by this latest move.

The 15-minute inter-class break will be achieved by adjusting the longer breaks in the morning and afternoon.

Schools are also encouraged to add necessary sports equipment on campus to create a more suitable recess environment for students, the commission said. — Xinhua



Students have a physical education class at the Pinggu campus of Beijing No. 2 Experimental Primary School in Beijing, capital of China, 27 June 2022. PHOTO: REN CHAO/XINHUA

## Beauty queen wins Miss Nigeria

CHIDIMMA Adetshina, a former Miss South Africa finalist born to a Nigerian father, was crowned Miss Universe Nigeria on Saturday in Lagos. Adetshina, 23, withdrew from the South African competition after facing backlash and xenophobic attacks related

to her Nigerian heritage, which exposed underlying anti-foreigner sentiments in South Africa. Amidst controversy and allegations that her mother may have misrepresented her identity, Adetshina expressed pride and gratitude for her new role. — AFP

## Australian census to ask about sexuality after LGBTQ backlash

AUSTRALIA'S census will ask citizens about their sexuality for the first time, the government said Friday, a policy U-turn aimed at quelling anger from LGBTQ groups.

Supporters have said questions about sexual identity would provide a more accurate snapshot of who Australians are and who they love.

Just a day after his ministers explained the census change had been scrapped to avoid a divisive debate, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced Friday that a question about sexuality would

in fact be included in the 2026 survey.

Australia's statistics bureau has developed a new question about sexual orientation, which will now be tested before it can be included in the survey, he said.

"We think that is a common sense position," Albanese told public broadcaster ABC.

It is compulsory to complete the census in Australia, with fines for those who fail to do so.

But people would have the option of answering the sexual orientation question or not, the prime minister said. — AFP



Australia's census will ask citizens about their sexuality for the first time, the government says, a policy U-turn aimed at quelling anger from LGBTQ groups. PHOTO: SAEED KHAN / AFP/FILE



# ECONOMY WORLD

## Iraq elected to chair Group of 77 and China in 2025

*Iraq is committed to upholding the core principles of the G77 and China and aims to ensure a successful term.*

IRAQ has been elected to chair the Group of 77 (G77) and China at the United Nations in 2025, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry announced Saturday.

The chairmanship decision, the first of its kind for Iraq in 60 years, was adopted unanimously at a meeting of the Asia-Pacific Group at the UN headquarters in New York that discussed Iraq's nomination for the position, the ministry said in a statement.

According to the statement, Abbas Kadhom Obaid, the charge d'affaires of Iraq's

Permanent Mission to the UN in New York, said in the meeting that as chair of the G77 and China, Iraq will support "developing countries' goals in economic, technological, and social development".

Iraq is committed to the basic principles of the G77 and China, and will work to ensure the success of its chairmanship, Obaid was quoted by the ministry as saying.

Established in 1964, the G77 is the largest intergovernmental organization of developing



Customers at the Central Bank of Iraq, which says many foreign trade transactions now go through its electronic platform. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

countries in the UN, according to its official website. Its name

is derived from 77 founding members, including Iraq, but

its membership has grown significantly to 134. — Xinhua

## Oil prices fall again amid demand concerns

CRUDE prices tumbled a second month in a row as August trading concluded on Friday amid worries about Chinese demand that offset fears about the war in the Middle East disrupting oil shipments.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude settled the final session of August down \$2.36, or 3.11 per cent, at \$73.55 per barrel. That brought WTI's losses for the week to 1.7 per cent. For the month, the US crude benchmark fell 5.6 per cent, adding to July's deficit of 4.5 per cent.

UK-origin Brent crude finished the New York trading session down \$1.14, or 1.4 per cent, at \$78.80 per barrel. For



US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude dropped \$2.36, or 3.11 per cent, to \$73.55 per barrel, marking a 1.7 per cent loss for the week and a 5.6 per cent decline for the month, following a 4.5 per cent drop in July. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

the week, Brent slid just 0.3 per cent. For the month, the global crude benchmark slumped 2.5

per cent, adding to July's plunge of 6.5 per cent. Despite crude prices continuing their down-

ward trend for the second month in a row, August proved to be a volatile month for the trade.

This week, particularly, was proof of that. WTI and Brent rallied for two days on concerns about output disruptions in Libya and the potential for a major Iranian strike on Israel that could reignite geopolitical risk in the Middle East. Offsetting those gains were three days of losses on data pointing to weaker growth in China. Some were surprised by the tumble in WTI, given the potential for road-trips among Americans celebrating the long Labour Day weekend that includes a holiday on Monday. — SPUTNIK

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Slovenia's inflation drops below 1%

SLOVENIA'S annual inflation stood at 0.9 per cent in August, falling below one per cent for the first time in over three years, the country's Statistical Office said on Friday.

"Prices of services increased on average by 4.1 per cent on an annual level, while prices of goods fell by 0.7 per cent," the office said in a report. The biggest hike in prices was recorded in hotels and restaurants where they were up by 6.7 per cent year on year. — Xinhua



The approved projects included new towns, housing development, condominiums, industrial and commercial facilities, tourism resorts and hotels, the report said. **PHOTO: WORLDCONSTRUCTIONTODAY**

## Cambodia sees 8% drop in construction investment in H1

CAMBODIA'S construction sector attracted a total investment of US\$2.53 billion in the first half of 2024, down 8 per cent over the same period last year, a government report said on Saturday.

The Cambodian government granted licences to 1,642 construction projects during the

January-June period, down 11 per cent from a year earlier, said the report from the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction.

The approved projects included new towns, housing development, condominiums, industrial and commercial facilities,

tourism resorts and hotels, the report said.

The construction and real estate sector is one of four pillars supporting the Southeast Asian country's economy, in addition to garment, footwear and travel goods export, tourism and agriculture. — Xinhua



## Cambodia's Angkor makes over US\$30 mln revenue in first 8 months of 2024

*The top five source markets were the US, Britain, France, South Korea, and China.*

CAMBODIA'S famed Angkor Archaeological Park made US\$30.33 million from ticket sales in the first eight months of 2024, up 31.3 per cent from \$23.09 million over the same period last year, said an official report on Sunday.

The Angkor attracted 651,857 international tourists during the January-August period this year, up 30.7 per cent from 498,513 over the same period last year, said the state-owned Angkor Enterprise's report.

The top five source markets for the ancient site were the United States, Britain, France, South Korea and China, according to the report.

In August this year alone, the site received 67,482 foreign holiday-makers, earning \$3.15 million in revenue, up 14 per cent and 13.7 per cent, respectively com-



Tourists visit the Angkor Wat in the Angkor Archaeological Park in Siem Reap province, Cambodia, 17 December 2022. **PHOTO: VAN POV/XINHUA**

pared to the same month last year, the report said.

Situated in northwest Siem Reap province, the 401-square-km Angkor Archaeological Park is home to 91 ancient temples, which had been built from the ninth to the 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The site, inscribed

on the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1992, is the most popular tourist destination in the Southeast Asian country.

Ministry of Tourism's Secretary of State and Spokesperson Top

Sopheak said the Chinese-invested Siem Reap Angkor International Airport, which was put into commercial operations in November 2023, has helped attract more international travelers to the Angkor park. — Xinhua

## New air route links China's Guiyang with Vietnam

COLORFUL Guizhou Airlines launched a direct flight route between Guiyang, the capital of southwest China's Guizhou Province, and Hanoi in Vietnam on Saturday.

The airline held the maiden voyage ceremony at Guiyang Longdongbao International Airport. It is the first international passenger route opened by Colorful Guizhou Airlines, the only local airline in Guizhou Province.

The airline will offer three round trips per week on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Outbound flights depart from Guiyang Longdongbao International Airport at 8:15 am Beijing time and are scheduled to arrive at Hanoi Noi Bai International Airport at 8:55 a.m. local time. Return flights depart from Hanoi at 10:25 a.m. local time and arrive in Guiyang at 1:20 p.m. Beijing time. — Xinhua

## S Korea's export grows for 11<sup>th</sup> month in August

SOUTH Korea's export grew for the 11<sup>th</sup> straight month due to strong demand for locally-made tech and oil products, government data showed Sunday.

Export, which accounts for around half of the export-driven economy, rose 11.4 per cent from a year earlier to 57.90 billion US dollars in August, continuing to climb since October 2023, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

Import gained 6.0 per

cent over the year to 54.07 billion dollars in August, sending the trade surplus to 3.83 billion dollars. The trade balance stayed in black for the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive month since June 2023.

Of the country's 15 major export items, seven products saw an increase in outbound shipment. Semiconductor export soared 38.8 per cent over the year to 11.88 billion dollars in August, keeping an upward trend for the 10<sup>th</sup> successive month. — Xinhua

## Utsunomiya tram's rejuvenation achievements a model for other cities

THE economic and societal benefits brought by

a new tram system operating in the north of To-

kyo have made it a model that other cities in Japan and around the world are studying with an eye on emulating its successes.

Some 4.75 million passengers had used the renewable energy-powered tram system in Tochigi Prefecture when it marked its first anniversary on 25 August, exceeding the initial estimate by approximately 20 per cent, according to the operator Utsunomiya Light Rail Co.

The tram project was established by Utsunomiya city and the nearby

town of Haga and runs between the east side of JR Utsunomiya Station and Haga, covering the 14.6-kilometre route in 42 minutes.

Although the population of the prefectural capital Utsunomiya is decreasing, the tram dubbed "Lightline" and operated by a public-private venture has promoted the development of housing with at least 16 high-rise buildings, including condominiums, having been built along the line, an Utsunomiya city official said. — Kyodo



Railway company officials from abroad and others observe the so-called next-generation tram system in Utsunomiya, Tochigi Prefecture, on 1 July 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (24008)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (24008)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-9-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S CONNEXT SHIPPING PTE LTD**



## ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

# President Biden devastated by hostage deaths from Gaza tunnel

*Biden emphasized ongoing efforts to secure the release of remaining hostages and called for the end of the war.*



Soldiers stand at the entrance of a tunnel reportedly dug by Hamas not far from the Erez crossing in this picture taken during a media tour organized by the Israeli military on 15 December 2023. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ JACK GUEZ /AFP/FILE**

US President Joe Biden said he was “devastated and outraged” over the recovery of six bodies of hostages, including that of an Israeli-American from the Gaza Strip.

Terming the development as “tragic” and “reprehensible” Biden on 31 August unequivocally warned that “ Hamas leaders will pay for these crimes” while vowing to keep working around the clock for a deal to secure the release of remaining hostages held by the Palestine group.

The US President said Israeli forces had on Saturday recovered six bodies of hostages held by Hamas in a tunnel

under the city of Rafah.

“We have now confirmed that one of the hostages killed by these vicious Hamas terrorists was an American citizen, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, Biden said in a statement released by the White House.

The Israel Defence Force (IDF) Spokesman, Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, was cited by Times of Israel as saying that the six hostages recovered from southern Gaza’s Rafah were “brutally murdered” by Hamas shortly before IDF troops arrived.

Talking to reporters after leaving a church in Delaware, Biden said, “It’s

time this war ended.” “We should end this war.”

Vice President Kamala Harris said in a statement that Hamas “must be eliminated” and cannot be allowed to control Gaza.

Harris extended her condolences to 23-year-old American citizen Goldberg-Polin’s parents Jon and Rachel, and declared, “I have no higher priority than the safety of American citizens, wherever they are in the world. President Biden and I will never waver in our commitment to free the Americans and all those held hostage in Gaza.” — ANI

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### PM Narendra Modi to visit Brunei, Singapore

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will be making official visits to Brunei and Singapore from 3-5 September, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday.

It will be the first-ever bilateral visit by an Indian PM to Brunei. PM Modi will be visiting Brunei from 3-4 September at the invitation of Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah.

“Shri Narendra Modi, at the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, is scheduled to visit Brunei Darussalam during 03-04 September 2024. This will be the first-ever bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Brunei. The visit coincides with 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties between India and Brunei,” MEA announced in a press release. — ANI

#### Migrant influx fuels debate in Spain over illegal migration

A steep rise in the number of arrivals of migrants in Spain’s Canary Islands from Africa has fuelled a fierce debate in the country over how to tackle illegal immigration.

The issue was thrust into the spotlight during a three-day visit by Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez to West Africa which wrapped up Thursday.

The trip was aimed at curbing the record number of unauthorised migrants arriving in the Atlantic archipelago in search of a better life in Europe. — AFP

# UNICEF launches tenders for mpox vaccines

UNICEF said Saturday that it has launched an emergency tender for mpox vaccines to help countries hardest hit by the recent outbreak of the disease.

“The emergency tender is designed to secure immediate access to available mpox vaccines as well as to expand production,” UNICEF said in a statement issued along with the World Health Organization, the Gavi vaccine alliance and Africa CDC (Centres for Disease Control and Prevention).

“Depending on demand, production capacity of manufacturers and funding, agreements for up to 12 million doses through 2025 can be put in place,” it said.

Under the emergency tender,



A health worker explains mpox information to local people at a hospital on the outskirts of Goma, North Kivu province, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), on 19 August 2024. **PHOTO: STR/XINHUA**

UNICEF plans to set up conditional supply agreements with vaccine manufacturers.

This “will enable UNICEF to purchase and ship vaccines without delay once countries and partners have secured financing, confirmed demand and readiness, and the regulatory requirements for accepting the vaccines are in place”.

The WHO declared an international emergency over mpox on 14 August concerned by the surge in cases of the new Clade 1b strain in the Democratic Republic of Congo that spread to nearby countries.

More than 18,000 suspected cases of mpox have been reported in the DRC so far this year, with 629 deaths. — AFP



# SPORTS

## Paralympics: Swimmer Kimura wins 50m free for Japan's 2<sup>nd</sup> gold

JAPANESE swimming ace Keiichi Kimura won his country's second gold medal at the Paris Paralympics on Saturday, in the men's S11 50-metre freestyle.

In the category for swimmers with very limited or no eyesight, the 33-year-old touched the wall in 25.98 seconds, 0.13 ahead of China's Hua Dongdong and Brazil's Wendell Belarmino Pereira, who posted identical times to share second place at Paris La Defence Arena.

Kimura, who became completely blind at the age of 2, was making his fifth consecutive Paralympic appearance and picked up his ninth medal. Three years ago in Tokyo, he won the 100-metre butterfly.

"I'm happy but half surprised," Kimura said. "I got to know where the lane rope was soon after I dove in. I was able to stay calm and managed my race really well".

Kimura joined Takayuki Suzuki, who won the men's SB3 50-metre breaststroke Thursday, on the list of Japanese gold medalists in Paris.

Among other Japanese athletes, Kota Kubota took silver in the men's S8 100-metre backstroke, won by Spain's Inigo Llopis Sanz. — Kyodo

## Paralympic triathlon events postponed after heavy rain causes fall in water quality in Seine

THE Paralympic triathlon events scheduled for Sunday have been postponed for a day due to the poor water quality in the River Seine in Paris.

The 11 scheduled races suffered after heavy rain affected the water, leading organizers to put back the events by 24 hours, with World Triathlon issuing a statement explaining: "The latest tests show a decrease in water quality in the river fol-

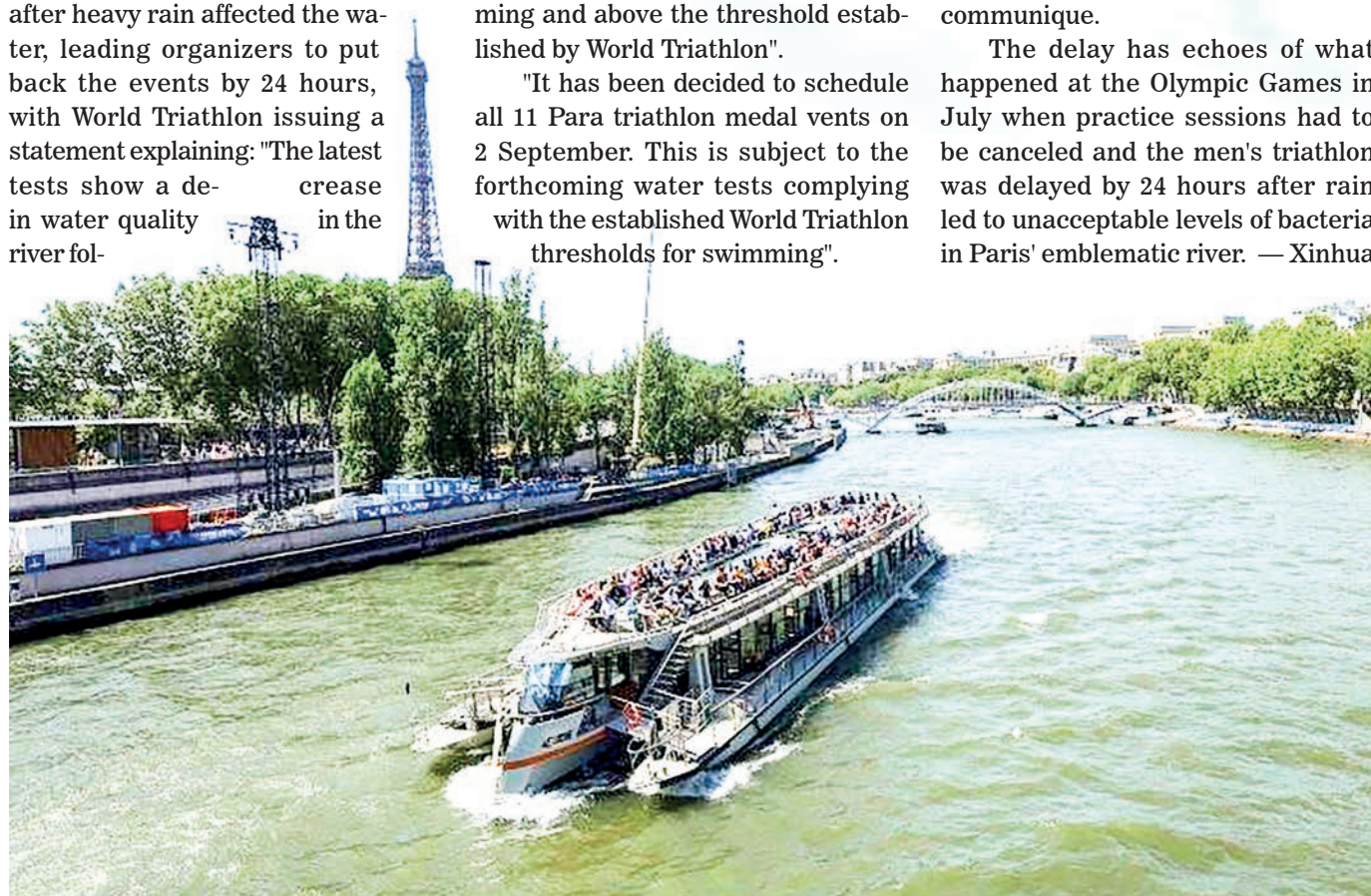
lowing the rain episodes over the last two days".

"As a result, the water quality at the competition venue on Sunday, 1 September is not suitable for swimming and above the threshold established by World Triathlon".

"It has been decided to schedule all 11 Para triathlon medal events on 2 September. This is subject to the forthcoming water tests complying with the established World Triathlon thresholds for swimming".

"Paris 2024 and World Triathlon reiterate that their priority is the health of the athletes and with these conditions, the Para triathlon events cannot take place today," added the communique.

The delay has echoes of what happened at the Olympic Games in July when practice sessions had to be canceled and the men's triathlon was delayed by 24 hours after rain led to unacceptable levels of bacteria in Paris' emblematic river. — Xinhua



A tourist boat on the Seine river in Paris which is due to hold the swimming event in the Olympic triathlon. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

## Myanmar U-19 team heads for friendlies in Thailand

THE Myanmar U-19 football team departed for Thailand on 1 September 2024 to participate in a series of friendly matches as part of their preparations for the 2025 AFC U-20 Championship.

Led by head coach U Aung Naing, the squad, consisting of promising young talents, will spend

two weeks in Thailand honing their skills to perfection and competing in five friendly fixtures.

The team's schedule includes matches against Oman on 3 September, Bahrain on 5 September; Oman again on 8 September; and Bhutan on 11 and 13 September. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar U-19 team poses for documentary group photo. PHOTO:MFF

## Myawady FC ends AFC Women's Champions League group stage

THE Myanmar club Myawady FC concluded its group stage campaign in the 2024-2025 AFC Women's Champions League with a string of defeats on 31 August 2024.

In their final group match, Myawady FC faced Laos' Young Elephant FC, suffering a 3-0 loss. Young Elephant FC scored twice in the first half and added another goal in the second half.

In other Group A action, UAE's Abu Dhabi club defeated Saudi Arabian side Al-Nassr 1-0 to advance successfully. Myawady FC's performance throughout the

group stage was disappointing, losing all three matches without scoring a single goal and conceding seven.

This placed them at the bottom of their group. Following the group stage, the top teams advancing are: Abu Dhabi club in Group A, India's Odisha FC in Group B, Malaysia's Sabah FC in Group C and Iran's Bam Khatoon FC in Group D. Sabah FC, featuring Myanmar's national team midfielder Win Theingi Tun, secured a successful campaign, defeating Uzbekistan's team with a 2-0 victory in the decisive match. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL





## INDUSTRY REACTION

### US requests dispute talks on Canada digital services tax

THE United States said Friday that it has requested dispute settlement talks with Canada over a recently introduced digital services tax.

Enacted by an order in late June, the three percent tax applies to large or multinational companies such as Alphabet, Amazon and Meta that provide digital services to Canadians.

It was forecast in the 2024 federal budget to bring in Can\$5.9 billion (US\$4.2 billion) over five years.

US Trade Representative Katherine Tai, however, said Washington was against such taxes.

“The United States opposes unilateral digital service taxes that discriminate against US companies,” she said, adding in a statement that the USTR was taking action to address Canada’s “discriminatory policies.”

The USTR charges that Canada’s tax “appears to be inconsistent” with its commitments under the cross-border trade in services and investment chapters of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

Under the USMCA, the US is seeking resolution of concerns over Canada’s proposed digital services tax, which targets US providers.

If unresolved in 75 days, a dispute panel may be convened. The CCIA supports this move, warning it could set a precedent. Canada’s Deputy PM argues the tax is necessary after stalled global talks. — AFP



Across Asia, rice is cultivated on an area exceeding 135 million hectares and supports employment for upwards of 300 million people. PHOTO: PIXABAY

## IAEA, FAO support farmers in using nuclear-derived agriculture to boost crops

*Techniques provided by the IAEA have led to yield increases of 1 to 2.5 tonnes per hectare in Bangladesh, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Vietnam.*

**F**ARMERS in six Asian countries have successfully increased their rice yields using nuclear-derived climate-smart agricultural practices, with the support of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

Rice, a staple food for 60 per cent of the Asian population, is predominantly grown and consumed in the

region, accounting for about 90 per cent of the global rice crop.

The cultivation of rice across Asia spans over 135 million hectares and employs more than 300 million people. However, water shortages and the impacts of climate change have led to a deficit in rice production.

Enhancing rice production is vital to ensure food security, meet the growing population’s demands, and improve the livelihoods of farmers.

Farmers in 11 countries across Asia have been adopting climate-smart agricultural practices following training on nuclear and isotopic techniques provided under the IAEA’s technical cooperation programme.

Particularly notable successes were observed in Bangladesh, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Vietnam, where rice production increased from 1 to 2.5 tonnes per hectare. — ANI

## BRICS signs climate and sustainability framework

BRICS countries have adopted a framework document on climate and sustainable development, which includes the main aspects of joint actions in this direction, the Russian Economic Development Ministry said on Friday.

“Following the two-day BRICS Climate Agenda in Modern Conditions Forum in Moscow, the BRICS countries adopted the framework on climate and

sustainable development. The document covers all key aspects of climate action, including a just transition, mitigation, adaptation, carbon markets, finance, science, and business involvement,” the ministry said in a statement, carried by Sputnik. Russian Economic Development Minister Maxim Reshetnikov noted that all BRICS countries recognise the need to halt use of unilateral green pro-

tectionist measures by developed countries, as these measures negatively impact the economies and supply chains of developing nations.

The second document, developed within the BRICS Contact Group on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, is a memorandum of understanding on the BRICS carbon markets partnership. — ANI



This photo taken with a mobile phone shows a child running at the waterfall city park in Johannesburg, South Africa, 17 June 2024. PHOTO: ZHANG YUDONG/XINHUA