

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar Anti-Terrorism Central Committee Notification 1/2024

14<sup>th</sup> Waning of Wagoung 1386 ME  
2 September 2024

### Declaration on terrorist groups

THE Anti-Terrorism Central Committee has issued this notification by exercising the authority mentioned in Subsection (e) of Section 6 and Subsection (b) of Section 72 of the Counter-Terrorism Law, with the approval of the Union government.

1. The Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) and Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) commit terror acts mentioned in the Counter-Terrorism Law by harming public security and their life and property and violently causing loss and damage to essential infrastructures of individuals or public, State-owned buildings, vehicles, machinery and accessories,

**SEE PAGE 3**

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### Terrorist group reclassified after reversing previous declaration

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**SEE PAGE 3**



This photo captures the Akha Swing Festival in Kengtung Township, Shan State (East)

## Akha traditional swing festival held in Kengtung, eastern Shan State

The swing-riding festival is celebrated to promote peace, unity, and food sufficiency, as well as to preserve their cultural heritage.

**T**HE swing-riding festival, a traditional celebration of the Akha people, was held in Kengtung Township, Shan State (East), on 30 August.

The Akha ethnic group has about twelve traditional festivals. Among these, the swing-riding festival, the Khar Htaung Festival, and the Red Egg Festival are particularly well-known. The

Khar Htaung Festival marks the New Year, while the Red Egg Festival is a time when elders are honoured during the Thingyan Festival.

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### Oppose cyberbullying on social media platforms

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Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) receives delegation of National Defence College of India

## BUSINESS

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CBM denies rumours of Thai banks suspending remittances with Myanmar banks



# NATIONAL



**Twenty-seven (27) days remain until the National Census.**



**Myanmar Gazette**

### Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of U Karin La Ja, Managing Director of the Inland Water Transport under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

## COVID-19 report, 2 September 2024

NEW TESTS	NEW CASES	CASUALTIES
20,136	28	Nil

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.



**Leave no child behind**  
in the fight against human trafficking

2024 Anti-Trafficking in Person Day, 13 September.

### 2024 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day's Objectives

- ❖ To mobilize the participation of all citizens in combatting trafficking in persons as a national duty;
- ❖ To have the public instilled with awareness about and knowledge of trafficking in persons;
- ❖ To protect and care about trafficked victims with empathy; and
- ❖ To strengthen cooperation and coordination among all counter trafficking stakeholders; government agencies, civil society organizations, UN agencies, international organizations and general public.



The Swing Festival of the Akha ethnic in action.

## Akha traditional swing festival held ...

### FROM PAGE 1

These festivals attract not only Akha people from Myanmar but also those from other countries.

As a hill tribe, the Akha peo-

ple have engaged in farming for generations. The swing-riding festival is celebrated to promote peace, unity, and food sufficiency, as well as to preserve their cultural heritage.

Akha people primarily reside in the mountainous regions on the east bank of the Thanlwin River in the eastern part of Shan State, with a population of approximately 200,000. —ASH/TMT

## 420 passport extensions set for early September

ACCORDING to statistics issued by the Myanmar Embassy to Singapore, the passport extension service will be expanded for 420 persons in the first week of September.

The embassy announced a list of approved persons for passport extension from 2-6 September, and according to it, it is scheduled for 84 persons on 2 September, further 84 persons on 3 September, 86 persons on 4 September, 83 persons for 5 September and further 83 persons on 6 September.

The embassy made weekly announcements on the list of approved persons (200-300) in August. Original passport and original Identity Card (IC), copy of passport data page and copy of front and back of IC, extension form and a license photo are required, and appli-

cants can come to the embassy from 10 am to noon.

PR, EP, SP, and Long Term Pass ID holders can register on WhatsApp at +6581748993. WP and Student Pass holders can register on WhatsApp at +6582468581, with the first page of the passport and the front and back page of IC to request an appointment date, said the embassy and added that applicants can check their names in the list of approved persons announced on every Friday.

Myanmar nationals aged 65 years and above don't need to seek an appointment date, and will be considered a priority. Those who have difficulty seeking an appointment date if they are in an emergency can directly apply for a walk-in and come in the morning in person. — MT/ZS



# NATIONAL

## Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) receives delegation of National Defence College of India

STATE Administration Council Member and Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy, and Air) General Maung Maung Aye hosted a delegation led by Maj-Gen Ajay Kumar Singh, AVSM, SM, Senior Directing Staff of the National Defence College in New Delhi, India, at the Bayintnaung Villa's reception hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

The two sides discussed bilateral friendship and cooperation, training, and academic matters between two Tatmadaws of both countries in a friendly and open manner. Souvenirs were exchanged following the discussion.

Also present at the meeting were Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Htein Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), senior officer trainees from the Indian delegation the Indian defence attaché to Myanmar, and officials. — MNA/TKO



SAC Member Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye meets Indian delegation led by Maj-Gen Ajay Kumar Singh, Senior Directing Staff of the National Defence College of India, yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar Anti-Terrorism Central Committee Notification 1/2024

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**FROM PAGE 1**

including the violent acts to blow up public roads and bridges, explode electric towers, fire on populated towns and villages from far distance with the use of heavy weapons, drop bombs, kill innocent people, forcefully recruit new members and destroy State-owned buildings, vehicles, machinery and equipment. Moreover, these groups based inside the country are committing terror acts against the State.

2. As such, the Anti-Terrorism Central Committee has declared the groups mentioned above as terrorist groups that are committing the terror acts mentioned above.

Chairman  
Anti-Terrorism Central Committee

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar Anti-Terrorism Central Committee Notification 2/2024

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2 September 2024

#### Terrorist group reclassified after reversing previous declaration

**FROM PAGE 1**

1. The Anti-Terrorism Central Committee declared the United League of Arakan (ULA)/Arakan Army (AA) as a terrorist group under its notification 1/2020 dated 23 March 2020. However, the declaration against that terrorist group was revoked under notification of the central committee dated 11 March 2021 in order to restore durable peace nationwide in accord with the five-point roadmap and nine objectives adopted by the State Administration Council.

2. Currently, the United League of Arakan (ULA)/Arakan Army (AA) still commits terror acts mentioned in the Counter-Terrorism Law by harming public security and their life and property and violently causing loss and damage to essential infrastructures of individuals or public, State-owned buildings, vehicles, machinery, and accessories, including the violent acts to blow up public roads and bridges, explode electric towers, fire on populated towns and villages from a far distance with the use of heavy weapons, drop bombs, kill innocent people, forcibly recruit new members and destroy State-owned buildings, vehicles, machinery and equipment. Moreover, the group based in the country is committing terror acts against the State.

3. As such, the Anti-Terrorism Central Committee has cancelled the revocation of its declaration over the aforementioned group under notification 1/2021 dated 11 March 2021 and has declared the group as a terrorist group.

Chairman  
Anti-Terrorism Central Committee

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International Literacy Day 2024

အပြန်အလှန်ဘာသာစကားလေ့လာမှုနှင့် ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးအတွက်  
စာတတ်မြောက်ရန်အပ်လို  
ဘာသာစကားဆုံပညာရေးကို မြှင့်တင်ကြပါစို့

Promoting multilingual education:  
Literacy for  
mutual understanding and peace

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# NATIONAL

## 2024 Inter-Ministerial Universities' Football Tournament kicks off

THE opening ceremony of the 2024 Inter-Ministerial Universities' Football Tournament took place at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by State Administration Council members Daw Dwe Bu, Porel Aung Thein, Mahn Nyein Maung, Dr Hmuh Thang, Dr Ba Shwe, and U Yan Kyaw, Union ministers, deputy ministers, departmental officials, and relevant officials.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe, who is also chairman of the football tournament organizing committee, said the universities' sports sector is being promoted in accord with the objectives of the State Administration Council and guidance of the State Head. The tournament is also held with the aim of "From University Selection to National Selection", and the outstanding university players will be selected for ASEAN university games and international competitions.

He then highlighted the critical role



SAC Member Daw Dwe Bu (2<sup>nd</sup> L), SAC Members and Union Education Minister Dr Nyunt Pe (L) greet athletes at yesterday's opening in Nay Pyi Taw.

of youths in State development and for the future nation and inaugurated the 2024 Inter-Ministerial Universities' Football Tournament.

After the ceremonial procedures, the

SAC members, Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe and officials cordially met with the players.

They then enjoyed the match between the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural

Development Team and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Team. The Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development Team beat the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Team 7-1 in the match.

The objectives of the 2024 Inter-Ministerial Universities' Football Tournament are to promote the football standard of universities, to be fully supportive of fit and education standards, to ensure friendship, endeavour, patience, strength, unity, and team spirit based on sports spirit, to follow the rules and regulations, to be qualified students who are gentle and good citizens and to turn out outstanding athletes.

The tournament will be from 31 August to 9 September, and it will be held with seven teams from relevant ministries' universities.

The outstanding athletes will be selected for the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN University Games to be held in Malaysia in 2026. — MNA/KTZH

## Myanmar attends pre-workshop for 19<sup>th</sup> Asia Media Summit



Myanmar delegates pose for the group picture at the pre-workshop for the 19<sup>th</sup> Asia Media Summit on 1-2 September in Malaysia.

THE Myanmar delegation led by Director-General U Ye Naing of MRTV under the Ministry of Information attended the 19<sup>th</sup> Asia Media Summit and Associated Meetings organized by AIBD in Malaysia on 1 and 2 September.

The summit was held under the theme of "Media: The New Odyssey," with ten different

workshops attended by Communication and Information Ministers of the Asia-Pacific region, governmental representatives, media decision-makers, academic personnel, and media experts.

Director-General U Ye Naing attended the workshop on combating fake news and disinformation and promoting

media awareness at IPPTAR, Angkasapuri, on 1 September and the 22<sup>nd</sup> AIBD General Conference at the Sheraton Hotel.

On 2 September, he attended the Pre-Summit Workshop on Promoting Media Accessibility for Vulnerable Groups at the IPPTAR Training Room. He participated in a discussion regarding the importance of accessibility in media, the creation of inclusive and accessible media content, and broadcasting and support for the production of media content that highlights the experiences and needs of vulnerable groups.

Officials from India, Pakistan, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea participated in that event and Myanmar to "raise awareness about the importance of media accessibility for vulnerable groups."

Moreover, staff officer U

Myint Hlaing and assistant engineer U Htet Aung of MRTV also attended the workshops on leveraging AI in newsrooms and exploring 5G trends for 4K broadcasting on 1 and 2 September.

Established under the auspices of UNESCO in 1977, the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) is a regional inter-governmental, international organization committed to broadcast and media development. AIBD plays a pivotal role in fostering a vibrant and cohesive electronic media environment in the Asia-Pacific region.

The MRTV of the Ministry of Information became a full-fledged member of AIBD in 1997 and actively participated in training courses, meetings, seminars, conferences and online classes of AIBD. — MNA/KTZH

### Corrigendum

PLEASE read "Mandalay Region government officials present food worth K20 million generously donated by local contributors to Central Command Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Ko Htaik" instead of "Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung presents donations to Eastern Command Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Aung Kyaw San" at the caption of a photo of the news with the title of "Security forces honoured with cash, food for national defence duties" mentioned on page 4 of this newspaper issued on 31 August 2024. Error is regretted. — Ed

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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

## MoALI aims to expand sunflower plantations by 147,000 acres this winter

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation targets the planting of over three million acres of sunflower crops across the nation to meet domestic oil consumption. There were 1.08 million acres of sunflower plantations last year, and it will expand up to 14,700 acres this winter.

“We manage to plant over three million acres of edible oil crop, sunflower. We planted 1.08 million acres last year, and we will expand about 14,700 acres this year. We will arrange to expand the plantations gradually in the coming years, and we aim to meet three million acres in three years. The main operation is that we aim to meet three million acres of sunflower plantations after the water access project in double-crop plantation areas,” said Dr Ye Tint Tun, direc-



A thriving sunflower plantation – one of edible oil crops in Myanmar.

tor-general of the Department of Agriculture.

“We work with the relevant

department to fulfil the needs of sunflower growers. Therefore,

we will expand 14,700 acres to

reach 1.09 million acres this summer from 1.08 million acres. We will expand to 1.3 million to meet

the three-million acres target in the coming years. Therefore, we work together with farmers and private entrepreneurs to facilitate the seed production industries and imports of sunflower seeds,” he added.

He also said, “We cooperate with the entrepreneurs to produce sunflower seeds locally in the coming years. We want to urge the farmers to receive good species, meet three million acres and focus on sunflower crops to cover the local oil security.”

It is estimated to plant 1.09 million acres of sunflower plantations in the monsoon and winter seasons in the 2024-2025 financial year and to get a total of 3.07 million acres in the monsoon and winter seasons in the 2027-2028 financial year. — Honey/KTZH

## Rice husk gasifiers to provide electricity in Bago and Ayeyawady Regions



Authorities inspect the rice husk gasifiers.

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF), rice husk gasifiers are being constructed in Bago and Ayeyawady Regions to supply the needed electricity. The report states that 1,391 rice mills in Bago Region and 543 rice mills in Ayeyawady Region are currently constructing these gasifiers. In Ayeyawady Region, rice is milled using gasifiers at 543 rice mills, and electricity is generated from four rice husk steamed boilers. Additionally, local businesses such as agriculture and fish farming are using gasifiers to produce small-scale electricity.

The report further mentions that rice mills and other industrial businesses in areas where the national grid is inaccessi-

ble or the electricity supply is insufficient are using rice husk gasifiers. Official data shows that 412 privately owned gasifiers are registered with the government: 13 in Yangon Region, 78 in Sagaing Region, 16 in Bago Region, two in Mandalay Region, and 303 in Ayeyawady Region.

Among these registered businesses, 319 gasifiers are used in rice mills, while 21 are utilized in other manufacturing sectors. The biofuel gas produced by rice husk gasifiers can help mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. The Ministry of Science and Technology plans to collaborate with MSMEs and experienced technicians to systematically build gasifiers across the country. — ASH/TMT

## Illicit trade crackdown: K285M in illegal goods seized in recent operations

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

On 30 August, combined duty teams managed by the Magway Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections in Magway Township, resulting in the seizure of an unregistered vehicle and an unregistered motorbike, both valued at K5.5 million.

On 31 August, an unregistered Toyota LiteAce worth K5 million was seized in Kawthoung, with the action being taken under the Export and Import Law.

On 1 September, the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force managed inspections that led to the seizure of an unregistered Toyota Probox (valued at K5 million) in Indakaw. Additionally, 1.605 tonnes of illegal teak worth K1,412,752 were seized in Toungoo District, along with a Yutong bus (approximately K40 million) travelling from Hpa-an to Toungoo. The bus was carrying three food items valued at K5.8 million without official documents. The action was carried out

under the Export and Import Law, the Forest Law, and Customs procedures.

On the same day, further inspections resulted in the seizure of 11 unregistered vehicles and 14 unregistered motorbikes worth K150.2 million in Mawlamyine and Thaton districts. A Nissan Condor truck (approximately K30 million), heading from Hpa-an to Yangon, was found to be carrying consumer goods worth K14 million that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. Additionally, food items, two consumer goods, and 18 industrial materials valued at K25.055 million were seized from the luggage of four passengers at Yangon International Airport. Two restricted chemicals worth K3.398 million were also seized from a container at MITT Port. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law and Customs procedures.

In total, from 31 August to 1 September, 39 cases were logged, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods valued at approximately K285.366 million, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



# NATIONAL

## Actress Saung Eaindray Tun donates K1M for Myanmar Motion Pictures Day celebrations

ACTRESS Saung Eaindray Tun has donated K1 million for the 47<sup>th</sup> ceremony of paying respects to seniors in the film industry and the 104<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Myanmar Motion Pictures Day, according to U Aye Kyu Lay, Vice Chairperson of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO). The combined ceremony will be held on 13 October at the MMPO Central office in Bahan Township, Yangon, where cash donations are currently being

accepted. "Artistes are contributing to this ceremony, and this year's donation drive will be part of the event. The list of seniors for the respect-paying ceremony" is still being compiled,' said U Aye Kyu Lay. Last year, during the 103rd anniversary of Myanmar Motion Pictures Day and the 46th respect-paying ceremony, 140 seniors were honoured with cash and foodstuffs. — ASH/TRKM



This photo showcases actress Saung Eaindray Tun donating K1 million for the ceremony.

### Private banks offer up to 12.5% interest on savings



This image shows KBZ Bank's advert, which declares their increased interest rates.

PRIVATE banks set interest rates between 8 and 12.5 per cent per annum depending on the types of saving accounts, private banks declared.

After the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) amended the CBM interest rate, interest on savings paid by the banks and interest rate on loans in a bid to reduce inflation and let private banks offer more loans as per its notification dated 14 August, the domestic private banks raised interest rate on savings.

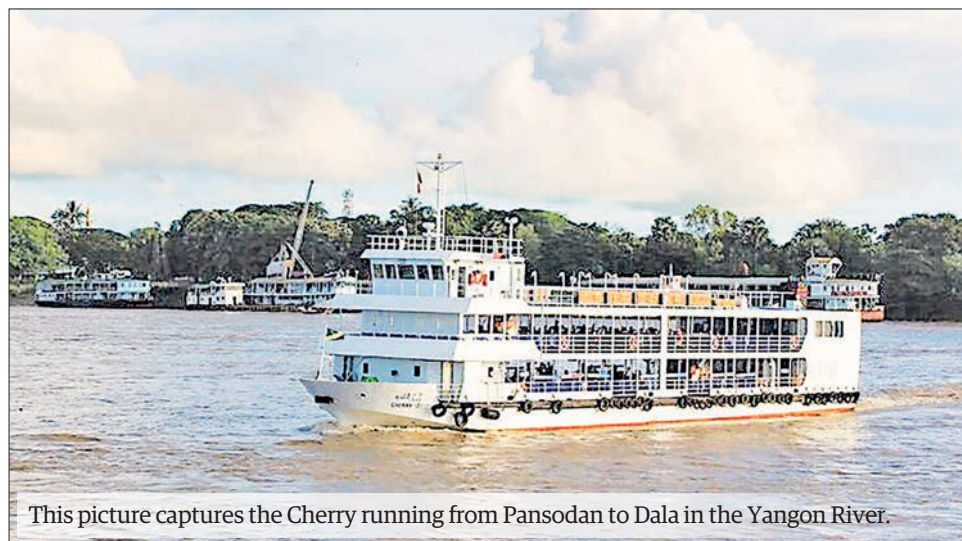
According to the CBM's amendment, the minimum interest rate of banks on savings is set at seven per cent and the maximum interest rate on lending at 15 per cent, starting from 1 September. Banks can change interest rates on savings and loans within the 7-15 per cent margin depending on their profitability and risk management of the banks. — TWA/KK

## Pansodan-Dala ferry fare rises to K300 per person

THE fare for the Pansodan-Dala Cherry ferry has increased to K300 per person. Previously, the fare was K100, but it was raised to K200 on 1 August 2022 and has now been increased to K300, according to Ko Aung Naing Tun, a resident of Dala, who spoke to GNL.M.

Three ferry boats, named Cherry 1, 2, and 3, operate 46 shifts in rotation from 5 am to 6 pm daily, transporting over 16,000 commuters.

Residents of Dala, Twantay, Kawhmu, and Kungyangon townships in Yangon District (South), and some townships in Ayeyawady Region use these ferries. — TWA/MKKS



This picture captures the Cherry running from Pansodan to Dala in the Yangon River.

## Z-crafts transport 500 cars daily between Wahdan and Dala

U Aung Kyaw Oo, the area manager of Myanma Port Authority, stated that Z-crafts transport cars daily between Wahdan Jetty in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, and Dala Jetty.

"In collaboration with Myanma Port Authority, Inland Water Transport operates 12 shifts using five Z-crafts in rotation, transporting around 500 cars

and approximately 100 tonnes of goods daily from 7 am to 7 pm," said U Aung Kyaw Oo. — ASH/MKKS

This photo shows the Z-craft running at the Wahdan-Dala port.





## CBM denies rumours of Thai banks suspending remittances with Myanmar banks

THE Central Bank of Myanmar clarified on 1 September that some Thai banks claimed the suspension of remittance with Myanmar banks was just misinformation.

False news claiming that some banks in Thailand, including Kasikorn Bank (K Bank) and Siam Commercial Bank (SCB) Myanmar, would suspend remittance to Myanmar at the end of August 2024 is disseminated among the public.

According to announcements of Kasikorn Bank (K Bank), Head Office of Siam Commercial Bank (SCB) Myanmar, it was just applying Enhanced Due Diligence (EDD) measures on those associated with banks. Banking operations, including transactions, will be provided as usual.

In accordance with the instructions of the Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO), Thailand's key agency responsible for



The facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar (Yangon Branch).

the enforcement of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing terrorism, all Thai banks comply with the Anti-Money Laundering Act and serve transactions for customers. Only when suspicious transactions and illegal activities are recognized can banks freeze accounts under instructions of the relevant authorities, CBM stated.

Banks conduct Enhanced Due Diligence-EDD measures to check and monitor high-risk customers and unusual transactions to identify financial crimes. As no suspicious financial transactions or illegal activities have been detected in Myanmar's trading businesses, banking operations will be regularly supported. — NN/KK

## YGN palm oil wholesale rate rises to K6,490 per viss this week



Cooking oil is seen being arranged for sales in the supermarket.

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market was set higher at K6,490 per viss this week ending 8 September, which increased from K6,375 recorded last week ending 1 September 2024, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The figures show a slight increase of K115 per viss this week from last week's rate.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide

the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

Despite the reference price, the market price is way too high.

To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed the consumers of lodging the complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late August. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices. The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

## Palm oil door-to-door scheme boosts sales in 44 Yangon Region townships

THE Yangon Region Palm Oil Door-to-Door Distribution Committee announced on 1 September the palm oil door-to-door distribution scheme with three visses per household in 44 townships of Yangon Region starting from 1 September.

The committee earlier set that one household was entitled to buy two visses of palm oil per month through door-to-door service in 44 townships. The committee increased the limit to three visses to meet growing demand. Order placement can be made through call centres of the respective districts in 44 townships, from Monday to Saturday (except Sundays and public holidays), from 9 am to 4 pm.

The contact numbers are 01 4705566 (15 extension lines), 09 940171222 (15 extension lines) for Taikkyi, Hlegu, Hmawby, Htantabin, Mingaladon, Shwepyitha, Insein, Hlinethaya, Thanlyin, Thongwa, Kyauktan, Kayan, Twantay, Kungyangon, Kawhmu, Seikkyi Kanaungto, Dala, Mayangon, Hlaing and North Okkalapa townships and 09 771002722 (10 extension lines), 01-4706722 (10 extension lines) for Kyauktada, Pabedan, Lanmadaw, Latha, Dagon, Ahlon, Kyimyindine, Sangyoung, Thingangyun, South Okkalapa, Tamway, Yankin, Botahtaung, Dawbon, Mingala



Consumers are seen pleased with their share of edible oil.

Taungnyunt, Pazundaung, Thakayta, Dagon Myothit Seikkan, North Dagon, East Dagon, Kamayut and Bahan townships.

Palm oil prices will be calculated based on wholesale reference prices announced on Mondays, adding some costs. The customer must bear the delivery fee. It is cash-on-delivery sales. The goods will arrive three days after order placement. — NN/KK



# OPINION

## Oppose cyberbullying on social media platforms

THE advancement of Internet communication has revolutionized how people share information globally. Modern telecommunication allows individuals to exchange information quickly and easily, breaking down barriers of time and distance. However, like any technological advancement, the Internet has both advantages and disadvantages. One major downside is the rise of harmful behaviours online, such as cyberbullying, which destabilizes society and spreads hatred.

Some internet users deliberately use social media platforms to spread misinformation, defamation, and hate speech. These actions create social discrimination and cyberbullying based on factors such as race, skin colour, gender, language, politics, and religious beliefs. Social media, while a powerful tool for connection, has also become a vehicle for online violence, especially targeting children and students.

Combatting cyberbullying requires a collective effort from individuals, communities, and governments. Promoting responsible internet use and fostering a culture of respect online are vital steps in opposing cyberbullying and ensuring a safer digital environment for all. As such, both relevant authorities and internet users have to avoid cyber crimes and bullying against each other and expose those offenders to action under the law in Myanmar.

extends far beyond the individual, affecting the mental health and well-being of entire communities.

Global surveys highlight the widespread nature of cyberbullying, particularly among young people. Around 95 per cent of teenagers use the Internet, with 85 per cent of them engaging on social media platforms. Unfortunately, 73 per cent of students report experiencing bullying, and more than half of LGBT students face cybercrimes. Additionally, female teenagers are more likely to fall victim to cyberbullying than their male counterparts.

While adults may be more resilient to online bullying, the effects on children and teenagers are particularly concerning. Bullying and violence in schools hinder students' ability to learn, thrive, and develop in a safe and healthy environment. Protecting young people from the dangers of cyberbullying is crucial to ensuring their rights to education, health, and overall well-being.

Combatting cyberbullying requires a collective effort from individuals, communities, and governments. Promoting responsible internet use and fostering a culture of respect online are vital steps in opposing cyberbullying and ensuring a safer digital environment for all. As such, both relevant authorities and internet users have to avoid cyber crimes and bullying against each other and expose those offenders to action under the law in Myanmar.

# Symbols of Socio-Political Ideologies in Buddhist Architecture

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY'S ARTICLE

**Dr Myo Nyunt Aung**  
**Researcher (Archaeology)**  
**Bagan**

## Buddhist Monuments with Circumambulatory Corridors

In 1873, Alexander Cunningham, a renowned archaeologist and the father of Indian archaeology excavated the Bharhut stupa in Madhya Pradesh, India. This stupa, which is one of the encased stupas in India, was found to have a circumambulatory path. Although smaller than the larger stupas at Sanchi, Bhattiprolu, or Amravati, the Bharhut stupa features remarkable sculptural details. The circumambulatory corridor was designed not only for the act of veneration and circumambulation around the stupa but also to allow observers to appreciate the sculptures and ornamentations as part of the socio-political context.

Similarly, the Dharmarajika stupa in Sarnath reveals six successive encasements through archaeological excavations. Notably, circumambulatory paths (Pradakshina-Patha) were added during the second and third phases of enlargement (Mitra, 1971, pp 66-69). At the Amaravati stupa, a circumambulatory passageway was introduced later, positioned between the railing and the drum of the stupa (Mitra, 1971, pp 200-204).

In contrast, the Phra Pathom stupa in Thailand also features a circumambulatory corridor (see Figure 1). Soni noted that this stupa exemplifies encasement, as a new structure enveloped the original shrine to fulfil King Mongkut's wish to protect the relics (Soni, 1991). Prior to King Rama IV's restoration, the Phra Pathom stupa was surmounted by a prang inspired by Khmer Prasat architecture. Following the restoration, King Rama IV's encasement introduced a gallery path between the older and newly encased outer stupas. These structures include circumambulatory paths

designed not only for veneration and movement around the stupa but also for the observation and study of the sculptures and decorations, reflecting their political significance.

Similarly, numerous Moathtaw stupas across Myanmar also feature circumambulatory corridors (Bo Kay, 1981, pp 220-222). Many of these stupas have stone inscriptions detailing the structures built by King Asoka, providing valuable evidence of the active beliefs during the Bagan era. Some Moathtaw stupas constructed by successive kings are solid, while others are hollow with corridors. At Bagan, three Moathtaw stupas include such corridors. Temple No 1182, a uniquely shaped temple at Bagan, is one example of an encased temple featuring a circumambulatory corridor between its inner and outer structures. These corridors are not only for worship and veneration but also for moving around and studying the art and architecture of the inner and outer stupas, reflecting their socio-political context.

Currently, there are eighty-three encased monuments at Bagan, making it the richest area of Buddhist monuments in Myanmar. Most of these encased structures were enlarged by secondary donors to enhance the growth and development of Buddhism and its monuments, emphasizing their socio-political stature and aiming to create stronger, larger, and more durable structures.

## Inscribed Relic Caskets

In 1854, Alexander Cunningham discovered several important Buddhist sites, including Sanchi and four nearby sites — Sonari, Satdhara, Morel Khurd, and Andheri — in India, located about 10 kilometres from Sanchi. The inscribed reliquaries from these sites link them to a group of Hemavata teachers led by an individual named Gotiputa. The Hemavata may have arrived in Vidisha during the second century BCE (Sunga period), taking over older sites such as Sanchi

Prabhu Devi", belonging to the 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> century CE (Varman Dynasty) (Aung Thaw et al, 1993). These inscriptions reflect that



Inscribed Stone Burial Urn Found at Payahtaung Stupa in Sri Kshetra.

many donors were motivated by religious and socio-political concepts, aiming to make the relic-imbued stupa prominent for veneration while also enhancing its associated social and economic benefits.

## Inscribed Burial Urns

In 1911-12, four inscribed stone burial urns were discovered 183 metres south of Phayagyi stupa in Sri Kshetra, Myanmar. An additional inscribed stone burial urn (see Figure 3) was found at Payahtaung pagoda in 1993. These inscriptions recorded the royal titles, ages, reigns, and dates of demise of various kings. The urns include names such as "Hrivikrama", "Sihavikrama", and "Suravikrama" for the earlier period, and "Devamitra", "Dhammaditavikrama", "Brahimhtuvikrama", "Sihavikrama", "Suriravikrama",

"Harivikrama", and "Ardhitravikrama" for the later period, dating to the 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> century CE and reflecting the Vikrama Dy-

chedis at Wat Phra Si Sanphet. The first chedi, built by King Ramathibodi II (1491-1529 CE) in 1492 CE, enshrined the ashes of his father, King Boromtrailokanat (1448-1463 CE). The second chedi, constructed at the same time, was dedicated to King Borommaracha III (1463-1488 CE), his elder brother. Forty years later, King Boromracha IV (1529-1533 CE) built the third chedi to enshrine the remains of his father, King Ramathibodi II (Cushman, 2006). The Royal Chronicles also mention that King U Thong (1350-69 CE) arranged for the cremation of two princes, Chao Keo and Chao Thai, and built Wat Pa Kaeo, a stupa, and an assembly hall in their memory. Their ashes may have been enshrined in this stupa. These findings illustrate the religious and socio-political motivations behind enshrining the ashes of heroic kings and royal families in Buddhist monuments across Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Myanmar, highlighting their desire to enhance the social and economic benefits associated with these relic-imbued structures.

## Conclusion

The examination of enlarged Buddhist structures, inscribed relic caskets, and burial urns reveals significant socio-political and religious dimensions of Buddhist monument development across South and Southeast Asia. From the early mud stupas of Kapilvastu to the sophisticated encased stupas of Bagan and the circumambulatory corridors found in India, Myanmar and Thailand, these architectural and epigraphic records underscore the integration of religious devotion with socio-political ideologies.

The practice of encasing and enlarging stupas, as seen in the actions of King Uzana in Myanmar and various Indian dynasties, reflects a broader trend where subsequent rulers sought to enhance and preserve earlier structures, aligning their contributions with both religious merit and political stature. Similarly,

inscribed relic caskets and burial urns from sites such as Bhattiprolu, Sanchi, and Sri Kshetra provide valuable insights into the motivations behind these monumental acts. They reveal how the veneration of relics and the enshrinement of royal ashes served not only spiritual purposes but also reinforced the socio-political status of the donors.

The inclusion of circumambulatory corridors, as evidenced in the stupas of Bharhut, Dharmarajika, and Phra Pathom, illustrates how architectural modifications were employed to enhance the devotional experience and assert political legitimacy. These corridors facilitated both worship and observation of artistic embellishments, contributing to the stupa's prominence and durability.

In summary, the study of these Buddhist monuments illustrates how religious practices were intertwined with socio-political objectives. The effort to enlarge these structures and inscribe the relic caskets and burial urns highlights a dynamic interplay between spiritual aspirations and the assertion of political power. This interplay not only reflects the enduring legacy of Buddhist art and architecture but also the ways in which it was employed to reinforce and perpetuate socio-political ideologies across centuries and regions.

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# NATIONAL

## Yangon plans 50,000 acres of vegetable plantations this rainy season



The rainy season vegetable plantations usually commence in late April. It usually takes from 30 days to 90 days, depending on the species of the vegetables. A vegetable plantation in Yangon Region. **PHOTO: ZWE MARN**

YANGON Region regularly grows vegetables to make sure there is no shortage for the public. During this year's rainy season, the region plans to grow a total of 50,000 acres of peanuts, crops and vegetables. Amongst, over 19,197 acres have already been grown in 18 townships, according to the Agriculture Department of Yangon Region.

More than 20,000 acres were grown

last year during the rainy season. Plantations are projected to be implemented this year based on the lifespan of the vegetables and the designated acres. Vegetables from hillsides and Bago Region, Hmawby, Hlegu, Mingaladon and other townships arrive at Thiri Mingalar Market and Danyingon Wholesale Market daily. Thus, commodity flow is relatively good in the respective township.

“Vegetable production in this rainy season is schemed to increase based on the daily consumption within the region. For double cropping, we fulfil the farmers’ requirements in order to produce sufficient quantity. Since we are planning to grow 50,000 acres of peanuts, crops and vegetables in this rainy season, it will support not only the socioeconomic development of the farmers,” said Daw Hla Kyi, assistant director of the Yangon Region Agriculture Department.

In 18 townships of Yangon Region, there are 52 acres of rainy peanut, 202 acres of corn, 18,943 acres of various vegetables, including mustard, roselle, *Pomaea aquatica*, amaranth, Chinese kale, gourd, lady’s finger, *Momordica charantia*, *Trichosanthes anguina*, eggplant, tomatoes, chillies, *Bignonia indica*, ridged gourd, parsley, coriander, lettuce, quinoa, and others.

The rainy season vegetable plantations usually commence in late April. It usually takes from 30 days to 90 days, depending on the species of the vegetables. The plantations have continued as the winter crops since November. — Thitsa/TMT

## Rising demand for red kidney beans in Mandalay due to higher domestic consumption

ACCORDING to merchants in Mandalay, the demand for red kidney beans is high due to increased domestic consumption in the Mandalay market. Currently, kidney beans are arriving from various sources and selling for up to K450,000 per bag, as reported by merchant U Soe Win Myint.

He explained, “Domestic consumption of kidney beans is rising in Ayeyarwady, Yangon, and Bago regions. Kidney beans are highly nutritious and beneficial for health. Apart from chickpeas, they are the most consumed beans in the country. Consumption has been increasing year by year.”

Kidney beans are primarily cultivated in Mandalay Region, Magway Region, and Sagaing Region. The beans are grown as a winter crop once a year and are known for their low cultivation costs and good yield. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/TRKM



## CRIME NEWS

### K1.89 bln worth of drugs seized in Thazi Township

A total of 37 kilogrammes of ketamine and 6.5 kilogrammes of Happy Water, with a combined value of K1.89 billion, were seized in Thazi Township, Mandalay Region, according to the Myanmar Police Force. Acting on a tip-off, a combined team, including the Anti-Drug Police Force, searched a motorbike driven by Pyae Phyo Kyaw (also known as Hmon Lay) near Taungwa village in Thazi Township at 12:30 pm on 29 August. They confiscated 37 kilogrammes of ketamine and 6.5 kilogrammes of Happy Water, estimated to be worth K1.89 billion.

Following the investigation, the police arrested Thein Min Kyaw (also known as Phoe Htwe) and Naing Win



Offenders are seen along with seized drugs and vehicles.

Htun, who were implicated in drug trafficking, along with a Pajero, at 1 pm the same day on the Pyawbwe-Taunggyi Road. Additionally, Bo Bo Zaw, Ma Daing Nan (aka) Shwe Sin, and Win Ko Ko, who asked to transport the drugs, were arrested with a Toyota Landcruiser in Mahaaungmyay Township at 11:30 pm.

Suspects admitted that the seized drugs were intended to be transported from Shan State to Myawady Township in Kayin State.

Legal proceedings have commenced against offenders, and an ongoing investigation aims to apprehend other individuals involved in the case. — MNA/MKKS

### Drugs seized in Chanmyathazi, Tachilek Townships

ACTING on a tip-off, a combined team of anti-narcotics police officers arrested Sein Myint (aka) Ah Tha together with 0.5 kilogramme of Happy Water in Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay Region at 9 pm on 1 September.

Similarly, the police force

searched a motorbike driven by Lawmo in Ponthon ward in Tachilek at 3:30 pm on the same day and found 20,000 stimulant tablets.

Offenders were prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS





## Superstars Clooney, Pitt spar and tease in lone 'Wolfs' buddy film

GEORGE Clooney and Brad Pitt brought a jolt of electricity — and old-school Hollywood glamour — to Venice Sunday, joking, teasing and presiding over a public love fest as their new film "Wolfs" premiered.

The high-profile production starring Hollywood's two top leading men is one of the highlights of the 10-day Venice Film Festival.

The actors' red carpet appearance did not disappoint — with both playfully sneaking into the risers among the paparazzi as fans shrieked and waved.

Ahead of the premiere,



Actors George Clooney (R), Brad Pitt and Amy Ryan attend the photocall of the movie "Wolfs" presented out of competition during the 81<sup>st</sup> International Venice Film Festival at Venice Lido, on 1 September 2024. PHOTO: AFP

Clooney said it felt second nature sparring with Pitt in the action comedy about two professional fixers begrudgingly forced to work together.

"That sort of banter, the way we blast over each other every time, it just felt easy," Clooney told a press conference.

The 63-year-old star kept the wisecracks coming, telling reporters of his sidekick: "I'm much younger. I know I don't look it, but I'm much younger."

"He's 74 and he's lucky at this age to be still working," Clooney joked of 60-year-old Pitt, grinning at his side.

The 81<sup>st</sup> edition of the world's oldest film festival has been awash with stars this year, starting with Nicole Kidman and Angelina Jolie — Pitt's ex-wife — and next week's Lady Gaga and Daniel Craig.

In the production from US director Jon Watts, whose credits include the Marvel Studios "Spider-Man" trilogy, Clooney is called in to help a woman in a swanky penthouse hotel room deal with a dead, half-naked young man on her bedroom floor.

"There's nobody who can do what I do," Clooney's character assures her. — AFP

## Traditional musical instrument strikes chords with youths

EACH day, after completing her scheduled homework during this summer vacation, Xia Meng, a student at Yinshan ethnic primary school, devoted most of her time to practicing the bamboo flute. And she is not alone.

Just a month ago, her primary school introduced a distinctive interlude to the school day — a bamboo flute ensemble. Over 2,500 students, dressed in their vibrant traditional attire, came together to perform a collective flute piece. As a novice, Xia found herself enchanted by the skill of her peers.

Xia's school is nestled in Yuping Dong Autonomous County, southwest China's Guizhou Province. Known as the "hometown of Chinese bamboo flute," this county is home to nearly 30 enterprises and workshops dedicated to the production of Yuping bamboo flutes.

According to local cultural experts, the county's tradition of crafting bamboo flutes dates back to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). Made from indigenous bamboo, each flute undergoes more than 30 meticulous processes, including selection, shaping, engraving, grinding and tuning, before it reaches its final form.

As an emblem of traditional handmade musical instruments, Yuping bamboo flute earned the gold medal at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition held in San Francisco in 1915. This achievement marked it as one of the first Chinese ethnic musical instruments to receive international acclaim.

In 2006, the making techniques of Yuping bamboo flutes were inscribed in the inaugural list of China's national intangible cultural heritages. — Xinhua

## Some travel cards back on sale in Japan as chip shortages ease

SELECT kinds of Pismo and Suica smartcards used for public transport and cashless payments in Japan were back on sale Sunday, in another sign semiconductor shortages that plagued supply chains in recent years have eased.

New "My Suica" and Pismo cards bearing their owners' names can be bought again after being withdrawn from sale starting August 2023, amid difficulties procuring the chips inside them. Anonymous cards were suspended from sale in June 2023 and remain so due to risks that supplies could run out, East Japan Railway Co said.

Suica and Pismo cards are owned by JR East and Pismo Co, respectively, and can be purchased for a deposit of 500 yen (\$3.40) from train station ticket offices and some ticket machines. If charged with



Photo shows one of the "My Suica" travel cards that are again available to buy after a suspension due to chip shortages, in Tokyo on 1 September 2024. PHOTO: KYODO

funds, they allow seamless travel across Japan's array of transportation networks. The convenience of the cards has made them a sought-after item for visitors to Japan, and pre-paid cards are sold for several times their 500-yen deposit cost on online reselling websites.

Amid the shortages, in-

bound tourists have been able to purchase nonrefundable "Welcome Suica" cards that last for 28 days at select locations. Their availability expanded from Sunday, and they are now purchasable from rail hubs including major Tokyo train stations such as Ueno, Shibuya and Shinjuku. — Kyodo

## "Deadpool & Wolverine" holds North American box office lead

MARVEL Studios' superhero film "Deadpool & Wolverine" continued its reign atop the North American box office this weekend with an estimated US\$15.2 million, figures from the measurement firm Comscore showed on Sunday.

The R-rated action comedy, based on Marvel Comics featuring the characters Deadpool and Wolverine, is expected to take in 599.5 million dollars in ticket sales through Sunday and surpass the \$600-million benchmark in North America on Monday. It will be one

of 16 films ever to do so.

"Deadpool & Wolverine" topped the North American box office charts for five of the past six weeks, only briefly dethroned by the science fiction horror film "Alien: Romulus" for a week.

The Marvel film has also

grossed 658.4 million dollars overseas for a whopping global cume of \$1.258 billion through Sunday.

Taking the second place once again, Disney and 20<sup>th</sup> Century's "Alien: Romulus" earned \$9.3 million on its third weekend

for a North American cume of \$88.8 million.

Rounding out the top three, Sony's romantic drama "It Ends With Us" notched \$7.4 million on its fourth weekend for a North American total of \$133.7 million. — Xinhua



# ECONOMY WORLD



This photo shows the Pfizer booth at the 6<sup>th</sup> China International Import Expo (CIIE) in east China's Shanghai, 8 November 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## US business community optimistic about Chinese market

MEMBERS of the US business community have recently expressed optimism about the development prospects of the Chinese market, anticipating stable, improved bilateral relations, according to the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) on Friday.

At the invitation of the US Chamber of Commerce and the US-China Business Council (USCBC), a Chinese business

delegation led by Ren Hongbin, head of the CCPIT, visited the United States from 27 July to 1 August, CCPIT spokesperson Wang Linjie told a press conference.

During the visit, the delegation exchanged views with government officials from the US Department of Commerce and the Maryland state government, as well as business executives from nearly 30 US-based companies, including

Pfizer, Starbucks and Walmart, Wang said.

"The number and level of US-funded enterprises participating in the exchanges were unprecedented," she noted, adding that members of the US business community expressed the hope that the business communities of the two countries would meet more often, communicate more frequently and cooperate more extensively. — Xinhua

### BRIEFS: ECON

#### Malaysia's manufacturing PMI remains unchanged at 49.7 in August

MALAYSIA'S manufacturing conditions remained broadly stable in August, with S&P Global Malaysia Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) staying at 49.7.

S&P Global Market Intelligence said in a statement on Monday that the latest data indicated a fractional downturn in the Malaysian manufacturing sector.

It suggested gross domestic product (GDP) growth in Malaysia is running at a broadly similar rate to that seen in the second quarter, as well as pointing to modest year-on-year improvements in official manufacturing production data.

"The latest PMI data suggested that demand conditions in the Malaysian manufacturing sector remained subdued midway through the third quarter of 2024, as production and new order inflows moderated at a marginal rate," said Usamah Bhatti, economist at S&P Global Market Intelligence. —Xinhua

#### Türkiye's GDP growth slows down to 2.5% in Q2

TÜRKIYE'S economy grew 2.5 per cent year-on-year in the second quarter of this year, falling short of expectations, showed official data on Monday.

The figure fell below market expectations at around three per cent.

The country's gross domestic product (GDP) only saw a slim growth of 0.1 per cent from the previous quarter, according to the Turkish Statistical Institute.

The data indicated that the contribution of domestic demand to growth declined to 1.2 percentage points, while net foreign demand contributed 1.3 points.

The slowdown came amid a-year-long monetary tightening. Since last June, the central bank has raised its key interest rate from 8.5 to 50 per cent to curb the rocketing inflation, which peaked at 75 per cent in May and fell to 61.78 per cent in July. —Xinhua

## China, Africa see rapid trade growth

CHINA has continued to deepen trade cooperation with African countries in recent years, with a rapid increase in the scale of imports and exports, data from customs authorities showed on Monday.

From 2000 to 2023, trade scale between China and Africa expanded from less than 100 billion yuan (about US\$14.08 billion) to 1.98 trillion yuan, with an average annual growth rate of 17.2 per cent, according to the General Administration of Customs (GAC).

During the January-July period of this year, China-Africa trade rose 5.5 per cent year on year to 1.19 trillion yuan, reaching a historical high for the same period, said the GAC.

China's ships, automobiles and wind turbine units exports to Africa increased by 44.8 per cent, 35.8 per cent and 253.1 per cent year on year, respectively, during the period.

Meanwhile, China's imports of sesame, flue-cured tobacco and macadamia nuts from Africa increased by 38.8 per cent, 32.7 per cent and 106.2 per cent, respectively, compared to the previous year. — Xinhua

## EU's imports of Russian gas continue to grow, share reaches 15% - Russian Foreign Ministry



Piping systems and shut-off valves are pictured at the gas receiving station of the Nord Stream Baltic Sea pipeline, in Lubmin, Germany. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

IMPORTS of Russian gas by EU countries continue to grow, with its share in the un-

ion's total imports reaching 15 per cent, Dmitry Birihevsky, the director of the Russian

Foreign Ministry's economic cooperation department, told Sputnik.

"At the same time, despite the EU plan adopted in May 2022 to reduce hydrocarbon imports from Russia, European trade statistics show that Russian gas imports to EU countries are trending upward. Thus, in the first half of this year, the EU imported more natural gas from Russia than in January-June 2023. In general, at the moment, Russian gas in the union's total imports reaches 15 per cent," he said. — SPUTNIK



# Projects worth US\$13.4-billion inked at world power battery conference



A transport robot is on display during an exhibition of the 2024 World Power Battery Conference in Yibin, southwest China's Sichuan Province, 1 September 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

A total of 137 projects with a combined investment of 95.25 billion yuan (about US\$13.4 billion) were signed at the 2024 World Power Battery Conference, organizers said Sunday.

The conference, which

opened on Sunday in the city of Yibin, southwest China's Sichuan Province, attracted nearly 400 industry experts and company executives from home and abroad.

The event, hosted by

the Sichuan provincial government, aims to build an international cooperation platform for the development of the power battery industry and promote the high-quality development of green and low-carbon

industries.

Over the years, China has developed a complete industrial chain of the new energy vehicle (NEV) industry amid the industry boom.

Of the total projects, 133 projects with a combined investment of 84.55 billion yuan will be located in Yibin.

All the projects in Sichuan are expected to generate a combined annual output value of more than 100 billion yuan and create more than 20,000 jobs when fully operational, according to the Yibin municipal department for economic cooperation and new industries.

The conference was inaugurated in 2022. More than 100 projects with a total contracted investment of more than 200 billion yuan were signed at the previous two sessions of the event. — Xinhua

# Thailand's manufacturing sector continues to expand in August

THAILAND'S manufacturing sector maintained its expansion for the fourth successive month in August as new orders rose amid further strong increases in output and purchasing, a survey showed on Monday.

The Southeast Asian country's manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) was recorded at 52.0 last

month, easing from the 13-month high of 52.8 in July, signalling an overall improvement in manufacturing sector performance, according to S&P Global.

A PMI reading above 50 indicates expansion in the manufacturing sector, while a reading below 50 reflects contraction. — Xinhua

<p><b>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</b> M.V SINAR BAJO VOY.NO. (V.034N)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on <b>M.V SINAR BAJO VOY.NO. (V.034N)</b> are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on <b>2-9-2024</b> and cargo will be discharged into the premises of <b>AWPT</b> where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: <b>2301185</b></p> <p>Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: <b>M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES</b></p>	<p><b>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</b> M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (235N)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on <b>M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (235N)</b> are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on <b>3-9-2024</b> and cargo will be discharged into the premises of <b>AWPT</b> where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: <b>2301185</b></p> <p>Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: <b>M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES</b></p>	<p><b>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</b> M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3419S)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on <b>M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3419S)</b> are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on <b>3-9-2024</b> and cargo will be discharged into the premises of <b>AWPT</b> where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: <b>2301185</b></p> <p>Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: <b>M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE</b></p>
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M.V VIMC DIAMOND VOY.NO. (0UV9AS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V VIMC DIAMOND VOY.NO. (0UV9AS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-9-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V CLIPPER KENT VOY.NO. (2401)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CLIPPER KENT VOY.NO. (2401)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-9-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:  
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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.

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## ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

# Pope heads to Indonesia, first stop in four-nation tour



Father Albertus Hani Rudi Hartoko shows samples of a new series of stamps ahead of the visit by Pope Francis during the launch ceremony at the Jakarta Cathedral in Jakarta on 2 September 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

POPE Francis, 87, flies to Indonesia Monday on the first leg of an ambitious four-nation tour, with inter-faith ties set to

dominate his visit to the world's most populous Muslim-majority country.

The pontiff leaves Rome on

Monday afternoon and lands in Jakarta on Tuesday morning (0430 GMT), the first stop in a 12-day voyage that will also take

in Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Singapore.

Covering some 32,000 kilometres (almost 20,000 miles), the tour — the longest and farthest of his 11 years leading the worldwide Catholic Church — will test Francis' increasingly fragile health.

But in recent weeks the pontiff has appeared in good spirits, and he is often energized by being among his flock.

Catholics currently represent fewer than three per cent of the population of Indonesia — some eight million people, compared to the 87 per cent, or 242 million, who are Muslim.

But they are one of six officially recognized religions or denominations in the secular nation, also including Protestantism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Confucianism.

On Thursday Francis will meet representatives of all six

at Istiqlal Mosque, the largest in Southeast Asia and a symbol of religious co-existence.

It is linked via a “tunnel of friendship” to the cathedral across the road, where Christians in recent days have been taking selfies with a life-sized cutout of the pope.

At the mosque, Pope Francis will sign a joint declaration with the grand imam, Nasaruddin Umar.

The statement will focus on “dehumanization”, notably the spread of violence and conflict, particularly to women and children, as well as environmental degradation, according to the Indonesian bishops' conference.

Francis has repeatedly urged the world to do more to combat climate change and mitigate its effects — including rising sea levels, which threaten the heavily polluted megapolis of Jakarta. — AFP

## Polio vaccination campaign kicks off in Gaza amid ongoing conflict

A polio vaccination campaign started in the Gaza Strip on Sunday as over 2 million people in the Palestinian enclave are still grappling with a severe humanitarian crisis due to the ongoing conflict between Hamas and Israel.

The campaign began in central Gaza, including the city of Deir al-Balah and the refugee camps of al-Nuseirat, al-Maghazi, and al-Bureij. The second phase is scheduled for 5 September in Khan Younis in southern Gaza, with northern Gaza set to be covered on 9 September.

The Palestinian Health Ministry, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), has established vaccination centres in hospitals, clinics, schools, and shelters. The United Nations has delivered 1.2 million doses of the oral polio vaccine, targeting approximately 640,000 children.

Each child from birth to 10



A Palestinian child receives a polio vaccination in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza Strip, 1 September 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

years old is to receive two doses, said Iyad al-Jabri, director of al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir al-Balah.

He accused the Israeli army of deliberately destroying the medical system in Gaza, which has contributed to the spread of diseases among the local population, especially children. Residents, such as Saeed Sobh, have expressed their concern about the outbreak. Sobh, who was at the Red Crescent Society in Deir

al-Balah, said, “We need to vaccinate our children against polio because diseases in the Gaza Strip have increased due to the Israeli war.”

The first confirmed case of polio in Gaza in 25 years was reported in Deir al-Balah in mid-August. Jihan Mansour, 29, expressed relief after her children received their vaccinations, saying she was initially hesitant but felt reassured after confirming the vaccine's safety. —Xinhua

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Türkiye officially applies to join BRICS — Reports

TÜRKIYE has officially applied to join the BRICS, Bloomberg reported on Monday, citing people familiar with the matter.

Ankara expects that this move will increase its global influence, as well as create new ties with non-western allies, the news agency reported.

BRICS was established in 2009 as a cooperation platform for the largest emerging economies, uniting Brazil, Russia, India and China. South Africa joined the group in 2010.

Russia assumed the bloc's rotating presidency on 1 January. On the same day, BRICS expanded its membership to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates. — Sputnik

#### 27 killed in heavy rains in India's southern states

THE death toll in torrential rains that hit India's southern states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh has risen to 27, officials said Monday.

The rains that started on Saturday and continued throughout Sunday triggered flooding and waterlogging in several areas, disrupting road and rail traffic.

At least 15 people were killed in Telangana and 12 in Andhra Pradesh. Rivers and water bodies in both states continued to swell dangerously.

Rescuers from the State Disaster Response Force and National Disaster Response Force in both states evacuated thousands of people from flooded areas and shifted them to relief camps. —Xinhua



# SPORTS

## Knockout rounds begin in MFF Futsal Championship 2024

THE first-day matches in the knockout round of the MFF Futsal Championship 2024 commenced at the MFF Futsal Gymnasium of Youth Training Centre in Yangon yesterday.

After the first-day matches, Pyae Sone, TG United, Winner Soccer and MH Dream Team sailed to the quarterfinal. In the matches, Pyae Sone crushed Power HBI 3-2; TG United beat YCDC Marga 1-0; Winner Soccer thrashed M-Million 3-0; and MH Dream Team trounced UPK 6-0.

The second-day knockout matches will continue on 3 September. In this regard, defending champion VUC



Players of Winner Soccer and M-Million seen in action. PHOTO: MFF

will face Generations; M2K will play with 7 Brothers; and YRG will take against Futsal-19; Seven will meet on MIU. — Ko Nyi Lay/TTA

## Transgender sprinter makes Paralympic history, triathlon takes place

ITALIAN sprinter Valentina Petrillo became the first openly transgender athlete to compete in a Paralympics on Monday, while the delayed triathlon events went ahead after concerns over the Seine's water quality faded.

Petrillo, 50, finished second in her heat of the T12 400 metres for the visually impaired, qualifying for the semi-finals later Monday.

Petrillo suffers from Stargardt disease, a genetic retinal condition which leads to progressive loss of vision but unlike her opponents in the race at the Stade de France, she competed without a guide runner.

Jetze Plat won the first of the 11 triathlon events, which finally got underway after being postponed by 24 hours due to concerns about the water quality of the River Seine.

The 33-year-old Dutchman claimed his third Paralympic title in a row after victory at Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020.

"I'm mostly just relieved. It's my third title in the triathlon and I'm very proud of that," he said.

The triathlon events at the Paris Games were initially scheduled to take place over two days but due to concerns about bacteria levels in the Seine, where the swimming stage of the triathlon takes place, organizers announced that all 11 races would take place on Sunday.

Then heavy rain, which can stir up pollution, fell on the French capital on Saturday, forcing organisers to delay the event. — AFP

## Zheng into US Open quarterfinal, Wang out



Zheng Qinwen of China hits a return to Donna Vekic of Croatia during the women's singles 4th round match in New York, the United States, 2 September 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

CHINA'S Zheng Qinwen reached the US Open quarterfinals for the second consecutive time with a victory over Donna Vekic of Croatia on Monday.

The 21-year-old Chinese prospect won 7-6 (2), 4-6, 6-2 against her 24th-ranked opponent, whom she also defeated

in the Paris Olympics gold medal match.

"It's two o'clock in the morning, it's incredible. Thanks to the fans who have stayed to support me," said Zheng.

Zheng will next face world No 2 Aryna Sabalenka, who defeated her in the Australian Open final in January.

Another Chinese player, Wang Yafan, lost to Spain's Paula Badosa 6-1, 6-2 in the fourth round.

Defending champion Coco Gauff fell to her American teammate Emma Navarro 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 in the fourth round.

"I gave it my all. Obviously there were things execution-wise, where I was like, I wish I could serve better. I think if I did that, it would have been a different story," said third-ranked Gauff.

Ninth seed Grigor Dimitrov from Bulgaria cruised past Russian sixth seed Andrey Rublev, 6-3, 7-6 (3), 1-6, 3-6, 6-3 to return to the quarterfinals for the first time since 2019.

Fourth-ranked Alexander Zverev of Germany made his fourth quarterfinal by beating Brandon Nakashima of the United States, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2. — Xinhua

## Barca continue winning ways as Mbappe gets off the mark for Real Madrid in La Liga

FC Barcelona went into the international break top of La Liga with 12 points from four games after hammering Valladolid 7-0 on Saturday afternoon.

Raphinha opened the scoring, and rounded off a hat-trick in the second half, although the result was never in doubt after Robert Lewandowski made it 2-0 in the 23rd minute.

Jules Kounde added a third before the break from a corner and with Valladolid offering less resistance in the second half, Raphinha scored twice along

with Dani Olmo and Ferran Torres also joining in the fun.

Kylian Mbappe opened his La Liga account for Real Madrid with both goals in their 2-0 win at home to Betis.

Madrid again disappointed in the first half, but Mbappe finally put them ahead when he finished off a team move in the 66th minute.

The French striker then assured the points from the penalty spot in the 74th minute after the VAR adjudged Betis goalkeeper Rui Silva had brought down

Vinicius Jr.

Osasuna won an entertaining match 3-2 at home to Celta Vigo, despite Moi Gomez's bizarre late own goal for the visitors. Flavien Boyomo prodded Osasuna ahead in the 20th minute and although Borja Iglesias' first goal for Celta made it 1-1, an own goal from Carlos Dominguez put Osasuna back in front on the stroke of halftime.

Abel Bretones' goal on the break put Osasuna 3-1 ahead with half an hour left to play, although what looked to be a com-



Real Madrid player Kylian Mbappe scores his first goal during La Liga football match between Real Madrid and Real Betis, in Santiago Bernabeu stadium, Madrid, Spain, 1 September 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

fortable win was complicated when Gomez passed the ball into his own net late in injury time.

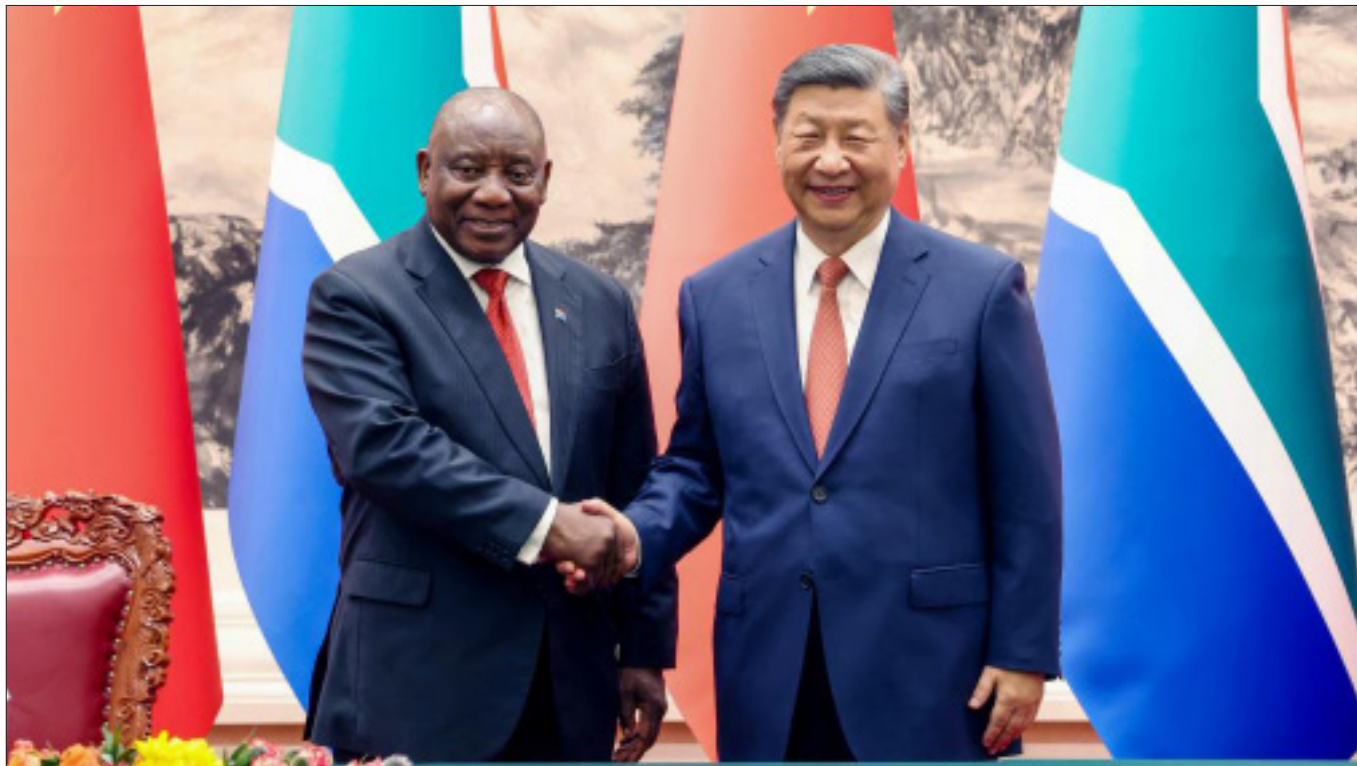
Alaves continued their positive start to the season as they

won 2-0 at home to Las Palmas, with an early goal from Carlos Vicente and a thumping shot from Toni Martinez on his Alaves debut. — Xinhua





# WORLD



Chinese President Xi Jinping and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa witness the signing of a raft of bilateral cooperation documents after their meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, 2 September 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Xi, Ramaphosa announce elevation of China-South Africa ties

**C**HINESE President Xi Jinping and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Monday announced the elevation of bilateral ties to an all-round strategic cooperative partnership in the new era.

Xi held talks with Ramaphosa, who is in Beijing for the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and a state visit.

Xi said strengthening solidarity and cooperation between China and South Africa is in line with the two peoples' common expectations and the historical process of the Global South's growth.

The Chinese president called on the two countries to lead the bilateral rela-

tionship forward with high-level strategic mutual trust and stressed joint efforts to promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, enhance cooperation in the digital economy, artificial intelligence and new energy, and strengthen exchanges and cooperation in human resource development.

Xi said China will open its door wider to African countries, adding that the country stands ready to work with South Africa and other African countries to create new momentum for cooperation and promote high-quality development of China-Africa cooperation.

The more complex the international situation becomes, the more the Global

South countries must uphold independence, strengthen unity and cooperation, and jointly safeguard international fairness and justice, Xi said.

Ramaphosa said South Africa will remain a trustworthy and reliable friend of China.

By seizing the opportunity of building the all-round strategic cooperative partnership in the new era, South Africa will expand and deepen pragmatic cooperation with China in fields such as economy, trade, investment, infrastructure, new energy and poverty reduction. It will also boost people-to-people exchanges and educational and cultural cooperation with China, the president said. — Xinhua

## Chinese, Togolese presidents meet in Beijing, elevate bilateral ties

**C**HINESE President Xi Jinping and Togolese President Faure Gnassingbe jointly announced here on Monday the elevation of bilateral relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

China is ready to work with Togo to further enhance political mutual trust, expand practical cooperation in areas such as infrastructure, agriculture, water conservancy and connectivity, deepen multilateral collaboration, and promote regional solidarity and stability, Xi said when meeting with Gnassingbe, who is in Beijing for the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

Xi hailed the resilience and vitality of China-Togo relations, noting that the two countries have always firmly supported each other on issues involving their respective core interests and major concerns.

Speaking of the FOCAC, Xi said the 2024 summit will map out a new blueprint for China-Africa cooperation and mark a milestone in the history of China-Africa relations.

Gnassingbe said China's support and cooperation are crucial for Africa's security and development in a world that is faced with an increasing number of risks and threats.

Friendly exchanges and cooperation with China have significantly promoted Togo's capacity building and national development, and Togo looks forward to strengthening cooperation with China in areas such as infrastructure, science, technology and the digital economy, he said. — Xinhua

## Putin, Malaysian, Chinese officials to partake in EEF plenary session – Kremlin Aide

**R**USSIAN President Vladimir Putin, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and Chinese Vice-President Han Zheng will participate in the plenary session of the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF), Kremlin aide Yury Ushakov said on Monday.

"The main event, of course, is the plenary session on 5 September... in which our president and invited Prime

Minister of Malaysia Anwar Ibrahim and Chinese Vice-President Han Zheng will take part," Ushakov told reporters.

Putin will also hold negotiations with Han Zheng on the sidelines of the EEF, the official added.

President Putin and Prime Minister Ibrahim will hold negotiations on the sidelines of the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) on 4 September.

"I mentioned Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim as one of the main guests of the forum. [Putin] will hold full-scale negotiations with him on 4 September, including a narrow and expanded format, various issues of Russian-Malaysian cooperation, economic issues, as well as issues of international and regional problems will be discussed," Ushakov told reporters. — SPUTNIK



EEF banners are installed on a city street ahead of the 2024 Eastern Economic Forum (EEF), which will be held 3-6 September at the Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) in Vladivostok, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**