

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Noble prestige and unique attributes of benefactor teachers incomparable

Teachers must guide their students to become responsible and capable citizens of the future, equipped with five strengths: accountability, moral integrity, discipline, knowledge, and a commitment to serving the State's interests.

The following is the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark the World Teachers' Day, which falls on 5 October 2024. The full text of the message is as follows: -

### Esteemed teachers,

First and foremost, I would like to disperse my affection to all teachers across Myanmar to enjoy physical and mental well-being on the occasion when the World Teachers' Day falls on 5 October 2024, today.

There is no one who is untouched by teachers in this world. Every individual learns through three types of activities: teaching, observation, and listening. Attributes of teachers are invaluable and noble. Hence, all global countries respectfully honour the attributes and gratitude of teachers. Since 1994, World Teachers' Day has been observed on 5 October every year in accord with the themes depicting the benefits of teachers: "Let's value teachers to enhance their future", "Let teachers strive for a brighter future", "Equal respect for teachers will lead to a peaceful society", and "Teachers initiate educational reform". This year's occasion of honouring the teachers turns 31 years.

Myanmar has a fine tradition of paying respect to teachers for honouring and dedicating their attributes and gratitude over the years. Venerable Sariputtara, who was the greatest right disciple flanking the Lord Buddha, revealed that he wished to keep Venerable Punna at fore for the latter's teaching on seven varieties of Visuddhimagga. Moreover, the most outstanding disciple kept his head with the direction of his teacher, Venerable Assaji, throughout his life so that he could attain enlightenment based on the teaching of Venerable Assaji in accord with the guidance of the Lord Buddha. It showed an example of paying respect and reverence to the teachers. **SEE PAGE 3**

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42,000 enumerators using CAPI-tablets for 2024 Census

## BUSINESS PAGE 7



MoPF, MoI to collaborate on K150B MSME Development Fund loans

## Yangon-Mandalay train service reopens; A new post-flood journey awaits



This photo captures the Yangon-Mandalay passenger train en route to its destination.

Myanma Railways has resumed high-speed passenger and mail train services between Yangon and Mandalay, commencing on 3 October, after a temporary suspension due to floods across regions and states, including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, according to the service organization.

The Yangon-Mandalay No 11 Up

train, Mandalay-Yangon No 12 Down passenger train, Yangon-Mandalay No 1 Up mail train, and Mandalay-Yangon No 2 Down mail train all resumed services on 3 October. Similarly, freight trains operated as usual on 4 October.

On 2 October, the Thaedaw-Thabytaung Up railway was reopened at 7:26 pm. Moreover, passenger and mail trains

have reinitiated normal operations. The Yangon-Mandalay express train will run on Fridays or Sundays, depending on the situation.

The Yangon-Mandalay railway and bridges were damaged due to heavy rainfall in Typhoon Yagi, resulting in the suspension of train services effective on 11 September. — Htun Htun/TRKM

# NATIONAL



**Nationwide Census Collection continues on the fifth day.**



## Agro and Livestock Industries: Driving Regional and National Development

THE growth of agriculture and livestock-based industries plays a crucial role in regional and national development.

*(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with Magway Region government and district-level departmental officials on 24 May 2024 to talk about regional development)*

### Myanmar Zhejiang Chinese Chamber of Commerce donates food to flood-hit Nyaunglebin



This photo showcases the Myanmar Zhejiang Chinese Chamber of Commerce donating foodstuffs to flood victims.

THE ceremony for food donations to flood-affected households in Nyaunglebin Township of the Bago Region, organized by the Myanmar Zhejiang Chinese Chamber of Commerce, was held in Bago and Nyaunglebin on 4 October.

The donation ceremony took place yesterday morning in the meeting room of the Bago Region government Office, where the Minister of Bago Region Economic Affairs, U Tin Oo, gave a speech. Following this, the chair-

person of the Myanmar Zhejiang Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Mr Tu Guo Ding, and team members offered donations such as oil, rice, instant noodles, purified water, and salt for 1,000 flood-affected households in Nyaunglebin. The minister presented certificates of appreciation. Additionally, they also donated food items to families impacted by the flood in Nyaunglebin, Shwegyin, and Kyaukkyi townships. Their total donation is worth K65 million. — Akar Lin/TRKM



### Donation of Pali Canon: 53 treatises of Tipitaka in Myanmar/Roman script presented

A ceremony to donate 53 treatises of the Pali Canon (Tipitaka) in Myanmar/Roman script (in Design-AI + Offset Form) (soft copy) (hard disk) was held on 3 October at the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University's central hall.

During the event, Pro-Rector (Admin) U Zaw Zaw Oo, of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, and members of the treatise printing and distribution committee presented the treatises to Ven Vo Van Nhut, a doctorate course student from Vietnam representing the university, along with other monks and nuns from Vietnam.

The 53 books of treatises of the Pali Canon were meticulously edited in Myanmar/Roman script with the participation of Dr Bhaddanta Silananda Bhivamsa, the first-ever rector of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, and Vietnamese monk Dr Bhaddanta Kusala Guna, as part of their efforts to propagate Buddhism globally and facilitate the reciting and worship of the Pali Canon in Vietnam. The donation is aimed at ensuring the continued growth and propagation of Buddhist teachings. — MNA/KZL



၂၀၂၄ ခုနှစ်၊ အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာသဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်ထိခိုက်ဆုံးရှုံးနိုင်ခြေလျှော့ချရေးနေ့

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (2024)

“အနာဂတ်မှာ ကြံ့ကြံ့ခိုင်ခိုင်ဖို့၊ မျိုးဆက်သစ်တို့စွမ်းအား မြှင့်တင်ဖို့”

“Empowering the next generation for a resilient future”

အောက်တိုဘာလ (၁၃) ရက်



ကမ္ဘာ့ဆရာများနေ့

5 October 2024  
World Teachers' Day

VALUING  
TEACHER VOICES

ဆရာအသံများကို  
အလေးထားခြင်း

၂၀၂၄ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၅) ရက်

# NATIONAL

## Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

*(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)*

## Noble prestige and unique attributes of benefactor teachers incomparable

### FROM PAGE 1

King Mindon, once he became king, paid a debt of gratitude to Sankyaung Sayadaw, a teacher in King Mindon's early childhood. As Myanmar kings in the monarchical era acknowledged the attributes and gratitude of members of the Samgha who taught them, they donated grand monasteries. They offered religious titles to their teacher members of the Samgha as part of paying debts of gratitude.

Ceremonies to pay respect to teachers take place at schools and universities across Myanmar as an act of unforgettably paying respect to teachers and honouring their attributes. These are Myanmar's proud cultural heritage.

It is auspicious to pay a debt of gratitude to benefactors. Myanmar society honours the Lord Buddha, the Dhamma, the Samgha, parents and teachers as the noblest benefactors. Parents and teachers play a crucial role in nurturing a new generation of students who will shoulder the State's duties to have arts and science knowledge and to become well-versed in morale, discipline and morals. As students are immature, parents and teachers need to shape them carefully to have a brighter future.

Parents teach and advise their offspring to accumulate the necessary knowledge and techniques on how to talk and act before attending school. At a time when children join school from the control of their parents, teachers open their hearts to all students and give a helping hand to all with compassion and affection regardless of the poor and the rich. Parents, being early teachers for their children, are the first to nurture the qualifications and personalities of their children. Teachers guide students with genuine goodwill to have success without derailment from their lives.

Teachers who possess the seven qualities of an ideal teacher – namely, being honoured, respected, praiseworthy, guiding students in the right direction, explaining patiently, and leading students towards success – are worthy of respect. Those teachers teach their pupils by upholding goodwill, passion, and sacrifice, which are aligned with the five obligations of teachers: teaching, guiding, not leaving any knowledge, protecting students from dangers, and sending them to proper learning centres. Hence, those teachers in three types of activities, observing, listening, and teaching, can be defined as educators or teachers, whereas those

who nurture pupils can be dubbed mentors. The noble prestige and attributes of those benefactor teachers are incomparable.

Teachers are giving guidelines to students to know what is right and what is wrong and comprehensively understand cause and effect to be able to escape from the unknowledgeable life and not fall into the naughty life. As such, teachers are dubbed as leaders of society as they are able to forge amity among humans, shape the lives of students and the world, and ease frets.

Teachers must not only teach their students academically but also help shape their characters. Teachers need to guide their students to forge consideration over all humans. They have to advise students to stimulate their philanthropic spirit rather than their selfishness. Teachers need to guide pupils in their minds to culture the Myanmar spirit in order to pay respect to the elders, honour their peers, and show compassion to the youngsters. Moreover, it is necessary to nurture students to have attitudes towards serving the national duty: To foster the Union spirit, to elevate national prestige and integrity, to cultivate patriotism, and to preserve Myanmar's traditional cultural heritage.

Teachers have to serve their primary duty in order to achieve success in the implementation of the new physically, mentally and mentally comprehensive education system in a short time. Moreover, teachers are crucial in turning qualified, outstanding human resources for the State. As such, teachers are in the strata of giving training to all generations of society to become outstanding ones. Those teachers train human generations to be sharpened while uplifting the organization and forging peace. In the knowledge age with ongoing advancements, teachers have always to learn and accumulate modern technologies and knowledge to promote the education standard of citizens and to keep abreast of other countries.

Teachers need to improve their qualifications by applying libraries and modern technologies that are aligned with the changing world as they are always learners throughout their lifespans. They should also guide their pupils to embrace lifelong learning by encouraging them to read, even after completing their formal education.

Teachers need to share knowledge with and show the correct ways of life to pupils to broaden their horizons as well as nurture them to have attitudes toward

following disciplines. Everybody needs to know and abide by laws in order to build a modern, developed, stable and peaceful State. Law subjects are being taught to students at universities to gain legal knowledge, whereas basic knowledge about legal affairs needs to be taught to students in grades 11 and 12.

As the future life of students depends on the qualification and goodwill of a teacher, those teachers need to continually cultivate and maintain their knowledge, goodwill, and moral integrity. That is in line with the saying: pupils must be of higher qualifications than teachers, and they must take an important role. Teachers need to nurture students to have attitudes of abiding by discipline, doing all things on time, and being loyal to the State.

Currently, our country is being built as a modern and developed Union based on democracy and federalism. Hence, it is necessary to strengthen human resources by endowing them with knowledge and techniques, expertise, personal qualities, and capacity. Teachers have to standardize themselves, and I would like to urge those teachers and students to become good and able citizens of the future State with five strengths: responsibilities and accountability, morals, discipline, and knowledge to serve the interests of the State.

I would like to urge those teachers to guide their students to become responsible and capable citizens of the future, equipped with five strengths: accountability, moral integrity, discipline, knowledge, and a commitment to serving the interests of the State.

As teachers are teaching students to become intellectuals and intelligentsia, additional allowances have been issued to teachers since October 2021, depending on their educational qualifications, in order to sustain their prestige. Moreover, teachers are provided with costs of uniforms and rental charges for housing as well as staff housing facilities.

The theme of the World Teachers' Day 2024 was set as the Valuing Teachers' Voices. On the occasion when World Teachers' Day falls, I sincerely urge all to make collaborative efforts to focus on resolving the difficulties and challenges teachers encounter and teachers to completely grasp relevant professions in order to turn out knowledgeable human resources with five strengths of capabilities for their lives and the State.

**May all teachers have physical and mental well-being.**

# NATIONAL

## SAC Member inspects disaster-ravaged areas in Ayeyawady Region

SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung, accompanied by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win and other regional government officials, conducted inspections of the disaster-affected areas near Phaungseik village in Hinthada Township yesterday morning.

The team examined the conditions of the landslide and erosion in the region before visiting the villages in the Zarakwin village-tract, including Thangantaw village and Ward 3 of Laymyethna Township and providing support for the ongoing household registration process.

Later, the SAC member and his team arrived at the site of flood prevention efforts at the Stumukha Htupayon Pagoda in Laymyethna Township to review the implementation of



State Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung is pictured inspecting flood-battered areas in Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

protective measures and donate financial support for these initiatives.

Additionally, the group assessed the household registration process in Thabawkone

Village, Ngathaingyoung Township and observed the agrarian work of farmers, including the use of machinery to cultivate Shinhuka rice on 5.85 acres owned by farmer U

Aung Myo Htet in Kyaukchaung village.

During a meeting at the sports hall in Kyonpyaw, the SAC member urged the public to actively participate and co-

operate with relevant organizations for the benefit of regional stability.

The regional chief minister followed up with remarks, and together with SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung and officials, they provided assistance to farmers from Kyonpyaw, Yekyi, and Kyaunggon townships, supplying seeds and fertilizers to support their farming activities.

Furthermore, the SAC member inspected the cultivation of GW-11 rice on 3.5 acres by farmer U Sein Maung in Ywathitkon village, Kyonpyaw Township and provided support to other farmers facing crop losses, including U Aung Myo Than, who lost 17 acres, and U Min Min Oo, who lost 10 acres, as they used drum seeders for replanting efforts. — MNA/KZL

## DPM MoFA Union Minister holds separate talks with Deputy Prime Minister of Kyrgyz Republic and Foreign Minister of Nepal on sidelines of 3<sup>rd</sup> ACD Summit

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, who is now in Doha to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit, separately met Mr Edil Baisalov, Deputy Prime Minister of Kyrgyz Republic, and Dr Arzu Rana Deuba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, on 3 October 2024 at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Doha, the State of Qatar.

During the meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister of Kyrgyz Republic, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs apprised him of the Myanmar Government's efforts to ensure peace, development and democracy in the country and the latest developments in Myanmar. Furthermore, they cordially exchanged views and discussed matters pertaining to the further strengthening of friendly relations between Myanmar and Kyrgyz, as well as closer collaboration in the

regional and international fora, including cooperation in the ACD and UN.

At the meeting with the Nepali counterpart, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe congratulated his counterpart on assuming a new charge as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal. Moreover, both sides cordially exchanged views on strengthening the existing friendly relations between Myanmar and Nepal, promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in the areas of culture, tourism, trade and investment, exploring student exchange programmes and collaborating more closely in ACD and BIMSTEC. Furthermore, he updated Myanmar's efforts in combatting drug trafficking and online scamming to his counterpart.

Myanmar Ambassador to the State of Qatar U Tin Yu and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also present at the meetings with



Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe meets Dr Arzu Rana Deuba, Nepali Minister of Foreign Affairs on 3 October.

the Heads of Delegation from Kyrgyz Republic and Nepal.

While transiting in Bangkok, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, who is proceeding to Doha to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit, met Mr Maris Sangiamongsa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand on 1 October 2024 at the Intercon-

tinental Hotel in Bangkok. Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Chit Swe was also present at the meeting.

At the meeting with the Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs, both sides cordially exchanged views on strengthening the existing friendly relations between Myanmar and Thailand, promoting mutually beneficial cooperation

and cooperating more closely in ACD, ASEAN and BIMSTEC. The Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs also welcomed Thailand for its important new role as the upcoming ACD Chair for the year 2025.

The member of the Myanmar delegation, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Minn Minn, attended the Business Forum and B2B Meetings, which were held on 2 October 2024 on the sidelines of the Summit. The deputy minister delivered a statement at the Business Forum, and in his statement, he touched on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and new business models related to digital transformation.

Likewise, U Kyaw Soe Moe, Director-General from the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, also participated in the sports-related side event, which was held on 2 October 2024 on the sidelines of the Summit. — MNA

# NATIONAL

## Pyinmana Dhammacariya Buddhism Learning Centre donates for flood victims

A ceremony for the donation of K10 million and 100 sets of robes by the Pyinmana Dhammacariya Buddhism Learning Centre was held yesterday afternoon at the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) of the

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement. Union Minister Dr Soe Win accepted the donations, expressed gratitude, and presented a certificate of appreciation. — MNA/TRKM



Union Minister Dr Soe Win receives donations for flood relief yesterday.

## Donations aid in replanting flood-damaged crops and agricultural recovery

A financial support donation ceremony was held yesterday at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation's Union Minister Office in Nay Pyi Taw to assist in the recovery and replanting of crops damaged by floods due to Typhoon Yagi.

The ceremony was organized to support farmers in replanting their crops, using zero-interest loans and inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides. Donations were provided by the Myanmar Rice Federation, the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, and the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Depot).

During the event, the chairpersons of the Myanmar Rice Federation and the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association explained the purpose of their donations. Following the speeches, the Myanmar Rice Federation donated K1,250 million in zero-interest loans and K500 million in financial assistance, and an additional K500 million was provided by the Myanmar Pulses, Beans,



Union Minister U Min Naung receives financial donations for agricultural recovery yesterday.

and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

Union Minister U Min Naung, Union Minister U Hla Moe, and the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, along with deputy ministers, accepted the donations on behalf of the Leading Committee for Farmers' Rights and Protection of Interests. Certificates of honour were then presented to donors.

Union Minister U Min Naung announced that the K500 million in financial assistance would be used to provide support for 7,773 acres of rice fields affected by floods. Each acre will receive K64,325 worth of inputs, including one tonne of seeds, fertilizers, and pesti-

cides. Additionally, the K1,250 million in zero-interest loans will be distributed at a rate of K100,000 per acre to assist farmers in replanting crops affected by the floods.

He also mentioned that in areas where replanting rice is not feasible, other suitable crops would be introduced, with the financial support of K500 million. This support includes providing one tonne of seeds per acre for the replanting of 2,692 acres of green gram and 1,304 acres of pigeon pea. The Union Minister expressed gratitude to the donating federations and companies for their generous contributions. — MNA/KZL



Recovery measures are underway.

## Relief and rehabilitation efforts ongoing in flood-hit areas

IN response to flooding across various regions and states, including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, efforts for relief and rehabilitation are energetically coordinated and ongoing.

On the previous day, significant assistance was provided in several areas: Kalaw Township of southern Shan State, Loikaw Township of Kayah State, and Tachilek Township of eastern Shan State. Necessary supplies were relocated to schools, hospitals, clinics, and government buildings, alongside sanitation operations, removal of debris, and clearing of fallen trees. These efforts are actively supported by Tatmadaw members, police forces, fire brigades, and relief volunteer teams in collaboration with local communities.

Additionally, health teams have been delivering essen-

tial healthcare services and conducting health awareness sessions at temporary flood shelters. They have been distributing support materials, clothing, everyday items, food supplies, and donation funds. Ongoing activities are being monitored by Tatmadaw command commanders and officials, who oversee and coordinate necessary resources, ensuring the provision of food supplies and assistance materials.

Efforts to restore damaged roads and bridges due to flooding are also in progress. Temporary Bailey bridges were constructed to ensure swift restoration of transport connectivity and to replace damaged infrastructure, with plans for prompt repairs to remaining damaged bridges. — MNA/KZL

# NATIONAL

## 42,000 enumerators using CAPI-tablets for 2024 Census

STARTING on the morning of 1 October, the population and household census began across the country with a total of 42,000 collectors using mobile tablets with Computer-Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI) technology.

According to the data sent to the server within one day, data collection has been completed for more than 88,000 households, totalling a population of more than 390,000 in all regions and states, including Nay Pyi Taw, according to the Ministry of Immigration and Population.

The census reference point is at midnight on 30 September 2024, and data collection will take 15 days from 1 to 15 October at

the national level.

There are 68 questions for the household questionnaire and 18 questions for the organization questionnaire. Efforts will be made to release the preliminary results of the 2024 census by December. If census-collecting teams do not come to any house, people can inform the township census committee offices through relevant ward or village-tract administrators, and it will arrange to send enumerators.

According to the 2014 population and household census, there were 10.88 million households in Myanmar. — Htun Htun/ZN



This picture captures the Nationwide Census Collection.

## Smart fuel card to launch in Yangon, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw

FUEL oil purchases using smart cards will be practised in Yangon, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw cities, according to the Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association (MPTA).

That is not like a smart card for making transactions by depositing cash. However, it will collect data on the vehicle number, vehicle types, and fuel oil types when buying fuel oil at petrol stations.

“This system will be offi-



This picture shows a smart card for buying fuel oil.

cially announced. It aims just to trace data but not to limit the sales volume,” said an official of the MPTA.

It will compile all the en-

ergy consumption of the motor vehicles in the country, contributing to oil import and distribution. — ASH/KK

## China plans investment in Myanmar’s agriculture and livestock sector

CHINESE businesses intend to invest in Myanmar’s agriculture and livestock sectors, said Chinese Consul-General Ms Gao Ping at a meeting of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central) and the Consulate-General of the People’s Republic of China in Mandalay on 2 October.

A delegation from Myanmar, led by Chairman of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central) U Tin Oo, met with Consul-General Ms Gao Ping at the Chinese Consulate-General in Mandalay to discuss matters related to strengthening the friendship between the two countries and promoting the number of Chinese tourists to Myanmar during the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Myanmar-China relations.

Consul-General Ms Gao Ping has previously served in western countries such as Canada and France, and this is her first assignment in Myanmar. — ASH/MKKS



This photo depicts Chairman U Tin Oo of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association exchanges gifts with Chinese Consul-General Ms Gao Ping.



This picture depicts foreign tourists visiting Myeik Archipelago in the previous year.

## Domestic tourists prepare for dry season as foreign arrivals rise

U Naung Naung Han, president of the Myanmar Tourism Federation, said that domestic tourists are preparing to travel during the open season, and the number of foreign tourists arriving in October has increased moderately.

“As for foreign tourists, there is a slight increase in October compared to the rainy season. Although there are leisure travellers, there are more domestic business travellers. Tourists from China and Thailand are the most as usual. However, there are also a few visitors from other countries. Domestic tourists are preparing to visit places that are convenient for travel in Thadingyut – especially to Bagan, Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung,” he said.

There are also outbound travellers to foreign countries

to visit while having medical treatment.

For Thadingyut trips, domestic tourists can choose among weekly trips to beaches, Bagan-NyaungU, and Hpa-an, according to tour operators.

“After recent floods, if Myanmar can prove that it has done good disaster management, it will be possible to show safety and stability in the main tourist destinations such as Yangon, Bagan, Mandalay, and Taunggyi. For example, in Cambodia, they mainly go to Angkor Wat. Similarly, in our country, Bagan is a similar destination to Angkor Wat. If it is possible to visit Bagan, more tourists will come. Direct and international flights to Bagan should be arranged. So, there will be an increase in the number of visitors,” he suggested. — MT/ZN



Diligent workers focus on the production process at an MSME workplace.

## MoPF, MoI to collaborate on K150B MSME Development Fund loans

THE Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Ministry of Industry have been working together to provide K150 billion in loans from the MSME Development Fund.

The State put K170 billion into the MSME Development Fund, and K150 billion of that will be disbursed. In line with the State Administration Council's economic objectives, State-owned banks (Myanmar

Economic Bank and Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank) and 15 private banks held a signing ceremony of participating agreement with financial institutions (PFI) regarding loan disbursement on 3 October in MEB (head office) in Nay Pyi Taw, in which K150 billion loans will be disbursed at a cheaper interest rate through PFIs.

The managing director of the Myanma Economic Bank and

PFI's representatives signed the participation agreements in the presence of the chair and vice-chair of the fund management task force.

Officials of the State banks and representatives of the private banks elaborated on loan term regulation, loan proposals, documents and loan procedures. They responded to the questions raised by the attendees. — NN/KK

## High pork prices drive increase in pig farms



This image depicts a pig mother and piglets at a pig farm.

PORK prices have been pretty high now, increasing the number of pig farms despite the recent rising cost of pig feed.

The rise in pig-feeding costs discouraged pig farms. However, higher pork prices helped the number of pig farms climb up again.

"Some farms stopped due to rising pig feeding costs, but some do pig farming as a result of rising pork prices. Rising pork prices help farms make profits and encourage others to do this business. So, it may be equal to the number between those who stopped this business due to the rising feed price and those who do this business as a result of increased pork prices. The pork price will go up to the cost of feed in the next months. The number of pig farms will decrease if the cost of feed is high, and it is important that pork traders will offer fair prices because pig feed and transport costs are rising," said an official from the Bo Taw pig feed and medicine supplies shop from Taikkyi Township.

Between the end of February and the first week of March, the price of live pigs was pretty good.

Rising pig feed prices and transport costs led to the elevated price of pork, said pig farms. — Thit Taw/ZS

## Coconut prices steady in Ayeyawady Region

COCONUT trade in Ayeyawady Region's Bogale Township has been steady over recent months.

Prices don't differ between the last two months and October.

"I deliver to other towns. Due to some circumstances, I'm not able to deliver to some cities and flood-affected areas. I supply mainly to Taunggyi and PynOoLwin. The price has been steady now, compared to the last two months. The trade has been normal," said a coconut trader from Bogale Township.

This year's coconut production in the region has been low compared to last year, and the Yangon Region is a significant des-

tinuation for Ayeyawady's coconut market.

"This year's production has been low. Even trees don't produce much fruit. In some farms, about 70 out of 100 plants don't produce fruits, and it has been about a year that it has happened like this. The price has been steady in monsoon. The market will be better in summer. Coconut is mainly produced in Bogale, Mawgyun, Pyapon, Patheingyi and Myaungmya townships," he said.

In August, the majority of orders were placed from Yangon, and orders for green coconuts were chiefly from Yangon last summer. — Thit Taw/ZS



This photo captures coconuts produced from Bogale Township.

## CBM sells US\$780,000+, 1.2M yuan, 1M Thai baht on 3 October

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$780,000, 1.2 million yuan

and one million Thai baht on 3 October. CBM pumped over 1.2 million yuan

and 10.2 million baht on 2 October.

CBM also injected over \$76 million, 86 million baht and 4.8 million yuan into financial markets in September.

Moreover, CBM sold over \$190 million, 19 million yuan and 79 million baht in August.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and the currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been joining hands with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK



A facade view of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) office in Yangon.

# OPINION

## Uplift the lives of teachers to teach students peacefully

THE Myanmar society accepts the concept that teachers are in high regard as noble benefactors. Parents and teachers share the responsibility of nurturing children, as they are the first influences in their lives. Through observation, listening, and teaching, all individuals acquire knowledge, and it is essential that teachers approach this task with compassion and empathy, extending their support to all students, regardless of their socio-economic backgrounds.

Teachers serve as essential guides, helping students distinguish between right and wrong while fostering a comprehensive understanding of cause and effect. This guidance is crucial in steering students away from ignorance and misbehaviour. As leaders within society, teachers cultivate harmony and shape the lives of students, contributing positively to the world around them.

To successfully implement a comprehensive education system, teachers must fulfil their primary duty. They play a critical

role in developing qualified, outstanding human resources for the State, nurturing future generations and fostering peace. Teachers are required to continuously update their skills and knowledge, ensuring they remain at the forefront of educational standards. This commitment not only enhances their effectiveness but also helps students compete on a global stage.

Improving their qualifications is essential for teachers, who must utilize libraries and modern technologies to adapt to the ever-changing landscape of education. Lifelong learning should be a guiding principle for educators, who should model this behaviour for their students. By encouraging students to embrace reading and continued learning beyond formal education, teachers instill the value of knowledge acquisition that lasts a lifetime.

Uplifting the lives of teachers is crucial for creating an environment where they can peacefully and effectively teach their students. By equipping educators with the necessary resources, support, and ongoing training, we ensure that they can fulfil their noble role in society. This commitment will ultimately lead to a brighter future for both teachers and students, fostering a community where knowledge and compassion thrive.

As the future life of students depends on the qualifications and goodwill of a teacher, those teachers need to cultivate their knowledge, goodwill, and moral integrity continually. In serving duties, teachers need to manage pupils to have higher qualifications. Teachers need to nurture students to have attitudes of abiding by discipline, doing all things on time and being loyal to the State. Teachers need to guide students to become responsible and capable citizens of the future State, equipped with five strengths: accountability, moral integrity, discipline, knowledge, and a commitment to serving the interests of the State.

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# Presenting the Evidence: Making the Truth Known and Heard

By Min Khant

THE issue that needs to be made known is the terrorist acts committed by CRPH, NUG, and their affiliated PDF groups, who are mercilessly killing innocent civilians who do not support them, driven by the ideology that “anyone who disagrees with me is my enemy.”

**I wish to highlight the undeniable proof of these terrorist groups indiscriminately killing innocent people without justification. I would particu-**



Young women from Kywepon Village, Sagaing Township, killed in a reckless armed attack by PDF terrorists while on their way to work on a farm

larly like to bring attention to CRPH, NUG, and PDF groups, which have been recognized as terrorist organizations under existing State laws. This also extends to certain countries that are engaging with and supporting individuals representing NUG, as well as international organizations and individuals, both in Myanmar and abroad.

The outbreak of violence can be attributed to the actions of CRPH and NUG terrorists, who have attempted to achieve political goals through armed riots following the political changes in 2021. It is widely known that NUG and its affiliated PDFs have been responsible for the violent killings of innocent civilians in Myanmar, specifically targeting them. There is clear and indisputable evidence of these atrocities, including murders and tar-

tortures of innocent civilians who do not support NUG or PDFs. They have conducted arson attacks on villages, attacked with small arms, heavy weapons, and even drones. These acts are frequently shared on social media platforms.

A particularly distressing incident occurred near Kywepon village in Sagaing Region on 17 September, when a PDF group affiliated with NUG opened fire on two vehicles with small arms

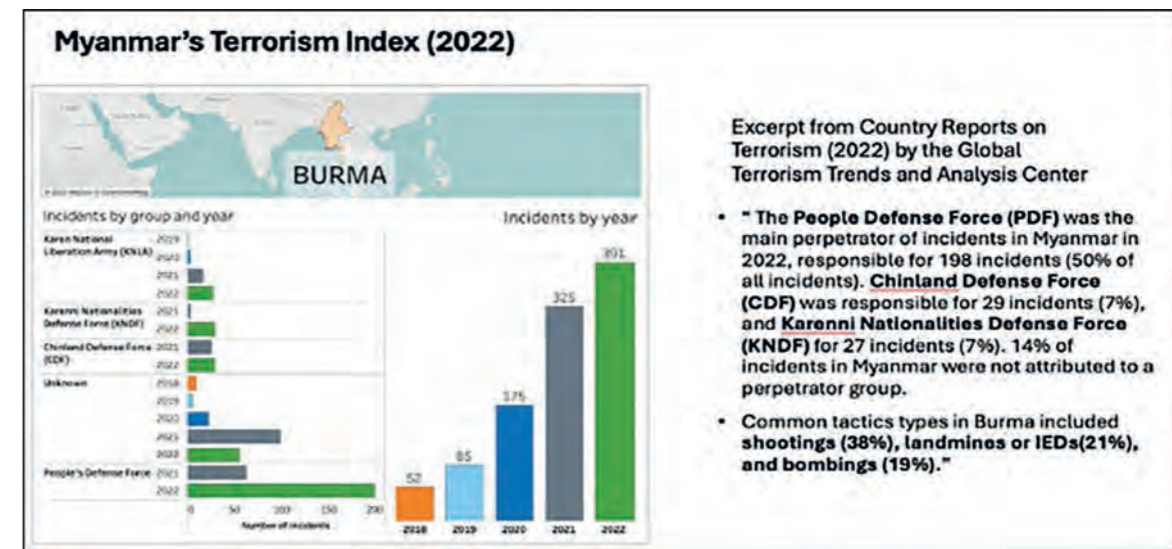
the village. On the morning of 17 September, around 30 armed PDF terrorists opened fire on a vehicle carrying mostly young women 1,300 metres northeast of the village.

The victims were ordinary farmers with no ties to the military. PDF's actions, which included indiscriminate killings, amount to war crimes and are universally unacceptable. Both the families of the victims and the wider public, upon hearing about this attack, feel hatred and disgust towards PDF terrorists.

A similar attack took place in Soneywa village, Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, on 9 May 2024. The villagers, who did not support NUG and PDF groups, formed their own militia to protect their community. In retaliation, armed PDF terrorists attacked the village with small arms and heavy weapons, killing 17 men and 15 women, for a total of 32 victims, and injuring 14 others. Even children were among the dead. As terrorists retreated, they set fire to the village, destroying about 50 homes.

These terrorist acts by NUG and PDFs have outraged the public, and over 20 social and religious organizations have issued statements condemning them.

The evidence of these attacks clearly shows that PDF terrorists, who are funded and armed by NUG, have committed atrocities against innocent civilians. According to watchdog reports, PDF terrorists have killed 6,667 people under NUG's instructions from 1 February 2021, to 5 September 2024. Detailed records on websites such as [www.infosheet.org](http://www.infosheet.org) show that the victims include 5,312 civilians, 833 administrators, 75 teachers, 17 healthcare workers, 279 civil servants, 65 retired military personnel, two nuns, and 84



Report on the Terrorism Index of PDF, CDF, and KNDF groups, released by the Global Terrorism Trend and Analysis Centre for 2022

monks.

Meanwhile, biased media outlets are downplaying these terrorist acts, portraying them as part of a democratic political struggle. However, the Global Terrorism Trend and Analysis Centre's 2022 report noted a significant rise in terrorism in Myanmar, with groups like CDF, KNDF, and PDFs responsible for these incidents. The report predicts that the terrorism index in Myanmar will continue to rise in 2024, following attacks like those in Kywepon and Soneywa. Despite this, Western countries continue to fund NUG and PDFs and offer asylum to individuals connected with NUG, all to exert political pressure on Myanmar.

In addition, some world powers are either directly or indirectly supporting these

terrorist groups. This includes fugitive Kyaw Moe Tun, who represents NUG and lobbies for its recognition on the international

stage, particularly at the United Nations, even though he has no legal standing.

Although Kyaw Moe Tun

“The evidence of these attacks clearly shows that PDF terrorists, who are funded and armed by NUG, have committed atrocities against innocent civilians. According to watchdog reports, PDF terrorists have killed 6,667 people under NUG's instructions from 1 February 2021, to 5 September 2024. Detailed records on websites such as [www.infosheet.org](http://www.infosheet.org) show that the victims include 5,312 civilians, 833 administrators, 75 teachers, 17 healthcare workers, 279 civil servants, 65 retired military personnel, two nuns, and 84 monks.”



The 32 victims, including children, from Soneywa Village, Myingyan Township, were mercilessly killed by PDF terrorists.

# ARTICLE

was Myanmar's Permanent Representative to the United Nations under the NLD government, his loyalty to the state was questioned by the current administration, and his citizenship was revoked. The UN General Assembly's Procedure No 29 has not recognized him as the official Permanent Representative of Myanmar, and he is not allowed to speak for the country. However, Kyaw Moe Tun has taken advantage of the delay in appointing his replacement, using informal UN meetings to carry out propaganda on behalf of NUG.

Kyaw Moe Tun has covered up terrorist acts like the Kywepon and Soneywa incidents, instead criticizing the government's legal actions against terrorists under the Counter-Terrorism Law under the guise of democracy and human rights. It is clear that he is no longer acting as a diplomat but as a propagandist for a terrorist group. In my view, someone representing a terrorist organization should not be Myanmar's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and the UN should recognize the representative proposed by the State Administration Council in line with Myanmar's Constitution.

I also urge world powers, including the United Nations, to reconsider their engagement with the NUG terrorist group and fugitive Kyaw Moe Tun. Supporting these groups amounts to aiding terrorism, and actions must be taken to stop NUG and PDF from gaining official recognition.

The genuine desire of the people of Myanmar is to see an end to NUG and PDF's armed terrorist attacks on innocent civilians, the successful implementation of the State Administration Council's Five-Point Roadmap, and the holding of a peaceful election to establish a government elected by the people.

I submit this solid evidence to raise awareness of the terrorist acts being committed and to advocate for the reduction of such attacks, like the recent incidents in Kywepon and Soneywa, which is the genuine wish of the peace-loving citizens of Myanmar.



# NATIONAL

## Artistes donate to flood-impacted people in Kalaw



Actors and actresses with relief items for donations.

THE Myitta Athinchay group, which includes members from the film arts community, donated food, beverages and cash to the relevant flood relief and resettlement supervisory offices for the flood-stricken people in Kalaw Township, Shan State, on 2 October, according to actor Moe Pyae Pyae Maung.

The charity group performed music performances for the people impacted by the flood, gave words of encouragement, and donated money and foodstuffs through relevant flood relief and resettlement supervisory offices.

“As for me, I feel sorry for them. They are my fans, and it is also the place where I performed. That’s why I gathered donations for them along with Pwint Nadi Maung. Actors Sit Naing, Norman, Kyi Win, Pauk Si, Sat Htoo Thit, May Than Nu, Pwint Nadi Maung, and May Lang also participated, personally donating and offering words of encouragement,” said actor Moe Pyae Pyae Maung.

The group provided K23 million worth of aid, including K17 million in cash, as well as 100 rice sacks, 50 sets of blankets, pillows, and mos-

quito nets. Additionally, they donated rice, cooking oil, and salt, including 11 sets of foodstuffs for 30 households, over 370 backpacks, schoolbooks, pens, rulers, zip packs, 1,200 large blankets, and drinking water, totalling K6 million.

Similarly, film artistes such as Hnget Pyaw Kyaw, Zin Myo, Kyaw Kyaw, and Su Myat Noe Oo were also involved in donating rice, dried noodles, ready-made tea leaf packs, ready-to-eat meals, and money to over 2,000 flood victims in Kalaw and Nyaungshwe townships in Shan State on 29 September. — ASH/TKO

## Music concert to raise funds for flood-hit areas

A fundraising music concert for flood relief efforts is set to be held in Yangon on 11 October at the National Theatre. Organized by the Myanmar Music Association (Central), the event will feature renowned national artistes who aim to raise funds for the restoration of flood-impacted areas.

As Myanmar continues to face natural disasters, including severe flooding in September, the spirit of generosity remains strong across the nation. Individuals, organizations, and even international partners have come together to assist. Artistes from various fields have also stepped forward, contributing their talents to support those affected by the disasters.

In line with this tradition, the concert titled ‘Helping Hands Through Music’ will feature famous singers such as Kaing Zar, Myo Kyawt

Myaing, Si Thu Lwin, Graham, Kaung Set, Zaw Paing, Pusoo, Naw Naw, Aung La, Thar Dee Lu, Wa Na, Aung Htet, L Seng Zi, Ni Ni Khin Zaw, Yadanar Mai, Po Po, Pan Yaung Chel, Yoon Myat Thu, Zwe Pyae, Seng San, and Nay Min Eain, who will perform a variety of lively songs during the event.

Tickets for the charity concert are available for purchase at multiple locations, including Junction City (4<sup>th</sup> floor Music Box), Junction Square (Secret Garden), Yangon International Hotel, the Myanmar Music Association (Central) office in Tamway Township, and the National Theatre. Prices are set at K20,000, K30,000, and K50,000, with online purchase options via KBZPay 09 252804308. The concert will take place from 5 pm to 9:30 pm, and the public is invited to support the event. — Thitsa (MNA)/KZL

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.

## MGMA to continue support for flood victim rehabilitation

AS Phase II of its donation package, the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association affirms in a statement that it will continue to assist in rehabilitating flood-inflicted people.

Much assistance and support are still needed for people in some areas of the country where natural disasters have happened, resulting from heavy rainfall and river flooding, said the statement.

From the fund worth K100 million contributed by MGMA’s

members and private donors, primary consumer products and food, including 19 items such as rice, cooking oil, salt, soap, dried fish and cookware and kitchen utensils, were provided to 1,000 families at flood-hit villages in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 and 28 September, and also gave assistance at flood-hit areas in Shan State’s Hopong Township, in Phase I, it said.

Essential needs, such as clothing, foodstuffs, and other consumer products, were al-



This picture captures the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association assisting flood victims through its donation package ‘Phase II’.

ready offered to flood victims through public donations. However, MGMA will continue providing aid for the reconstruction of damaged homes and healthcare in order to help rehabilitate flood victims, as Phase II.

Contributions are welcomed, and contact can be made to No 29, Minyekyawswa Road, 9<sup>th</sup> floor at UMFCCI Tower in Lanmadaw Township, phone numbers 01 2314829, 01 2300259 (extension 14) and 09 250001304. — MT/ZS

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# NATIONAL

## K1.796M in goods seized in four-day crackdown on illegal trade

SUPERVISED by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, action is being taken under the law against illicit trading across the nation.

During inspections on 1 October, the combined on-duty teams managed by the Nay Pyi Taw Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force captured illegal teak weighing 8.260 tonnes and illegal timbers weighing 4.065 tonnes valued at K3,441,466 in Lewe and Ottara districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law. On 2 and 3 October, the Customs on-duty nabbed a kind of industrial material and a kind of consumer good worth K5.25 million without official documents from two packages at the Myanmar Post (International Service), eight kinds of industrial materials and three kinds of consumer goods worth K1,639,530,375 without official documents from 16 containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port and a kind of consumer good worth K20 million without official documents from luggage at the Yangon International Airport. The action was carried out following Customs procedures. Additionally, on 3 October, the combined on-duty teams supervised by the Yangon Region and Magway Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Forces seized a Toyota Alphard (approximately K15 million) carrying illegal teak weighing 1.254 tonnes worth K1,103,696 in Hmawby Township and an unregistered motorbike (estimated value of K200,000 in Magway District. The action was taken under the Export-Import Law and the Forest Law.

On the same day, the combined teams made inspections and captured a Nissan Diesel truck (estimated value of K35 million), heading to Mandalay from Mongla, carrying a kind of industrial materials worth K20,212,500 without official documents on the outskirts of Singaing Township, a Toyota Gaia Station Wagon (estimated value of K16 million), travelling from Muse to Mandalay, carrying three kinds of consumer goods and two kinds of industrial materials valued at K7.126 million without official documents at the Myitnge checkpoint. The action was undertaken as per Customs procedures.

On 3 and 4 October, the combined teams captured illegal teak weighing 2.011 tonnes and other illegal timbers weighing 0.119 tonne worth K1,951,862 in Nyaunglebin District and four unregistered Nissan AD Vans (estimated value of K32 million) at the Kanalu combined checkpoint in Sagaing Township. The action was conducted under the Export-Import Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 29 arrests from 1 to 4 October, with an estimated value of K1.796 billion. — MNA/MKKS

## Embassy: Include postage stamp for consular requests

THOSE who submit an application for consular service by post should make sure to send it with a stamp, the Myanmar Embassy to Japan said.

Prices of postage stamps for domestic use in Japan have risen as of 1 October this year, said the embassy's statement on 4 October.

Therefore, those who submitted passport service or income tax and official recommendation by post or those who requested to resend those documents by post are urged to submit again with a stamp corresponding to a type of envelope, along with the applicant name, date of birth, passport number and subject of application, it said. For 520-yen envelopes, an 80-yen stamp or stamps equivalent to 80 yen will have to be re-submitted. For 370-yen envelopes, a 60-yen stamp or stamps equivalent to 60 yen will have



The Myanmar Embassy is in Tokyo, Japan.

to be re-submitted, it said.

According to Japan's new postage stamp price, applicants by post will need

to submit 600 yen, and if failing to do so, envelopes will be returned to the sender, it said. — MT/ZS

## PDF terrorists attack Aungthaya village, killing 3 and injuring 8

IN a tragic incident yesterday, three innocent civilians lost their lives, and eight others were wounded in Aungthaya village, located in Kanbalu Township, Sagaing Region. The attack was carried out by individuals claiming allegiance to PDF, who dropped bombs on the peaceful community, aiming to disrupt the tranquillity of the region.

The assault occurred at approximately 1:30 pm yesterday when PDF terrorists launched drone strikes from an altitude of about 1,200 metres southeast of the village. Among the victims were two males and one female, while the injured included five males and three females. The injured civilians are currently receiving medical treatment at the village's health centre.

This reckless act of violence against peaceful villagers constitutes a war crime under the Geneva Conventions and international laws. Locals are reportedly expressing strong resentment towards PDF terrorists for their heinous actions and actively participating in Tatmadaw's efforts to combat these violent acts. — MNA/KZL



The location map of the attack incident in Kanbalu Township.

## Counter-argument to false information

### Fake news circulates about Census Collection in Shwebo

MALICIOUS media outlets are spreading fake news claiming that individuals who were not registered as guests were arrested during the 2024 Nationwide Census Collection in the wards of Shwebo Township, Sagaing Region.

According to an official involved in the process, enumerators are diligently

collecting data in accordance with the prescribed guidelines and verifying any inconsistencies. There have been no instances of arrests solely for non-compliance.

The census is considered a national duty, and the public cooperates well with the data collection.

Therefore, these subversive media outlets are deliberately circulating false information in an attempt to undermine the census. — MNA/TRKM



This screenshot validates fabricated stories.

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Laos approves wage increase for low-paid workers amid high inflation

THE Lao government has instructed businesses and service providers to pay a higher support allowance to low-wage workers in order to cope with the rising cost of living.

Laos' Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare issued a notice, effective on 1 October, urging employers in business and service units to pay a minimum monthly wage of 2.5 million Lao kip (about US\$114), according to the ministry's report on Thursday.

The minimum wage currently stands at 1.6 million kip (about \$73). However, with the cost of living rising sharply, the government has deemed it necessary to further support workers across the country.

The new wage and allowance increases are part of broader government efforts to help workers cope with the economic pressures caused by the high cost of living and inflation.

Inflation in Laos remains a pressing concern, although it slightly eased to 21.7 per cent in September 2024, down from 24.3 per cent in August.

Meanwhile, high inflation and depreciation of the kip mean that workers are being paid less in real terms, undermining their spending capacity and widely believed to have forced many to seek employment in other countries, leading to worsening domestic labor shortages. — Xinhua



A worker embroiders logos on Nike apparel in a garment factory in Vientiane. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Turkish inflation falls to 49.4% in September

TÜRKIYE'S annual inflation rate fell further to 49.4 per cent in September after reaching 52 per cent in August, official data showed on Thursday.

The figure, however, was higher than the 48.1 per cent consumer price increase forecast by Turkish economists cited by local media.

Inflation increased 2.97 per cent on a monthly basis in September, the TUIK statistics agency said.

Türkiye's central bank began to raise interest rates last year in an effort to battle soaring

prices, after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan dropped his opposition to orthodox monetary policy.

Erdogan this week said inflation was on a downward trend.

"Our people will feel the slowdown more in the bazaars, and in their shopping baskets," he added.

According to the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, retail prices in Turkey's largest city Istanbul alone increased by 3.9 per cent on a monthly basis and 59.2 per cent on an annual basis in September. — AFP



Palestinian flags are waved at a rally in solidarity with Gazans held in Amman, Jordan. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Israel-Hamas war causes 86-per-cent dive in Gaza GDP: IMF

*In the West Bank, the economic situation has worsened, with preliminary data showing a 25 per cent decline in GDP in the first half of 2024.*

A year of conflict between Israel and Hamas has resulted in a "devastating impact on the economy" in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, the IMF said Thursday, including a nearly 90 per cent drop in Gaza's GDP.

"Preliminary official estimates indicate an 86 per cent decline in GDP in the first half of 2024" in Gaza, said International

Monetary Fund communications chief Julie Kozack.

She added that Gaza's "civilian population faces dire socioeconomic conditions, a humanitarian crisis and insufficient aid delivery."

In the West Bank, "already grim prospects have further deteriorated, and preliminary official data indicate a 25 per cent

decline in GDP in the first half of 2024," Kozack told reporters at a regular briefing.

Israel has been at war in Gaza since Hamas's 7 October resulted in the deaths of 1,205 people in the country, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli figures that include hostages killed in captivity. — AFP

## World Bank expects 5.1% growth for Nepal

THE World Bank on Wednesday projected a growth of 5.1 per cent for Nepal in the current 2024-25 fiscal year starting in mid-July, below the Nepali government's six per cent target.

Growing tourist arrivals, more hydropower generation and expected growth in paddy production shall contribute more to Nepal's gross domestic product, the bank said in its Nepal Development Update report. The South Asian country achieved a growth of 3.9 per cent in 2023-24, noted the international financial institution.

The bank is expecting

Nepal's private sector to contribute more to its growth by taking advantage of the central

bank's loosening of monetary policies and easing of regulatory requirements. — Xinhua



Nepal's tourism thrives on the allure of Everest, attracting climbers from around the globe eager to conquer the world's highest peak. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

# Singapore's private economy expands for 19 consecutive months

Input prices continued to rise, reflecting higher costs for raw materials, transport, and labour, although the increase was moderate compared to August.

THE seasonally adjusted S&P Global Singapore Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) was 56.6 in September, marking a continued improvement in private business conditions for 19 straight months, the S&P Global said Thursday.

The growth rate eased to a three-month low but remained marked, it added. The accumulation rate

was the most pronounced in eight months, partly due to supply constraints. Inventory levels also declined amid a worsening of supply delays.

Input prices continued climbing last month as firms reported higher raw materials, transport, and labour costs, but at a moderate pace from August.

Though easing from an over three-year peak in August, the confidence levels among Singaporean private sector firms remained above the long-run average and reflected hopes for better business activities.

A PMI reading of 50 and above indicates expansion, while a reading below 50 indicates contraction. — Xinhua



Migrant workers enjoy their outdoor time aboard the SuperStar Gemini cruise ship berthed at Singapore's Marina Bay Cruise Centre on 23 May 2020. PHOTO: THEN CHIH WEY/XINHUA

# US dockworkers to head back to work after tentative deal

US dockworkers will return to work after a three-day strike at East and

Gulf Coast ports after the union and port operators reached a tentative deal

on pay and extended the current contract to 15 January, both sides said Thursday. The International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) had launched a work stoppage early Tuesday after negotiations with the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX), which represents shipping companies and terminal operators, came to an impasse.

The strike — which involved 45,000 workers,

according to the ILA — paralyzed 36 ports from Maine to Texas, which handle an array of goods from food to electronics. But Thursday evening, the two sides announced in a joint statement that they had "reached a tentative agreement on wages and have agreed to extend the Master Contract until 15 January, 2025 to return to the bargaining table to negotiate all other outstanding issues.— AFP



Dockworkers at the port of Montreal have ended a partial three-day strike as planned. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

# Dutch airline KLM unveils 'firm' cost-cutting measures

DUTCH airline KLM on Thursday announced a sweeping package of "firm" cost-cutting measures it hopes will lead to a boost in operating profits of around 450 million euros (\$496 million) "in the short term".

There was no specific mention of job cuts, but the company vowed to "explore options for outsourcing, divesting or discontinuing activities that do not directly contribute to flight operations."

KLM said it would re-

consider and postpone all new investment, including its new headquarters and engineering buildings. Labour productivity should be boosted by at least five per cent by next year, via automation, mechanization and reducing absenteeism, according to the firm. "We will do everything we can to maintain our network and services for our customers and protect jobs throughout our company," said airline CEO Marjan Rintel in a statement. — AFP

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HIROMI VOY.NO. (V.YJ240901B)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-10-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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**"NOTICE of High Tide"**

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.11 feet to 21.39 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of October 16<sup>th</sup> to October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

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# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## DPRK to use all offensive forces including nuclear if attacked



Hwasong-15 ballistic missiles during the military parade to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean People's Army at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang. **PHOTO: KCNA VIA KNS/AFP/FILE**

*Kim asserted that the nation has firmly established itself as a nuclear power, with the necessary systems in place for its use.*

THE top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) said the country would use all offensive forces, including nuclear weapons, if enemies attempt to use armed forces encroaching upon the DPRK sovereignty, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported on Friday. Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, made the remarks while inspecting a training base of the special operation units earlier this week.

Kim stressed that the ene-

mies' threatening rhetoric, action, trick and attempt will not take away the DPRK's nuclear weapons and the country "has irreversibly secured the absolute strength as a nuclear power and the system and function for using it," according to the KCNA report.

"To pray for a good luck of survival in a military conflict with the nuclear weapons state would be a foolish thing," and "if such situation comes, the permanent existence of Seoul and the Republic of Korea would be impossible," the DPRK leader was quoted by the KCNA as saying. — Xinhua

### BRIEF: WORLD

#### Singapore charges hotel tycoon in case linked to jailed minister

MALAYSIAN hotel tycoon Ong Beng Seng was hit with two charges on Friday, both connected to Singapore's jailed ex-transport minister S Iswaran.

Ong Beng Seng, a Malaysian hotel tycoon, was charged in Singapore with abetting obstruction of justice and aiding a public servant in obtaining valuables, following the sentencing of former transport minister S Iswaran to 12 months in prison.

No plea was entered by Ong, and a pre-trial conference is set for 15 November. The obstruction charge could result in up to seven years in prison, while the second charge has a maximum penalty of two years. Ong, 78, has garnered significant media attention due to his connections with Iswaran, who pled guilty to receiving illegal gifts, including Formula One tickets from Ong. — AFP

#### Lithuanian MPs okay pact on German troops' rights

THE Lithuanian parliament on Thursday ratified an agreement between Vilnius and Berlin that outlines the rights of German military and civilian personnel and their families in Lithuania, the Baltic News Service (BNS) reported.

All 88 lawmakers present voted for the agreement.

The pact grants Germany the right to use designated infrastructure in Lithuania, operate within these sites, bring in defence equipment, and set up German schools, military canteens, and shops, which will enjoy tax exemptions. Lithuania commits to providing logistical support to the Germans.

The document also requires Lithuania to provide German troops and civilians with access to necessary healthcare services, and the German military will be allowed to "establish healthcare, dental and veterinary facilities" if needed. — Xinhua

## Cambodia's Pchum Ben public holiday ends: 1.78 mln travel across country

CAMBODIA'S three-day Pchum Ben public holiday had come to an end with about 1.78 million people travelling to different tourist destinations across the kingdom, the Ministry of Tourism said in a report on Friday.

Of the number, 37,091 were foreign visitors, the report said. The most popular attractions during the holiday were Battambang, Siem Reap, Preah Sihanouk, Kampong Chhnang and Kampot provinces, the report added. Prime Minister Hun Manet said celebrations of the traditional Pchum Ben festival was essential to preserve and promote Cambodia's beautiful culture, tradition and custom for next generations.

Pchum Ben festival, or the Ancestor's Day, from Tuesday to Thursday, was the second larg-

est celebration in the Southeast Asian country after the lunar New Year in April. — Xinhua



People travel on a road in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 12 April 2024. **PHOTO: SOVANNARA/XINHUA/FILE**

## Missile barrage against Israel exposes Iran's limitations: analysts

IRAN'S missile barrage at Israel this week was meant as a warning that the Islamic republic can hit Israeli territory, but has instead exposed Iranian military limitations, analysts say. In its second-ever direct

attack on Israel, Iran launched some 200 missiles on Tuesday, with most of them — but not all — intercepted by Israeli air defences with help from allies. Iran's Revolutionary Guards said the attack was in retaliation

for Israel's killing of top Iranian and allied officials, including Hassan Nasrallah, leader of the Tehran-backed militant group Hezbollah who was targeted in a massive air strike on Beirut last month. — AFP

## FIFA Council approves voting procedure of 2030, 2034 World Cups

The 75<sup>th</sup> FIFA Congress is set to take place in Asuncion, Paraguay, on 15 May 2025.

**T**HE FIFA Council met in Zurich, Switzerland, on Thursday and approved many big decisions on the football world, including the voting procedure of the 2030 and 2034 World Cups.

According to the FIFA statement, if each bidding process involves only a single

candidate, the selection of the hosts of the competitions will take place at the same Extraordinary FIFA Congress, to be held virtually on 11 December, 2024.

FIFA released the Women's Football Strategy: 2024-2027, "which reflects the overarching framework of FIFA's Strategic



Men walk past a FIFA World Cup trophy replica outside the Ahmed bin Ali Stadium in Al-Rayyan, Qatar on 12 November 2022. PHOTO: KIRILL KUDRYAVTSEV, AFP/FILE

Objectives for the Global Game: 2023-2027, while also establishing tactics and game plans that are specific to women's foot-

ball," FIFA said.

The FIFA Council unanimously approved the Regulations for the 2025 Club World

Cup to allow the FIFA Member Associations to open an exceptional registration window from 1-10 June, 2025. — Xinhua

### World Athletics chief has high hopes for 2025 championships in Tokyo

THE president of World Athletics hopes to see a capacity crowd at Tokyo's National Stadium when the world championships are held in September next year — something Japan missed at the home Olympics.

The newly built 68,000-seat stadium had no spectators from the general public during the postponed Tokyo Olympics in 2021 when Japan faced one of the worst phases of the coronavirus pandemic.

"My expectations are high. I want them to be the best world championships ever," Sebastian

Coe said Wednesday in an interview with Kyodo News. "For me, the Holy Grail, the most important target, is to have a full stadium."

"The marketing and the promotion around ticket sales are very important. We use the Paris Games platform to have some presales, and those presales went really well, but we need to make sure that we keep our foot on the accelerator right the way through (and) that the marketing has to be ambitious and thoughtful and creative." — Kyodo

### New Socceroos coach Popovic names squad for October World Cup qualifiers

FOOTBALL Australia (FA) on Friday announced that new head coach Tony Popovic has named a 26-player extended squad for the third round of the 2026 World Cup Asian qualifiers this month.

Popovic, who was named Socceroos head coach in September following the resignation of Graham Arnold, will face China in his first game in charge of the Australia's national team in South Australia on 10 October and Japan in Saitama

on 15 October.

The extended squad for the fixtures includes the return of English Premier League midfielder Massimo Luongo from international retirement.

Luongo, the player of the tournament at the 2015 AFC Asian Cup, retired from international football late in 2023 to focus on his club football with Ipswich Town but has made himself available for the remainder of the qualification cycle. — Xinhua

## Guardiola talks of Man City love affair as financial hearing rumbles on

PEP Guardiola insists he will always defend Manchester City from accusations of financial misconduct because of his trust in the club's owners and his love affair with their fans.

City are fighting 115 charges relating to alleged breaches of Premier League financial rules in an ongoing hearing that has been labelled sport's "trial of the century".

The English champions deny any wrongdoing, claim-

ing they have a "comprehensive body of irrefutable evidence" to clear their name as they battle to avoid a potential points deduction or even expulsion from the Premier League. A verdict from the independent commission is not expected until 2025, but Guardiola is repeatedly asked awkward questions about the case. It is a challenge the 53-year-old is happy to handle because of his belief in City's Abu Dhabi-based owners and

an unbreakable bond with the club he joined in 2016. "I'm part of this club, deep inside of my bones. I am the manager, the person at the club who talks more through all the media, to send messages to fans," Guardiola told reporters on Friday.

"And, of course I am going to defend my club, I trust them, the owner, the chairman, the CEO, and all the people working here, for many, many years. — AFP



Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola celebrates with his players. PHOTO: AFP



**R**USSIA is concerned about Israel's signals regarding a possible retaliatory strike on Iran, which could target Iranian nuclear facilities, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov told journalists at a press conference on Thursday, adding that it is unacceptable to even consider such scenarios.

"We see a reason for serious concern. In principle, it is clear that any escalation of the current conflict is fraught with grave consequences. I also want to say that nuclear facilities as such, in any case, should always be taken out of any conflict," Ryabkov said.

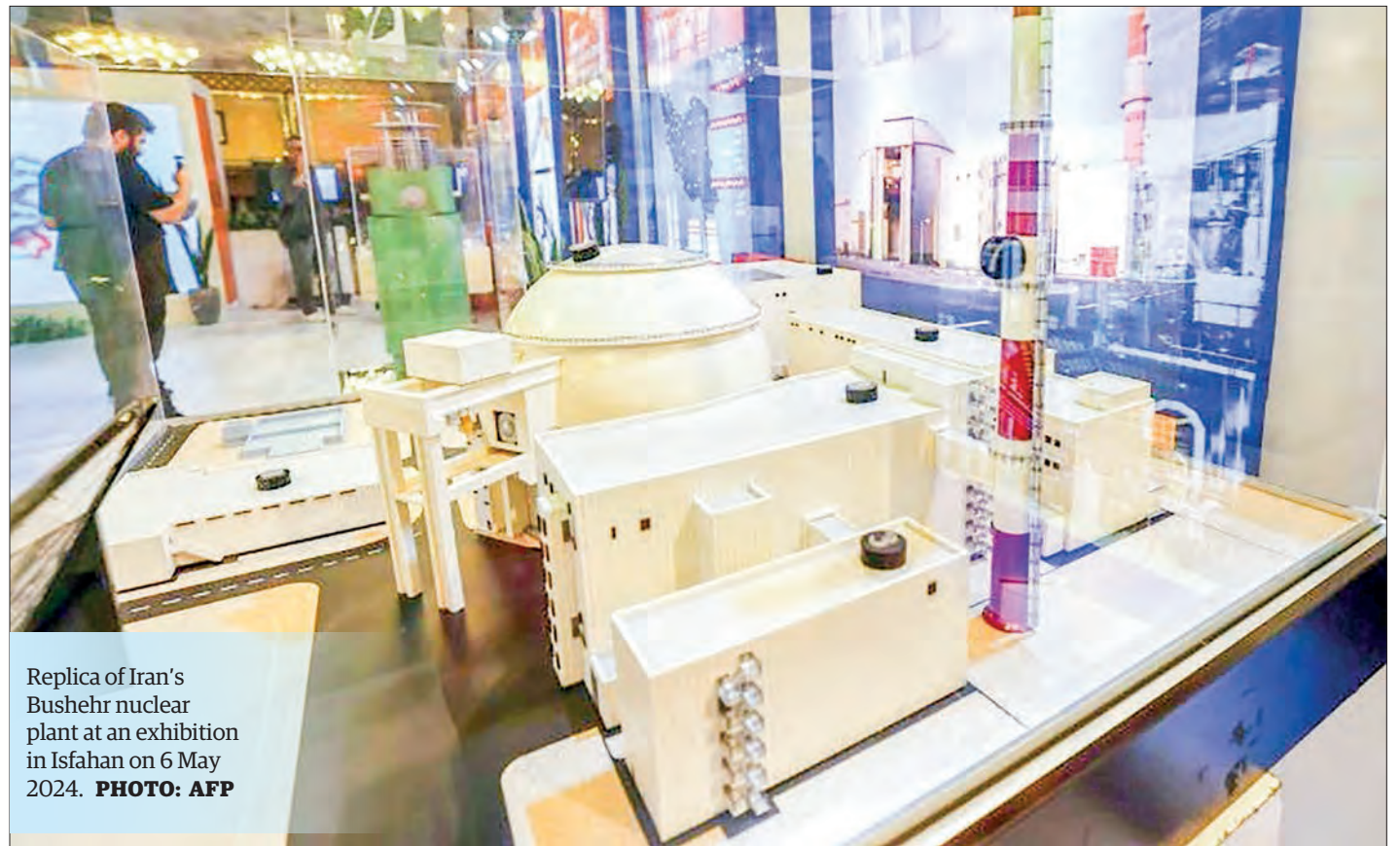
According to him, "in the current situation, with highly alarming escalation signals coming from Israel, the international community, including the IAEA and its leadership, needs to raise its voice, emphasizing the inadmissibility of even considering such scenarios".

"The catastrophic consequences of an attack on any nuclear facility are virtually guaranteed, both in terms of environmental impact and public health — this is clear to everyone," Ryabkov stressed.

Ryabkov added that Russia and the United States did not discuss the crisis in the Middle East through diplomatic channels. "No. We have completely opposite approaches," Ryabkov told reporters, answering a relevant question. — SPUTNIK

## Nuclear facilities should be taken out of Middle East conflict

*Russia has expressed significant concern over Israel's indications of a potential retaliatory strike on Iran, specifically targeting its nuclear facilities.*



Replica of Iran's Bushehr nuclear plant at an exhibition in Isfahan on 6 May 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Mauritius to regain sovereignty over Chagos Archipelago from Britain

THE governments of UK and Mauritius on Thursday issued a joint statement concerning the Chagos Archipelago, a

group of islands in the Indian Ocean.

The two sides confirmed that they have reached a "historic" political

agreement on the exercise of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.

"Today's political agreement is subject to the finalisation of a treaty and supporting legal instruments, which both sides have committed to complete as quickly as possible," said the statement. "Under the terms of this treaty the United Kingdom will agree that Mauritius is sovereign over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia," it added.

The two countries also "are committed to the need, and will agree in the treaty, to ensure the long-term, secure and effective operation of the existing base on Diego Garcia".

The Chagos Archipelago was hived off Mauritius in 1965 when the latter was a British colony. Britain has retained possession of the islands ever since, while Mauritius has continued to claim its sovereignty over them. — Xinhua



A beach on Diego Garcia, one of the Chagos Islands. **PHOTO: STEPHEN P. MALLORY/SHUTTERSTOCK**

### FOR EMERGENCY USE

#### WHO approves first Mpox diagnostic test

THE World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday that it has approved the first diagnostic test for Mpox, marking a significant milestone in expanding global access to Mpox testing. The approval comes as Africa continues to struggle with limited testing capacity, which fueled the spread of the virus. Over 30,000 suspected Mpox cases have been reported across the continent in 2024, with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Burundi, and Nigeria being the most affected.

In the DRC, only 37 per cent of suspected cases have been tested this year, according to the global health agency. The test, known as Alinity m MPXV assay, will boost diagnostic capacity in countries facing mpox outbreaks, where rapid and accurate testing is crucial. — Xinhua