

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Throng of devotees watch hot-air balloons ascend into the night sky near the Maravijaya Buddha Image during the Thadingyut Full Moon yesterday.

ON the occasion of the Thadingyut Full Moon Day (Abhidhamma Day) yesterday, Buddhist devotees across the country engaged in various religious activities at pagodas and stupas. Offerings of alms, flowers, water, and oil lamps were made in reverence, accompanied by the practice of Sila (precepts) and meditation.

In Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, prominent pagodas and stupas saw a considerable gathering of worshippers observing traditional Buddhist customs. The day's events included offerings at Letloktaung Shwenanthwin Pagoda, Shwelwantaung Pagoda, Nayyaungpya Inn Pagoda, and other prominent pagodas across Dekkhinathiri, Lewe, Pynmana, and Ottarathiri townships. Devotees participated in acts of merit-making by offering flowers, water, and oil lamps in devotion to the Lord Buddha and observ-

Nay Pyi Taw bustles with devotees during Thadingyut Full Moon Festival

ing the Eight Precepts.

In the evening, a grand ceremony at the Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township featured the lighting of 9,000 oil lamps in homage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image, one of the most revered and tallest Buddha images. The event was overseen by the Nay Pyi Taw Council, drawing a large number of devotees. Hot-air balloons were also released as part of the celebration.

Similarly, special ceremonies were

held at Uppatasanti Pagoda in the morning, with a significant turnout of devotees from Nay Pyi Taw and surrounding areas. These ceremonies also included the lighting of oil lamps in the evening as an act of devotion.

Elsewhere in Nay Pyi Taw, popular locations like Ocean Super Centre, Junction Centre, and Nay Pyi Taw Wholesale Market were packed with shoppers. Meanwhile, Mingala Lake Park, Nay Pyi Taw Fountain Garden, the National Land-

marks Garden, and the Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Gardens saw numerous visitors enjoying the holiday festivities.

Across various urban neighbourhoods and villages, residents also paid homage by lighting oil lamps and releasing hot-air balloons in deep reverence for the Buddha. Many families took the opportunity to pay respects to their elders and teachers, making the occasion one filled with merit and tradition. — MNA/KZL

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By **THAN HTUN**
(GEOSCIENCE MYANMAR)

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Form 8 certified timber, related products put for auction

NATIONAL

Cooperative System: Key to Economic Development in Myanmar

- The cooperative system is the most suitable approach for Myanmar to develop its economic sector under current conditions.
- This system fosters collaboration among entrepreneurs and farmers who share common goals and ideas.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the Union government meeting 6/2024 on 29 July 2024.)

Nay Pyi Taw Council hosts 9,000 light offerings at Maravijaya

IN a grand celebration held on the evening of 13 October 2024, the Nay Pyi Taw Council, led by various dignitaries, organized an impressive event featuring the lighting of 9,000 lamps and the launching of hot-air balloons in deep devotion to the revered Maravijaya Buddha Image, located within the Buddha Park in the Dekkhinathiri township of Nay Pyi Taw.

This ceremonial occasion took place in conjunction with the full moon of Thadingyut, which holds significant spiritual importance for Buddhists. No-

table number of attendees included Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin and officials.

Monks, nuns, and locals from diverse backgrounds gathered to witness the lighting of the lamps and the launching of the lanterns, creating a vibrant and festive atmosphere. Visitors were seen peacefully exploring the Maravijaya Buddha Image, Gandakuti, Thudhmma public rest hall, the Musleinda Lake and Dragon Pagoda, Water Fountain Park, the Maravijaya Monastery, and other



The grand ceremony offering 9,000 lamps and launching hot-air balloons at the Maravijaya Buddha Image on 13 October 2024.

religious edifices.

The event featured solemn ceremonies where attendees

engaged in chanting and offered their prayers while lighting lamps and launching hot-air

balloons, celebrating the auspicious occasion with tranquillity and reverence. — MNA/KZL

Pilgrimage, tourism surge in Bagan on Thadingyut Full Moon Day



ON Thadingyut Full Moon Day, pagodas across Myanmar bustling with activity as people gathered to perform good deeds. Bagan – rich in ancient temples and cultural heritage – experienced a surge in tourism this year, exceeding the number of visitors compared to the previous full moon day.

“On Thadingyut Full Moon Day, Bagan’s renowned pagodas were filled with pilgrims engaging in good deeds. Over 10,000 visitors flocked to Htilominlo Pagoda and other sacred sites. The influx of visitors brought joy to local shopkeepers and tour guides alike. On behalf of

the locals, I hope all visitors have a meaningful experience and encounter no difficulties during their pilgrimage,” said Secretary U Tin Hla Oo from Htilominlo Pagoda.

Buddhists offered meals, lights, and water at the pagodas. Additionally, they paid respects to the elders and offered the Lord Buddha with candlelight at night on this Abhidhamma Day.

Starting at 4 am, pilgrims offered food and water as a mark of reverence at the famous pagodas of Bagan. As dusk fell, the pagodas were illuminated by countless candles, dedicating to the Buddha and the monks. Bagan received approximately 200,000 visitors this year, surpassing the 100,000 recorded in 2023. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/TRKM

This image captures domestic travellers visiting the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone. **PHOTO: KANU**

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)

Mandalay celebrates Thadingyut with merit-making and lamp-lighting

ON the auspicious occasion of the Thadingyut Full Moon Day (Abhidhamma Day) yesterday, Buddhist devotees in Mandalay participated in various religious activities at significant pagodas, stupas, and monasteries throughout the city. The day was marked by offerings of flowers, water, and oil lamps in memory of the Buddha, followed by evening ceremonies of lamp lighting that illuminated the entire city.

Mandalay's Maha Muni Buddha Image, a sacred and revered edifice, saw a large gathering of devotees early in the morning who made offerings of flowers, water, and oil lamps, as well as gold foils. Similar ceremonies took place at other

prominent pagodas, including Shwekyemyin Pagoda, Kyauktawgyi Pagoda near Mandalay Hill, and Jade Pagoda and Candamuni Pagoda. Worshippers also engaged in meditation and religious practices in the serene surroundings of these pagodas.

The traditional Buddha Pujaniya Festival continued in the evening at the Maha Thetk-yamarazein Kyauktawgyi Pagoda, Maha Lawkamarazein Pagoda, and Candamuni Pagoda, where thousands of devotees participated in offering alms, flowers, and electric lighting and oil lamps as acts of merit. Evening festivities were incredibly vibrant, with throngs of devotees filling the pagoda precincts.

In addition, the Mandalay



The sacred ritual of washing the Buddha Image's face at Maha Muni Pagoda in Mandalay yesterday.

Region government hosted a grand lamp-lighting ceremony featuring the lighting of 10,000 oil lamps at the southern part of the Mandalay Moat on 26th Street, stretching all the way to 66th and 73rd Streets. Streets were beautifully decorated with lights, and the event drew thousands of people from various parts of the country, creating a

lively and festive atmosphere.

Entertainment events were also held in front of the Mandalay City Development Committee office, where famous singers and the MCDC Band performed for the public. Additionally, charity food stalls offered refreshments, welcoming all attendees and further adding to the festive spirit.

Across Mandalay, pagodas, stupas, monasteries, and even homes were aglow with oil lamps in serene reverence for the Buddha. Children joyfully played with sparklers and traditional paper lanterns while families paid respect to their elders and teachers, reflecting Myanmar's rich cultural and religious traditions. — MNA/KZL



Photos capture pagodas and stupas being packed with Mandalay devotees and worshippers on Thadingyut Full Moon Day yesterday.



NATIONAL

Yesterday signified the full moon of Thadingyut in the year 1386 ME, a landmark day known as Abhidhamma Day. The atmosphere was particularly vibrant as devotees gathered at the Shwedagon Pagoda and other prominent pagodas and shrines across Yangon Region to participate in religious activities.

The Shwedagon Pagoda board of trustees oversaw the unique offerings and ceremonies, including a large food offering ceremony, the Abhidhamma Day celebrations, and various Dhamma readings. These events began early in the morning with offerings of food, flowers, and water to the sacred images by committee members, religious groups,



Abhidhamma Day marked at Shwedagon Pagoda and throughout Yangon Region



From top to bottom, the photos highlight sacred observances and religious rituals of Yangon devotees at Shwedagon, Botahtaung, and Maha Wizaya pagodas on Thadingyut Full Moon Day yesterday. **PHOTO: KO KO ZAW**

and staff.

Subsequently, various participants, including committee members and volunteers, engaged in question-and-answer sessions regarding Abhidhamma, recited Dhamma scriptures and shared merits during the ceremonies dedicated to the Buddha.

Following this, guests from various Buddhist educational institutions offered their respects and teachings. Members of the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees announced



the schedule for the day, inviting attendees to contribute offerings.

In the evening, as the celebrations continued, offerings of water, soft drinks, and snacks were shared among the faithful, who filled the areas around the pagoda. At night, committee members and attendees lit 11,000 oil lamps in deep reverence around the pagoda.

Similar religious events were held at the Maha Wizaya Pagoda and other various edifices, including the Gandakuti

Chamber, which also hosted Abhidhamma celebrations and shared blessings among attendees. Across Yangon, devotees actively participated in sacred observances, offering flowers and soft drinks and lighting lamps their homes and along the streets. Many engaged in good deeds, showing respects to older people, teachers, and ancestors, and participated in various religious observances, highlighting the significance of this special day. — Zaw Min Latt (MNA)/TMT

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NATIONAL

MoI Union Minister joins Thadingyut celebrations for MRTV staff

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn participated in the Thadingyut Festival celebrations held for the families of employees at the Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) in Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday. The event commenced in the MRTV park, where the Union minister officially opened the celebrations by cutting a ceremonial ribbon.

Following the inauguration, he ignited candles to mark the start of the Thadingyut festivities, joyfully engaging with the staff families. As part of the celebrations, the families released 79 lanterns in honour of MRTV's 79th anniversary, which will be observed on 15 February 2025.

The event featured tradi-

tional ethnic food stalls showcasing local culinary delights. The MRTV modern band also entertained attendees. A singing competition among staff families highlighted the talents of five top contestants, with awards presented to the first-, second-, and third-place winners.

Additionally, the Union minister observed various games involving the staff families and inaugurated a newly constructed cable bridge adjacent to the MRTV park. He also visited the MRTV entrance, the main building, and the Diamond Jubilee Museum, all adorned with colourful lights to celebrate the Thadingyut Festival. — MNA/KZL



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn awards one of the winners in the singing contest at yesterday's event in Nay Pyi Taw.

The sacred observances on Thadingyut Full Moon Day (Abhidhamma Day)



Kyaiкто, Mon State.



Kyaukse, Mandalay Region.



Sagaing.



Taunggyi, Shan State.



Ayeyawady Region.



Shwesayan Pagoda.



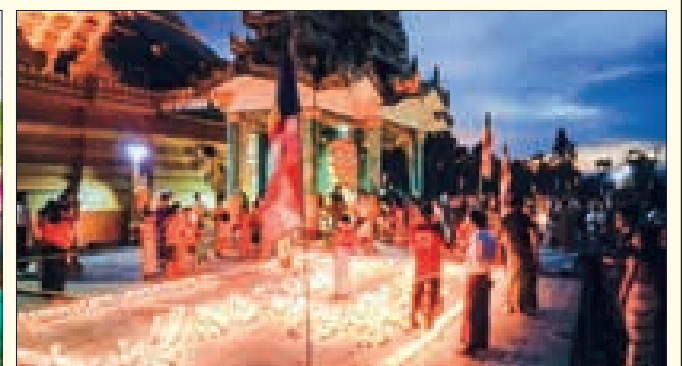
Minbu, Magway Region.



Toungoo, Bago Region.



Kanbalu.



Myawady, Kayin State.

NATIONAL

Silver Jubilee Performing Arts Competition ongoing

THE 25th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued on its fourth day yesterday, taking place at designated venues across Nay Pyi Taw. Various competitions showcasing singing, dancing, song-composing, and music performances brought together talented participants from across the country.

In the morning, the “Mahagita” song competition was held at the Signing Room of the Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC II). Participants at the basic education level (ages 15-20) from Kachin, Shan, Chin, Taninthayi, Sagaing, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Bago, Magway, and Mandalay regions competed with the “See Hnin Pyike Kya” song, while the female participants in the basic education level (ages 10-15) from Taninthayi, Magway, Shan, Bago, Mon, Mandalay, Kachin, Chin, Kayin, Ayeyawady, and Yangon performed the “Myaing Hayma” song.

The “Modern Song” competition was held at the Banquet Hall of MICC II, where participants in the Higher Education level female category from Mon, Kayah, Sagaing, Kayin, Taninthayi, Chin, Yangon, Kachin, Magway, Ayeyawady, Bago, Shan, Rakhine, and Mandalay competed with the “Yaukya Supan” song. Male participants at the basic education level (ages 15-20) from Chin, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Yangon, Bago, Kayin, Mandalay, Kachin, Shan, Mon, Magway, and Ayeyawady regions performed the “Thantok Htisa” song.

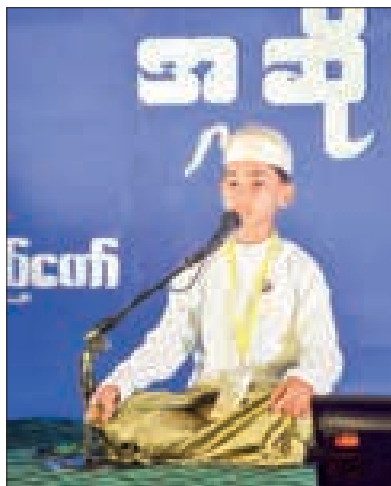
At the Plenary Hall of MICC II, the dancing competition continued with female participants at the amateur level (second class) from Ayeyawady, Mon, Magway, Taninthayi, Rakhine, Bago, Shan, Yangon, Sagaing, Kachin, Mandalay, and Kayin regions showcasing their impressive dancing skills. Male participants at the basic education level (ages 10-15) from Kachin, Yangon, Taninthayi, Shan, Mon, Magway, Mandalay, Rakhine, Kayin, Ayeyawady, Sagaing, and Chin regions and states also displayed traditional dancing routines.



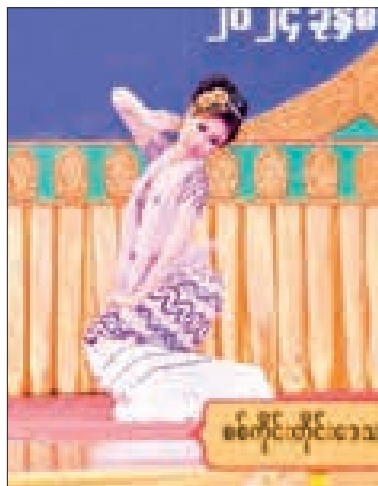
Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae views the Myanmar traditional orchestra contest yesterday.



The SAC Member and Union Ministers watch the traditional orchestra contest yesterday.



Contestant from Sagaing.



A dance contestant.



A contestant (amateur) playing flute.



A piano contestant from Ayeyawady Region.



A contestant (R) from Bago Region competing a composing contest.

The song-composing competition, held at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, featured participants at the amateur level (first class) from Bago, Mon, Rakhine, Yangon, Magway, Kayin, Taninthayi, Chin, Mandalay, Ayeyawady,

and Sagaing regions, competing under the theme “Myanma Yoeya Amway Ahla Toe Phya Zay” which means “The Beauty of Myanmar’s Cultural Heritage”.

In the music competitions held across various venues,

participants showcased their skills with the piano, violin, flute and orchestra. Female contestants at the Basic Education level (ages 15-20) from Chin, Mandalay, Shan, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Bago, and Kayah

performed the “Aung Mingala.” Male contestants from Taninthayi, Sagaing, Bago, Mandalay, Yangon, and Ayeyawady regions participated in the “Mawyon Haywon” song.

Participants competed in marionette contest and drama contest. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Thadingyut holiday draws crowds to Yangon, nearby areas

DURING the Thadingyut holiday period, many people make short trips to the Yangon Region and nearby areas, according to tour operators and vacationers.

Holiday trips by rented cars include the Yangon-Twintay-Pyapon, Bago pilgrimage, Zalun Pyidawpyan pilgrimage, Mandalay-Kyaukse, and Nay Pyi Taw pilgrimage while some travel on their own arrangement after contacting tour companies.

There are people who go on day trips, 1-night and 2-day trips, and short trips in family or friend groups during Thadingyut school and office holidays.

“As Thadingyut period is my children’s school holiday and our office holiday, we didn’t go very far, and we went on a one-night stay trip to Bago pilgrimage. We saw many more pilgrims at pagodas because of holidays,” said a housewife traveller from Yangon Region.

In addition, there are some people who return from Yangon Region to their homes to reunite with their families during the Thadingyut holidays and there are also many people who go on trips such as Bagan-Popa, Hpan, Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung. — MT/ZN



Visitors to Mei Nu Brick Monastery in ancient Inwa city seen on the full moon day of Thadingyut.

Tourist visits to ancient Inwa rise on Thadingyut Full Moon

ON Abhidhamma Day, the full moon day of Thadingyut, there are more tourists visiting the famous places in ancient Inwa than last year, said a conservationist of the old city.

The ancient cultural area of Inwa, a historical place that is particularly attractive to domestic and foreign tourists, is situated in TadaU township, Kyaukse district, Mandalay

region.

“The number of tourists is increasing only now. Usually, it wasn’t many. This year, we see more visitors. We haven’t seen such crowds for long. People especially visit Mei Nu Brick Monastery, Bagaya and Nyaungyet clusters of pagodas. In fact, there are still many more pagodas in Inwa that people can visit,” he said.

Despite many remaining attractive destinations in ancient Inwa, tourists still do not visit these places due to difficult access.

“The number of visitors was meagre. It used to be just four or five people at most a day. Today (17 October), we can say there are quite a lot of visitors,” he added. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN



This image captures pilgrims to Zalun Pyidawpyan Pagoda.

Illegal trade crackdown seizes K710M in goods in 2 days

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 15 October, combined on-duty teams coordinated by the Customs Department seized industrial materials worth approximately K33 million, lacking official documentation, from two containers at the Asia World Port container checkpoint. Additionally, they confiscated industrial materials valued at K2.1 million from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port and materials worth K358.745 million from eight containers at Thilawa Port. The action was carried out following Customs procedures.

On 16 October, another combined team conducted inspections at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray station, seizing two Mitsubishi Fuso trucks, valued at K60 million, which were carrying three types of foodstuffs and consumer goods worth K22.34 million, all without official documentation. This operation also adhered to Customs regulations.

Furthermore, on-duty teams confiscated a Nissan Diesel truck, valued at approximately K80 million, transporting four kinds of industrial



Seized illegal goods at Myanmar Industrial Port.

materials and consumer goods worth K36.92 million without proper documents near the Keng-fong checkpoint in Kengtung Township. Another Nissan Diesel truck, estimated at K50 million, carrying industrial materials valued at K67.2 million without documentation, was seized on Union Highway between Mongpun and Hopong. These operations were also conducted under Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 12 arrests on 15 and 16 October, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods valued at approximately K710 million. — MNA/MKKS

Counter-argument to false information

Security forces deny burning of Sipa Village in Budalin

SUBVERSIVE media outlets are once again spreading false claims, alleging that security forces entered Sipa village in Budalin Township, Sagaing Region, on 17 October and burned houses in the village.

In reality, it was the PDF terrorists who attacked the security personnel for maintaining order near the village using heavy weaponry, which destroyed homes. The security forces did not set fire to the village. According to an official stationed in the area, there was a crossfire during the attack, after which the terrorists retreated.



This screenshot validates misinformation.

These malicious media outlets have distorted the truth regarding the recent violence in Sipa village, downplaying the damage caused by the heavy gunfire from PDF terrorists. They continue to spread fabricated narratives that misrepresent the actions of security forces working to restore peace and stability in the region. Such propaganda seeks to mislead the public and undermine the efforts of the security forces. — MNA/TRKM

OPINION

Preserve the cultural heritage of all national races

MYANMAR is one of the earliest Southeast Asian countries, with the establishment of city-states thousands of years ago, and it is rich in both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. The government is currently leading efforts to preserve these cultural elements to ensure their long-term survival for future generations.

As information technology advances, the development of physical structures and the globalization process compel countries worldwide to preserve their national identities and integrity. It is particularly important to sustain and protect intangible cultures. Furthermore, all citizens of Myanmar, regardless of their ethnicities, religions, or languages, share the responsibility of preserving the traditional cultural heritage of all national races.

Myanmar has steadfastly preserved its own culture and fine arts throughout successive eras. However, after losing its independence, the country has faced the influence of foreign cultures. It is widely acknowledged that traditional performing arts in Myanmar are at risk of disappearing due to rapid technological advancements and the proliferation of modern physical structures.

The ongoing performing arts competition aims to foster friendly relations among different national races and support the preservation and promotion of their traditional fine arts. By encouraging a comprehensive understanding of their cultures, the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions play a crucial role in sustaining national cultures and enhancing national identity.

The new generation of contestants who participated in the Performing Arts Competition in 1993 are now professional artists, coinciding with the competition's 25th anniversary. It is gratifying for the national cause that these professional artists are now passing on the fine arts legacy to amateur performers from various regions and states.

Myanmar is a Union where the major ethnic groups — Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, and Shan — live together in harmony, united by a shared national identity. Despite their

diversity, the musical instruments of all national races in Myanmar primarily rely on five categories: bronze, string, leather, wind, and percussion instruments.

Since they all share a common heritage in the performing arts, artistes must promote the flourishing of these fine arts across all national races in Myanmar. They should enhance the national spirit among the youth of the new generation. These artistes have a responsibility to preserve traditional cultural performing arts against the encroachment of foreign influences, ensuring the sustainable development of traditions and cultures. This effort should draw lessons from past events in cultural heritage, and it must be conducted without discrimination.

The Geology of Burma

H.L. Chhibber's renowned book, *The Geology of Burma*, includes a discussion on igneous activity concerning tectonics. Given space limitations, I will highlight some key points regarding "Igneous Activity Relation to Tectonics" of Chapter XXVII as follows: -

Geographical Distribution of Igneous Occurrences.

The igneous occurrences of Burma occur in groups along well-marked lines connected with the orographical features of the country described in Chapter I. The author believes that, connected with the geotectonics of Burma, there are at least five main igneous lines, as described in the sequel and depicted on the map hereunder.

Shan Plateau and two Igneous Lines: Connected with the warping of the Shan Plateau and its southern continuation are two igneous lines: an older and a younger. On the former lie the siliceous tuffs near the Lagwi Pass situated on the northeastern frontier of Burma, the Bawdwin lavas and tuffs, and perhaps also the siliceous volcanic rocks of the Elphinstone, Maingay Island, etc., in the Mergui Archipelago. The younger line comprises the volcanoes of Teng Yueh in south-west Yunnan, the Loi Han Hun volcano in the Northern Shan States, and some of the volcanoes of the Mergui Archipelago, including the basaltic flows of Medaw Island. This line passes farther southwards onto the Malay Peninsula.

Edge of Shan Plateau: It is now well-known that the edge of the Shan Plateau is formed by an important boundary fault, which constitutes a major structural feature in the Burmese Malayan Arc of mountains. Along the edge of the Shan Plateau and the Tenasserim Yoma lie the lavas and dolerites of the Kabwet area, the Mandalay and districts, and the rhyolites and rhyolite tuffs of the Thaton district, etc.

Igneous Line of Central Belt: The igneous occurrences of the central line connected with the folding of the Pegu Yoma and their continuation into the northern hill ranges comprise those of the Jade Mines area in the Myitkyina district, the Wuntho area in the Katha district, the Lower Chindwin, Shinmadaung, Mount Popa and the Promé and Tharrawaddy districts. The volcanoes of Barren Island and Narcondam are situated on the southern continuation of this line.

Western Igneous Line: Connected with the upheaval of the western hill ranges is the belt of serpentinised peridotites, which runs from Java and Sumatra through the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the south to the frontiers of Burma and Assam in the north. Associated with these intrusions are volcanic lavas and tuffs found in almost all the centres of igneous activity. These lines have been depicted on the sketch map.

Important Orogenic Periods.

Excluding the solitary instance of igneous activity during the early Palaeozoic period, the study of the relationships of igneous activity to tectonics may be said to have commenced almost with the Tertiary or late Mesozoic orogenic history of the country. In all, there are the following six important orogenic periods in the geological history of Burma which were accompanied by igneous activity:

1. Early Palaeozoic. The age of this orogeny cannot be fixed with certainty;
2. Upper Cretaceous-early Eocene;
3. Post-Eocene;
4. Pliocene;
5. Pleistocene;
6. Recent and sub-Recent.

Submergence of Crystalline Floor: After the formation of the crystalline floor, which is well exposed in the Ruby Mines tract of Mogok, the land was submerged, and a huge thickness of the unfossiliferous strata of the Chaung Magyi was deposited.

Folding of the Chaung Magyi and Mergui Series: After the deposition of the Chaung Magyi and Mergui Series, it appears that the country was upheaved and subjected to intense pressure. The strata are folded into narrow, closely compressed corrugation and are extensively faulted. The folding of the Mergui Series is sharper and more intense than that of the Moulmein Series, which is of a comparatively gentle type. In the case of the Chaung Magyis, how-

The Burma Circle of the Geological Survey of India and their Contributions to the Geology of Myanmar

EPISODE:47

By THAN HTUN
(GEOSCIENCE MYANMAR)



Map showing the five igneous belts of Burma. Broken line P-P passing Northern Shan States and some of the outer islands of Mergui Archipelago, showing the early Palaeozoic igneous occurrences. S-S denotes outcrops of serpentinised peridotites, with associated gabbros, diorites, and volcanic rocks.

ever, evidence is forthcoming that they were thrown into folds and denuded before the deposition of the Nyaungkangyis (Ordovician). There is probably an important hiatus between the Mergui and the Moulmein Series in Tenasserim.

Bawdwin Lavas and Tuffs: Either towards the end of this period of deposition or during the interval of upheaval and disturbance that followed it, some exhibition of explosive volcanic energy took place in the neighbourhood of Bawdwin, resulting in the emission of lavas and tuffs of an acid type.

Siliceous Tuffs on Chiese Frontiers: Farther north on the Chinese frontier of Burma near the Lagwi Pass, there occurred at about the same time explosive volcanic eruptions which deposited dark grey, fine-grained, siliceous tuffs, composed of highly angular quartz fragments surrounded by finer material containing much chlorite.

Volcanic Tuffs and Agglomerates of Mergui Archipelago: The southernmost record of igneous activity along this line is to be observed on some of the islands of the Mergui Archipelago. This area, not unlike the Archipelago, appears to have been another gigantic centre of igneous activity in Burma, where records of all kinds of igneous manifestation-plutonic, hypabyssal and volcanic-are preserved in many out of a total of about 900 islands. The Mergui Archipelago owes its origin to earth movements, aided very substantially by igneous activity. A M Heron believes that the foci of eruption, which have distributed their debris widely through the rocks of the Mergui Series lie in the Maingay and Elphinstone Islands. Hence, he and Sethu Rama Rao consider these rocks to be of the same age as the Mergui Series.

Acid and Basic Intrusions in the Mergui Series: The Mergui Series was similarly invaded by acid and basic intrusions, which Sethu Rama Rao explored near Talobusa in the Mergui district. According to him, the junction is obscure, and it is difficult to state whether it is conformable or not. The acid bands are composed of felsites rich in quartz with a little biotite, while the basic rocks are rich in hornblende, pyrite, and biotite with very little quartz. The rocks are undulating and gently folded, and the axes of the folds correspond with the strike of the sedimentary rocks of the district, i.e. 20° W of N to 20° E, of S.

It is difficult to fix the age of these intrusives. The original minerals have been much altered by metamorphism, and they have been subjected to severe crustal movements, including the folding of the Merguis. Their general appearance resembles that of gneiss. They were either intruded into the Merguis before the latter were folded or are older than the Merguis.

Igneous Quiescence.

When igneous activity around Bawdwin, etc., became extinct, a remarkable period of quiescence followed. This interval of rest lasted throughout the later part of the Palaeozoic and Mesozoic eras of the earth's history. Though the geological record of the northern Shan States for this period is fairly complete, no trace of igneous activity has been discovered during these times. Burma proper was, of course, under the sea during these ages, and no landmass here existed.

During this vest interval of many changes in the distribution of land and sea, the evolution of plant and animal life took place. However, it appears that the earth's movements during this period

were not severe enough to open fissures for igneous energy to manifest itself from beneath. It is believed that considerable earth movements took place from time to time during the accumulation of the stratified deposits. Still, they were probably mainly tangential, resulting in the folding and squeezing together of the strata. It was not until near the close of the Mesozoic that great dislocations, which were more likely to accompany manifestations of igneous activity, began to develop.

Late Cretaceous-Early Eocene Movements.

As mentioned above, it was not until late Cretaceous or early Eocene times that the subterranean fires once more awoke to vigorous action. It was at this time that the Arakan Yoma, with its continuations to the north and south, were upheaved from the bottom of the sea in the form of a long, narrow island.

At about the same time, the eastern hill ranges of Burma, including the Shan Plateau and Tenasserim Yoma, were finally lifted into a landmass that has persisted ever since. It was about this period that Gondwanaland finally broke up, and the Deccan trap lavas welled out through fissures in Western India. In brief, this must have been a very important orogenic period when vast changes in land and sea also occurred in other parts of the world.

Serpentine Belt of Burma.

As an accompaniment of the late Cretaceous -early Eocene movements, intrusions of peridotites, picrites, gabbros and diorites took place in the Archipelagoes of the Andamans and Nicobars, the Henzada, Bassein, Promé, Thayetmyo and Minbu districts of Burma. Similar intrusions occur farther north in the Manipur and Naga Hills, in the Jade Mines area, and in the Hukawng Valley.

Volcanic Eruptions in Early Eocene: Volcanic eruptions in the form of explosive activity accompanied or immediately followed the peridotitic intrusions in most of the areas enumerated above.

Emplacement of Peridotitic Intrusions: When the intrusions of peridotitic magma took place, movements both epeirogenic and orogenic were occurring on a tremendous scale all over the then Southern Continent of Gondwanaland. The rocks in which these intrusions occur are very tightly compressed, overfolded, and faulted and have broken-backed anticlinals. These intrusions have taken place either along or near fault lines, marking weak interformational planes or along tension cracks formed in the same series. The underground extensions of these intrusions appear to be like batholiths.

Jade Mines Area: In the Jade Mines area, the outcrop of peridotites and serpentines forms a well-marked plateau with an average elevation of 2,500 feet above sea level. It is, therefore, probable that the magma erupted initially through a fissure. In places, however, the serpentine hills have a conical appearance; in other cases, they form well-defined ranges.

In the Lawa tract of the Kamaing subdivision, Myitkyina district, the writer traced a narrow band of serpentine, which in places is highly brecciated, for several miles along the junction of the Crystalline Schists and Older Tertiaries. It marked almost the position of the fault along which the big earthquake of 28 January 1931 and the numerous aftershocks took place. This was confirmed by the reversal of the direction of the earth's sound on either side of the fault.

In passing, a brief mention of the intrusions of jadeite masses into the serpentines of the Jade Mines area may be made. The writer has found several outcrops of jadeite, which all follow linear directions. Both Noetling and Bleek supposed that they occurred in the form of dykes. But a section exposed in the Kadondwin mine revealed that the jadeite intrusion into the serpentine may have taken place in the form of a sill.

Hukawng Valley: The serpentine deposits of the Hukawng Valley are similar in their mode of occurrence, being in reality only a northern continuation of those of the Jade Mines area referred to above.

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NATIONAL

Myanmar, Hubei to boost cooperation in education, economy, and culture



Myanmar Consul-General U Kyaw Zeyar Lin and Deputy Director-General of the Hubei Provincial Education Department Mr Zhou Qihong hold bilateral discussions in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Kyaw Zeyar Lin, Consul-General of Myanmar in Chongqing, met Mr Zhou Qihong, Deputy Director-General of the Hubei Provincial Education Department, to discuss strengthening educational

collaboration between universities in Myanmar and Hubei Province. They focused on enhancing initiatives for academic partnerships and facilitating the placement of Myanmar scholars at universities in Wuhan.

U Kyaw Zeyar Lin also held dis-

cussions with Ms Zhang Xiaomei, Director-General of the Hubei Provincial Foreign Affairs Department. Their meeting centred on opportunities for cooperation in economic development, trade, investment, cultural exchange, and tourism. — ASH/TMT

Sri Lanka, Myanmar strengthen ties in culture, religion, and climate action



SRI Lanka's Prime Minister Dr Harini Amarasuriya received Myanmar Ambassador to Sri Lanka Daw Marlar Than Htaik at the Prime Minister's Office on 15 October to discuss ways to enhance cooperation in the fields of culture, religion, agriculture, and consular matters, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

They also explored potential collaboration on addressing climate change and promoting environmental conservation. — ASH/MKKS

Myanmar Ambassador to Sri Lanka Daw Marlar Than Htaik poses for the documentary photo with Sri Lankan Prime Minister Dr Harini Amarasuriya.

New TV series 'Thu Ko Hma Chit Mi Thi' set to be aired in Oct

THE new TV series titled 'Thu Ko Hma Chit Mi Thi' is set to premiere in October, as announced by its lead actor, Chan Min Ye Htut.

The series, written by the Skyward Art Team and Ko Set, and directed by Min Set, features a storyline focused on love and relationships among young people. Chan Min Ye Htut, who portrays a CEO in the series, explained that preparing for the role required significant effort, including attention to detail in costumes. He described his character, Khun Tha Myat Thu, as being involved in a love story about sacrifice and hidden emotions, with a touch of a Korean-style influence. He added, "It's an intriguing character, and that's why I chose to be part of this production".

The series will star Chan Min Ye Htut alongside Nyein Thaw, May Mie Ko Ko, Than Thar Nyi, Soe Moe Kyi, and other actors. It consists of 20 episodes, each 30 minutes long, and will be aired on Fortune TV. — ASH/TKO



Castings in 'Thu Ko Hma Chit Mi Thi' new series.

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise



Myanmar film 'Baik' set for Oct release in major cinemas nationwide

ACCORDING to Aung Khit Min Film Production, the Myanmar film titled 'Baik' is set to be released in major cinemas across the country in October.

Yazawinko Ko crafted the film's

story, while Kyel Su Thit penned the script. Director Soe Moe Min dedicated considerable effort to bringing the movie to life.

The cast includes Kyaw Htet Aung, Shin Hmwe La, Wili, Min Paing, Academy Myat Kay Thi Aung, Li Li Kyaw Kaing, and several other actors and actresses. — ASH/TRKM

This photo showcases a poster of artistes who played the film 'Baik'.

Myanmar Accountancy Council Opens CPA Training Applications

THE Myanmar Accountancy Council is now accepting applications for Certified Public Accountants (CPA). Training will be opened both online and on-campus in May 2025.

The training will last two years, from 7 am to 8:50 am on Monday and Friday and 7 am to 11:50 am on Saturdays. Trainees must meet 60 per cent attendance.

Civil servants and qualified individuals will be prioritized for attending CPA training on the

Nay Pyi Taw campus. Eligible applicants for Yangon campus will be decided on qualifications.

Those who hold bachelor's degrees in BCom, BAct, and BBA and BBS (Accounting and Finance), Diploma in Accountancy, and those who hold a degree and ACCA Fundamental Skills Level or achieved CIMA Diploma in Management Accounting can directly join the training. They can enrol in the training from 10 am to 3 pm between 26 November and 31 December 2024.

However, those with a bachelor's degree from a certain university in the country can apply for the training from 1 to 30 November 2024 (from 10 am to 3 pm) after making a digital payment of K11,000 for the exam fee, and eligible trainees must pass the entrance exam.

Applicants must present a bachelor's degree certificate, matriculation pass certificate, citizenship scrutiny card, three one-inch by one-inch photos taken within one month, an identi-

fication card for civil servants and an approval letter from the head of the respective departments. Those who are eligible to sit for the entrance exam will be announced on 17 December through <https://www.oag-mac.gov.mm/> and [gov.mm/my/mac-announcement](https://www.gov.mm/my/mac-announcement). Exam cards will be issued on 23-27 December 2024 on the Yangon campus.

The two-hour exam is scheduled to take place on the Yangon campus at 9 am on 29 December 2024, and it includes

tests for Financial Accounting, Cost & Management Accounting, and Auditing subjects.

The finalized trainees will be declared in February 2025 through [gov.mm/my/mac-announcement](https://www.gov.mm/my/mac-announcement). Those individuals can enquire about details at the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union in Nay Pyi Taw (Office No 12) and the Yangon campus at No 1/19, Thakin Mya Park, Ahlon Township through 01 8227246, 09 796979928, and 09984224639. — NN/KK

Form 8 certified timber, related products put for auction

MORE than 69 tonnes of Form 8 certified timber and related products of the respective Forest Department of Taunggyi, Kalaw, Yatsawk, Pinlaung, Ywangan townships of Taunggyi District, southern Shan State will be auctioned at a competitive price, according to the auction committee.

Only those engaged in manufacturing furniture, making sculpture, sawmills, plywood mills, timber wood businesses, Myanmar Timber Merchants Association and Myanmar Furniture Industries Association are eligible for bidding in order to enhance Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, the committee announced.

The competitive bidding will take place at 10 am on 22 October 2024 at Yadana Timber Hall of the Forest Department in Taunggyi. The sale items include teak window pane, gum-kino table, and sal chopped items weighing 4.8 tonnes. It is exclusively designated for furniture and sculpture manufacturers. Then, other timber, chopped items, charcoal, wood chunks for sawmills, plywood mills, timber wood businesses, Myanmar Timber Merchants Association and Myanmar Furniture Industries Association will be sold, weighing 64.4 tonnes.

The committee declared that the bidding form and standard bidding document can be purchased at the Taunggyi District Forest Department with K10,000 from 7 to 22 October 2024.

Individuals can enquire about details of the bidding at the department through contact numbers 081 2121146 and 081 2122283. — NN/KK



A lorry is seen transporting teak logs.

DICA report: 2,000 firms fail to file AR in Sept



The signage of the office of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

A total of 2,000 companies were struck off the register in September of 2024 as they failed to file annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

DICA's statistics indicated that 750 companies in January 2024, 600 in February, 1,650 in March and 2,000 each in April, May and June, 2,500 in July and 1,000 in August did not file the AR.

DICA notified those companies that failed to file their AR on the MyCO that were struck off the register from the date of the directive under 430 (F) of Myanmar Companies Law, according to DICA's notification.

A total of 6,400 companies also failed to submit the AR in 2023. The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website

commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

All registered companies need to submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thousands of companies were suspended

for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/KK

ECONOMY WORLD

Symposium in Thailand calls for leveraging RCEP for regional market

The theme of the symposium was "RCEP: New Future for Asia's Economy."



Secretary-General of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Zhang Jun (2nd L, front) speaks at a symposium on leveraging the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) to build a high-level regional market in Bangkok, Thailand, 27 August 2024. **PHOTO: SUN WEITONG/XINHUA**

SOME 40 experts and representatives from China and Southeast Asian countries have gathered here to share insights on leveraging the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) to build a high-level regional market.

Organized by the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), the Hainan-based China Institute for Reform and Development (CIRD), along with the Hainan Institute for Free Trade Port Studies, the symposium held Tuesday went under the theme "RCEP: New Future for Asia's Economy".

In his opening address, Secretary-General of the BFA Zhang Jun noted that RCEP

bears significance for regional economic integration, staying in line with the common interests of Asian countries.

He also called for a favourable policy environment, sound basic support, improved connectivity and better mechanism construction to push RCEP forward into a higher level of free trade agreement.

Chi Fulin, head of CIRD, highlighted RCEP's emerging role in promoting regional cooperation and enhancing the region's economic resilience and risk resistance, adding that the next few years will be critical for its implementation, which requires joint efforts from all parties. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Women make up 16% of executives in Japan's top-listed firms

ACCOUNTED for 16.1 per cent of executives at Japan's top-listed companies, a survey by its top business lobby showed Wednesday, up 2.8 percentage points from the previous year and moving steadily towards the government's goal of at least 30 per cent by 2030.

But women who were internally promoted to board members made up just 3.4 per cent, or fewer than 300, of the total, highlighting the need for companies to enhance training programmes to help female workers advance their careers to top positions.

The survey by the Japan Business Federation, also known as Keidanren, examined 1,637 companies listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange's top-tier Prime Market as of 1 July covering board directors, auditors and executive officers. — Kyodo

Bangladesh's post-Covid GDP growth to decelerate to 4%

BANGLADESH'S post-Covid recovery continues to be impacted by high inflation, balance of payments deficit, financial sector vulnerabilities, and increasingly limited job opportunities for its youth, especially women and educated youth, says the World Bank in its twice-yearly-update, released on Tuesday.

The Bangladesh Development Update reveals a challenging macro-fiscal environment, with GDP growth slowing to 5.2 per cent in FY24 and projected to drop to 4.0 per cent in FY25 due to weak investment and exports. Rising income inequality, especially among urban youth, highlights the need for urgent reforms to foster inclusive growth and job creation. — ANI

Almost 40% of World Bank's recent climate funds unaccounted for: Oxfam

CLOSE to 40 per cent of World Bank climate financing over the past seven years is currently unaccounted for, Oxfam said in a new report published Wednesday, blaming poor record-keeping.

An Oxfam audit of the development lender's climate finance portfolio between 2017 and 2023 found that as much as \$41 billion in climate finance could not be found "between the time projects were approved and when they closed".

"The Bank is quick to brag about its climate finance billions — but these numbers are based on what it plans to spend, not on what it actually spends once a project gets rolling," Kate Donald, the head of Oxfam's Washington office, said in a statement.

The Oxfam audit found there was "no clear public record" of where the money went, making

it impossible to assess its impact — or whether the funds were actually spent on climate-related activities, as promised.

"With this level of information, it is impossible to determine whether the Bank is truly stepping up its climate investments," the report's authors said.

The World Bank has looked to boost its climate financing commitment under new president Ajay Banga, who took over last year on a pledge to reform the 80-year-old Washington-based institution.

Since then, the Bank has committed to raising the proportion of its annual financing that goes to climate change adaptation from 35 per cent to 45 per cent starting in the fiscal 2025 year, which began in July. — AFP



The World Bank finances a range of projects aimed at renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, and disaster risk management. A combine harvests cotton in a field at Pamplona farm in Cristalina, Brazil on 14 July 2022. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE/ AFP/FILE**

China-Vietnam freight train service drastically boosts regional trade

THE Dong Anh railway station in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi remains busy in the wee hours as container handling vehicles are moving back and forth, loading containers onto a timber express bound for Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The timber was purchased by a Chinese paper-making company as raw material from southern Vietnam. Speaking of the China-Vietnam freight train service, Zhang Cunwei, head of VTO International Port Development Joint Stock Company, said that like the timber express, a single train might have 10 or 20 containers all carrying the same type of product.

"We often launch trains reserved for



Aerial photo taken on 23 August 2022 shows a China-Vietnam freight train pulling out of Xi'an international port in Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi Province. **PHOTO: LI YIBO/XINHUA**

transporting agricultural products, fruits, or other goods," Zhang said.

In the past, a consignment might be made up of miscellaneous goods.

The China-Vietnam freight train service began in 2017, and has ex-

panded from transporting basic goods to over 300 types of goods, said Nguyen Hoang Anh, deputy general manager of Railway Transport and Trade Joint Stock Company of Vietnam Railways.

Vietnam exports

mainly agricultural products, fruits, electronics, textiles, and footwear, while China sends raw materials, steel, and construction materials for manufacturing to Vietnam, according to him.

— Xinhua

Kyrgyzstan's foreign trade turnover up 9% year on year

KYRGYZSTAN'S foreign trade amounted to US\$10.6 billion in January-August, up nine per cent from a year earlier, the National Statistics Committee reported Monday.

Exports rose by 13.1 per cent to \$2.1 billion, while imports increased by 8.1 per cent to \$8.5 billion, said

the report.

The volume of trade between Kyrgyzstan and the Eurasian Economic Union member states reached \$3.2 billion, up 8.8 per cent year on year.

Russia and Kazakhstan were the largest trading partners of Kyrgyzstan in the period, it said. — Xinhua

Foreign visitor spending in Japan through Sept surpasses all of 2023

SPENDING by foreign visitors to Japan reached 5.8 trillion yen (\$39 billion) for the first nine months of 2024, surpassing the previous full-year record high of 5.3 trillion yen hit last year, government data showed Wednesday.

The increase is given by the yen depreciation, which gives visitors from overseas more purchasing power, and the growing popularity of the country's anime, manga and other subcultures. — Kyodo

Raytheon to pay \$950 mln over fraud, bribery schemes: US

RAYTHEON, a subsidiary of major American defence contractor RTX, will pay more than \$950 million to resolve fraud and bribery charges, the US Justice Department announced Wednesday.

"Raytheon engaged in criminal schemes to defraud the US government in connection with contracts for critical military systems and to win business through bribery in Qatar," Deputy Assistant Attorney-General Kevin Driscoll said in a Justice Department statement.

The company has agreed to enter into two three-year deferred prosecution agreements, the Justice Department said, in which criminal charges will be dismissed if Raytheon complies with the terms of the deal during that period.

The agency also said that from the 2000s into 2020, Raytheon paid more than \$30 million to a Qatari

agent who was a relative of the Qatari Emir and who had no prior background in military defence contracting.

"RTX is taking responsibility for the misconduct that occurred. We have worked diligently during the investigations to remediate that misconduct and continue to do so," the company, which was formed by the merger of Raytheon and United Technologies in 2020, said in a statement.

"We are committed to working closely with the incoming independent monitor to improve and further enhance our ethics and compliance programme."

As part of one agreement, Raytheon admitted to "two separate schemes to defraud the Department of Defence (DOD) in connection with the provision of defence articles and services, including PATRIOT missile systems and a radar system," the Justice Department said. — AFP



Raytheon has agreed to enter into two three-year deferred prosecution agreements, in which criminal charges will be dismissed if the company complies with the terms of the deal during that period. **PHOTO: AFP**

Digital India Innovation zone showcased at India Mobile Congress 2024

THE National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has set up a pavilion, the 'Digital India Innovation Zone,' at the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2024, stated MeitY on Thursday.

The ministry also noted that the pavilion aims to give delegates a hands-on experience with India's various Digital Public Infrastructure (DPIs), showcas-

ing the country's technological advancements.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday inaugurated the eighth edition of the IMC at Bharat Mandapam during the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024 event.

He also took a walkthrough of the exhibitions displayed at the event. The MeitY has also installed pavillion at the

event of IMC.

The MeitY pavilion highlights key DPIs such as DigiLocker, Aadhaar, UPI, and eSanjeevani, among others. Organizations like C-DAC, NIXI, and SAMEER have also set up booths to showcase their contributions to India's digital growth. Visitors to the UMANG booth can explore live services like blood bank searches and pensioner life certificate generation.

The ministry stated that the DigiLocker offers an interactive game where visitors can store documents in a digital vault, while NPCI demonstrates UPI's "Scan & Pay" feature, reflecting India's booming digital payments landscape. At the ONDC stall, attendees can learn about the impact of ONDC in the e-commerce space through real-time demonstrations and videos. — ANI

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

72 nations take part in World Buddhist Forum

The forum will include one main seminar and several side discussions on topics such as inclusiveness in Buddhism, digitalization of Buddhist scriptures, and Buddhist art.

SPREADING peace, development and prosperity around the world are common pursuits for Buddhists and all humanity. This shared vision will be illustrated at the Sixth World Buddhist Forum, which begins on Tuesday at Mount Xuedou in Ningbo, Zhejiang province.

Themed “Hand in Hand for Coexistence”, the three-day event will be attended by some 800 participants from 72 countries and regions who aim to seek consensus and practical approaches to address global challenges in an ever-evolving world, said Venerable Master Minghai, vice-president of the Buddhist Association of China, at a news conference ahead of the forum on Monday in Ningbo.

The forum will include one main seminar and several side



The opening ceremony of the Sixth World Buddhist Forum is held on Tuesday evening at Mount Xuedou in Ningbo, Zhejiang province. **PHOTO: ZHANG WEI/CHINADAILY.COM.CN**

discussions on topics such as the wisdom of inclusiveness in Buddhism, the digitalization of Buddhist scriptures and the charm of Buddhist art. The talks will be held both offline and online to increase participation in the dialogue.

The forum will serve as a diverse and dynamic platform to delve into the cultural essence, ideological significations and contemporary value of Buddhism, featuring exhibitions, music performances and ceremonies.

Minghai said it will be a dialogue “to engage not only Buddhists but also all members of the world to communicate on ways of interaction to improve relations between people, and between people and nature, so as to realize harmonious coexistence”. — Xinhua

Israeli Foreign Minister calls Israeli Army’s attacks on UN peacekeepers mistake

THE Israeli army’s shelling of the positions of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was a “mistake”, and the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) and the country’s Foreign Ministry are negotiating to prevent similar incidents, Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said.

He added that attacking UNIFIL was not Israeli policy.

“It was a mistake. It is not our policy to attack UNIFIL. We are currently working on a solution to this problem. The IDF is negotiating with UNIFIL, and the Foreign Ministry

is also negotiating a solution to this problem,” Katz said in an interview on Wednesday.

Katz noted that the main problem is that Lebanese movement Hezbollah operates in close proximity to UNIFIL bases.

“They are doing this because they want Israel to act against UNIFIL. However, since UNIFIL does not want to leave these places, we are now working on a solution to the problem,” Katz added.

The minister believes that military actions in southern Lebanon will continue for several more weeks.

The UNIFIL has repeatedly reported attacks on its positions by the IDF in southern Lebanon. The Israeli military reportedly attacked the mission’s strongholds, including two Italian bases, and the headquarters, and violated the Blue Line. — SPUTNIK



The United Nations peacekeeping mission base in Naqura, on Lebanon’s southern coast. **PHOTO: AFP**

Hard talk on migration tops agenda at EU summit

PLANS to tighten rules on migration dominated the agenda as EU leaders headed into summit talks Thursday in Brussels that were set to crystallize a rightward shift in the bloc’s rhetoric.

Hard-right gains in several countries have translated into a harsher stance on migration across the bloc, with some governments pushing for reform only months after a long-nego-

tiated deal was agreed on.

“Migration will dominate our debates, (it) has already for quite a few weeks and months,” EU parliament president Roberta Metsola said ahead of the talks.

“There is a desire to work on pragmatic solutions,” Italy’s hard-right Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni told reporters on the eve of the gathering. — AFP

N Korea says its Constitution defines S Korea as “hostile state”

NORTH Korea said Thursday its road and railway links to South Korea “have been completely blocked” in line with its Constitution that “clearly defines” the South as a “hostile state,” suggesting the possibility that the supreme law has been revised, according to state-run media.

The report by the official Korean Central News Agency came as the South Korean military confirmed Tuesday that the North had blown up sections of inter-Korean roads on its side of the border, destroying what was once a symbol of the two Koreas’ cooperation. — Kyodo

SPORTS

AFC Women's Futsal: Team Myanmar set for Group D clash



The Myanmar women's futsal team in action during their training session. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE Myanmar women's national futsal team has been placed in Group D for the 2025 AFC Women's Futsal Championship following the lot-drawing event held on 17 October in Malaysia.

A total of 19 teams will compete in the tournament, which is divided into three groups of five teams and one group of four. According to the draw, Group A consists of Thailand, Lebanon, Bahrain, Palestine, and Iran; Group B features Indonesia, Hong Kong, Paki-

stan, India, and Kyrgyzstan; Group C includes Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Australia, the Philippines, and Kuwait; while Group D comprises Vietnam, Chinese Taipei, Macau, and Myanmar.

The championship is scheduled to take place from 11 to 19 January 2025, with the top two teams from each group and the best third-placed team advancing to the next stage. A total of 12 teams will compete in the final round of the 2025 AFC Women's Futsal

Championship in May 2025. Hosts China, along with 2018 champions Iran and runner-up Japan, will qualify directly for the tournament.

The Myanmar women's futsal team is currently taking training in preparation for the AFC Women's Futsal Championship as well as the ASEAN Futsal Championship, which will take place in November. Head coach U Htay Myint is overseeing the team's preparations. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Beckham says Ratcliffe needs time to revive Man Utd

DAVID Beckham is hopeful that minority owner Jim Ratcliffe will turn Manchester United's fortunes around but says it will take time to return to the "good old days".

British billionaire Ratcliffe's INEOS took charge of the club's football operations earlier this year but United have had an underwhelming start to the new campaign as they look to build on last year's FA Cup success.

Pressure has mounted on manager Erik ten Hag, with United sitting 14th in the Premier League after seven games and winless in two Europa League fixtures. Beckham, who won six Premier League titles, two FA Cups and the Champions League during his playing career with United, believes fans will need to be patient with Ratcliffe and his team.

Jim Ratcliffe acquired a minority stake in Manchester United from the Glazers, whose leveraged takeover in 2005 left the club deeply unpopular among fans. David Beckham expressed hope for change, praising Ratcliffe as a caring fan and successful businessman, emphasizing the need for a fresh perspective to restore faith in leadership. — AFP



David Beckham won six Premier League titles at Manchester United. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Big names back for Barca in La Liga

LA Liga returns to action after the international break this weekend with league leaders Barcelona at home to Sevilla, while Real Madrid travel to play Celta a week before the two sides go head-to-head in the first 'Clasico' of the season.

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick should have Dani Olmo back after his hamstring injury, while Lamine Yamal should be available after withdrawing from the Spain squad with a muscle

strain.

Midfielder Gavi may return to play following his knee injury, while several players, including Andreas Christensen and Ferran Torres, remain sidelined for Barcelona's match against Sevilla, who have improved with two wins and a draw in their last three games.

Celta Vigo faces Real Madrid without key players Iago Aspas and Ilaix Moriba, both sent off controversially.

Aspas's absence is significant, as he has been in excellent form.

Real Madrid anticipates Eder Militao's return but has doubts about Thibaut Courtois due to a groin strain.

The match round starts with Alaves facing Valladolid, both seeking to end poor runs. Athletic Club welcomes back Nico Williams against Espanyol, while Osasuna hosts Betis in a closely matched game. — Xinhua



Chinese climber He Jing poses after completing her climbing journey at the 8,027-metre Mount Shishapangma on 9 October 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

FOR any elite mountaineer, reaching the summits of the world's 14 independent mountains above 8,000 metres is a monumental challenge. Then what about doing it without sup-

plementary oxygen?

On 9 October, 36-year-old He Jing became the first Chinese climber to summit all 14 peaks over 8,000 metres without supplementary oxygen, completing

He Jing becomes China's first woman to scale all 14 peaks above 8,000m with Oxygen-free climbing

her journey at the 8,027-metre Mount Shishapangma.

He Jing began her oxygen-free climbing journey in 2017, reaching the summit of Manaslu that year. She followed it with Makalu in 2018, Annapurna in 2019, Dhaulagiri in 2021, Qomolangma, Lhotse, Qogir (K2), and Broad Peak in 2022, then Kanchenjunga, Nanga Parbat,

Gasherbrum II, Gasherbrum I, and Cho Oyu in 2023. Mount Shishapangma marked the final peak in this incredible challenge.

Oxygen-free climbing refers to the entire process of scaling mountains without using auxiliary oxygen, a formidable test of endurance, especially at altitudes above 8,000 metres.

Female Chinese climbers

are rare in the world of 8,000-metre peaks, and those who do it without auxiliary oxygen are even rarer. Whenever other climbers see a Chinese woman summiting without oxygen, they look at her with genuine admiration. "Sometimes, I feel proud to show the world that Chinese climbers are strong," He Jing said. — Xinhua



The event was organized by the All-Russian State Library for Foreign Literature and the TV BRICS International Media Network. **PHOTO: ANI**

BRICS+ Information and Cultural Media Centre project inaugurated to strengthen cooperation among BRICS countries

The Centre will host various events to promote information sharing and cultural diplomacy among BRICS+ countries at the Library for Foreign Literature.

THE BRICS+ Information and Cultural Media Centre project was inaugurated with an aim to foster and strengthen humanitarian cooperation among BRICS+ countries and promote culture, science, and education, a statement by TV BRICS International Media Network said.

The Centre was inaugurated on Tuesday, in Moscow and was organized by the All-Russian State Library for Foreign Literature named after M I Rudomino and the TV BRICS International Media Network, the statement said.

The opening ceremony was accompanied by the plenary session of the International Conference titled “Humanitarian Foundations of the BRICS+ Dialogue: The Role of Media in Strengthening Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Science, and Education.”

During the event, Pavel Kuzmin, General Director of the Library for Foreign Literature, outlined the project’s goals and objectives.

“We will provide our readers with reliable, verified literature that will allow them to make their own decisions.

We won’t draw conclusions or provide hints for readers, but we will help them to develop their own positions,” he said.

The opening ceremony included a panel discussion on intercultural dialogue, featuring speakers from various media outlets discussing cultural exchange and technological advancements in content production.

The Centre will host diverse events, promoting information sharing and cultural diplomacy among BRICS+ countries at the Library for Foreign Literature. — ANI

Chinese agricultural scientists win FAO Achievement Award

The Institute’s work in combating the Fall Armyworm has had a profound impact in China, Asia, and globally, aiding in crop protection and food security.

THE Institute of Plant Protection of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences was awarded the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Achievement Award Wednesday at a ceremony held by the FAO to mark the 44th World Food Day in Rome, Italy.

FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu presented the prestigious FAO Achievement Award to the IPPCAAS and described their groundbreaking work in combating the Fall Armyworm as having a profound impact in China, across Asia, and globally, making significant strides in protecting crops and securing food supplies.

This year’s World Food Day, with the theme “Right to foods for a better life and a better future”, aims to raise global awareness about the right to foods and advocates for transforming agrifood systems to support peaceful, resilient, and inclusive livelihoods for all.

According to the FAO, around 730 million people are currently facing hunger, and over 2.8 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet. This means that even if their calorie intake is sufficient, they may not be receiving the necessary nutrients and dietary diversity to maintain good health. — Xinhua



Qu Dongyu (R), director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), presents the FAO Achievement Award to the Institute of Plant Protection of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (IPPCAAS) at a ceremony to mark the World Food Day in Rome, Italy, on 16 October 2024. **PHOTO: LI JING/XINHUA**

ENHANCING AVIATION SAFETY

Five SEAsian nations agree to share aviation safety data

FIVE Southeast Asian nations said Thursday they had agreed to share aviation data and information among themselves, including reports of severe turbulence, to help make air travel safer.

Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding on Wednesday, aiming to launch the plan by the end of the year; their civil aviation authorities said in a joint statement.

The agreement comes as air travel recovers from the

COVID-19 pandemic, which hammered tourism in the region.

Last year, five Asia-Pacific countries initiated a collaboration to share de-identified safety data, taking time to establish protocols for data confidentiality.

The joint effort aims to identify safety hazards and trends across seven categories, including collision warnings and severe turbulence reports. Thailand will be the data custodian, while Singapore will analyze the data, ensuring it won’t be used for punitive purposes. — AFP