

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla watch Maha Zanaka Drama contest

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla yesterday evening watched the Maha Zanaka Drama contest of the 25th Anniversary (Silver Jubilee) Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2024 at the open-air theatre of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee.

The Senior General, his wife, and his entourage enjoyed performances by the Min Naing Soe theatrical troupe representing Mon State in the Maha Zanaka Drama contest.

After the competition, the Senior General and his wife warmly greeted the maestros and contestants.

Also present at the competition were SAC Member General Maung Maung



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, and dignitaries view the Maha Zanaka Drama contest represented by Mon State yesterday.

Aye and his wife, Union ministers and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, deputy ministers, members of the panel of judges, and contestants together with cadets who arrived in Nay Pyi Taw on their excursion tours, staff and their families.

The Maha Ayeyar troupe from Ayeyawady Region, the Phankhamyay troupe from Magway Region, and the Min Naing Soe troupe from Mon State participated in the Maha Zanaka Drama contest from 14 to 16 October. Drama troupes from Mandalay, Yangon, Bago and Sagaing regions will also compete on 17-20 October. — MNA/TTA

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Citizens yet to be counted in Nationwide Census to be reassessed



- The 2024 Nationwide Census activities were conducted from 1 to 15 October.
- The people who have not completed census processes due to various reasons can contact the relevant ward and village census committees and township census committees to collect census data again.
- Individuals can also contact 067 431062, 067 431359, 067 431067, 067 431339. — Central Census Commission

Youth Success: Discipline and Lawfulness as Foundations for Nation-Building

- Youths must adhere to discipline and laws to achieve success in their lives.
- By following the laws and regulations set by the government, they can become valuable, law-abiding citizens dedicated to serving the nation.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony of presenting awards to outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination 2024 with distinctions in all subjects on 22 July 2024)

Meritorious offering commemorates 146th anniversary of King Mindon's demise

ON the 146th anniversary of the demise of King Mindon, the founder of Yadanapon palace, the ceremony of donating alms and doing meritorious deeds was held on 8 October at the Maha Dhammika Rama Shwekyin monastery, said Htake Tin Aung, a royal member.

The ceremony was attended by the royal brothers and sisters of the Konbaung Dynasty, relatives and friends. They offered meals and provisions to more than 90 monks and novices at the monastery.

“As King Mindon died in 1240 ME, it is now the 146th anniversary. He died on the sixth waxing day of Thadingyut, so we offered donations on that day. We donated day meal to the monks

and novices at the monastery and offered provisions to more than 90 monks and novices,” he said.

It is called Matagabat meal, which means a food offering made for the merit of a deceased person.

“After the death of King Mindon, King Thibaw, Prince Pyinmana, and Htayankar Htake Khaung Tin offered food without fail. But, after the death of Prince Pyinmana and Htayankar Htake Khaung Tin, Matagabat meals weren't offered for 51 years. It was offered again on the sixth waxing of Thadingyut (October) in 2015. That is the 10th time royal family members have made this donation,” he said. — MT/ZN



This photo shows the ceremony donating alms and food at the 146th anniversary of the demise of King Mindon.



This photo depicts the pagoda sculpture procession and oil lamp offerings at the Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LAT(MNA)**

Shwedagon illuminates 1,100 oil lamps for Thadingyut Festival

ON the eve of the Thadingyut Full Moon Festival, a ceremony was held to offer 1,100 oil lamps and electric lights at the sacred Shwedagon Pagoda. The event took place in the evening on the grounds of the Shwedagon Pagoda, organized by the board of trustees, which oversees the Shwedagon Pagoda's treasury.

Present at the ceremony were Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and his wife, regional ministers and their spouses and worshippers. They began by performing a clockwise procession

around the pagoda, offering electric lights and flowers in reverence to the Buddha images located at the ancient Buddha Statues Shrine.

Following this, the main offering of oil lamps and electric lights was conducted at the Rahu Corner of the Shwedagon Pagoda. The Chief Minister, his wife, regional ministers and their spouses offered flowers, cool water and oil lamps at the shrine.

The ceremony continued with the chanting of sacred verses, including the “Nila Nila” and the “Thawannikan”

prayers for blessings. Participants took five precepts, presented flowers, cool water, and incense, and recited the “Bhagawan Bhone Hlaing” prayer as part of the rituals.

The event concluded with the Yangon Region Chief Minister, his wife, regional ministers, religious associations, donors, and worshippers collectively lighting the oil lamps placed around the Shwedagon Pagoda as part of the traditional offerings for the Pre-Thadingyut Full Moon Festival. — Zaw Min Lat (MNA)/KZL

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)

Silver Jubilee Performing Arts Competition ongoing

THE 25th Anniversary Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition entered its third day yesterday. The competition was held at designated venues across Nay Pyi Taw, with participants showcasing their talents in various categories.

The “Mahagita” song competition for male amateur-level (second class) took place at the Signing Room of the Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC II). Contestants from Ayeyawady Region, Kachin State, Yangon Region, Sagaing Region, Bago Region, Mon State, Kayin State, Kayah State, Rakhine State, and Mandalay Region competed by singing “Sein Kyaung Ni Lar” (Pattayoe). In the female amateur-level (first class) competition, participants from Ayeyawady Region, Rakhine State, Bago Region, Kayah State, Yangon Region, Sagaing Region, Taninthayi Region, and Mandalay Region performed “Sein Mya Yan Chel” (Mon).

The “Modern” song competition was held at the Banquet Hall of MICC II, where male contestants in the basic education level (ages 10 to 15) from Taninthayi Region, Rakhine State, Mandalay Region, Yangon Region, Mon State, Kayin State, Magway Region, Bago Region, Sagaing Region, Kachin State, Shan State, and Ayeyawady Region competed, singing “Koet Yat Hta Nay”. Female am-



State Administration Council Member Porel Aung Thein, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and dignitaries view the 25th Anniversary Performing Arts Competition in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

ateur-level (second class) from Yangon Region, Sagaing Region, Ayeyawady Region, Magway Region, Kayah State, Mon State, Chin State, Kayin State, Rakhine State, Mandalay Region, Kachin State, Taninthayi Region, Shan State, and Bago Region performed “Nway Moe Saung”.

At the Myanmar International Convention Centre II (Plenary Hall), the dance competition took place. Male amateur-level (first class) from Mandalay Region, Sagaing Region, Ayeyawady Region, Mon State, Magway Region, Yangon Region, Kayin State, and Taninthayi

Region performed, accompanied by traditional musical ensembles from their respective regions and states. Female contestants in the basic education level (ages 10 to 15) from Yangon Region, Rakhine State, Mon State, Bago Region, Magway Region, Kayin State, Sagaing Region, Taninthayi Region, Kachin State, Kayah State, Shan State, and Ayeyawady Region also participated in the competition.

The traditional musical instrument competition (song performance) was held at the Cultural Heritage Hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

Participants in the higher education level from Kayin State, Sagaing Region, Bago Region, Magway Region, Mandalay Region, Yangon Region, and Ayeyawady Region performed the song “Htantara Tae Asa Mahagita”.

Various other categories, such as piano and guitar competitions, are set to continue as part of the celebrations. Competitors from states and regions across Myanmar are participating in this 25th Anniversary event, which honours the country’s rich cultural heritage. — MNA/KZL



Singing contestant from Mandalay Region.



Violin contestant from Bago Region.



Dance contestant from Mon State.

NATIONAL

Silver Jubilee Performing Arts Competition ongoing



ရတနာတိုင်းဒေသကြီး



State Administration Council Member U Yan Kyaw and dignitaries view the Silver Jubilee Performing Arts Competition in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Violin contestant from Kachin State.



Violin contestant from Ayeyawady Region.



Orchestra troupe, amateur level (second class) male contestant from Mon State.

Rakhine govt hosts alms ceremony for 600 monks, nuns at Lokananda

A ceremony to donate food and offerings for 600 monks and nuns was held at the Lokananda Pagoda platform in Sittway on 16 October under the supervision of the Rakhine State government, according to the state government.

Members of the government headed by the chief minister and officials attended the event.

The alms donation ceremony for 500 monks and 100 nuns was held at 7 am at the Lokananda Pagoda platform in Sittway.



This photo showcases alms donations for 600 monks and nuns at Lokananda Pagoda.

Alms include 287 rice bags and materials worth more than K70 million and K8.7 million in cash. A water-pouring session for sharing meritorious deeds followed up the ceremony.

Thadingyut holiday is an auspicious occasion when Myanmar Buddhists regularly hold religious and cultural celebrations such as pagoda festivals, alms donations, offering light candles, visiting monasteries for donations, and paying homage to older people. — MT/ZN

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511
ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

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

NATIONAL

World Food Day 2024: Myanmar showcases agricultural achievements and challenges

THE World Food Day commemoration, which is observed annually by UN member countries on 16 October, was held at the assembly hall of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The event was attended by Union Ministers U Min Naung, U Hla Moe, and U Khin Maung Yi, along with deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, and heads of departments from various universities, as well as staff members.

At the ceremony, Union Minister U Min Naung highlighted that, according to this year's reports from the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), small-scale farmers produce one-third of the world's food supply. He noted that climate change is severely affecting the livelihoods of poor rural communities and the productivity of agricultural sectors. Approximately 600 million people globally suffer from health issues, with over 400,000 dying each year due to unhealthy diets. Additionally, 13 per cent of food production is lost during harvesting and transportation, while 19 per cent is wasted at the retail and consumption stages worldwide.

Myanmar, under the leadership of the State Administration Council, has established two national initiatives: ensuring na-



Union Minister U Min Naung speaks on the occasion of World Food Day 2024 yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

tional prosperity and increasing food and water security. The government is placing particular emphasis on improving productivity in the agricultural sector. To provide nutritious and safe food for the public, agricultural policies, strategic plans, and both short-term and long-term development projects have been formulated and are being implemented effectively.

Myanmar, with approximately 12 million hectares of arable land for diverse crop cultivation, grows around 61 types of crops annually, including rice, seed-producing maize, oil crops, pulses, industrial raw materials, kitchen crops, fruits, and vegetables. In the 2023-2024 period, rice was cultivated on

more than 7.18 million hectares, yielding over 29.94 million metric tonnes. Oil crops were grown on over 3.34 million hectares, producing more than 3.23 million metric tonnes, while pulses were cultivated on more than 2.76 million hectares, yielding over 4.13 million metric tonnes.

In terms of livestock and fish production during the 2023-2024 period, Myanmar produced 1.24 million metric tonnes of meat, and 2.19 million metric tonnes of milk. Additionally, freshwater and marine fishing, along with aquaculture, produced more than 3870 million visses (a Myanmar unit) of fish and prawns. To prevent the depletion of fish stocks, annual restocking is conducted by

releasing fish into major rivers and natural streams, with more than 55 million fish and prawn fry released in 2024.

Furthermore, under the State Administration Council, initiatives are being implemented to increase crop production and raise individual farmers' incomes through the National Economic Promotion Fund, which totals K286.1 billion. This fund supports programmes for the cultivation of monsoon rice, summer rice, and oil crops. To promote the development of the oil crop sector, expansion projects are underway for growing crops such as peanuts, sesame, and sunflower.

Additionally, a budget of K32 billion from the National

Economic Promotion Fund is being allocated to support livestock farming across different regions and states, including broiler chicken, egg-laying duck, and pork production. Irrigation projects are also being carried out using K0.604 billion from the same fund to ensure water availability for agriculture.

In line with the 2024 World Food Day theme, "Right to Food for a Better Life and a Better Future", it was emphasized that every person has the right to sufficient food, alongside the need to promote better production, nutrition, social well-being, and environmental sustainability. To achieve this, there is a call for transforming agricultural and food systems, increasing investments, and encouraging innovation. It also urges all stakeholders involved in agricultural and food systems to collaborate extensively towards these goals.

During the 2024 World Food Day commemoration, a video message from the Director-General of the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, was shown, along with a documentary video from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation. This video highlighted the country's crop and livestock production sectors, accompanied by photographic records of agricultural and livestock activities. — MNA/TMT

Support provided to citizens attending military training



Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win encourages trainees attending the People's Military Service Training Course 6/2024 from Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

AYEYAWADY Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win, along

with Maj-Gen Wai Lin and other officials, visited and offered words of encouragement to the patriotic trainees attending the People's Military Service Training Course 6/2024 from Ayeyawady Region yesterday morning at the Western Command sports ground.

During the visit, officials also provided necessary supplies to the trainees. They held a friendly discussion with trainees, addressing their needs and coordinating necessary arrangements, according to reports. — MNA/KZL

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

NATIONAL

Myanmar, Hubei Province discuss multisectoral development



This photo shows Myanmar Consul-General U Kyaw Zay Yar Lin presenting a commemorative gift.

MYANMAR Consul-General U Kyaw Zay Yar Lin of the Consulate-General of the Republic of Union of Myanmar in Chongqing and Mr Li Jun, Deputy Director-General of Hubei Province's Foreign Affairs Office, discussed bilateral economic, trade, education, culture and tourism development, in Wuhan city, Hubei Province, on 14 October.

Myanmar Consul-General also met Mr Chen Huarong, Deputy Director-General of the Trade Department of Hubei Province, and exchanged ideas on the potential for economic, trade, and investment promotion.

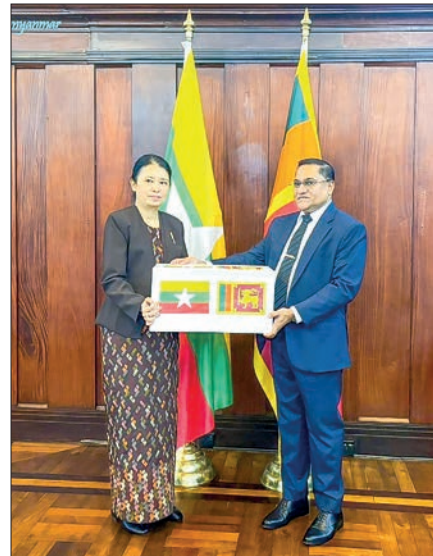
Moreover, he also addressed humanitarian assistance and repatriation matters for Myanmar citizens who have been detained for various reasons in Hubei Province during his discussion with Mrs Luo Meng, Deputy Director-General of the Public Security Department of Hubei Province. — ASH/KK

Sri Lanka donates Ceylon tea to flood-hit communities nationwide

FOR flood victims across various affected regions in Myanmar, 226.2 kilograms of Ceylon Tea were donated by Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath on 14 October at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs office in Sri Lanka. The donation was received by Myanmar Ambassador to Sri Lanka Daw Marlar Than Htike, who also expressed her gratitude for the donation.

Organizations and donors from countries such as China, Japan, and South Korea have also provided financial support and donated essential items to aid in relief and recovery efforts for flood victims across affected regions in Myanmar.

It is essential to manage the donations made by generous donors systematically, ensuring they reach those who genuinely need them. Contributions from abroad, made with pure goodwill and free from conditions, are being processed systematically and accepted. Donors are encouraged to continue supporting the country's economic development initiatives and efforts to enhance the education of its citizens. This message was conveyed by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister, during a donation event on 28 September in Nay Pyi Taw, aimed at supporting relief and recovery efforts



Myanmar Ambassador to Sri Lanka Daw Marlar Than Htike accepts Ceylon Tea donated by Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath on 14 October in Sri Lanka.

for regions affected by flooding related to the recent monsoon. — ASH/TMT

Miss Tourism Myanmar represents at Miss Tourism of the Globe 2024 in China

MISS Thinzar Chan Myae will represent Myanmar in the Miss Tourism of the Globe 2024 pageant, which is being held in China.

She arrived in Xi'an, China, at 12:05 am local time on 15 October 2024 and checked in at the Slater International Hotel along with other international contestants.

After her arrival, she participated in various activities, including a welcome luncheon hosted by the hotel, rehearsals for the Day II introduction event, and a visit to the ancient city wall of Xi'an. That evening, the contestants dined on traditional local cuisine.

She also attended the official welcoming meeting, where essential information about the pageant was shared. The Miss Tourism of the Globe 2024 competition is being held in Xi'an in central China and Zhangye in northwestern China from 14 to 23 October 2024. It covers over 40 contestants from various countries, including Myanmar. — ASH/MKKS



Miss Thinzar Chan Myae is seen with other international Misses in Xi'an, China.

'Original Gangster 3' premieres nationwide on 17 Oct after years of delay

THE Myanmar film 'Original Gangster 3', produced by Golden King Film Production, is set to be screened in major cinemas across the country starting on 17 October.

Yone Lay wrote the screenplay and directed the film, with the script being penned by Deeyayhline. The film marks a significant release after overcoming several hurdles.

Yone Lay revealed that although the movie was shot in 2016, it faced censorship and was initially banned from screening. After revising the script in 2019, they were allowed to resume

filming. The film received permission for theatrical release on 19 March 2020 but had to delay its release due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The movie will now finally premiere on the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut.

The film features prominent actors, including Academy Award winners Myint Myat and Khin Wint Wah, along with Htoo Char, Nan Khin Zeya, and many others. A special premiere of 'Original Gangster 3' was held on 14 October at the President Cinema in Dagon Township, Yangon. — ASH/TRKM



Poet Dr Soe Myat Nwe.

New poetry book launched on 14 Oct

A new poetry book titled 'The Right to Choose Suffering: Modern Poems' was launched at Hood Hostel in Kyauktada Township, Yangon, on 14 October. The book was compiled and published by Dr Soe Myat Nwe, marking her birthday, and features contributions from about 60 poets.

At the launch event, Dr Soe Myat Nwe was joined by renowned poets and writers, including Saya Hein Latt, Saya Maung Thway Thit, Saya Pyinsaman D-Rhyne,

Saya Nwe Oo Hlaing, Saya Maung Khit Htun, and Saya Myat Khine, who each gave remarks about the book and its significance.

Talking about the book, contributing poet Saya Nwe Oo Hlaing shared, "Soe Myat Nwe is the daughter of the poet Ko Ko. She has been living abroad and holds a PhD in Peace Studies. She returns to Myanmar about once a year to pursue her passion for music and literature. That is her fourth published poetry book."

'The Right to Choose Suffering: Modern Poems' was published by Mal Pyi Aye Collective Wisdom Publishing and is distributed across Myanmar by Ko Latt Publishing at a price of K8,500. — ASH/KZL

Drawing lots for Thukha Dagon Public Rental Housing units to take place on 26 Oct

QUALIFIED applicants are entitled to participate in drawing lots for Thukha Dagon Public Rental Housing units on 26 October 2024, according to the Leasing and Disciplinary Committee.

Thukha Dagon Public Rental Housing is being developed at the junction of No 2 Highway Road and Yangon Outer Ring Road in Dagon Myothit (South) Township to provide rental housing for the public, pensioners and civil servants at the set rental rates.

The Housing Supervision Committee and Leasing and Disciplinary Committee will let those who meet the criteria and those qualified applicants who did not

win the previous time draw lots.

The list of qualified applicants and place to draw lots are declared at the respective offices of the General Administration Department between 11 and 25 October. Those applicants will draw lots at the designated building of the rental housing at 10 am on 26 October, presenting a citizenship scrutiny card and housing registration.

Those who fail to do so in the set timeframe will be discarded from the list. Individuals can enquire about units of the Thukha Dagon Public Rental Housing through contact numbers 09 421259682 and 09 699998814. — NN/KK



Apartment units of Thukha Dagon public rental housing in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

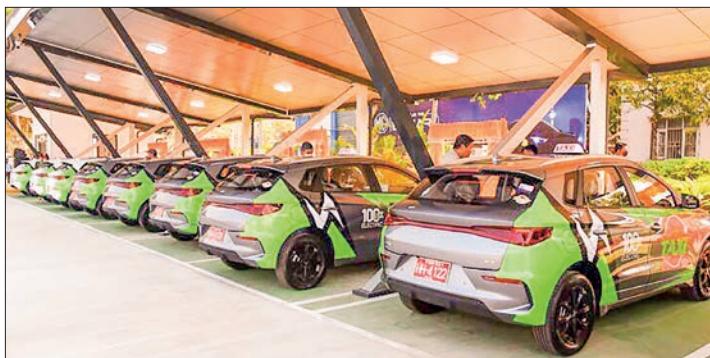
EV charging stations announce price adjustments

ELECTRIC Vehicles (EV) charging stations amended prices on 15 October, the EV operating and infrastructures implementation committee announced.

The committee instructed charging stations to amend the charges in line with the electricity price cap and report it to the committee. According to the decision

of the coordination meeting of the committee, charging stations, and EV taxi operating companies held on 11 September 2024, charges are set at K700 per unit of EV passenger vehicles and taxis and K750 per unit of private cars.

The charging station companies, EV charger stations, private companies and hotel & shopping centres are notified of the price adjustment. The stations should declare the rates with a price sign display to energy consumers starting from 15 October 2024. — NN/KK



This file photo shows EV taxis charging at a station.

CBM sells \$6M, 200M Thai baht on 15 October

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) injected over US\$6 million and 200 million Thai baht into the financial sector on 15 October.

It sold 730,000 on 11 October, \$12.4 million, 38.7 million baht, 660,000 yuan on 9 October and over 10 million baht on 7 October into the private sector.

CBM also pumped \$13.1 million and 288,000 yuan on 4 October, \$780,000, 1.2 million yuan and one million 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 the 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 de-

valuation. 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

YGN palm oil wholesale reference rate dips this week

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market declined a bit to K6,355 per viss this week ending 20 October, down from K6,455 of last week ending 13 October, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The figures showed a drop of K100 per viss compared to those of the past two weeks.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

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

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



Cooking oil bottles are organized for sales at the supermarket.

Law.

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

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

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

OPINION

ARTICLE

Eradicate poverty in Myanmar's society through unity

BOTH developed and developing countries are encouraging the operation of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises to strengthen their economies and the private sector, recognizing the crucial role these enterprises play in eradicating poverty.

The best way to bolster a country's economic sector is through the operation of MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises). These businesses can enhance the socioeconomic conditions of the population and help tackle poverty. By creating employment opportunities, MSMEs enable individuals to earn incomes for their families, thereby alleviating poverty to some extent.

The United Nations has designated the theme for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October as "Ending Social and Institutional Maltreatment: Acting Together for Just, Peaceful, and Inclusive Societies," emphasizing the goal of eradicating poverty worldwide. Poverty has multiple dimensions — some visible and others hidden — but all are interconnected. Such a significant international day reminds everybody of the importance of eradicating poverty.

Government departments and organizations have conducted vocational training courses more than 5,500 times for youth to produce skilled workers for production institutions, benefiting both individuals and the state economy. These training programs help families increase their incomes, allowing them to overcome poverty. Additionally, residents in various regions must collaborate with the government on development initiatives to foster peace and stability. By doing so, the country can effectively alleviate poverty within its society.

This year's theme will focus on collaborative efforts to advance Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16), which aims to promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies. People living in poverty often encounter negative attitudes, facing stigma, discrimination, and judgment based on factors such as their appearance, accent, or address — or the lack thereof. They are frequently blamed for their circumstances and treated with disrespect.

Social maltreatment fosters an environment conducive to institutional maltreatment, characterized by negative attitudes such as mistrust and disrespect, alongside controlling discriminatory policies and practices. These lead to the denial of fundamental human rights, including access to healthcare, education, housing, and the right to legal identity.

As part of the initiative to reduce poverty in Myanmar, 102 state-owned factories and 47,119 private-run factories are creating employment opportunities by manufacturing products across 33 industrial zones and wards, as well as three special economic zones, to stimulate the nation's economy. All Myanmar citizens need to understand that only when everybody actively takes part in poverty eradication will the initiative achieve success.

Government departments and organizations have conducted vocational training courses more than 5,500 times for youth to produce skilled workers for production institutions, benefiting both individuals and the state economy. These training programs help families increase their incomes, allowing them to overcome poverty. Additionally, residents in various regions must collaborate with the government on development initiatives to foster peace and stability. By doing so, the country can effectively alleviate poverty within its society.

A Buddhist's Life and the Noble Buddha's Mangala Sutta

By Sann Ni Lar Winn

WE ARE Buddhists because we practice Theravada Buddhism. It is a religion of self-help, and it teaches people to depend on themselves to be courageous and confident in their own abilities. Buddhism also teaches that all men and women are born equal, and we should choose whatever is best for ourselves. The Buddhist emphasis on peace and loving-kindness makes the religion appealing to peace-loving people around the world.

There are objects of the highest veneration in the Buddhist religion, such as the Buddha, the Dhamma, and the Sangha. These are called the Holy Three Gems or the Holy Triples Gems, which implies that they are very precious and invaluable.

We are Buddhists and are, therefore, the Buddha's followers. Buddha is our Spiritual Father, for he gives us spiritual life.

The Dhamma is the teaching of the Buddha. It is the Universal Law that the Buddha discovered and taught to the world. It is the truth itself. And because the Dhamma is truth, it must be true, valid and universal at all times and in all places.

The Dhamma should be studied, followed and practised. It should be treated with the utmost respect, as it is very essential for world peace and the spiritual progress of individuals. In fact, the Dhamma can be practised by all, whether they are Buddhist or not. We should respect the Dhamma, try to study it and put it into practice.

The Sangha is the Holy Order of Monk disciples of the Buddha as a whole, who have attained a high degree of spiritual discipline. The disciples study and practise the Dhamma and teach it to lay people. They set good examples in moral conduct and inspire us to do good. We pay respect to the Sangha because they are highly spiritual and always try to do good for others.

The 'Buddha', the 'Dhamma' and the 'Sangha' are closely interrelated. All three are essential for the rise and spread of the religion.

If there were no Dhamma, there would not have been a Buddha. But if the Buddha were not there, the Dhamma would not have been discovered and taught. If the Sangha were not there, there would be no one to preserve and spread it, and the religion would have come to an end with the passing away of the Buddha. The Sangha, however, would not have come into existence without the Buddha and the Dhamma. In this way, the three "Gems" are interrelated and interdependent.

During my childhood, I lived in Sitkwin, Tharrawaddy District, with my parents. I attended the primary school, which was situated in a monastery. One day, while I was playing with my friends who was Maung Maung Myint and Maung Ba Ko. When we were feeling very hungry, we decided to steal to climb on the monk's plum. At the same time, school girls were playing on

the floor group by group. This first floor was nearly four feet high; under this floor, we ate many delicious plums secretly; we were very happy on the ground floor.

Soon, our teacher, Sayagyi U Hung Hla, asked us why we peeked at the playing school girls from the ground floor. When Sayagyi angrily threatened to beat us, my friend Maung Ba Ko fearfully confessed, "Yes". But I argued his answer, and we confessed to eating secretly monk's plums by stealing. At last, we were beaten with a cane by our teacher in front of all the students. I feel deeply ashamed for our fault, and I learned a good lesson: to abstain from stealing and trying to get one's wealth.

We learned the basic Buddhism (Five and Eight Precepts, Mangala Sutta, and Metta Sutta, among others) in monastic education. We studied a discourse on the Rule of Conduct for lay disciples. These are thirty-eight ways to achieve uplifting moral standards.

- ၃၈ ငြိမ်ဝပ်ပာဏ်တော် (The Thirty-Eight Blessings)
- ၁။ အသေဝန်တော်တော် = လူဆိုး၊ လူခိုက်၊ လူယုတ်မာ ကို မဝေါင်းသင်းရ။ (Not to associate with fools)
- ၂။ ပဏ္ဍိတာနုပညာပညာ = ပညာရှိသူတော်ကောင်းကို ဝေါင်းသင်း ရမည်။ (To associate with the wise and
- ၃။ ပူဇော် ပူဇော်ယုတ်မာကို ပူဇော်ရမည်။ (To honour those who are worthy of honour, ဧဝံ မဂ်လ မုတ္တမံ။ (This is the highest blessing)
- ၄။ ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ဆိုင်ရာ သဘောထားကို မသင့်လျော်စေခြင်း။ (To reside in a suitable locality)
- ၅။ ပုဗ္ဗေစကတပညာတော် = ရှေးဘဝကပြုခဲ့ဖူးသောကုသိုလ်ကောင်းမှုရှိခြင်း။ (to have done meritorious deeds in the past and,
- ၆။ အတ္တသမ္ဘာပဏီမိ = အကျင့်သီလမပျက်ရအောင် ကိုယ်စိတ်နှစ်ပါးကောင်းစွာ ထားခြင်း။ (to set one self in the right course)
- ဧဝံ မဂ်လ မုတ္တမံ။ (This is the highest blessing)
- ၇။ ဗဟုသုတ = အကြားအမြင်ဗဟုသုတများခြင်း (Vast learning)
- ၈။ သိပ္ပံ = အပြစ်ကင်းသောလက်မှုပညာတတ်မြောက်ခြင်း။ (Perfect handicraft)
- ၉။ ဝိနယောစ = ကျင့်ဝတ်ဝိနည်းသင်ကြားခြင်း။ (highly trained discipline and,
- ၁၀။ သုဘာသိတောစ = ခြံဖွယ်သဘာဝအသိသောစကားကို ပြောဆိုခြင်း။ (Pleasant speech, ဧဝံ မဂ်လ မုတ္တမံ။ (This is the highest blessing)
- ၁၁။ မာတာပိတုပညာ = အဖအမကို လုပ်ကျွေးပြုစုခြင်း။ (Serving one's father and mother)
- ၁၂။ ပုတ္တဒါရသ သင်္ဂဟော = သားသမီး ဇနီး သားကို ချီးမြှင့်ပေးခြင်း။ (Supporting wife and children, and

- ၁၃။ အနာကုလားကမ္မန္တာ = ရှုပ်ထွေးခြင်းကင်းရှင်းသော အလုပ် ကိုင်လုပ်ကိုင်ခြင်း။ (A peaceful occupation)
- ဧဝံ မဂ်လ မုတ္တမံ (This is the highest blessing)
- ၁၄။ ဒါနုဗ္ဗံ = စွန့်ကြဲပေးကမ်းလှူဒါန်းခြင်း။ (Generosity)
- ၁၅။ ဓမ္မစရိယာစ = မိမိသန္တာန်၌ သုစရိုက်တော်အောင် ကျင့်ဆောင်ခြင်း။ (Practice of Dhamma)
- ၁၆။ ညတကာနုပညာ = ဆွေမျိုးများကို ပေးကမ်းချီးမြှင့် ထောက်ပံ့ခြင်း။ (The helping of relatives, and
- ၁၇။ အနုဝစ္စာနိကမ္မာနိ = အပြစ်မရှိသော အလုပ်တို့ကို ပြုလုပ်ခြင်း။ (Blameless actions, ဧဝံ မဂ်လ မုတ္တမံ (This is the highest blessing)
- ၁၈။ အာရတိပါပါ = မကောင်းမှုတို့ကို စိတ်ဖြင့် ဝေးစွာရှောင်ကြဉ်ခြင်း။ (Refraining from evil in mind, and
- ၁၉။ ဝိရတိပါပါ = မကောင်းမှုတို့ကို ကိုယ်နှုတ်ဖြင့် အထူးရှောင်ကြဉ်ခြင်း။ (Abstaining in deed and speech)
- ၂၀။ မဇ္ဇပါနာစသံယမော = မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသောက်စားခြင်းမှ စောင့်စည်းခြင်း။ (Abstention from intoxicating drinks, and

- ၂၁။ အပ္ပမာဒေါစဓမ္မေသု = သူစရိုက်ဆယ်ပါးကုသိုလ်တရားတို့၌ မမေ့မလျော့မပျော်မဆခြင်း။ (Diligence in virtue, ဧဝံ မဂ်လ မုတ္တမံ (This is the highest blessing)
- ၂၂။ ဂါရဝဝါစ = အသက်သိက္ခာကုသိုလ်ကြီးသော ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်များကို ရိုသေလေးစားခြင်း။ (Reverence)
- ၂၃။ နိဝါတောစ = ခြေသုတ်ပုဆိုးမြေစွယ်ကျိုးနှင့် ချိုကျိုးနွားလားဒွန်းစက္ကားပမာ မာန်မာန်ကို နှိမ့်ချခြင်း။ (Humility)
- ၂၄။ သန္တုပ္ပိစ္ဆိမံ = ရသမျှဖြင့်သာရောင့်ရဲလွယ်ခြင်း။ (Contentment)
- ၂၅။ ကတညာတော် = ရှေးကပြုခဲ့ဖူးသော သူကျေးဇူးကို အလှူဆောင်ခြင်း။ (Gratitude and
- ၂၆။ ကာလေနုဓမ္မသ္မာသေဝန် = သင့်လျော်သောအခါ၌ တရားနာကြားခြင်း။ (Timely listening to Dhamma)
- ဧဝံ မဂ်လ မုတ္တမံ (This is the highest blessing)
- ၂၇။ ခန္တိစ = မြေကြီးပမာအရာရာ၌ သည်းခံခြင်း။ (Forbearance)
- ၂၈။ သောဝေဓာသတာ = ဆုံးမခံယူလွယ်ကူသောသူဖြစ်ခြင်း။ (Obedience)
- ၂၉။ သမဏာနုဗ္ဗ ဝသန် = ရဟန်းတော်တို့ကို ဖူးမြင်ရခြင်း။ (Seeing Bhikkhus) and
- ၃၀။ ကာလေနုဓမ္မသ္မာသေဝန် = သင့်လျော်သောအခါ၌ ပညာရှိတို့နှင့် တရားဓမ္မဆွေးနွေး တိုင်ပင်ခြင်း။ (Religious discussions at the right time)
- ဧဝံ မဂ်လ မုတ္တမံ (This is the highest blessing)
- ၃၁။ တပေါစ = ကိလေသာအပူဝေး၍ ငြိမ်းအေးစေတတ်သော



Maṅgala Sutta The Discourse on Blessings

The Mangala Sutta, also known as the Discourse on Blessings, is a key text in Buddhism that outlines various factors that contribute to a blessed and meaningful life. **ILLUSTRATION: YOUTUBE**

အကျင့်မြတ်ကိုကျင့်ခြင်း။ (The restraint of the sense faculties)

၃၂။ မြဟ္မစရိယာဗျူဟာ = မေတ္တာအမွှာကိုရှောင်ကြဉ်လျက် ကောင်းမြတ်သောအကျင့်ကို ကျင့်ခြင်း။ (The practice of the Noble Fold Path)

၃၃။ အရိယသစ္စာနုပညာ = သစ္စာလေးပါးတရားကို သိမြင်ခြင်း။ (The realization of the Noble Truths) and

၃၄။ နိဗ္ဗာန်သတ္တိ ကိရိယာစ = အရဟတ္တဖိုလ်ကိုမျက်မှောက်ပြုခြင်း။ (The experience of Nibbana.)

ဧဝံ မဂ်လ မုတ္တမံ (This is the highest blessing)

၃၅။ စိတ္တိယသန္တာနုပညာ = လောကံတရား (၈)ပါးနှင့်တွေ့ကြုံသောအခါ မတုန်လှုပ်ခြင်း။ (When one's mind is touched by worldly vicissitudes, it is not)

၃၆။ အသောက် = စိုးရိမ်ပူဆွေငိုကြွေးမှုမရှိခြင်း။ (Stainless)

၃၇။ ဝိရုဇ် = ရာဂ၊ ဒေါသ၊ မောဟမျှတမှု၊ အညစ်အကြေးမရှိခြင်း။

(Stainless) and

၃၈။ ခေမံ = ကြောက်လန့်ဖွယ်တောမရှိခြင်း။ (secure)

(This is the highest Blessing)

Those who have fulfilled such things are invincible everywhere and find well-being everywhere. This is the highest blessing.

In this way, Mangala Sutta has always been the noble guideline for our lives. If we constantly follow it, we shall progress both mentally and spiritually and enjoy a delighted life. Each Mangala makes us more perfect and brings us closer to the religious goal (or) Nibbana.

Ref: (1) A Basic course of Buddhist culture and civilization (Society for the propagation of Vipassana Mogok Sayadaw's way).

(2) Basic Buddhism Course By Phra Sunthorn Plamintr (PhD) Buddha Dhamma Meditation Centre (USA)

Myanmar's Thadingyut Festival embraces Chinese paper lanterns alongside traditional bamboo crafts

AS THE full moon of Thadingyut draws near, people across Myanmar are busy preparing for the festival, decorating their homes and shops with colourful lanterns and returning to their native places for family reunion. The festival, which marks the Buddha's descent from heaven, is a time of celebration and togetherness. Houses and pagodas glow with the warm light of lanterns, oil lamps and candles, both traditional and modern.

In the heart of Yangon's bustling market, 40-year-old Ma Su Mar Lwin, who came from a suburban area, moved through the crowd, buying lanterns and festive items for the celebration.

"This year, I'm hanging beautiful lanterns," she said on Monday, showing her newly purchased Chinese-made lanterns. "They are lovely, bright, and tidy. Every year, I would like to hang new lanterns at home, especially the red ones from China." Stalls selling lanterns and other festive items have come alive in downtown Yangon. Some of these stalls are adorned with Chinese lanterns, with most products imported from China. One of these stalls belongs to Ko Moe Kyaw, who has filled it with an array of colourful lanterns. "I've been selling these products for about 30 years," he said as he arranged his wares and attended to customer enquiries.

"Chinese products sell well because their quality is good. They offer a variety of designs and colours," Ko Moe Kyaw said.

"Three to four days before the festival, sales are at their peak. Customers not only buy lanterns but also Chinese-made hot air balloons, fireworks, and other festive items," he added.

Than Kyaw Soe, a 44-year-old resident of South Okkalapa township, was also in the market, searching for lanterns and hot air balloons for the Thadingyut festival.

SOURCE: Xinhua

NATIONAL

MMFA to conduct Strategic Leadership Training for Microfinance Managers in Nov

MYANMAR Microfinance Association (MMFA) will open Strategic Leadership Training for Microfinance Managers on 4-7 November from 9 am to 12 pm.

This training is tailored to managers, department heads, senior managers, mid-managers, other ranks, and potential managers in the microfinance

sector, as well as those preparing to work in the field.

Strategic Leadership Training for Microfinance Managers Training will cover Leading with Strategic Thinking: a. What is Strategic Leadership, b. Strategic Thinking c. Level 5 Leadership on 4 November; Power of Self-confidence a. What is Self-confi-

dence, b. Factors influencing Self-confidence, c. Building Self-confidence on 5 November; how to make Impactful Decisions : a. What is Decision Making b. Corporate Decision Making c. Decision-Making Process d. Decision-Making for Conflict Resolution on 6 November; Mentoring and Coaching for Optimal Performance, a. Men-

toring Vs Coaching b. Business Mentoring and Best Practices c. Types of Coaching d. Effective Coaching Sessions on 7 November.

Additionally, trainees of Strategic Leadership Training for Microfinance Managers Training are Dr Pyae Phyo Lwin, Microfinance Consultant, Coach and Trainer, and Direc-

tor of ThitsaWorks Solution.

Registration can be made through <https://shorturl.at/W8Q1R> by 27 October. Members can enrol in training with K70,000, and non-members will pay K80,000. Trainees will receive an Electronic Certificate. Individuals can contact details through 09 965209010 during office hours. — NN/KK

Illegal trade crackdown results in seizure of goods worth K1.4 billion in three days



Confiscated illegal materials at the Myanmar Industrial Port.

UNDER the leadership of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee and the management of various regional and state Illegal Trade Eradication Task Forces, efforts to combat illicit trade continue effectively in accordance with the law.

On 14 and 15 October, the combined teams nabbed two Mitsubishi Fuso trucks (worth approximately K58 million) carrying two kinds of industrial materials worth K51.2 million without official documents at Ywathagyi Dry Port, industrial materials valued at K104.6 million without official documents from seven containers at the Thilawa Port Terminal, and five kinds of industrial materials valued at K327.32 million without official documents from 13 containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port. The action was conducted according to Customs procedures.

Similarly, on 15 October, the combined teams conducted inspections and seized a light truck (worth approximately K10 million) carrying smuggled crude oil worth K945,000 in Chauk, two unregistered vehicles and 11 unregistered

motorbikes valued at K35.2 million in Magway, Thayet, Pakokku and Gangaw Districts, and illegal charcoal weighing 6.34 tonnes and illegal timbers weighing 0.813 tonnes worth K204,160 in Thayet and Minbu Districts. The action was taken under the Public Property Protection Law, the Forest Law and the Export-Import Law, respectively.

Additionally, the combined on-duty teams impounded a Scania bus (worth approximately 80 million) carrying 16 kinds of foodstuffs and a kind of industrial materials valued at K456.67 million in Mawlamyine Township, an unregistered motorbike (worth approximately K1 million) in Ye Township, a Nissan Caravan mini bus (estimated value of K35 million) carrying 13 kinds of industrial materials and five kinds of industrial materials valued at K26.18 million without official documents at the 386th Milepost on Yangon-Mandalay road, three vehicles (worth 94 million) carrying 13 types of consumer goods worth K31.07 million without official documents at the 21st Milepost on PyinOoLwin-Mandalay, and a

Mitsubishi Canter truck (worth approximately K28 million) carrying eight kinds of industrial materials worth K30 million in Sintgaing Township. The action was conducted under Customs procedures and the Export-Import Law.

On 15 and 16 October, combined teams supervised by the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized a Maha New bus (worth approximately K30 million) carrying two kinds of industrial materials worth K2.12 million without official documents at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray station, consumer goods valued at K1.61 million without official documents in DaikU Township, and illegal teak weighing 0.97 tonne and illegal timbers weighing 1.421 tonnes worth about K1 million in Bago and Toungoo Districts. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 48 arrests on 14, 15, and 16 October, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods worth approximately K1.4 billion. — MNA/MKKS

MAI We Care supports elderly, youth, and children in need

ASSISTANCE will be provided to the elderly, young and children who need help under the MAI We Care programme of Myanmar Airways International (MAI), according to the airline.

In addition to focusing on upgrading the company's standards and human resources, MAI recently held a special ceremony titled "Embracing Culture, Recognizing People, Supporting Communities" to introduce new programmes that will benefit the community and honour its veteran employees.

A new CSR project is also being undertaken under the MAI We Care programme, one of MAI's community programmes. In that programme, MAI will

support needy older people, youth and children at organizations such as Rima Parahita, Kyaikwaing Disabled Care Centre and Myitta Eain Orphanage.

"The year 2024 is a special year for MAI as it can implement many public benefit programmes in addition to business successes. Besides strategic collaborations such as the introduction of the MAGIP programme, CSR projects that will benefit the public in a certain way are being carried out. We are implementing many programmes that will benefit both within and outside the MAI organization," said Tanes Kumar, CEO/CCO of MAI. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN

AA terrorists intercept vehicles, injuring 6, abducting 38 civilians

AA terrorists intercepted a Suzuki Canter vehicle transporting passengers from Ann Township to Padan Township by shooting firearms about 4,000 meters northeast of Ann Township at 8:15 am yesterday, injuring two women and four men.

In addition, AA terrorists stopped ten vehicles transporting

civilians about 200 meters from the aforementioned location and abducted 24 men and 14 women.

The security forces took the injured individuals to the public hospital in Minbu Township for medical treatment and continued to provide necessary security measures around the scene of the incident. — MNA/TH

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NATIONAL

Orders for Thai food, supplements soar in Myawady border

IN Myawady border commercial city, orders for Thailand products, which are used to pay homage to the elders in Thadingyut, have surged.

Even before the Thadingyut festival came, many orders for Thailand products, which were imported through Myawady, such as biscuit boxes, nutrition and supplement food and beverages, were placed from different regions and states, including Yangon and Mandalay. Orders have mounted since August.

“Nutrition and supplement food like Ensure, birds’ nests, chicken broth and Ovaltine are used to pay homage during Thadingyut. And Thailand-made biscuit boxes and snacks sell best in Thadingyut. Orders have been placed since August’s second week and are still mounting,” said an official from the Ah Thet Thai products distribution in Myawady Township.

Paying homage to the elders and giving presents to friends and relatives in Thadingyut is the tradition of Myanmar people, and gift basket prices of around K50,000 are more popular, according to Yangon distributors. — Thit Taw/ZS

MR enhances train services for smooth public travel

MYANMA Railways under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, is currently making arrangements to ensure smooth and convenient travel for the general public. These efforts primarily focus on crucial railway routes, including Yangon-Mandalay, Yangon-Pyay, and Yangon-Mawlamyine lines, as well as the Yangon Circular and Sinphyukyun lines. Other routes such as Patheingyi-Hinthada-Kyankhin, Pyinmana-Taunggyi, Yangon-Pyay-Bagan, Myitkya-Moekang, and the Laptan-Tharawaw routes are also managed to accommodate public travel needs.

In light of recent natural disasters and floods, certain areas along the Yangon-Mandalay and Thazi-Shwepyithar-Taunggyi railway lines faced damage, including track and bridge collapses due to soil erosion. Despite these setbacks, Myanmar Railways has prioritized repairs, and since 3 October, the Yangon-Mandalay route has been fully restored, resuming regular passenger and freight train services.

Additionally, during the Thadingyut holiday period, Myanmar Railways has implemented measures to ensure smoother travel for the public and gov-



Passengers await to board an express train at the platform of a station.

ernment officials. Key routes like Yangon-Mandalay, Yangon-Pyay, and Yangon-Mawlamyine have had fully loaded trains running on regular schedules, along with additional special train services. These efforts aim at punctuality and passenger comfort.

Furthermore, modern Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) trains have been introduced on the Yangon-Bago

route. Some postal train services have also been upgraded, with modern facilities on the Yangon-Mandalay and Yangon-Mawlamyine routes, as well as postal train services between Yangon and Pyay. These trains facilitate the delivery of letters, parcels, military and police dispatches, enhancing the overall service quality offered by Myanmar Railways. — MNA/KZL

Chayote prices steady in Aungban, with orders from Yangon

THE price of Aungban-produced chayote has been fairly low recently, and it has received many orders from Yangon.

Chayote prices climbed up in the Aungban vegetable market after the flood but gradually falling back now.

“Recently, Aungban-produced chayote trade has increased compared to other vegetables. Most of Yangon’s orders are for chayote. The price of Aungban-produced chayote and Pinlon-produced chayote is different. Chayote price was high again after the flood but has fallen back now,” said a spokesperson from the Aye Myat vegetable wholesale distributor from Aungban.

Vegetable prices change after full moon day and new moon day.

“Chayote production is normal. Full moon day is near-



Aungban-produced chayote.

ing, and the price will likely change after the full moon day. In Aungban, vegetable prices

always change after every full moon day and new moon day,” she said. — Thit Taw/ZS

Jengkol bean prices surge in Pinlaung

JENKOL beans have been scarce, and sales have increased, according to the Pinlaung Township vegetable market.

Jengkol bean production was abundant from June to August, but there is now a shortage.

“Jengkol has been short of supply now, but just a few are still available. Some beans are not qualified, though, the price is good because it has been rare,” said a jengkol bean retail and wholesale trader in Pinlaung Township.

Jengkol bean is one of the most-consumed vegetables, and orders have been placed from Hpa-an, Tachilek, Magway, Mandalay and Shwebo.

“From Pinlaung, we deliver it to Hpa-an, Tachilek, Magway, Mandalay and Shwebo as well as Yangon. We have loyal customers in different regions and



Pinlaung-produced jengkol beans.

states. Last year, there was no difficulty in delivering, and the weather was also fine, but transportation is not convenient this year despite the vegetable market being positive. Jengkol bean is harvested in Loikaw around June and July, and we trade it from that period,” she said. — Thit Taw/ZS

ECONOMY WORLD

Global public debt expected to exceed \$100 tln this year: IMF

Global public debt may reach \$100 trillion this year, nearing 100 per cent of GDP by 2030, raising concerns about fiscal stability.

GLOBAL public debt is expected to reach a record \$100 trillion this year, the IMF said Tuesday, warning that the fiscal outlook for many countries may be even “worse than expected.”

In its latest report on fiscal policy, the International Monetary Fund said it expects global public debt to hit 93 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP) this year, and to approach 100 per cent of GDP

by 2030 — 10 percentage points higher than in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

“Global public debt is very high,” Era Dabla-Norris, the deputy director of the IMF’s Fiscal Affairs Department, told reporters ahead of the report’s publication.

“There are very good reasons to believe that the debt burden — or the debt outlook — could be worse than expected,” she said, pointing to

current spending pressures to address issues like climate change, overly-optimistic debt projections, and the possibility of large amounts of unidentified debt.

“So the bottom line is that it’s time for countries to get their fiscal house in order,” she said.

The IMF report introduced a new “debt-at-risk” approach to assessing the risks to debt projections. — AFP



Debt outlook may worsen due to spending pressures, optimistic projections, and potential unidentified debt. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

US holiday spending to approach \$1 tln: Retail Federation

US consumers are expected to spend close to \$1 trillion during the winter holiday season, a slight uptick from the year prior, the National Retail Federation (NRF) said Tuesday.



US consumers are expected to spend nearly \$1 trillion this holiday season, reflecting a slight increase. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The trade association forecasts total holiday spending in November and December will grow by 2.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent over 2023 — reaching between \$979.5 billion and \$989 billion.

The period covers “Black Friday”, the day after the US Thanksgiving holiday, and “Cyber Monday”. Both are known for heavy retail promotions designed to entice strong spending on gifts.

Online shopping is set to contribute strongly to the overall retail performance, with web and other non-store sales anticipated to jump by eight per cent or nine per cent from a year ago.

“Overall, the economy has been in a good place this year, operating with solid footing,” said NRF president Matthew Shay at a news briefing. — AFP



Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum speaks after meeting foreign business leaders at the National Palace. **PHOTO: AFP**

Mexico touts foreign investments as IMF warns about reforms

SEEKING to calm investor jitters over controversial judicial reforms, Mexico’s new president said Tuesday that four foreign companies would invest around \$20 billion in the Latin American nation next year.

The announcement came on the same day that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicted slowing growth for Latin America’s second-largest economy and issued a warning about uncertainty created by the reforms. President Claudia Sheinbaum trumpeted planned foreign investment in energy, tourism and e-commerce after meeting US business leaders in Mexico City, although it was unclear how much of it was new.

“At least four major invest-

ments of around \$20 billion in our country were announced for 2025,” the leftist leader told a press conference.

The investments were pledged by liquefied natural gas firm Mexico Pacific, e-commerce giant Amazon, cruise line operator Royal Caribbean and oil and gas firm Woodside Energy, Economy Minister Marcelo Ebrard said. While the confirmed total was more than \$20 billion, actual investments could exceed \$30 billion by 2025, he said.

Sheinbaum, who took office as the country’s first woman president on 1 October, met Tuesday with 240 business chiefs, some of them from the United States, Mexico’s main trading partner, her government said. — AFP

Vietnam emerges as most improved country for business: report

VIETNAM has emerged as the most improved country for business over the past two decades, Vietnam News cited the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)’s Business Environment Rankings on Tuesday.

The Southeast Asian country experienced a 1.7-point rise on the index from 2003 to 2023, marking the largest improvement among 82 countries evaluated, said the report.

According to the EIU, key factors behind the rise include Vietnam’s commitment to liberalizing its economy through various free-trade agreements. Prianthi Roy, country forecast manager and Europe analyst at the EIU, said, “In the coming five years, Vietnam’s business environment will continue to outpace regional competitors like Indonesia and Thailand. This is largely due to Vietnam’s competitive labor costs, extensive trade deals, and growing market opportunities.” — Xinhua

Lenovo launches tech summit featuring latest AI innovations

LENOVO launched its annual tech summit in Seattle, the US state of Washington, on Tuesday, featuring the latest innovations, devices and solutions in artificial intelligence (AI).

Lenovo Chairman and CEO Yuanqing Yang introduced the company's innovations and strategies in pursuit of "Smarter AI for all" at the summit, titled "Lenovo Tech World 24"

He showcased the technologies making "hybrid AI" a reality for everyone, and every-

where — at home, at work, and on the move.

"AI is already improving the quality of life for individuals, delivering higher productivity for enterprises, and protecting a more sustainable planet," Yang said.

"This is a time of massive productivity gains on the horizon, a time of fundamental paradigm shifts in our industry, and a time to reimagine the future — for AI to work not only in the cloud, but also at our fingertips, and within our own organizations," he noted. — Xinhua

Large high-grade iron ore deposit found in east China

A high-grade iron ore deposit has been discovered in east China's Shandong Province, with estimated reserves at 104 million tonnes. The Department of Natural Resources of Shandong Province has identified 16 high-grade iron ore bodies in the Qihe-Yucheng region.

High-grade iron ore typically has a total iron content of over 45 per cent — making it a strategic mineral resource in short supply in China.

Hu Zhiyong, an official with the department, said the newly confirmed high-grade iron ore depos-

it is one of few in China, and is notable for its large distribution, considerable ore body thickness, high ore quality, and promising exploration potential. He emphasized the global imbalance in iron ore supply and demand, noting that major reserves are concentrated in countries such as the United States, Australia, Brazil, Russia and China. — Xinhua

High-grade iron ore is sought after in the mining and steel industries for its efficiency and cost-effectiveness. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ XINHUA/FILE**



Singapore scrambles two fighter jets after bomb threat on Air India Express flight

SINGAPORE Air Force (RSAF) scrambled F-15SG jets on Tuesday night following a bomb threat on an Air India Express flight, Channel News Asia (CNA) reported.

Singapore's Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen said that the airlines had received an email that there was a bomb on board flight AXB684 that was heading to Singapore.

Two RSAF F-15SGs were scrambled and escorted the plane away from populated areas to finally land safely at Singapore Changi Airport at around 10:04 pm on Tuesday, the minister said.

In a series of posts on X, Ng Eng Hen stated, "Air India Express received an email that there was a bomb on board flight AXB684 that was bound for Singapore. Two of our RSAF F-15SGs scrambled and escorted the plane away from populated areas, to finally land safely at Singapore Changi Airport at around 10:04 pm tonight." — AFP



Air India was one of several carriers that has had to divert passenger aircraft after hoax bomb threats. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ST.MARY VOY.NO. (0UVA2S1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ST.MARY VOY.NO. (0UVA2S1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-10-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (439W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (439W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-10-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB440A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB440A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-10-2024** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (781N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (781N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-10-2024** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE SHIPPING PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



Responders arrive at the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the southern Lebanese village of Toul amid the ongoing war between Israel and Hezbollah. **PHOTO: AFP**

Israel strikes Hezbollah strongholds after rejecting Lebanon ceasefire

Israel launched strikes on Hezbollah's stronghold in southern Lebanon, killing six and injuring 43 amid ongoing conflict, defying ceasefire calls.

ISRAEL conducted strikes targeting Hezbollah's main bastion and a city in southern Lebanon where it holds sway on Wednesday, after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed calls for a ceasefire.

The strike on south Beirut, the militant group's main stronghold, was the first in several days of calm in the

area, after an intense period of bombardment earlier in the Israel-Hezbollah war.

Israel's army said its warplanes struck dozens of Hezbollah targets in the southern city of Nabatiyeh, where the Lebanese group and its ally Amal hold sway.

The Lebanese health ministry said six people were

killed and 43 injured in the strikes on two municipal buildings in Nabatiyeh, adding that rescuers were searching through the rubble for survivors.

The mayor was among the dead, a local official told AFP, adding that the strikes "formed a kind of belt of fire" in the area. — AFP

BRIEF: WORLD

Sea traffic in Bosphorus Strait suspended due to heavy fog

SEA traffic in the Bosphorus Strait, one of the busiest waterways in the world, was suspended on Wednesday due to heavy fog, authorities announced.

According to a statement from Türkiye's Transport and Infrastructure Ministry, ship traffic in the strait has been suspended in both directions due to "limited visibility" caused by heavy thick fog.

In another statement from City Lines, which operates ferries commuting across the strait between the Asian and European sides, it was announced that many services have been suspended due to "adverse weather conditions".

The suspensions also caused a significant increase on the roads, resulting in traffic congestion across the city of 16 million people. Traffic density was recorded at nearly 70 per cent in the morning rush hours, according to the municipality's traffic application. — Xinhua

90 killed in gasoline tanker explosion in Nigeria

At least 90 people were killed and 50 others sustained various degrees of injury after a gasoline tanker exploded in Nigeria's northern state of Jigawa late Tuesday, police said on Wednesday.

The victims were mostly people who had rushed to the scene to collect gasoline after the tanker lost control and overturned in Majiya, a town in the Taura local government area, Shi'isu Lawan Adam, the spokesman for the Jigawa police, told Xinhua over phone.

"The tanker spilled its contents into a drainage ditch after overturning. The high casualty count is due to the crowd that gathered around the accident scene," Adam said. — Xinhua

Record 314 women run in Japan's general election

Record-high 314 women filed their candidacy Tuesday for the upcoming general election, while hereditary politics continued to play a large role within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

The number of female candidates for the 27 October House of Representatives election was up from the previous record of 229 in the 2009 lower house poll, as both the LDP and the main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan ramped up their support for them. — Kyodo

New assisted dying bill introduced in UK parliament

A UK lawmaker on Wednesday introduced legislation that would legalize assisted dying, setting up the first vote on the emotive issue in almost a decade.

Euthanasia is illegal in Britain, but if Labour MP Kim Leadbeater's bill becomes law it would give terminally ill people "choice" at the end of life.

It would also align Britain with some European countries

where assisted dying is in place to varying degrees.

Assisted suicide is banned in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, with a maximum prison sentence of 14 years.

In Scotland, it is not a specific criminal offence but assisting the death of someone can leave a person open to a charge of murder or other offences. Previous attempts to legalize it have been voted down, but public opinion is

shifting and attempts to change the law are under way in Scotland, which has a separate legal system and powers to set its own health policy. — AFP

Labour MP Kim Leadbeater speaks to the press during a gathering in favour of the proposal to legalize euthanasia in the UK, called by campaigners from "Dignity in Dying", outside The Palace of Westminster, home to the Houses of Parliament in central London, on 16 October 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**



SPORTS

Spain reach Nations League quarters, Ronaldo's Portugal held by Scotland



Fabian Ruiz, Alvaro Morata and Aymeric Laporte celebrate after beating Serbia 3-0 on Tuesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

Spain secured their spot in the UEFA Nations League quarter-finals with a commanding 3-0 victory over Serbia, while Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal was held to a frustrating 0-0 draw against Scotland.

EUROPEAN champions Spain sealed their place in the UEFA Nations League quarter-finals with a comprehensive 3-0 win over Serbia on Tuesday, while Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal were frustrated in a 0-0 draw with Scotland.

Spain, who are also the reigning Nations League champions, became the second team to clinch a quarter-final spot as they followed in the footsteps of Germany by moving to 10 points from a possible 12 in Group A4.

Lamine Yamal and Nico Williams, the

two wing stars of Spain's triumphant Euro 2024 campaign, were not involved against Serbia on a rainy night in the Andalusian city of Cordoba.

Yet that didn't matter as La Roja went ahead through Aymeric Laporte's early header and then shook off Alvaro Morata's penalty miss at the start of the second half. Captain Morata made it 2-0 with a lovely finish on 65 minutes and Alex Baena, who featured at the Euros before starring in the Spain team that won Olympic gold, made it 3-0 from a free-kick. — AFP

Chinese tech giant Lenovo named Official FIFA Technology Partner

FIFA, the world football governing body, announced on Wednesday that China's multinational technology company Lenovo has been named the Official FIFA Technology Partner.

The partnership, which includes the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup, will see Lenovo providing FIFA with technology solutions ranging from AI (Artificial Intelligence) innovation to devices and data centre infrastructure, all aimed at enhancing fan experiences and global broadcasts. Lenovo Chairman and CEO Yang Yuanqing said, "Lenovo is proud to support FIFA's vision of leveraging technology to elevate the game, enhance the fan experience worldwide, and foster innovation that levels the playing field. We're excited that our cutting-edge technology and AI innovation will take centre stage in the upcoming tournaments, demonstrating to the world the transformative power of smarter technology."

FIFA President Gianni Infantino added, "We are excited to welcome Lenovo to our journey, and to work with them to implement technologies, innovations, and programmes that spread our sport. Data and technology combined helps us to know fans better, and we will use it to create unparalleled and unforgettable fan experiences at the FIFA World Cup 2026 and FIFA Women's World Cup 2027." — Xinhua

Thomas Tuchel confirmed as new England coach

FORMER Chelsea, Paris Saint Germain and Borussia Dortmund coach Thomas Tuchel has been confirmed as the new coach of the England team.

Tuchel will take over the role on 1 January 2025, meaning that Lee Carsley will continue in temporary charge for the UEFA Nations League games against Greece and Ireland in November.

In a statement published on Tuesday, the English Football Association added he would be assisted by Anthony

Barry. The FA added that the "decision to recruit Tuchel and Barry was approved by the FA Board early last week, with Tuchel signing his contract on Tuesday 8 October".

However, the FA explained the confirmation had been delayed until after recent matches against Greece and Finland "minimize distraction around the international camp that has just concluded".

That ploy may have backfired as

Carsley had to field several questions over whether he wanted the England job on a full-time basis over the past week, creating an atmosphere of uncertainty around the England team, who were very poor in a 2-1 defeat to Greece. — Xinhua



Thomas Tuchel won the Champions League with Chelsea in 2021. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE**

Israel strikes Hezbollah strongholds after rejecting Lebanon ceasefire
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WORLD

India provides quality education at a fraction of cost of Western institutions: President Murmu

This recognition honours her advocacy for accessible education in India and acknowledges India's efforts to provide quality education at lower costs compared to Western institutions, especially for African students.

INDIA provides quality education at a “fraction of the cost of Western institutions” to ever increasing number of students from Africa, including from Algeria, President Droupadi Murmu said.

She said this on Tuesday while being conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Political Science by the Scientific and Technological Hub, Martyr Ihaddaden Abdelhafid University of Algeria, recognizing her steadfast advocacy for science and knowledge across all social groups in India.

This recognition, which honours President Murmu’s role in promoting educational access and empowerment, was met with gratitude by the President, who expressed that the honour was “for India more than for her as an individual”.



President Murmu received an Honorary Doctorate in Political Science in Algeria, acknowledging her advocacy for science and knowledge in India. **PHOTO: ANI**

Martyr Ihaddaden Abdelhafid University in Algeria awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Political Science to President Droupadi Murmu for her advocacy of accessible education.

During her visit, part of a three-nation tour, she highlighted India’s commitment to providing affordable quality education, especially to African students. — ANI

N Korea blows up parts of inter-Korean roads on its side: S Korea

NORTH Korea blew up parts of inter-Korean roads on its side of the border on Tuesday, according to South Korea’s military, destroying what was once a symbol of the two Koreas’ co-operation.

“North Korean forces conducted explosions, presumably to block the inter-Korean roads” in Gyeongui and Donghae around noon, South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

Later in the day, Seoul’s public

broadcaster, KBS, reported, citing a senior government official, that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited the site to inspect the preparations for blowing up the roads.

Kim arrived at the location in a Lexus, a luxury brand of Japan’s Toyota Motor Corp, KBS said. UN Security Council resolutions prohibit North Korea from importing luxury goods as part of sanctions imposed in response to its nuclear and ballistic missile tests.

The South Korean military responded by firing warning shots south of the military demarcation line separating the two Koreas, the JCS said, adding that it has strengthened surveillance and readiness in coordination with the United States.

The JCS said North Korea also deployed heavy equipment on its side, apparently to clear debris after the explosions. — Kyodo



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (3rd from R) attends a meeting on national defence and security on 14 October 2024. **PHOTO: KCNA/KYODO**

AI-PAINTED PORTRAIT

Portrait by humanoid robot to sell at auction in art world first

THE robot artist Ai-Da, a humanoid powered by artificial intelligence, will be the first of its kind to have a painting sold at a major auction house, organizers said Wednesday.

The work, due to go under the hammer at Sotheby’s in London next month, is described as a “haunting” portrait of the English mathematician Alan Turing, considered one of the fathers of modern computing. Entitled “AI God”, the 2.2 metre (7.5 feet) high portrait is expected to fetch between £100,000 and £150,000 (\$130,000 and \$196,000). Sotheby’s upcoming online sale will feature Ai-Da, an advanced robot artist, showcasing a portrait of Alan Turing. Designed to resemble a human, Ai-Da uses AI algorithms and bionic hands. — AFP