

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

SUNDAY EDITION

NATIONAL PAGE 5



UMFCCI to release manual to curb child labour in Myanmar

MFVP leads in restoring flood-damaged farmlands

MYANMAR Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP) will guide the recovery project of flood-inflicted fields with the support of EM Product donated by the EM-Research Organization (EMRO-Japan).

Heavy rainfall and floods devastated farmlands. Discussions on implementing the project were held at the MFVP on 23, 26 and 30 September. The project will commence in the worst flood-hit southern Shan State, Tatkon and Yamethin areas. Field tours to flood-stricken fields will start soon.

MFVP's organic affairs committee, Myanmar Avocado Producers and Exporters Association (MAVO), Organic.com.mm and Team Circular & Farm will contribute to this project. — NN/KK

Hand-painting artists offer services to Bagan travellers

Hotels and guesthouses are fully booked during the Thadingyut (Lighting Festival) holiday, and it also creates job opportunities for locals.



The photo features a group of hands showcasing painted designs. PHOTO:ZWE MARN

The local hand-painting artists are prepared to provide hand-painting services at the famous pagodas and shades of Htanaung trees for visitors to Bagan during the Thadingyut holiday, according to local hand-painting artists.

During the Thadingyut holidays, travellers across the nation travel to Bagan. All the places are crowded on the day before the full moon day, on the full moon day and the day after the full moon day, and hotels and guesthouses are also fully booked. Moreover, it can

create job opportunities for residents.

“All visitors to Bagan can get special merit as it is a well-known religious culture site. It is peaceful, and Myanmar’s cultural heritage is concentrated there, so it is a must-visit. When the visitors arrive in Bagan, they visit famous pagodas, ride horse carts, enjoy the sunset and hand painted as culture. Foreigners like the paintings depicting Bagan pagodas and local travellers like modern hand paintings depicting the Bagan era. There might be a huge number of visitors this year, so the hand painters prepare modern paintings combining the ancient and modern Bagan culture. We warmly welcome the visitors,” said U Zeyar, a hand-painting artist.

In the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone, the hand painting service is available at Shwezigon, Htilominlo, Alotawpyae, Ananda, Buu Phaya, Thatbyinnyu Temple, Dhammayangyi, Shwesandaw, Lawka Nanda, Manuha, Mya Zedi, Hngetpyittaung, Tuyin Hill and other pagodas and temples.

The price of hand painting costs from K1,500 to K30,000 per hand. Over 100 hand-painting artists from the 10-year-old hand-painting industry offer painting services for local and foreign travellers yearly. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH



(File) Hand painters create artworks on hands of visitors to the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone. PHOTO:KO HTEIN

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NATIONAL



Nationwide Census Collection continues on the sixth day.



The Lifeline of Knowledge: The Essential Role of Literary Wisdom in Life

"A Myanmar proverb says one can survive seven days without food but not a single morning without water. Similarly, a lack of literary knowledge leads to a life of misery. Therefore, literary knowledge is essential for a fulfilling life."

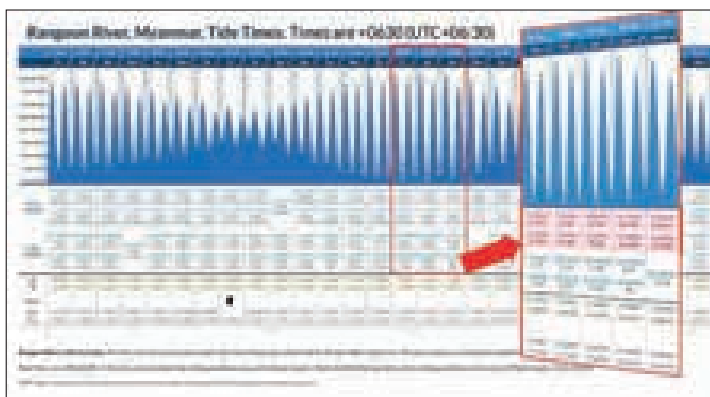
(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with senior officer instructors, senior officer lecturers, faculty members, officers and cadets from the Defence Services Technological Academy on 29 May 2024)



Objectives of 25th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2024

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

High tide warning for 17-19 Oct: Ngamoeyeik Creek residents advised to stay alert



This image reveals a table of tide indexes of the Yangon River.

UNUSUALLY high tide is expected from 17-19 October, so people living around the lowland area by Ngamoeyeik Creek will need to be on alert, said meteorologist U Win Naing.

Yangon River is forecast to rise to its highest level, 23.07 feet, in the early morning from 17 to 19 October,

which is why wards located by Ngamoeyeik Creek should watch with great caution.

"Abnormally high tide is forecast to start at 2:55 am on 17 October and will reach 22.8 feet at 3:32 am on 18 October, the highest level 23.07 feet on 19 October at 4:09 am, and won't rise so much afterwards.

"So people need to be very cautious on 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 October," he said.

Currently, the Bago River and Hlaing River have ebbed to an average level, and the Ngamoeyeik Dam has also descended back.

Therefore, except for wards near Ngamoeyeik Creek, there is no worry about other areas.

"Despite there is no rain, wards on the lowland will be flooded because the tide will rise. Especially in wards of Dagon Myothit (North) Township, such as Ward 33, and the low area beside Ngamoeyeik Creek.

There is no concern in other areas because the Hlaing River and Bago River have now been below normal levels," said U Win Naing. — Thit Taw/ZS

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

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

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



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (2024)

"အောင်မြင်စွာ ကြံ့ခိုင်ခံ့ခိုင်မှုကို မြှင့်တင်ရန်အတွက် အားပေးခြင်း"

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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)

Myanmar marks World Teachers' Day 2024

The ceremony to mark World Teachers' Day 2024 was held at the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The event was attended by State Administration Council members Dr Hmuh Thang and Dr Ba Shwe, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Directors-General, honourable persons, outstanding teachers, prize-winning teachers and students.

First, Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe read out the

message sent by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the World Teacher's Day event.

Then, the officials read out messages from the leaders of five organizations under the United Nations under the theme "Valuing Teacher Voices" and briefed the activities of honorary persons and outstanding teachers for 2024 World Teachers' Day.

The SAC members and party presented certificates of appreciation and cash prizes to winners of teachers and students



The ceremony to mark World Teachers' Day 2024 in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

in article, essay and poem competitions.

They then paid respect to 12 senior faculty members of the Botany Department, Dr Myint Swe, chairman of the Nation-

al Curriculum Committee and Dr Maung Kyaw, vice-chair of Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science, and Dr U Win and Dr Maung Kyaw, vice-chairs of Myanmar Academy of Arts and Sci-

ence delivered speeches of advice on behalf of senior teachers.

After the ceremony, the SAC members and attendees observed the booths opened at the event. — MNA/KTZH

Kayin State Chief Minister inspects livestock rearing zones

KAYIN State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo, along with state cabinet members and departmental officials, inspected livestock breeding zones within the state on 5 October.

The chief minister and his team met committee members of the Mizan Livestock Rearing Zone and the Hpa-an (Sanfari) Livestock Rearing Zone in Hpa-an Township. Hpa-an District Administrator U Aung Lwin and departmental officials elaborated on the farming systems within the zones, including the production of meat, eggs, and milk, the completion of construction for a ring road and streets within the zones, and other projects. The chief minister urged adherence to good manufacturing practices to produce high-quality products.



Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo observes goats farming at the Hpa-an (Sanfari) Livestock Rearing Zone on 5 October 2024. PHOTO: SAW MYO MIN THEIN (IPRD)

Farmers also discussed their requirements and the difficulties they encounter in the farming processes. The chief minister and departmental officials collaborated to find solu-

tions for them. Afterwards, the chief minister and officials observed the farming of 420 pigs by U Zaw Htwe Aung, 150 goats by U Naing Min Htike, and a family-owned natural fertilizer

factory that produces fertilizer from livestock and agricultural waste. They also inspected the rearing of 300 sheep and goats by Shwe Seikmin Livestock and 20 cows by Daw Nang Myint

Myint Aye, located in the Hpa-an (Sanfari) Livestock Rearing Zone.

The Mizan Livestock Rearing Zone in Hpa-an Township was established on 10 February 2024. There are a total of 1,888 pigs and 940 goats being reared in the zone. From April to September 2024, a total of 55,475 visses of pork and over 1,931 visses of mutton were produced from the zone. The Hpa-an (Sanfari) Livestock Rearing Zone was opened on 29 July 2022, and currently has 271 cows, 1,969 goats, 6,200 layers, 2,570 local chickens, and 110 sheep. In 2024, a total of 270 visses of beef, 1,558 visses of mutton, 11,427 visses of chicken, 731 visses of lamb, 2,534,210 eggs, and 3,285 visses of milk were produced. — Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)/TMT

NATIONAL

Myanmar attends 2024 International Tourism, Culture Exhibition & Conference

A Myanmar delegation led by Permanent Secretary U Hlaing Oo from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism participated in the 2024 International Tourism and Cultures Exhibition and Conference, held under the theme “Preserving the Past, Shaping the Future: Responsible Journeys through Cultural Heritage”, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 3 to 6 October.

Malaysia’s Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Arts and Culture attended the event’s opening ceremony. It featured presentations from Myanmar, Kenya, and Zambia on the topic of “Sustainable Tourism for Community’s Future”.

During the discussion, the Permanent Secretary, on behalf of Myanmar, highlighted the implementation of cul-

ture-based tourism activities and other tourism-related services in the main tourist areas of Myanmar. He discussed responsible tourism policies, community-based tourism standards, and the discovery of destinations in cultural heritage areas such as Bagan, emphasizing the importance of residents in the long-term sustainability of these destinations.

Additionally, about 20,000 visitors from both local and international backgrounds attended the 2024 International Tourism and Cultures Exhibition & Conference, allowing Myanmar to disseminate information about its exciting destinations and the necessary details for visiting the country. — MNA/MKKS



Myanmar takes part in the 2024 International Tourism and Cultures Exhibition & Conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 3 to 6 October.

September anti-illegal trade efforts total K2.1B; Citizens rewarded

UNDER the oversight of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, operations to eradicate illegal trade are effectively conducted in states and regions, including Nay Pyi Taw. This involves the formation of special teams and One-Stop Service departmental groups, led by the Customs Department, at various locations such as border entry and exit points, border trade offices and stations, permanent checkpoints along trade routes, warehouses, international ports, airports, and coastal ports. The availability of information is crucial in these efforts.

In September 2024, 95 reports were submitted by conscientious citizens. Among these, 45 reports were found to be false, and one was delayed. Nonetheless, these reports led to 49 seizures involving 55 types of goods valued at approximately K2.10 billion. Authorities filed 83



Confiscated illegal item in September.

cases related to all seizures to take action. The seized items included timber, industrial materials, consumer goods, foodstuffs, and vehicles used for smuggling.

Responsible citizens who reported incidents in September 2024 will be rewarded with K420.573 million, which accounts for 20 per cent of the

total value of the seized illegal goods, amounting to K2.10 billion. Relevant authorities are making arrangements for the reward process.

Therefore, responsible citizens can report illegal trade information by phone at 09 404339969 or 067 409883 and via email at antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com. — MNA/TKO

This image showcases a new special postage stamp (K200) to be published in commemoration of 150 years of the Universal Post Union.



New stamp released to commemorate UPU's 150 years

MYANMA Post under the Ministry of Transport and Communications will publish a new special postage stamp (K200) in commemoration of 150 years of the Universal Post Union, as of at 9:30 am on 9 October 2024 at Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, Yangon Post Office, Mandalay Post Office and other regional and state post office at the same time.

As a particular programme, the date will be printed on stamps, and the first-day covers will be bought on the

launch day at Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, Yangon Post Office, and Mandalay Post Office.

New stamps were already distributed to regional and state post offices. People who want to buy first-day cover can contact U Nyi Nyi Lwin from Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office via 09 450000226, U Aung Soe from Yangon Post Office by 09 424000458 and U Tin Maung Myint from Mandalay Post Office through 09 424000515. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

UMFCCI to release manual to curb child labour in Myanmar

THE Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) has prepared and planned to publish a manual for employers aimed at eliminating the use of child labour in Myanmar, according to UMFCCI Secretary General Daw Khine Khine Nwe.

The driving factors behind child labour include family issues, social problems, lack of education, gender issues, social stigma, mental impacts, disasters, and others.

“It has been over a year since we began preparing the employer handbook for eradicating child labour. We have not published it yet. We also need to share knowledge with employers; publishing alone is not enough. Those aged between 16 and 18 are allowed to work, and they are eligible for social security allowances. Employees must have labour registration cards and be registered with the Labour Department. Only then will those with labour registration cards receive social security allowances,” Daw Khine Khine Nwe said.



This photo depicts some young workers working at the worksite.

With the permission of the International Labour Organization (ILO), children aged between 14 and 16 can work. However, it is not appropriate to assign them to hazardous jobs, such as those involving chemical substances, heavy

lifting, or construction sites. A young person aged between 16 and 18 is considered capable of working as an adult; thus, working eight hours is acceptable. However, a health recommendation is needed to work. — ASH/TMT

Academy Khant Si Thu, film community donate to Loikaw flood victims



This photo showcases actor Khant Si Thu and film stars donating to flood victims.

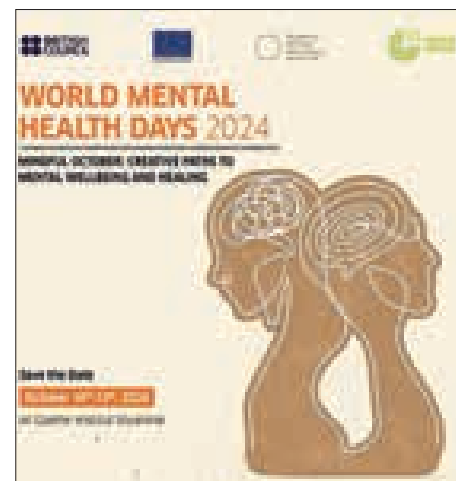
ACTOR Academy Khant Sit Thu, along with film artistes, donated rice, oil, foodstuffs, and cash to flood victims in Loikaw Township, Kayah State, on 4 October, according

to actor Khant Si Thu.

The total value of the food and donations amounted to approximately K30 million for 500 flood-impacted households in Loikaw Township, with an additional K3 million allocated to officials for repairing religious buildings damaged by the flood.

“We cooked meals for flood victims who were truly in need last month. This time, I went to Kayah State to make donations. The victims are facing a lot of hardship, and I am extremely sorry for their losses. We assist the communities in need. We also contributed to the repair of the damaged monastic buildings. It’s not just me making donations; my fans and my film colleagues also participated,” remarked the actor.

Actors such as Moe Sett, May Chit Thet, May Myat Noe Khin, Mya Nanda, May Thu Khaing Nyein, and Maykhala Myo Win joined Khant Si Thu in this donation programme. — ASH/MKKS



This image depicts a poster for the Creative Paths to Mental Well-being and Healing Programme.

Goethe-Institut Myanmar launches creative well-being programme

THE 2024 World Mental Health Day will be celebrated with the “Mindful October — Creative Paths to Mental Well-being and Healing” programme, taking place from 10 to 12 October at the Goethe-Institut Myanmar in Bahan Township, Yangon Region.

This collaborative event, organized by the British Council, European Union, Academy of Care, and Goethe-Institut Myanmar, will be held jointly with the Institut Français de Birmanie and local partner organizations.

It will feature a variety of activities designed to promote mental health and well-being, such as art therapy, music therapy, and drama therapy workshops, as well as sessions focused on cognitive and emotional health. Additionally, the event will include cultural performances, including drama, poetry readings, and short film screenings.

The programme is designed to foster mental health and well-being among young people and communities in Myanmar. By providing educational workshops, interactive activities, and cultural experiences, it aims to equip individuals with knowledge about mental health, enhance their emotional resilience, and facilitate personal growth through artistic expression. This event will span three days. — ASH/TRKM

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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



NATIONAL

Weekly Roundup

29 September

Well-wishers donate over K10 billion

The first cash donation amounted to more than K32.2 billion, and the second cash donation, more than K10 billion for rehabilitation measures in flood-affected areas, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the second cash donation for the flood-affected areas in Nay Pyi Taw.

30 September

Meiktila urged to lead textile industries

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underlined Meiktila District to become a model district, taking a leading role in textile industries to improve the socioeconomic life of the region at the meeting with departmental officials of Meiktila District and town elders in Meiktila.

26 political parties support offer of SAC

A total of 26 political parties, including the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), the National Unity Party, the New Democracy Party (Kachin) and the Democratic Party, expressed their full support for the State Administration Council's offer on 26 September to resolve political issues through political means, issuing a joint statement on 29 September.

Organizations in various clusters issue statements

A total of 20 organizations in various strata welcomed and supported the State Administration Council's offer to resolve political issues through political means by viewing the loss and damage caused in the State.

2 October

Myanmar rolls out Nationwide Census Collection



The 15-day enumeration of nationwide population and household census commenced and it will end on 15 October. The enumerators, led by Union Minister for Immigration and Population

U Myint Kyaing, collected census data of State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Ming Aung Hlaing at the Tatmadaw Guesthouse in the office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) in Nay Pyi Taw.

MPF must serve as a reliable law enforcement agency

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underscored the functions of MPF to prevent crimes, expose crimes to take action against offenders, manage disciplinary tasks in the country, ensure the security of the people, combat the danger of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and carry out public welfare tasks.

5 October

World Teachers' Day marked

Teachers have to guide their 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, as highlighted in SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing's message for World Teachers' Day 2024. — GNLM/ TTA



This photo showcases a DEMU train departing the Bago railway station.

New DEMU railway carriages draw significant attention

AS part of the Yangon circular train upgrade project, the launch of new Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) carriages imported from Spain was held at Yangon Railway Station on 1 October.

With new DEMU passenger coaches, the No 16 Down train from Bago to Yangon departs from Bago railway station at 6 am and arrives at Yangon railway station at 8:20 am. The No 15 Up train leaves Yangon railway station at 4:45 pm and arrives at Bago railway station at 7:05 pm.

"It caught a lot of people and had many passengers. It was a

hot topic on social media like Facebook. New coaches give rail passengers a new experience," said one of the railway passengers on 4 October.

During the journey, the train will stop at a total of 12 stations — Pazundaung, Mahlwagon, Thingangyun, Toegyaungkalay, Ywathagyi, Laydauntkan, Darpein, Kawche, Htongyi, Kyauktan, Tarwa and Phayathonzu.

DEMU carriages can carry a total of 832 passengers, and the train fare is K2,500 per person for the whole journey and K1,300 per person for half of the journey. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS

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: Loikaw Township of Kayah State and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. 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 essential healthcare services and conducting health awareness sessions at temporary flood shelters. They have been dis-



A Tatmadaw medical officer is seen providing a patient with necessary healthcare services at a medical centre.

tributing support materials, clothing, everyday items, food supplies, and donation funds. Ongoing activities are being monitored by officials, who oversee and coordinate necessary resources, ensuring the provision of food supplies and assistance materials.

Efforts to restore dam-

aged 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

E-pension withdrawals now available at 159 branches, no service charge

MYANMA Economic Bank (MEB) notified all that cash withdrawal from e-pension cards can be undertaken at 159 branches equipped with a centralized e-pension system without service charge.

MEB's e-pension system has been upgraded to a centralized e-pension system from September 2023. The centralized e-Pension system has reached 159 banks as of September 2024.

The pensioners can check the branches that operate the centralized e-pension system through www.meb.gov.mm and Myanmar Economic Bank Facebook page in a timely manner, MEB notified government pensioners.

At present, that service is available at the following 149 branches including township branches and district branches; Pyinmana branch, Saving branch 3, Tachilek branch, Kawthoung branch, Bhamo branch, Taikkyi branch, Hlegu branch, Lewe branch, Tatkon branch, Pobbathiri branch, MEB branch 1 (Mandalay), branch 2 (Mandalay), Saving branch 4, Thanlyin branch, Kyimyindine branch, Kamayut branch, Thingangyun branch, Loilem branch, Lashio branch, Monywa branch, Hmawbi branch, Sagaing branch, Shwebo branch, Htantabin (Insein) branch, Myaung branch, Hpa-An branch, Butalin branch, KhinU branch, Shwepyitha branch, Hlinethaya branch, MEB branch 3 (Mandalay), Tam-



This photo shows the facade of the Myanmar Economic Bank (MEB) in Nay Pyi Taw.

way branch, Myawady branch, Dabayin branch, Mingaladon branch, NyaungU branch, Meiktila branch, North Okkala branch, Kawkareik branch, Namtu branch, Kawhmu branch, Insein branch, Magway branch, Yanbye branch, Kungyangon branch, PyinOoLwin branch, Bago branch, Thayet branch, Kutkai branch, Kyauktan branch, Myingyan branch, Taungoo branch, Minbu branch, Moemeik branch, Amarapura branch, Kyaukse branch, Thayawady branch, Pakokku branch, Mabein branch, Patheingyi branch, Yamethin branch, Pyay branch, MEB branch 1 (Mawlamyine), Hsihseng branch, Wundwin branch, MEB branch 1 (Yangon), Pathein branch, MEB branch

2 (Mawlamyine), Kyaukpadaung branch, Thazi branch, MEB branch 2 (Yangon), Hinthada branch, Thaton branch, Kalaw branch, Pyawbwe branch, MEB branch 3 (Yangon), Myaungmya branch, Sittway branch, Chauk branch, Einme branch, MEB branch 4 (Yangon), Maubin branch, Thaton branch, Taungdwingyi branch, Yekyi branch, MEB branch 5 (Yangon), Pyapon branch, Kyaukpyu branch, Dala branch, Kyonpyaw branch, MEB branch 6 (Yangon), Saving branch (1), Taunggyi branch, Kengtung branch, Myeik branch, South-Dagon branch, Wakema branch, Dawei branch, North Dagon branch, Wakema branch, Ingapu branch, Kalaw branch, Zalun branch, Kyangin

branch, Pantanaw branch, Thabeikkyin branch, Dala branch, Shwepyitha, Minhla branch, Kawkareik branch, DaikU branch, Taikkyi branch, Hlegu branch, Kamayut branch, Sittway branch, Shwepyitha branch, Tamway branch, Myeik branch, Dawei branch, Shwetaung branch, Laputta branch, Natogyi branch, Myanaung branch, Gyopingauk bank branch, Minhla (Thayawady) branch, Nyaunglebin branch, Thanetpin branch, Natalin branch, Oakpho bank branch, Paungde branch, Thaegon branch, Salin branch, Myothit branch, Mindon branch, Sinbaungwe branch, Kama branch, Ngaphe branch, Seikphyu branch and Kyai-
kto branch. — NN/KK

MMFA offers free online courses for microfinance employees

MYANMAR MicroFinance Association (MMFA) will conduct free online courses for employees of microfinance businesses with the aim of enhancing the capacity and efficiency of microfinance providers with increased adaptability of the technology and growing benefits of the member companies.

MMFA will offer Loan Officer Training, Credit Analysis Training, Financial Analysis Training, Risk Management Training, Saving Mobilization Training and Responsible Microfinance Training.

The instructors will provide face-to-face online teaching as well. The trainees will receive a

completion certificate.

Those enthusiastic can register through <https://shorturl.at/drMc7> for Loan Officer Training, <https://shorturl.at/cZoi0> for Credit Analysis Training, <https://shorturl.at/IUJZ5> for Financial Analysis Training, <https://shorturl.at/WhyQX> for Risk Management Training and <https://shorturl.at/fgyad> for Saving Mobilization Training and <https://rb.gy/wgj2sl> for Responsible Microfinance Training by 10 October 2024.

Those who are engaged in the microfinance industry and who can complete the training are eligible to attend the courses. They are entitled to join more than one course. — NN/KK

CBM injects US\$13.1M, 288,000 yuan into financial market on 4 October

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) pumped over US\$13.1 million and 288,000 yuan on 4 October, \$780,000, 1.2 million yuan and one million Thai baht on 3 October and over 1.2 million yuan and 10.2 million baht into the financial market 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 ex-



The facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar (head office) in Nay Pyi Taw.

change 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 has allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand since 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

OPINION

BOOKRACK POEM

Arrange preparations for safe migration

MIGRATION is a growing global phenomenon driven by factors such as climate change, armed conflicts, and economic disparities. According to the United Nations, over 281 million people migrated globally in 2020, and by 2021, more than 59 million people were displaced. The World Bank's 2023 report adds that 184 million people, including 37 million refugees, were residing outside their home countries, representing 2.3 per cent of the global population.

One significant driver of migration is the search for employment. Globalization, differences in wages, economic gaps, and advancements in technology have spurred people to seek better job opportunities abroad. However, many migrant workers face

A comprehensive approach that combines economic reform, worker protection, and secure migration pathways will help mitigate the challenges faced by migrant workers and improve the overall socioeconomic landscape. Most migrant workers are suffering from the impacts of bullying, labour exploitation, abuse of labour and labour charges and various forms of obstacles to labour issues.

es and lower incomes for workers. As a result, many people face severe socioeconomic challenges, including difficulties in affording basic necessities like food.

It is critical to arrange safe migration processes for workers to address these issues. Ensuring secure and legal pathways for migration, as well as protecting migrant workers from exploitation, is essential. Authorities need to work on improving employment opportunities domestically to reduce the pressure on people to seek jobs abroad. Additionally, stricter measures must be enforced to combat human trafficking and ensure that all workers, whether local or abroad, are treated with dignity and fairness.

A comprehensive approach that combines economic reform, worker protection, and secure migration pathways will help mitigate the challenges faced by migrant workers and improve the overall socioeconomic landscape. Most migrant workers are suffering from the impacts of bullying, labour exploitation, abuse of labour and labour charges and various forms of obstacles to labour issues. Sometimes, those migrant workers lose lives and limbs in their workplaces, but they do not deserve compensation. Whatever it may be, those migrant workers need to make necessary preparations to ensure the safety of migration.

exploitation, particularly from human traffickers. In Myanmar, 56 per cent of human trafficking cases occur domestically, while 44% happen abroad. Often, migrants seeking work encounter unsafe working conditions, becoming vulnerable to exploitation.

The situation worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thousands in Myanmar lost their jobs due to the economic impact of the pandemic. The Ministry of Labour's data shows that Myanmar's unemployment rate increased from 0.17 per cent in 2020 to 3.69 per cent in 2023. This rise in unemployment is attributed to a lack of job opportunities, low wages, rising living costs, and unstable conditions in various regions.

Further exacerbating the issue are the international sanctions placed on Myanmar, which have directly impacted its economy. Manufacturers have been forced to reduce production, leading to job losses



Book Title - Thawka Khit Hmar Ahphyay Shar (The Wisdom of Insecurity)
 Writer - Alan Watts
 Translator - John
 Publishing House - Sarseezein
 Publication Date - June 2024 (1st Edition)
 Price - K4,500

Thawka Khit Hmar Ahphyay Shar (The Wisdom of Insecurity By Alan Watts)

BEFORE reading this book, I would like to ask the readers a question: Are you feeling secure? If your answer is yes, you need not continue to read this book because it is aimed at enabling those who have feelings of insecurity to feel secure and safe. These days, people are leading a life filled with uncertainty, which results in them feeling insecure.

Things have changed dramatically, and the highly cherished cultural mores and customs have been lost. Society has abandoned the traditions with the people becoming less pious, some of them even being atheists or free thinkers in other words. The governments have also changed their governance while the business firms have turned to the new corporate cul-

ture. With the passage of time, the philosophy and the ideology have changed.

Naturally, people are happy as long as they are optimistic about their future, and if they believe in the existence of the next life, they will be satisfied. However, if people cannot expect happiness, they will think that their lives are not worth living. Those who are leading a sweet life but without much joy are like flies drowned in honey. Although they are not happy, they dare not lose their lovely life. In fact, the flies drowned in the honey cannot escape, ultimately losing their life.

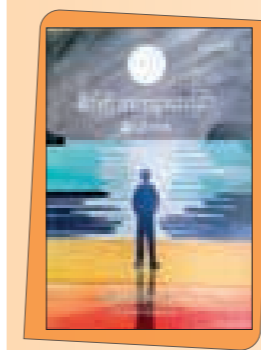
"The wisdom of insecurity is not a way of evasion, but of carrying on wherever we happen to be stationed - carrying

on, however, without imagining that the burden of the world, or even of the next moment, is ours. It is a philosophy not of nihilism but of the reality of the present - always remembering that to be of the present is to be, and candidly know ourselves to be, on the crest of a breaking wave."

"This book proposes a complete reversal of all ordinary thinking about the present state of man. The critical condition of the world compels us to face this problem: how can man live in a world in which he can never be secure, deprived, as many are, of the consolations of religious belief? The author shows that this problem contains its own solution - that the highest happiness, the supreme spiritual insight and certitude are found only in our awareness that impermanence and insecurity are inescapable and inseparable

from life. The contents of the book, among others, are Age of Anxiety, Pain and Time, The Great Stream, The Wisdom of the Body, On Being Aware, The Marvelous Moment, The Transformation of Life, and Creative Morality, etc.

Regarding the episode titled Age of Anxiety, it is written that all outward appearances are only a spark between one eternal darkness and another. That is an interval between these two nights; the outward appearance does not seem to make sense. If living is to end in pain, incompleteness, and nothingness, it seems a cruel and futile experience for beings who are born to reason, hope, create, and love. Man, as a being of sense, wants his life to make sense, and he has found it hard to believe that it does so unless there is more than what he sees - unless there is an eternal order and an eternal life behind the uncertain and momentary experience of life-and-death. I may not, perhaps, be forgiven for introducing sober matters with a frivolous notion. Still, the problem of making sense out of the seeming chaos of experience reminds me of my childish desire to send someone a parcel of water in the mail. The recipient unties the string, releasing the deluge in his lap.



Book Title - Seikko Khitta Ahnar Paygyin (Pause Every Day by Danielle Marchant)
 Translator - Myo Lwin
 Publishing House - Thar Nge
 Publication House - June 2024 (1st Edition)
 Price - K3,800

Seikko Khitta Ahnar Paygyin (Pause Every Day by Danielle Marchant)

THE book under review is aimed at enabling the readers to keep calm and clear. There are ten episodes in this book: Pause for busy minds; Pause for calm; Pause for vitality; Pause for perspective; Pause for Clarity; Pause for gratitude; Pause for technology; Pause for restful sleep; Pause for inner peace; and Pause for balance.

Pause is a philosophy that runs deep within me. The idea of Pause is not about escaping but being fully in your everyday life. Most of us are not destined to spend our days in a mountain cave. Despite the explosion of retreats on offer; it is not always a practical option to whisk yourself away from the responsibilities of everyday life, even for just a few days. While I believe

wholeheartedly in the power of retreats, I appreciate they can seem a luxury in terms of either time or money or, indeed, both.

The idea of the Pause is an invitation to be more of who you are and encourages you to engage with the world around you just as it is. Pause is a way of being that allows you to be more fully you. This book offers a series of practices for you to explore. Some can be done regularly, even daily, and are perhaps more effective that way. Others are useful in a particular situation or circumstance. All of them, at one time or another over the past 20 years, have proved to be of service to me in my own life. It is important not to retreat to this book as a set of demands, another list of tasks

you with that.

Every day, we multitask, regardless of whether we want to or not. This being so, one way to help refocus your busy mind is spiral breathing. This allows you to settle the feelings of being inundated by drawing your attention away from the busy thoughts in your mind. The practice of spiral breathing will help you to develop your concentration and focus. Usually, one breath has two parts, an inhalation and an exhalation, but spiral breathing has four parts, each part lasting for the same amount of time. The four parts make one breath: inhale, pause with lungs full, exhale, and pause with lungs empty. Each part of the breath should take a count of six. If that is too much to begin with, reduce it to a count that feels comfortable to you.

There is no rush. Breathe deeply and let it spiral slowly. Make these breaths the most focused but relaxing breaths you have experienced all day. Once you have practised spiral breathing, try to complete one small task from start to finish with total focus. Remember that we are not really meant to multitask all of the time.

မပြီးဆုံးသေး

ပထမအရွယ်မှာ
ပညာရှာခဲ့ပြီးပါပြီ။
ဒုတိယအရွယ်မှာ
ဥစ္စာရှာခဲ့ပြီးပါပြီ။
တတိယအရွယ်မှာ
ခုခါများ
တရားရှာမယ်ကြံသေး၊
ကံစီရာ ပညာရှာဖို့
သံသရာလည် ဦးမှုတဲ့
ပေါ်တူဂီရပ်ခရီးက
မနီး အဝေး။

ချစ်ကိုဖေ

Yet to End

By Chit Ko Pe

At life's first stage of time,
education is a must-find.
At life's second stage of time,
property is a must-find.
At life's third stage of time,
I'm in such a situation with a bind
to seek education one more time
over Dhamma to be enshrined
heading to Portugal at the present time
on a faraway journey line.

(Composed on a journey to Portugal)

Life cycle

By Mya Thae (Research)

- ▶ A day has passed.
A night becomes a start.
The life cycle runs so fast.
- ▶ Human beings and creatures
encounter several kinds of troubles.
- ▶ Till we reach Neikhan (Nibbana).

Hope

By Zaw Gyi, Translated by Myint Zan

မျှော်လင့်ချက်

နောက်တစ်လွှားသို့
ဝင်သွားလေပြီ၊ နေနီနီအား
ဇော်ဂျီမျှော်တာ၊ ဝမ်းနည်းရလည်း
အလှသစ်ဖန်၊ မနက်ဖြန်ဝယ်
ရောင်လျှံရွှေခဲ၊ ညီလာပွဲ နှင့်
သုပ် ပေါ်လာဦးမည် တကား။ ။

ဇော်ဂျီ

the Zawgyi felt sorrowful
and pine for the red-setting Sun
which traverses to the West yonder:
still in a new beauteous mode
on the morrow
(the Sun) itself
in grand, radiant rays
with pomp and ceremony
will emerge again

Translator's note

The poem was composed by Saya ('revered teacher') Zaw Gyi (7 April 1907-26 September 1990) and first published in the vernacular in Volume 5, No 1 of Oway magazine (December 1935), translated on 3 October 2024.

The Zawgyi used by Saya Zaw Gyi is perhaps both the mythical Zawgyi and the poet Zaw Gyi (himself). Saya Zaw Gyi might have expressed his sentiment and hopes through the mythical Zawgyi whose name he "adopted". With this translation, the translator belatedly and respectfully commemorates the 34th anniversary of Saya Zaw Gyi's passing, which was on 26 September 2024.

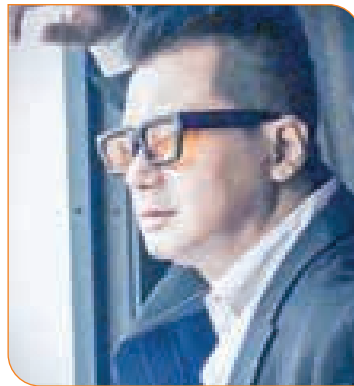
NATIONAL Entertainment



'Hnaung' movie screened on 4 October

THE new Myanmar movie 'Hnaung' (Attachment) was screened across the nation on 4 October. The Premiere Show was conducted at Thamada Cinema in Yangon on 2 October, according to Academy Nay Toe. The actor explained the serious dialogues in the movie that were caused by the various emotions of the characters.

Lwin Min Arnt made a script based on the novel of author Shwe Done Bi Aung. It was directed by director Awratha for the Shwe Nadi Production. The cast includes Academy Nay Toe, Phyo Ngwe Soe, Tun Maung San Min Win, Thuriya, Poe Mahmi Thar, Naw Phaw El Htar and other artistes. — ASH/KTZH



Win Naung
Mandalay Region Thabin Social Welfare Organization Chairman Myanmar traditional dancer Win Naung initiated a fund-raising charity show for flood-hit areas on 29 September. The organization donated commodities and K100,000 to each of the flood-impacted households in Chaungphya village in Yamethin township under the guidance of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization and Mandalay Social Welfare Organization. Moreover, they will also construct for those who lost their homes in the flood.

Nay Win
Academy Nay Win and his wife Chaw Chaw announced the birth of their first child on 4 October in a post saying, "First family photo, both mother and kid are in good health". His friends and fans gave him congratulatory wishes.



Artist Hla Tun Aung
Win Foundation member artists and volunteers will donate K20 million received from the 'Waveless Water Expanse Art' exhibition held at Mandalay Art Gallery, opened in room 105, Aung Chantha Housing near Tamway Ocean, and K2.4 million donated by Myanmar Artists Organization (Central), for the flood victims in Pyin-mana and for rehabilitation measures in Inlay.

Kyaw Htet Aung
Actor Kyaw Htet Aung donated cash to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization for the 47th respect-paying ceremony to aged film artistes on 3 October. The actor also donated to flood victims together with the artistes of the 'Thu Chit Khin' movie in September. He also thanked his fans for supporting his movie 'Thu Chit Khin' until the screening of the second week.



Moe Hay Ko
The new series, 'Amon Myit Kan Par,' which contains 20 episodes, will be broadcast via Mahar Application at 7 pm every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. In that series, actress Moe Hay Ko portrays a teacher character called Ngwe Poe Eain. It was directed by director Thar Nyi, and the cast is composed of Moe Hay Ko, Aung Ye Lin, Tyron and Hsaung Wuttyi May.



Thae Su Nyein
Miss Grand Myanmar Thae Su Nyein won the Top 10 Pre-Arrival Vote competition of Miss Grand International with the highest-ranked voting on 4 October. The beauty made a post, "Tonight is all about unity - a testament that anything is possible when we come together. I'm so proud to know that Myanmar people are standing behind me, providing the strength that has brought me here today with the highest-ranked voting. I wouldn't be where I am without your love and support. That is your night to celebrate, and thank you for making this possible." — Htun Htun/ KTZH



CELEBRITY BRIEF

Thae Su Nyein
Dress - Kham Phillip
Jewelry - Phyo Han Kyaw
Photo - Sora

Attacks on Iran oil infrastructure to send oil price over \$100

As Israel considers retaliatory options following an Iranian missile strike, media reports suggest that targeting Iran's oil infrastructure is under discussion.

ISRAEL'S potential attack on Iran's oil industry may backfire, warned Marc Ayoub, Lebanese energy policy researcher and non-resident fellow at the Tahir Institute for Middle East Policy.

"The damage of Iran crude facilities will certainly have repercussions and cause pressure on the worldwide energy markets," Marc Ayoub, Lebanese energy policy researcher and non-resident fellow at the Tahir Institute for Middle East Policy, told Sputnik, commenting on a possible Israeli strike.

He noted that in the past few days, oil prices went up and could reach \$80 per barrel even before an Israeli attack.

Ayoub's comment comes at a time when Israel is considering a response to the Ira-



Iran's oil infrastructure is a crucial component of its economy, comprising a network of production, refining, and export facilities. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

nian retaliatory missile strike. One of options is to hit Iran's oil infrastructure, American and Israeli media say, citing Israeli officials.

President Joe Biden's comments about discussions between Washington and Tel Aviv have sparked market uncertainty, reminiscent of the 1990 Iraq-Kuwait crisis, with potential oil prices rising above \$100 due to anticipated losses of 1.5 million barrels per day.

Iran's nuclear capabilities and possible blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20 million barrels of oil pass daily, could further escalate tensions and impact global supplies.

As pressure mounts on Biden to impose stricter sanctions on Iran following missile attacks, experts note the U.S. may be hesitant to escalate tensions before the upcoming November elections. — SPUTNIK

BRIEF: WORLD

US: Storm Helene death toll passes 210

MORE than 210 people are now confirmed dead after Hurricane Helene carved a path of destruction through several US states, officials said Thursday, making it the second deadliest storm to hit the US mainland in more than half a century.

US President Joe Biden made his second straight day of visits to the country's southeast to grieve with residents of a region traumatized by a disaster that has upended life for millions.

The storm flooded towns and cities, made countless roads impassable, knocked out power and water service, and left communities shell-shocked as they grapple with the start of a years-long recovery effort.

A compilation of official figures by AFP confirms 212 fatalities across North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee and Virginia. More than half of the deaths were in flood-ravaged North Carolina, which is experiencing an unprecedented disaster described by some as post-apocalyptic.

"I see you, I hear you, I grieve with you — and I promise you, we have your back," Biden said during a stop at a damaged pecan farm in Ray City, Georgia.

Helene is the deadliest hurricane to hit the US mainland since 2005's Katrina, which killed 1,392 people.

Despite hundreds of rescues across six states and an enormous response including thousands of federal personnel and thousands more National Guard members and active-duty troops assisting local responders, the death toll from the sprawling storm is expected to rise. — AFP

Elephants evacuated, animals stranded in floods in Thailand

MORE than 100 elephants in northern Thailand have been moved to higher ground to escape rapidly rising floodwaters, local media reported, but many other animals were still stuck as their sanctuary struggled to evacuate them on Friday.

Saengduean Chailert, di-

rector of the Elephant Nature Park in Chiang Mai province, had posted a video of the panic-stricken elephants splashing through muddy waters and asked the government to send "urgent help".

"The water is flooding worse than before. The entire area is flooded. The whole vil-

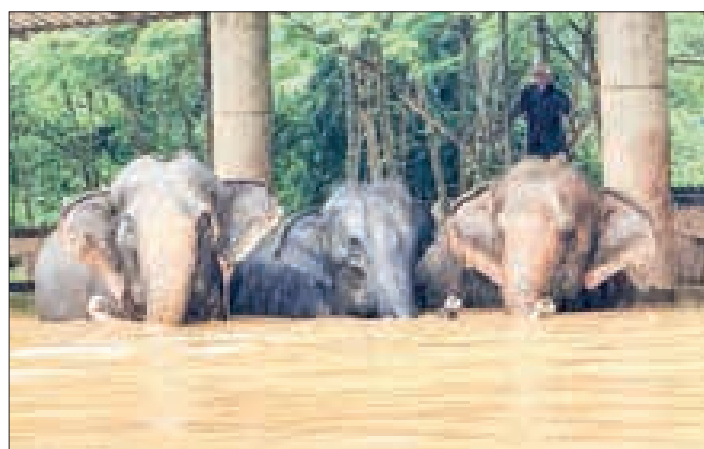
lage is flooded... Right now, we have nowhere to go," she wrote on social media.

Photos and videos showed brown water rushing through the Elephant Nature Park as staff and volunteers carried dogs in blankets and placed cages on rubber tyres to transport animals to safety.

The park falls under the remit of the Save the Elephant Foundation, one of Thailand's biggest elephant conservation NGOs.

One of the foundation's officers told AFP that aside from 126 elephants, there were around 5,000 animals — including dogs, cats, cows, pigs and rabbits — stuck in the floods.

Local media reported that more than 100 staff and volunteers were able to safely transport 117 of the elephants to higher ground. — AFP



Elephants wading through floodwaters at Elephant Nature Park in Chiang Mai, Thailand. **PHOTO: SAVE ELEPHANT FOUNDATION**

ECONOMY WORLD

US, India to cooperate on critical minerals: statement

The agreement seeks to bolster resilience in the critical minerals sector by facilitating the commercial development of exploration, extraction, processing, recycling, and recovery of these resources.



A rare chance to play big in the rare earths market. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE United States and India are set to work together on supply chains for critical minerals that are key to clean energy technologies, the US Commerce Department said Thursday in a statement.

US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and India's Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal met in the US capital Washington on Thursday, inking a deal to "expand and diversify" critical mineral supply lines.

The aim of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to increase resilience in the

critical minerals sector, said the statement.

Both sides will also identify ways to facilitate "commercial development of US and Indian critical minerals exploration, extraction, processing and refining, recycling, and recovery," the statement added.

Rare earth elements and minerals are increasingly important given their use in clean energy technologies like batteries for electric cars.

But the United States is set to face gaps in supplies when it comes to meeting projected demand for Electric Ve-

hicles (EVs).

The United States and India also pledged Thursday to collaborate in the area of semiconductors.

"We will continue to expand cooperation in new areas and strengthen existing ones by capitalising on the immense opportunities for India-US trade and commercial partnership," Goyal said in a post on social media platform X.

The US-Japan deal included commitments not to impose export duties on critical minerals shipped bilaterally. — AFP

Nearly two-thirds of Germans consider buying Chinese cars: survey

NEARLY two-thirds of the respondents in a survey said that they would consider buying a Chinese car, local German media reported on Friday.

Up to 59 per cent of the people surveyed by the German Automobile Club (ADAC) in Germany indicated that buy-

ing a Chinese car is an option for them, according to a report of German public broadcast ARD programme Tagesschau.

There is an even stronger willingness to buy Chinese cars among young people. Among the people aged 30 to 39, 74 per cent of them showed

interest in Chinese cars and among those aged 18 to 29, the proportion stands at 72 per cent.

Affordability plays a main role in the consideration of those willing to consider buying a Chinese car, according to the survey. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

FDI disbursement in Vietnam in 9 months highest in 5 years

FOREIGN direct investment (FDI) disbursement in Vietnam was estimated at 17.3 billion US dollars in the first nine months of this year, the highest in the past five years, according to the latest statistics from the Ministry of Planning and Investment.

FDI flows continue to concentrate in provinces and cities with advantages in attracting foreign investment, such as good infrastructure, stable human resources, efforts to reform administrative procedures, and dynamic investment promotion, Vietnam News Agency reported Friday.

The country's total registered foreign investment, including new capital, adjustments, and capital contributions via share purchases, exceeded 24.78 billion dollars during the cited period, up 11.6 per cent year-on-year.

Foreign capital reached about 4.26 billion dollars in September alone, making up 17.2 per cent of the total for the nine months and the largest monthly amount this year. — Xinhua

Afghanistan warns of closing transit route if Pakistan creates trade obstacles

TALIBAN'S Political Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai has lashed out against Pakistan for creating obstacles for Afghan traders during the peak trading season for fruits and vegetables.

He also suggested the possibility of Afghanistan closing Pakistan's transit route to Central Asia as a response to Islamabad's trade restrictions.

According to Khaama Press, Stanikzai speaking to a group of traders in the Logar province of Afghanistan emphasized that closing trade and transit routes into Pakistan would not be beneficial for either country.

"Afghanistan serves as a vital transit route between Pakistan and Central Asia," he said. "We could close our borders and cause them problems, but we do not wish to harm our Pakistani brothers across the border."

Further he said, "We ask them to keep their borders open during Afghanistan's fruit and vegetable season so that these products can reach their markets and beyond, including India and other countries." The overall nuts segment of the nuts and dry fruits mostly consists of almonds, pistachios, walnuts, dried apricots, dried figs and raisins in Afghanistan. — ANI



Taliban security personnel stand guard at the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Torkham on 15 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Budapest to introduce 70 Chinese electric buses

Budapest will add 70 fully electric buses to its transport fleet starting in spring 2026.

BUDAPEST, the capital city of Hungary, will add 70 fully electric, eco-friendly buses to its transport fleet, starting in the spring of 2026, as part of a phased rollout, Budapest's public transport company BKK announced on Friday.

The low-floor, air-conditioned buses will be supplied by Chinese electric vehicle (EV) company BYD. Consisting of 50

standard and 20 articulated buses, the new fleet will initially serve the city's busy downtown routes.

"A new era for public transport in the capital! The contract has been signed for 70 new buses, which will enhance the city's fleet with BYD's latest fully electric models," Budapest mayor Gergely Karacsony said on his

Facebook page.

They will help achieve the city's goal of creating a more liveable, cleaner and sustainable environment for its residents, the mayor noted.

BYD will also take care of the fleet's maintenance, the employment of drivers, and the development of the necessary electric charging infrastructure. — Xinhua



People wait to board a BYD electric bus in Cape Town, South Africa, 28 February 2024. China-made electric buses have been incorporated into the day-to-day operations of Golden Arrow Bus Services here. **PHOTO: XABISO MKHABELA/XINHUA**

Publisher Springer Nature makes stock market debut

LEADING academic publisher Springer Nature made its stock market debut Friday, one of the few initial public offerings in Frankfurt this year despite the exchange's strong performance.

The share price topped 24 euros (\$26) shortly after trading began, well above the IPO price of 22.50 euros, which valued the group at nearly 4.5 billion euros.

Springer Nature is a major publisher in the fields of research, health and education. Its titles

include Nature and Scientific American, and it has around 9,000 employees in

40 countries.

Demand from both German and foreign in-



Headquarter of Springer Nature in Berlin. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

vestors has been strong, according to Bloomberg.

The IPO is for a maximum of some 600 million euros, partly via a capital increase of 200 million euros, and the rest through the sale of existing shares.

The group says it has a strong position in the growing research publishing market, boosted by trends such as artificial intelligence.

In 2023 it reported sales of 1.85 billion euros and adjusted operating profit of over 500 million euros. — AFP

German car sales fall in September

NEW car sales in Germany slid again in September despite an uptick in demand for electric vehicles, official data showed Friday, in more gloomy news for Europe's biggest auto market.

A total of 208,848 new cars were registered in Germany last month, the KBA federal transport authority said, a seven-per cent drop on the same month a year earlier. Sales of battery-powered electric vehicles (EVs), which had been falling for months, came in at around 34,500 units, up 8.7 per cent from a year earlier. But consul-

tancy EY said this did not signal a turnaround for EV sales as the rise was due to a comparison effect — sales in September 2023 had slumped after certain government subsidies ended the previous month.

EV sales have generally been on a downward trend in 2024 and are well below last year's pace, with critics blaming the phaseout of the incentives. EY analyst Constantin Gall said the German auto market faces a "problematic mix", from a weak domestic economy to poor consumer sentiment. — AFP

EU court blocks French ban on vegetable 'steak' labelling

A European court on Friday overturned a French government ban on makers of plant-based meats calling their products "steak" or "sausage", which Paris had imposed to protect livestock farmers.

EU members states cannot ban the use of commonly used terms if they do not have legal definitions, the Court of Justice of the European Union

(CJUE) said in its ruling.

France issued decrees in 2022 and February 2024 restricting the use of words including "ham", "steak", "sausage" and "bacon" to animal-based products.

Authorities said the rules were needed to avoid creating confusion for consumers.

French livestock farmers had long lobbied for the measure, and their

lobbying organization denounced Friday's ruling.

Interbev, which represents France's cattle and livestock industries, said it "deplores this decision that validates the usurpation of natural products to commercialise ultra-transformed foods".

Makers of vegetable-based proteins had protested the government's decrees, and France's top administra-

tive court had suspended them while it awaited the CJUE's decision.

A preliminary ruling had said that banning use of the words "would seriously and immediately harm the interests of businesses" involved in the plant-based protein industry.

"This is a very welcome victory," said La Vie, a French maker of plant-based meats. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (188N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (188N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-10-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter shows the H2A No 49 rocket, carrying an information-gathering satellite, being launched from the Tanegashima Space Centre in Kagoshima Prefecture on 26 September 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

5 OCTOBER

Japan to expand GPS network

Japan plans to expand its quasi-zenith satellite network from four to 11 satellites by fiscal 2026.

JAPAN will expand its quasi-zenith satellite network, which serves as the country's own global positioning system, from the current four satellites to 11, with the aim of providing a more reliable service in areas where signals are blocked by buildings or trees, according to a government plan.

By fiscal 2026, Japan's Michibiki system will operate with seven satellites, enhancing global positioning ser-

vices independently of foreign systems. Michibiki's signals are widely used for driving, drones, agriculture, and maritime navigation.

An additional four satellites will be developed for backup starting in fiscal 2025. The network, which currently has four satellites, aims to reduce positioning errors to a few centimeters for various applications. – Kyodo

4 OCTOBER

UK calls for more EV support amid discounts

BRITAIN'S automobile trade body Friday asked the country's new government for greater support to boost sales of electric vehicles, saying manufacturers' collective discounts this year worth £2 billion (\$2.6 billion) were unsustainable.

In an open letter to Finance Minister Rachel Reeves, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) said EVs' share of new car sales was set to miss out on the Labour government's zero emission vehicle target this year – despite a record September.

UK automotive leaders, including heads of BMW, Ford, and Mercedes-Benz, warned that the lack of fiscal incentives for consumers will hinder the zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) market from meeting targets, predicting only 18.5 per cent of car sales will be electric this year, below the previous 22 per cent goal, despite record EV registrations. – AFP

3 OCTOBER

Milei vetoes university funding amid protests

ARGENTINE President Javier Milei has made good on threats to veto proposed increases to university funding, with the measure made official early Thursday after a day of major student-led protests.

Thousands of Argentines joined the demonstration Wednesday in defence of the country's cherished public university system – the second large-scale protest in six months on the issue.

Argentinian President Javier Milei, an "anarcho-capitalist", vetoed a law that would have guaranteed funding increases for universities, igniting public outrage.

While inflation has decreased, his spending cuts have led to rising poverty, affecting over half the population. Protests erupted in Buenos Aires and other cities, with demonstrators emphasizing the importance of education. – AFP

2 OCTOBER

East Coast dockers strike disrupts global trade

US DOCKERS have initiated a strike across 36 ports on the East Coast and Gulf of Mexico, significantly impacting global trade, particularly with Europe.

These ports handle about half of North America's maritime trade, blocking essential goods like food, electronics, and automotive parts.

Experts predict a weekly hit to the US GDP of \$4.5 billion to \$7.5 billion due to rising costs, backlogs, and rerouted shipments.

The strike could severely disrupt maritime schedules, delaying shipments from the Far East and affecting European exporters, particularly as the holiday season approaches. Freight companies are already raising costs, with Maersk imposing surcharges on containers.

While some exporters have turned to air transport, this isn't viable for all goods, leading to broader supply chain issues.

If the strike continues, significant strain on shipping schedules and container availability is expected, potentially raising consumer prices and disrupting the market further. – AFP

1 OCTOBER

Chinese celebrate 75th birthday of people's republic

READY to welcome myriad domestic and foreign tourists over the coming days, Tian'anmen Square, the political heart of China and no stranger to pomp and ceremony, has been given a festive makeover featuring an 18-metre-high flower basket centrepiece. The square is pulsating with vitality as children frolic around waving national flags, youngsters proudly display the national flag stickers on their cheeks, and the elderly hum along to the patriotic melody of "Ode to My Homeland". The People's Republic of China (PRC) on Tuesday marked its 75th founding anniversary. From bustling cities like Beijing, where the streets are lined with fluttering national flags and floral displays, to the doorways of communities and neighborhoods adorned with lanterns and Chinese knots, similar scenes were seen across the country.

As the PRC celebrates its 75th anniversary, the country is 11 years away from its goal of realizing socialist modernization, and 25 years from becoming a great modern socialist country in all respects by the mid-21st century. – Xinhua

30 SEPTEMBER

PM Ishiba set to call general election on 27 October

JAPAN'S incoming prime minister, Shigeru Ishiba, said Monday that a general election will be held on 27 October to seek a fresh mandate as his party looks to rebound from a political funds scandal, likely meaning official campaigning will begin 15 October.

Ishiba, who was chosen by the Liberal Democratic Party as its new president on Friday, made the announcement a day before he is set to be elected prime minister on the first day of an extraordinary Diet session.

His decision sparked swift backlash from the opposition, as Ishiba, a former defence minister, previously stated during the LDP leadership campaign that he would dissolve the House after adequate debate time. – Kyodo

29 SEPTEMBER

SpaceX to take stranded astronauts home next year

THE SpaceX crew that will ferry back in February two astronauts stranded on the International Space Station docked with the orbiting laboratory on Sunday, a live stream of the mission showed.

The SpaceX crew that will ferry back in February two astronauts stranded on the International Space Station docked with the orbiting laboratory on Sunday, a live stream of the mission showed.

The Falcon 9 rocket launched the Crew-9 mission from Cape Canaveral, Florida, at 1:17 pm on Saturday, docking with the ISS at 5:30 pm Sunday. NASA astronaut Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Alexander Gorbunov joined the station's crew around 7:00 pm, warmly welcomed by commander Suni Williams. – AFP

SPORTS

Myanmar announces squad for friendlies against Sri Lanka

THE Myanmar national football team has released a 27-player squad for the upcoming friendly matches against the Sri Lankan team on the afternoon of 5 October.

Initially, the Myanmar squad consisted of 39 players and began training on 24 September. Head coach U Myo Hlaing Win reduced the team to 27 players just days before the friendly match. The announced roster includes vital players like goalkeeper San Set Naing, defender Hlaing Phyto Win, midfielder Wai Lin Aung, and forward Win Naing Tun, along with head coach U Myo Hlaing Win.

Myanmar and Sri Lanka will face off in two friendly matches at 4 pm on 10 and 13 October at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Team Myanmar players undergo special training ahead of friendlies against Sri Lanka. **PHOTO: MFF**

Junior Lions, Thitsa Arman end at 1-1 stalemate in MNL U-20



Players from Junior Lions and Thitsa Arman fight for the ball during the Myanmar National League U-20 game. **PHOTO: MNL**

JUNIOR Lions and Thitsa Arman played to a 1-1 draw on the final day of the 2024 MNL U-20 Youth League Fixture 17 on 5 October at Padonma Stadium.

This match marked the return for Junior Lions, Myanmar U-17 national team, after their Qatar trip, securing only a single point. With this result, Junior Lions slipped from second to third place, now trailing Shan United by seven points. Thitsa Arman, who are mid-table contenders, opened the scoring but conceded an equalizer shortly after.

Thitsa Arman's Than Htaik Aung netted the first goal in 47 minutes, but Junior Lions' Khant Win Aung equalized in 54 minutes. The Man of the Match award went to Okay Chit from Thitsa Arman.

After Fixture 17, Shan United remained leaders with 38 points from 16 games, followed by ISPE FC with 33 points from 15 games, and Junior Lions with 31 points from 16 games. Other teams, including Dagon Star, Yangon United, Thitsa Arman, Rakhine United, Ayeyawady United, Yadanabon FC and Dagon Port, follow closely in the standings. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Gauff fights back to set up Beijing final against Muchova

COCO Gauff fought back from a set down to reach the China Open final on Saturday and set up a showdown with party-pooper Karolina Muchova.

The American former US Open champion beat Spain's Paula Badosa 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 to close on an eighth title.

The 20-year-old faces Muchova after the 49th-ranked Czech silenced a capacity Beijing crowd to beat bloodied Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen in straight sets. Sixth-ranked Gauff has struggled for form in recent months and split with coach Brad Gilbert after her

US Open defence ended in the last 16 in a blur of double-faults. Gauff struggled again with her serve against Badosa, racking up 11 double-faults.

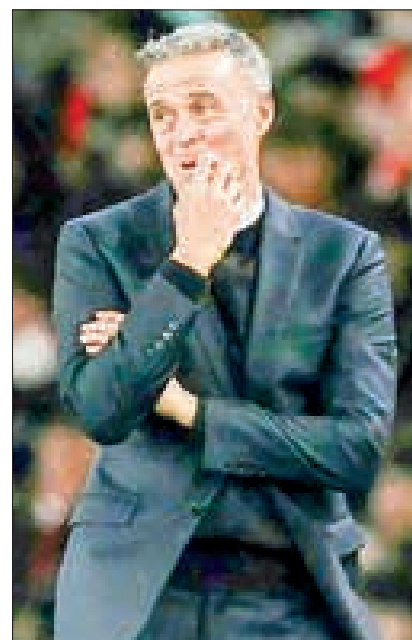
But she belatedly found a semblance of top form to down the former world number two in two hours, 20 minutes. — AFP

'Imperfect' PSG fighting on all fronts - Luis Enrique

PARIS:SAINT-GERMAIN coach Luis Enrique insisted Saturday his "imperfect" side were still in the fight on all fronts this season despite a Champions League defeat to Arsenal.

The French champions travel to Nice on Sunday looking to bounce back in the comfort of Ligue 1 action after this week's 2-0 defeat in London.

"We are imperfect, we will improve but I am sure that this team will battle in all competitions," Spaniard Luis Enrique told a pre-match press conference.



"If we replay this match against Arsenal, at home at the Parc des Princes, perhaps the result will not be the same".

The former Spain manager defended Italian goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma after a disappointing performance against Arsenal.

"When there's a defeat, it's very sad to hit out at a player. We often pick on Donnarumma, please leave him alone and pick on me instead," he told journalists. — AFP

Paris Saint-Germain's Spanish coach Luis Enrique. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tokyo Tower targets high-end foreign tourists with new luxury tour



The exclusive lounge for Tokyo Tower's new luxury group tours is seen on 3 October 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The Tokyo Diamond Tour, limited to 10 participants per session and led by a dedicated guide, will be offered seven times daily.

The operator of Tokyo Tower said Thursday it will launch luxury small group tours this weekend offering priority access to the observation deck, in a move aimed at attracting high-end foreign tourists.

The Tokyo Diamond Tour, priced at 7,000 yen (\$50) per adult, will be held seven times a day from Saturday, with each session capped at 10 participants. A dedicated guide will accompany each group.

Shin Maeda, president of Tokyo Tow-

er Co, said the tour is "the most expensive among all observation decks in Japan".

Tokyo Tower sees around 2.2 million visitors annually, with foreign tourists making up 40 per cent of the total. The site, once home to the exclusive "Koyo-kan" restaurant, will feature a red-themed lounge honoring its history. The tour includes entertainment, stunning views from two observation decks, and private elevator access. Ticket prices for the main deck will rise to 1,500 yen. — Kyodo

Carpe diem: the Costa Rican women turning fish into fashion

Entrepreneurs transform sea bass skins into stylish products, thereby enhancing incomes through a combination of careful craftsmanship and effective social media marketing.

IN Costa Rica, Mauren Castro and Marta Sosa have transformed their lives by turning discarded fish skins into sustainable fashion through the Piel Marina cooperative.



Earrings and keychains are made with fish leather by women from the Piel Marina cooperative at the Costa de Pajaros beach in Puntarenas, Costa Rica. **PHOTO: AFP**

Two years ago, these women were stay-at-home moms relying on their husbands' fishing incomes in Costa de Pajaros, a village impacted by fishing regulations aimed at sustainability. The NGO MarViva trained them to become seafront tanners, initially skeptical about the potential of fish skins, which were seen as waste.

Today, they skilfully transform sea bass skins into fashionable items like earrings, necklaces, and handbags. The process involves rubbing, washing, dyeing, and drying the skins, resulting in a soft, waterproof leather that no longer smells. The dyeing takes four days, followed by four days of drying under the sun.

Wearing blue rubber gloves, Castro and Sosa demonstrate their craft, illustrating how their work not only supplements their families' incomes but also empowers them economically. They now promote their vibrant jewellery through social media, showcasing their journey from scepticism to entrepreneurship, highlighting the creative potential of materials previously deemed worthless. — AFP

Portugal looks to put new twist on cork industry

PORTUGAL, the world's leading cork producer, is finding new uses for the material, from footwear to furniture, as demand for wine bottle stoppers wanes. Producers highlight the environmentally friendly properties of cork, which is lightweight, recyclable, waterproof and fire-resistant,

Cork's unique elastic and impermeable properties enable its use in various applications, including fashion items, furniture, and thermal protection for rockets.



A scale model of a prototype house using cork as thermal insulation on display at the Corticeira Amorim cork factory in Mozelos in northern Portugal. **PHOTO: AFP**

to encourage its use in diverse settings. Cork is obtained by stripping the bark of cork oak trees every nine years in a careful process that allows the tree to regenerate and grow, making the industry naturally sustainable. Corticeira Amorim, the world's largest cork producer, boasts a negative carbon footprint due to cork's CO₂-capturing properties.

As global wine sales decline, demand for cork stoppers has waned amid competition from cheaper alternatives. CEO Antonio Rios de Amorim emphasizes using slowdowns to innovate. Cork's elastic and impermeable structure has led to diverse applications, including fashion, furniture, and even thermal protection for rockets. — AFP