

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, and dignitaries view the female dancing contest yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla watch Performing Arts Competition

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla yesterday morning watched the participation of contestants in the 25th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Perform-

ing Arts Competition (national level) at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC II) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Also, present at the competition were SAC members and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, deputy ministers, members of the panel of

judges, members of contending teams, ethnic national brethren and people.

They all enjoyed the performances of contestants in the amateur-level (first-grade) female dancing contest.

After the competition, the Senior General and his wife warmly greeted

members of the panel of judges and contestants.

The Senior General and his wife also enjoyed a competition of contestants in the basic education level (ages 10-15) female guitar contest at the News Briefing Room of MICC II. — MNA/TTA

Article

eBook

Readers

By Yin Nwe Ko

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Mandalay Thadingyut's final day draws massive gatherings


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SITE admits new trainees for short-term vocational courses

NATIONAL



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

Government Promotes Political Dialogue to Counter Terrorism and Foster National Peace

A civilized society cannot fully accept resolving armed conflicts through terror attacks without political dialogue. Therefore, insurgents must be recognized as a common enemy, and the government will continue to work towards peace and stability, not only in Shan State (North) but across the entire nation.

(Excerpt from the speech on security conditions of the State delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 6 August 2024)



Kyauktiyo Pagoda and pilgrims.

Food stalls at the stairs of the Pagoda are full of pilgrims.

Local visitors flock to Kyauktiyo Pagoda during Thadingyut, filling all accommodations

THERE was a massive influx of local visitors at Kyauktiyo Pagoda during the Thadingyut holidays; even hotels, guesthouses, hostels and restaurants were packed, said Ko Htut from Hsandawshin Kyauktiyo, a travel service agency.

He said the local tourist arrival was massive on 16 and 17 October, filling all hotels, guesthouses, hostels, and restaurants. He added that the area is safe to travel in.

“This year’s Thadingyut Festival lasts five days, so the number of visitors is larger than last year. All hotels, guesthouses and restaurants were packed with pilgrims on 16 and 17 Octo-

ber and returned to normal on 18 October. Foreign visitors normally come in monsoon season, so there are just a few now,” he said.

Visitors came from different regions and states, such as Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Mawlamyine, and Hpa-an, but the majority of them were Yangon residents.

In addition to Kyauktiyo Pagoda, pilgrims also visited historic Rathe Hill, Myasein Hill, Sunt Hill, Zinkyan Hill, Waiza Hill, Sama Hill and the waterfall, he said.

An increase in visitor arrival can bring opportunities for residents to enjoy more income. — MT/ZS

Mandalay Thadingyut's final day draws massive gatherings

A surge of visitors from across the country participated on the last day of the Thadingyut Lighting Festival, held in the southern area of Mandalay Moat.

The Mandalay Region government hosted a grand lamp-lighting ceremony featuring the illumination of 10,000 oil lamps in the southern part of Mandalay Moat on 26th Street, stretching to 66th and 73rd Streets, starting on 16 October.

The streets were decorated with colourful lights, and the grand event attracted a large crowd, featuring performances by well-known singers and offering food from 6 pm to 10 pm.

“We stumbled upon this wonderful festival while travelling from Yangon to Mandalay for a pilgrimage, as school was closed. The stunning Mandalay Moat, adorned with colourful lights, creates picturesque scenic vibes that visualize a

living painting. I couldn't resist taking souvenir photos to capture the beauty.

“After enjoying delicious local food from the market stalls, we look forward to joining my children for some fun at the entertainment show,” said Ko Maung Maung Myo, one of the visitors from Yangon.

Similarly, Ma Yee Yee Tint, who visited the festival with her friends, said, “We offered oil lamps at the stupa on 66th Street. We also took many photographs with the beautiful lights while enjoying the festival's location. Now, we're cheering for the performance show”.

Famous pagodas and sites in Mandalay reportedly received an impressive turnout of visitors and pilgrims during the Thadingyut Festival, which coincides with a long holiday. — MNA/TRKM



This photo captures pagodas and stupas being packed with pilgrims offering lights in Mandalay.

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)

SAC Vice-Chair Deputy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win, wife Daw Than Than Nwe enjoy performance of theatrical in troupe 'Maha Zanaka' drama contest

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe yesterday evening enjoyed competition in the Maha Zanaka drama contest of the 25th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition at the open-air theatre of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee.

The Vice-Senior General, his wife and the party watched performances of the Shwe Yangontine theatrical troupe representing Yangon Region in the contest.

After the competition, the Vice-Senior General and his wife warmly greeted the maestros who served as members



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, and dignitaries watch the Maha Zanaka drama contest (below left) yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.



of the panel of judges and contestants.

Also present at the contest were Union ministers and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, deputy ministers, service personnel, families and people.

The Maha Ayeya theatrical troupe participated in the Maha Zanaka drama contest on 14 Octo-

ber, the Phankhamyay troupe from Magway Region on 15 October, the Min Naing Soe troupe from Mon State on 16 October, the Manmyo Gonyi troupe from Mandalay Region on 17 October and the Shwe Yangontine troupe representing Yangon Region yesterday. Moreover, contesting troupes from Bago and Sagaing regions will compete on 19 and 20 October. — MNA/TTA

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

State Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung views the Performing Arts Competition yesterday.



SAC Member Dr Ba Shwe, Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win and officials watch the singing contest.



A xylophone contestant.



A violin contestant.



SAC Member General Nyo Saw views the traditional orchestra contest yesterday.



A traditional orchestra contestant.



A dance contestant from Mandalay Region.

Silver Jubilee Performing Arts Competition enters fifth day

THE fifth day of the 25th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions was held yesterday morning across designated venues in Nay Pyi Taw, with a wide array of events continuing to showcase traditional music, dance, and artistic expressions.

One of the highlights was the “Mahagita” song competition, held at the Signing Room of the Myanmar International Convention Centre II. In the higher education category for women, participants from Mandalay Region, Chin State, Yangon Region, Sagaing Region, Bago Region, Mon State, Taninthayi Region, Kachin State, Rakhine State, and Ayeyawady Region competed by singing the “Thila Waiyan” (Patpyo) song. Likewise, male contestants from Rakhine

State, Bago Region, Yangon Region, Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Ayeyawady Region, Taninthayi Region, and Mon State also competed in the same song contest.

The contemporary song competition, held in the Banquet Hall of the same centre, saw male contestants in the second grade of the amateur level representing Magway Region, Kayah State, Bago Region, Mon State, Sagaing Region, Taninthayi Region, Shan State, Chin State, Kachin State, Yangon Region, Rakhine State, Kayah State, Ayeyawady Region, and Mandalay Region. They performed “Maggin Shitpa” (Noble Eightfold Path). In the basic education level for females aged 15 to 20, participants from Mon State, Kayah State, Bago Region,

Magway Region, Sagaing Region, Kachin State, Mandalay Region, Rakhine State, Yangon Region, Shan State, Chin State, Taninthayi Region, Kayah State, and Ayeyawady Region competed by performing “Chitsaya Shwe Tama”.

The dancing competition, held at the Plenary Hall of the Myanmar International Convention Centre (II), featured female contestants in the first grade of the amateur category. Participants from Kachin State, Mon State, Yangon Region, Kayah State, Mandalay Region, Taninthayi Region, and Sagaing Region exhibited graceful dancing performances, with support from traditional orchestra troupes representing their respective regions and states. Similarly, in the male basic education cate-

gory for participants aged 15 to 20, contestants from Mandalay Region, Ayeyawady Region, Chin State, Kayah State, Bago Region, Magway Region, Rakhine State, Kachin State, Yangon Region, Mon State, Sagaing Region, Taninthayi Region, and Shan State showed off their refined dancing moves.

The song-composing competition, held at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture’s Yadana Hall, saw basic education level participants aged 15 to 20 from Kachin State, Kayah State, Kayah State, Taninthayi Region, Magway Region, Mandalay Region, Yangon Region, and Ayeyawady Region competing by creating culturally rich compositions.

Instrumental competitions such as the guitar, violin, xylo-

phone, and orchestral performances continued, with contestants from various states and regions displaying their musical skills. The grand theatre performance competition for this year’s event included performances of “Maha Zanaka” in the first grade of the enthusiasts’ group and Vessantara drama in the second grade of the same category. Additionally, the marionette competition featured male and female participants performing intricate puppet shows with lead roles like “The Princess and Zawgyi”. Rare performances such as the “Kwetsait” narration contest are also being conducted, featuring amateurs performing “Maha Thuta Thawma” drama in the first grade and “Thamudda Waniza” in the second. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Public gathers at pagodas, parks for Thadingyut worship and festivities



ON the first waning of Thadingyut, the public flocked to pagodas and stupas across various regions and states for worship and recreation.

People gathered at prominent pagodas, stupas, and Buddha statues across regions and states to observe

religious gatherings, such as observing precepts, reciting Paritta sermons, and performing meritorious deeds like alms-offering and charity. Additionally,

parks and recreational sites were bustling with people enjoying the holiday.

Sacred locations like the Maravijaya Buddha Image and Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw, the revered Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, and the Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay saw a high volume of devotees and worshippers offering oil lamps and participating in ritual observances. Older people in various regions were also honoured through traditional ceremonies that included offering charity meals and healthcare services. Cultural performances featuring Myanmar's traditional dance were held in alignment with the customs and traditions of the Thadingyut Festival.

Across cities and towns, including Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, and

the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway and town roads were busy with pilgrims and holiday travellers. Parks and recreational sites in these regions were exceptionally crowded, with visitors taking advantage of the Thadingyut holiday to relax.

In addition, the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and public places areas like the Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden were adorned with colourful lights and decorations, drawing throngs of visitors. Across regions and states, oil lamp lighting ceremonies and vibrant displays of lanterns created festive vibes. People gathered to release brightly coloured lanterns, bringing joy to the Thadingyut celebration. — MNA/KZL



From top to bottom: The photos showcase pilgrims and visitors flocking to Shwedagon Pagoda, Maravijaya Buddha Image, and other religious sites during the Thadingyut Festival.

Youths throng final day of Thadingyut Festival in Yangon

THE final day of the Thadingyut Festival expo and concert was bustling with youth activities yesterday morning at the People's Square in Yangon. Shoppers thronged the market while young attendees gathered to enjoy the festive concert.

The expo featured a wide variety of goods, including electronic items, solar panels, clothing, household products, food, and MSME products. There were 48 MSME stalls, 26 from the Small-Scale Industries Department, 15 from the Co-

operative Department, and 15 from the relevant Investment and Company Administration, among others. Local products from various regions and literature stalls also attracted many customers.

Vendors reported successful sales, with some earning between K500,000 and K1 million daily and a few exceeding K1.5 million.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and other ministers toured the market, supporting the vendors and

purchasing goods. They also inspected the preparation of Satuditha (charity) meals for the public, ensuring food hy-

giene and proper organization. Satuditha meals and cold drinks were served three times daily during the festival.



Visitors shop at the Thadingyut Market Fair in Yangon.

The concert, featuring renowned singers and DJs, began at 9 am with large crowds of youths joining in, dancing, and singing along in celebration.

The festival market operated from 7 am to 7 pm, while the concert and DJ performances ran from 10 am to 9 pm. The night concluded with a fireworks display and the ascending of sky lanterns, providing a joyful end to the event. Officials arranged shuttle services to ensure convenient transport for attendees. — San Kyaw Oo (IPRD)/KZL

NATIONAL



Thadingyut Festival boosts tourism, employment

Domestic travellers visiting Bagan during the Thadingyut holidays. **PHOTO: ZWE MARN**

THADINGYUT festival stimulated employment opportunities for locals, tourism promotion and substantial business growth as hotels and guesthouses in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone were fully booked during the five-day-long holidays of Thadingyut Festival starting 16 October 2024.

“This year, domestic tourism significantly grew. It drove domestic tourism-related businesses to thrive. Horse-cart riding normally

costs K10,000 for a short trip to one pagoda. Yet, the ride to Shwemundala Pagoda on the bank of the Ayeyawady River costs K15,000. Most visitors flock to Ananda and Thatbyinnyu temples. We feel delighted with the increase in tourism. We provide the best service to our passengers. It is off to a good start at the beginning of the tourism peak season. Bagan warmly welcomes pilgrims,” said U Min Thu Swe, who is in charge of the horse-cart stand.

Domestic visitors flock to Bagan during the Thadingyut Festival (16-18 October). The serene beauty of the sacred temples illuminated with candlelight on the full moon day of Thadingyut gave a breathtaking night view of the historic landmark. About 100 horse carts provided service near Thatbyinnyu and Ananda temples. The number of visitor arrivals surged more than expected, creating local jobs. — Thitsa (MNA)/KK



Ethnic performances at the National Races Village (Yangon).

Ethnic performances resume at National Races Village in Yangon for Thadingyut

ACCORDING to U San Hlaing, Deputy Director of National Races Village (Yangon), in the National Races Village (Yangon) in Thakayta Township, Yangon Region, entertainment with traditional ethnic dances has resumed since the Thadingyut season.

In the National Races Village (Yangon), performing traditional ethnic songs and dances are usually presented for free every weekend at the National Races Village's main hall and it was temporarily suspended since the last rainy season in May due to low number of visitors, and it has resumed in Thadingyut season.

“Normally, there is a free performance with ethnic traditional songs and dances on Saturdays and Sundays. During the rainy season, there are few visitors, so we usually suspended for a while. We are starting this programme again from 17 October of the weekend,” U San Hlaing said.

National Races Village (Yangon) is located near the Bago River in Thakayta Township, Yangon Region and a jetty for cruise boats through the Bago River to the National Races Village (Yangon) has been constructed including the landmarks of the ethnic groups that live across Myanmar. The pontoon bridge, which will be visited by ships, has also been completed. — ASH/TKO

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

Myanmar Embassy in Washington joins ASEAN Culture Day ceremony



Photos showcase Myanmar traditional handicrafts and the celebration of the ASEAN Culture Day.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Myanmar Embassy in Washington participated in the ASEAN Culture Day ceremony held on 16 October at the Visitors' Centre of the Church of Jesus Christ of Lat-

ter-day Saints (CJCLS), Washington DC Temple.

The wives of ambassadors and heads of embassies from ASEAN countries in Washington, DC, led the ceremony. It was organized by

the ASEAN Women's Association (ASEAN Spouses' Circle).

U Thet Win, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim at the Myanmar Embassy in Washington, DC, attended the ceremony alongside embassy personnel and their family members. They performed the traditional Myanmar Thingyan dance and served traditional foods. Additionally, tourism promotion videos showcasing Myanmar's scenery were presented to attendees, along with displays of posters, photos, paintings, and traditional crafts.

ASEAN embassies also showcased traditional songs, dances, and a fashion show representing each country, in addition to various traditional foods. — ASH/MKKS

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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

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

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Myanmar bags US\$170M+ from fishery exports in H1

MYANMAR earned US\$176.302 million from fishery products exports to 40 foreign countries in the first half of the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, said U Nyunt Win, director of the Fisheries Department in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar steadily exports seafood to Japan, the UAE, European countries, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei and Australia. Myanmar Fisheries Federation and Fisheries Department joined hands to bolster fisheries exports.

“Myanmar ships over 160,000 metric tonnes of various fish to foreign countries in the April-September period, comprising over 82,000 tonnes of fisheries valued at \$110 million through maritime channels and over 78,000 metric tonnes worth \$65 million at borders,” said U Nyunt Win.

The Fisheries Department is endeavouring to ensure sustainable exports depending on market climate and meet the criteria of the respective importing countries, along



Myanmar's seafood products are processed at a cold storage facility.

with exporters in the supply chain. Myanmar makes efforts

to meet import criteria of the strict customs rules of foreign

customers like China. — ASH/KK

Yangon Port handles 460+ container vessels in 9 months



A panoramic view of the bustling container terminal at Yangon Port along the Yangon River.

A total of 464 container vessels arrived at the Yangon Port in the past nine months (Jan-Sept) 2024, the Myanma Port Authority announced.

Myanma Port Authority stated that 49 vessels in January, 53 in February, 55 in March, 50 in April, 52 in May, 50 each in June, July and August and 55 in September called at Yangon Port. This month, 52 vessels are slated to enter the port in October.

Yangon Port handled 629 container vessels in 2023. According to the Myanma Port

Authority's statement on 22 June 2022, the international ocean liners can now access the inner port thanks to the draft extension.

After the new navigation channel (Kings Bank Channel) accessing the inner Yangon River was found, the draft extension work was accelerated. The port can now handle larger ships. The container vessel MV SITC Zhaoming (185.99 metres LOA, 35.25 metres Beam, 29,232 GRT and 2,698 TEUs) of Hong Kong-based SITC Shipping Line docked at Asia World Port

Terminal for the first time on 22 June, the largest ship that AWPT Port handled.

Since May 2021, ship arrivals at terminals in Yangon have increased again. Three new container vessels by Maersk Line Myanmar (SeaLand Maersk) started to run to fulfil the seaborne trade requirements in 2021. Earlier, the larger ships had draft problems preventing sailing on the Yangon River. With the draft being extended up to 10 metres, the larger ocean liners can enter the Thilawa Port. — NN/KK

Philippines imports 76,000+ tonnes of Myanmar rice by 3 Oct

MYANMAR has exported more than 76,000 tonnes of rice to the Philippines as of 3 October 2024, the current financial year beginning 1 April, according to Myanmar's economic attaché in Manila, the Philippines.

The Philippines' rice import reached 3.29 million tonnes as of 3 October 2024, according to the Bureau of Plant and Industry. The top importing countries are Vietnam, which has 2.6 million tonnes; Thailand, which has 410,000 tonnes; Pakistan, which has over 150,000 tonnes; and Myanmar, which has 76,971 tonnes. The Philippines also imports rice from India, China, Japan, Cambodia, Italy, and Spain.

The El Nino and La Nina weather conditions, floods and typhoons also affected paddy output in the Philippines, causing the Philippines to remain the world's largest rice importer, an economic attaché reported, citing news sources released in the Philippines.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) forecasts that paddy output in the Philippines is likely to drop, and the country is expected to bring in 4.9 million tonnes. About 12.3 million tonnes of well-milled paddy are forecast to be produced in 2025.

The Philippines' Agriculture Ministry guessed 20.1 million metric tonnes of paddy yield in 2024. Yet, the yield is down by 11.4 per cent (3.36 million metric tonnes) in the third quarter this year compared with the production target, the Philippine Statistic Authority.

El Nino weather ended by June, and there is 71 per cent that La Nina is likely to develop in September-November, according to the Philippines' Meteorological and Hydrological Services Agency. Devastating typhoons also impacted paddy yield. The Filipino president reduced the tax on rice imports to 15 per cent from 35 per cent as per notification 62 released in June.

The Philippines imports rice for 20 per cent to meet growing domestic consumption. The Agriculture Department of the Philippines announced that rice prices would decline in mid-October after notification 62 regarding tariff cuts on rice imports was effective. India's changes in rice import policy will impact Asian and African markets. Consequently, USDA forecasts rice prices will increase in global demand. — NN/KK

OPINION

Crackdown on illegal trade to boost legal trade

ILLEGAL trade can hamper the economic development of the State by reducing manufacturing activity among business owners and diminishing their competitive capability in the market. Preventing illegal trade can boost export volume and enhance the commercial sector by promoting product manufacturing and market competition. Additionally, these initiatives can increase local money circulation, raise export product volume, and generate more foreign exchange. As a result, the country can experience growth in its manufacturing, trade, and service sectors.

Myanmar is rich in natural resources, with a strong focus on the agricultural sector. To boost the state economy, the government has encouraged the manufacturing of natural resource-based products and agricultural goods while also working to promote micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). However, illegal trade activities have had negative impacts on the nation's socioeconomic sector.

Illegal trade eradication task forces formed in regions and states managed relevant squads, impounding smuggled goods and addressing illegal trade activities worth K300.28 billion across 14,659 cases during the two years and eight months from January 2022 to August 2024. However, this amount was relatively small compared to the State's overall trade sector. Therefore, authorities and task forces must intensify efforts to take action against those involved in illegal trade activities.

With regard to seizures in July and August 2024, the Customs Department nabbed the most considerable amount and volume of illegal trade process, followed by the task force from Mandalay Region, Sagaing Region and Kahin State in series. The authorities seized unregistered vehicles and illicit commodities in the largest volume, industrial raw materials in the second largest volume and capital goods in the third largest one.

The economic development of a country depends on manufacturing and trade sectors. As such, authorities need to encourage agriculture- and livestock-based businesses. Meanwhile, relevant ministries have to fulfil the basic needs of farmers from the agriculture and livestock breeding sectors as part of implementing the assigned duties.

It is necessary to supply fertilizers, pesticides, quality strains of seeds, agricultural inputs, animal feeds, vaccines, and other needs to farmers on time. On the other hand, relevant authorized bodies need to systematically supervise the trafficking of prohibited goods, taking advantage of priority on legal trade measures. If so, legal trade contributes to local businesspersons and traders on their official process at home and crack down on illegal trade processes.

WHEN I first encountered the term 'eBook readers', I assumed that it referred to people, as the word 'readers' suggested individuals who read. However, after looking into it, I found that eBook readers are actually inanimate devices, not human beings. Later, when I introduced these devices to my students in the classroom, I discovered many benefits. However, in the current era, I have faced certain challenges due to parents who are reluctant to give their children smartphones as they feel it is inappropriate. This article is written specifically for those parents.

The Dawn of eBook Readers

As the sun rises in the digital age, the dawn of eBook readers signifies a transformative shift in how we consume literature and information. This revolution, much like the first light of dawn breaking through the night, brings with it new possibilities and unprecedented convenience for readers around the globe.

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In a world increasingly concerned with sustainability, the environmental benefits of eBook readers cannot be overstated. Traditional book production involves significant use of natural resources and contributes to deforestation. eBook readers, on the other hand, offer a greener alternative by reducing the need for paper and minimizing the carbon footprint associated with the publishing industry.

eBook readers also enhance the reading experience through customization. Users can adjust font sizes, styles, and screen brightness to suit their preferences, making reading more comfortable and personalized. Features like built-in dictionaries, note-taking capabilities, and hyperlinks enrich the reader's interaction with the text, creating a dynamic and engaging experience.

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The digital age has revolutionized countless aspects of our lives, and the way we read books is no exception. eBook readers have emerged as a transformative technology, offering an array of benefits that traditional books cannot match. Here's why eBook readers are more than just a passing trend.

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eBook readers come with various

built-in features that enhance the reading experience. Integrated dictionaries, note-taking capabilities, and highlighting tools make it easy to interact with the text in meaningful ways. Some devices even offer internet connectivity, allowing for instant access to additional resources and book purchases. These features are especially useful for students and researchers.

instantly from online stores and libraries. Gone are the days of waiting for a book to be shipped or finding time to visit a bookstore – your next read is just a click away.

eBooks can incorporate multimedia elements such as audio, video, and interactive graphics, providing a richer and more engaging experience than traditional books. This is especially valuable for educational materials, where interactive content can enhance understanding and retention.

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The Pros and Cons of eBook Readers

In the era of digital technology, eBook readers have carved a niche for themselves among avid readers and casual book lovers alike. While these devices offer numerous advantages, they also come with certain drawbacks. Let's explore the pros and cons of eBook readers to help you decide if they're the right choice for you.

Pros of eBook Readers

One of the most significant benefits of eBook readers is their portability. You can carry an entire library with you, whether you're commuting, travelling, or just lounging at home. The lightweight and compact design makes it easy to store and access hundreds of books without the bulk.

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By opting for eBooks, readers contribute to environmental sustainability. The production of physical books involves significant

resource consumption and carbon emissions. eBook readers reduce the need for paper and help lower the carbon footprint of the publishing industry.

For those with limited space, eBook readers are a godsend. You no longer need to worry about finding space for your growing book collection. Everything is stored digitally, freeing up physical space in your home.

Cons of eBook Readers

While eBooks may be cheaper, the initial cost of purchasing an eBook reader can be a barrier for some. Devices can range in price, and the investment might not be justified for occasional readers.

Prolonged screen time can lead to digital fatigue, including eye strain and headaches. Unlike physical books, eBook readers rely on screens, which may not be comfortable for all readers, especially during extended reading sessions.

While eBook readers have decent battery life, they still require charging. A dead battery at a critical reading moment can be frustrating, whereas physical books never run out of power.

With eBooks, the concept of ownership changes. You're essentially buying a licence to read the book, which means you can't easily share or lend books as you would with physical copies. Digital rights management (DRM) restrictions can further complicate this aspect.

Many readers cherish the tactile sensation of holding a physical book, the smell of the paper, and the joy of turning pages. eBook readers can't replicate this sensory experience, which may detract from the overall enjoyment for some book lovers.

In brief, eBook readers offer numerous benefits, including portability, cost savings, and a customizable reading experience. However, they also come with drawbacks, such as digital fatigue and the loss of the sensory experience associated with physical books. Ultimately, the choice between eBooks and traditional books comes down to personal preference and reading habits. As the digital landscape continues to evolve, so too will our ways of engaging with literature. Embracing both formats may offer the best of both worlds. Regardless of whatever the issue may be, I have been making my students use many eBook readers in my classroom and their homes since the New Normal began in our society.

Previous research established that p62 is significantly reduced in patients who develop hepatocellular carcinoma.

Source: ANI

PHOTO CREDIT: GREAT WRITING

eBook Readers

By Yin Nwe Ko



PHOTO CREDIT: GREAT WRITING

ARTICLE



A study reveals p62 and NBR1's opposing roles in liver cancer immunity, offering potential biomarkers and therapeutic targets for immunotherapy. ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/FREEPIK

Study: Biomarker may predict response to immunotherapy in liver cancer

High NBR1 levels suppress the immune system, suggesting they could serve as biomarkers to predict patient responses to immunotherapy for hepatocellular carcinoma.

ACCORDING to a preclinical study conducted by Weill Cornell Medicine researchers, it may soon be feasible to detect whether individuals with hepatocellular carcinoma, a kind of liver cancer, may benefit from immunotherapy.

A recent study published in "Molecular Cell" on 17 October highlights the contrasting roles of two proteins, p62 and NBR1, in regulating the interferon response in hepatic stellate cells, crucial for the liver's immune defence against tumours.

Conducted by Dr Jorge Moscat and Dr Maria Diaz-Meco at Weill Cornell Medicine, the research indicates that high levels of NBR1 correlate with poor responses to immunotherapy in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma, a common liver cancer.

The study reveals that p62 and NBR1 function as opposing forces: elevated p62 levels are protective against cancer by enhancing immune responses, while high NBR1 levels suppress the immune system. This dynamic suggests that assessing the levels of these proteins could serve as biomarkers to predict patient responses to immunotherapy, which has become a vital treatment option for hepatocellular carcinoma, potentially extending survival beyond what traditional therapies offered.

The liver is inherently immunosuppressive, complicating treatment efforts. The investigators emphasize the need for biomarkers to identify patients likely to benefit from immunotherapy.

Previous research established that p62 is significantly reduced in patients who develop hepatocellular carcinoma.

SOURCE: ANI

NATIONAL

Tatkon flood victims receive support for home reconstruction



The handover ceremony to provide cash assistance and relief supplies in progress yesterday in Tatkon.

THE Vice-Chairperson 2 of the National Disaster Management Committee Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Rsettlement Dr Soe Win, along with Nay Pyi Taw Council members, attended a ceremony yesterday morning at the Aung San Hall in Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw, where

financial aid and food supplies were provided to flood-impacted families.

During the event, the Union minister emphasized the government's ongoing efforts to assist in the reconstruction of areas affected by natural disasters and highlighted the importance of environmental conservation. He also announced that financial support of K2.35 million per household, totalling K1,316 million from the National Disaster Management Fund, would be provided to rebuild homes completely destroyed by floods caused by Cyclone Yagi. Additionally, food supplies were distributed to the affected families.

Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Zeyar Lin also provided K1.75 million per household, amounting to K633.5 million from the National Disaster Manage-

ment Fund, to assist families whose homes were partially damaged. Council member U Myint Soe contributed CI sheets and food supplies. They offered words of encouragement and personally met with the flood victims.

Later, the Union minister and his team visited healthcare facilities that provided for the flood victims and distributed food supplies to affected individuals.

In addition, they inspected the reconstruction efforts of the flood-damaged high school in Shaukkon village, Tatkon Township. They also reviewed the rebuilding of homes in the village, which had been destroyed by the floods, under the guidance of the National Disaster Management Fund, ensuring all necessary assistance and coordination was provided. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 18 October 2024)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and a few cloud elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 19th October 2024: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Lower Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions, fairly widespread in Southern Shan, Kayin and Mon States, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is 100%.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Magway and, Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 5-7 feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Fairly widespread to widespread rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR Nay Pyi Taw AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 October 2024: A few cloud and likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 October 2024: Partly cloudy and likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 October 2024: Partly cloudy and isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%. — DMH

Survey aims to alleviate challenges for seafarers and their families



Seafarers and families engage in consultation on their difficulties.

A poll is underway to reduce the difficulties that seafarers and their families encounter, according to the Myanmar Seafarers Federation (MSF).

It further says that the poll was ongoing during the Thadingyut holidays, and respondents can answer by scanning an online QR code provided by MSF. Questions are based on services provided by respective stakeholders such as seafarer recruitment and replacement service (SRPS),

other service providers and the Department of Marine Administration (DMA).

The federation elaborated that answering questions can help find solutions for challenges seafarers and their families face. Respondents will need to answer openly so that the poll will be efficient, and based on answers, solutions can be sought in coordination with stakeholders, MSF added. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

SITE admits new trainees for short-term vocational courses

SCHOOL of Industrial Training and Education (SITE) under the Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Ministry of Science and Technology will open short-term vocational courses.

They will offer four-month courses for a Certificate in Woodworking Technology, a Certificate in Basic Industrial Technologies and an Advanced Certificate in Industrial Automation.

Those who passed the matriculation exam or ITC or GTHS (BT, MT) or AGTI (Civil) can attend a Certificate course in Woodworking Technology, while those who passed the matricula-



Students are seen engaging in practical sessions at the School of Industrial Training and Education (SITE).

tion exam or ITC or GTHS (ECT, ET, IT, MT, AMT) or AGTI (EC,

EP, Mech, IE) can apply for Certificate course in Basic Industrial

Technologies. Those who have passed the Certificate in Basic Industrial Technologies or AGTI (EC, EP, Mech, IE), or those who hold a BTech/ BE (EC, EP, Mech, MC) bachelor degree can attend the Advanced Certificate Course in Industrial Automation.

Applicants must be fit and healthy enough to join vocational courses and field trips to companies and factories. Those selected during the preliminary stage will have to take interviews. Applicants must present three passport photos taken within six months, relevant certificates, grading, citizenship scrutiny card, health certificate and police clearance certificate. Those

who do not have a citizenship scrutiny card must provide a recommendation letter from the police station and ward administrator stating they are seeking a citizenship scrutiny card within one month.

Individuals can enquire about details through contact number 09 268237552. The courses will be opened at No 123, Natmauk Street, Bo Cho Ward 2, Bahan Township, Yangon. The application forms can be downloaded from its website, www.site.edu.mm, or manually taken from offices from 9 am to 4 pm. Applications must be submitted by 22 November 2024, according to SITE. — NN/KK

Illegal trade crackdown yields K1.8B in seizures in two days

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat illicit trade continue effectively by the law.

On 15 October, combined teams managed by the Customs Department impounded four types of industrial materials and consumer goods worth K1.628 billion, which were without official documents, from 13 containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint. Additionally, they seized industrial materials valued at K44.44 million, also without official documents, at Yangon International Airport. The action was taken by Customs procedures.

Similarly, on 18 October, the combined teams supervised by the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections, resulting in the seizure of 11 unregistered vehicles valued at approximately K126 million in Bago and DaikU Townships, as well as illegal teak weighing 9.934 tonnes, worth K4.689 million, in Toungoo District. The action was taken under the Export-Import Law and the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 17 arrests on 17 and 18 October, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods valued at approximately K1.803 billion. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated an unregistered vehicle in Bago Region.

Counter-argument to false information

Claims of arresting over 70 youths in Yenangyoung, Magway fabricated

MALICIOUS media outlets fabricated false news claiming that over 70 youths were arrested by the township administration body in Yenangyoung Township, Magway Region, to recruit them for the People's Military Service Training, which started in October.

Regarding the news, a relevant official stated that it was false. Security forces conducted security measures in the town, checking various locations and patrolling in cooperation with the responsible public. The conscription law is effective under the legal framework. The false claims circulated by subversive media outlets aim to mislead the public and sow anxiety. These misleading reports deliberately spread propaganda to disrupt peace and stability in the town. — MNA/TRKM



This screenshot validates false news.

Fake claims on census expenses in Pathein denied



This screenshot reveals fake claims.

MALICIOUS media outlets falsely reported that money was collected in certain villages of Hainggyikyun, Ngaputaw Township in Pathein District to provide food and entertainment for census enumerators.

When asked about the issue, an official from the township administration body clarified that the 2024 census is being conducted smoothly as part of a national effort. The data collection, which began on 1 October, involves relevant teams and encourages active public participation. However, the subversive media outlets are spreading these false claims in an attempt to undermine public cooperation with the government and create misunderstandings. — MNA/TRKM

ECONOMY WORLD

Markets slide on weak global sentiments on India's growth and geopolitical tensions: Experts



The stock market closed sharply lower on Thursday, with the BSE Sensex dropping 494.75 points and the NSE Nifty falling 221.45 points amid a broad-based selloff. **PHOTO: ANI**

Analysts note ongoing concerns over India's economic outlook, suggesting that while caution is advised, the market correction may present buying opportunities in select outperforming stocks.

THE stock market ended Thursday's trading session on a bearish note, with major indices closing sharply lower.

The BSE Sensex dropped by 494.75 points, or 0.61 per cent, to close at 81,006.61, while the NSE Nifty fell by 221.45 points, or 0.89 per cent, to settle at 24,749.85.

The decline was marked by a broad-based selloff, as only nine of the 50 Nifty companies recorded gains, while 41 posted losses. In terms of individual stock perfor-

mances, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Power Grid, Larsen & Toubro (L&T), and State Bank of India (SBI) emerged as the top gainers, showing some resilience despite the overall market weakness. Conversely, Bajaj Auto, Shriram Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M), Nestle India, and Hero MotoCorp were among the biggest losers, dragging down the indices with significant declines.

VLA Ambala, Co-Founder of Stock Market Today, commented

on the ongoing market correction, which has seen the Nifty decline by six per cent over the past three weeks. She said, "In the past three weeks, Nifty has corrected by six per cent and may fall further. This drop is being driven by weak global sentiment on India's GDP growth, fiscal deficit, high inflation, rising unemployment, and geopolitical tensions with global economies that have active trade and employment ties with India." — ANI

Kenya's main port records cargo growth despite global challenges

KENYA'S main seaport, the Port of Mombasa, handled 29.92 million tonnes of cargo throughput in the first nine months of 2024, compared with 26.68 million tonnes during the same period in 2023, officials said on Tuesday.

The Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) said this marked a significant growth of 3.24 million tonnes, or 12.1 per cent, showcasing the port's resilience and capacity to handle increasing trade volumes despite challenging global economic conditions.

In a statement issued from the port city of Mombasa, the KPA said container traffic surged by 22.7 per cent, reaching 1.46 mil-

lion twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), up from 1.19 million TEUs in 2023.

KPA Managing Director Captain William Ruto attributed the growth to the hard work and dedication of the workforce, as well as the support of partners and stakeholders, noting that transshipment traffic showed exceptional growth, registering an increase of 216,339 TEUs, or 162.8 per cent. According to the KPA, both imports and exports demonstrated moderate growth, with imports rising by 5.2 per cent to 27,656 TEUs and exports increasing by 4.3 per cent to 22,273 TEUs. — Xinhua



Photo taken on 26 August 2019 shows the MV Celsius Riga, the ship carrying the Kenyan crude oil at the Mombasa Port in Mombasa, Kenya. **PHOTO: JOY NABUKEWA/XINHUA**

Thailand's central bank lowers policy rate to 2.25%



Thailand's economy is projected to grow 2.7 per cent in 2024 and 2.9 per cent in 2025, driven by tourism, private consumption, and improved exports. Foreign tourists visit the Nong Nooch Tropical Garden in Pattaya, Thailand, 17 July 2024. **PHOTO: RACHEN SAGEAMSAK/XINHUA**

THAILAND'S central bank slashed its key interest rate by 25 basis points on Wednesday, marking the first cut in more than four years and a move long encouraged by the government to shore up a sluggish economy.

The Bank of Thailand's monetary policy committee voted 5-2 to reduce the one-day repurchase rate to 2.25 per

cent, after the rate had been hiked to a decade-high of 2.5 per cent since September 2023.

The decision came as the Southeast Asian country's headline inflation remained below the lower end of its target range of 1 per cent to 3 per cent and is expected to gradually return to the target range by the end of 2024, the central bank said in a statement.

Secretary of the policy committee Sakkapop Panyanukul said most members voted to cut the policy rate to ease the debt burden on borrowers, adding that the lower policy rate would not hinder debt deleveraging given the anticipated slowdown in loan growth and would remain neutral and aligned with the economy's potential. — Xinhua

Over 120 mineral deposits newly discovered in China in 2023: report

A total of 124 mineral deposits were discovered in China in 2023, according to a report released by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

A report, titled "China Mineral Resources 2024", was released at the ongoing 26th China Mining Conference and Exhibition held in north China's Tianjin Municipality.

The report focuses on new progress since 2023 on geological and mineral sur-

vey and evaluation, mineral resource exploration and development, and ecological restoration of mines, among other areas.

Of the 124 newly discovered mineral deposits, 16 are limestone deposits for construction and 10 are graphite deposits, making them among the most abundant. By the end of 2023, a total of 173 kinds of minerals had been discovered in China.

The report notes that,

in terms of oil and gas exploration, major breakthroughs had been made in new layers and new zones in large oil and gas basins such as Tarim, Junggar and Bohai Bay.

In terms of the non-oil-gas mineral exploration, significant progress had been achieved in coal, copper, gold, lithium and phosphorite. The four-day conference and exhibition will conclude on Friday. — Xinhua



An unmanned mining vehicle supported by 5G technology works at a mine field of Jiangxi Copper Co Ltd (Jiangxi Copper) in Dexing City, east China's Jiangxi Province, 24 August 2023. PHOTO: ZHANG WEIFENG/XINHUA

Norwegian waste processing firms to relocate from Vilnius to Ignalina N-plant area

TWO companies processing Norwegian plastic waste near Vilnius, whose odor emissions exceed legal limits by up to three times, plan to relocate to the protection zone around the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant in northeastern Lithuania, where no people live.

EKO Perdirbimas and Retroplast, which process waste and produce plastic flakes, granules, and mixtures, were ordered to partially suspend operations earlier this month due to environmental violations, according to an investigative report by LRT, a local media

outlet, on Friday.

The report noted that the majority shareholder of both companies is a Lithuanian citizen, while Norwegian businessman Per Jacob Haakonsen holds shares either directly or indirectly. Haakonsen's company, PolymerTrade, has

transported some of the plastic waste processed in Skaidiskes, a village near Vilnius, from Norway. Between 2016 and 2023, Haakonsen exported approximately 61,000 tonnes of plastic waste to Lithuania, with some also sent to other local companies. — Xinhua

Panama Canal crossings down 29%



Tourists watch a cargo ship pass through the Panama Canal's Agua Clara Locks. PHOTO: AFP

TRAFFIC in the Panama Canal fell by 29 per cent over the past year due to a severe drought linked

to climate change, the canal's operator said on Wednesday. The volume of cargo shipped through the

canal, which links the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, was down by 17 per cent in a year to 423 million

tonnes, the canal authority of the central American country added.

It did not release revenue figures for the year.

The Panama Canal, a freshwater passage fed by reservoirs, faced severe water shortages due to last year's drought exacerbated by El Niño, reducing daily ship crossings from 38 to 22. Since May's rainy season, conditions have improved. Approximately five per cent of global maritime traffic uses the canal, built between 1904 and 1914 to facilitate trade. The canal authority projects a recovery in business by 2025, with anticipated revenues of \$5.62 billion from 13,900 ships. — AFP

Integrum Energy files IPO for renewable energy initiatives

INTEGRUM Energy Infrastructure Limited (Integrum, The Company), engaged in the business of creating, developing and providing innovative renewable energy solutions for industrial and commercial clients, has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus with BSE SME in preparation for the IPO. The issue size will be of up to 54,90,000 Equity Shares of face value of Rs10 out of which 49,50,000 Equity Shares are Fresh Issue and

5,40,000 equity shares are Offer For Sale.

The IPO's objectives are to fund working capital requirements, invest in its subsidiary, Integrum Green Assets Private Limited, finance the establishment of a solar plant to supply energy to C&I customers under a long-term Power Purchase Agreement, fund expenditures for inorganic growth through acquisitions and other strategic initiatives, and fund general corporate purposes. — ANI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NITHI BHUM-4 VOY.NO. (312N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NITHI BHUM-4 VOY.NO. (312N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-10-2024** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINE

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



Putin emphasized that the economic role of BRICS is significant and is expected to grow in the future.
PHOTO: ANI

BRICS countries drive global economic growth, exceed GDP of G7 nations: Putin

The combined GDP of BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China) exceeds US\$60 trillion, surpassing that of the G7 countries.

THE combined share of GDP of countries of the BRIC grouping that includes India exceeds US\$60 trillion, which is more than the corresponding figure for the countries of the G7 and it continues to grow, Russian President Vladimir Putin told the BRICS Business Forum in Moscow on Friday.

State media TASS cited Putin as saying that BRICS

plays a significant role in the global economy not only today and that it is quite obvious that this role will increase in the future as well.

He said that the countries that are part of the BRICS are in fact the drivers of global economic growth. And it is in BRICS grouping that the main increase in global GDP will be generated in the foreseeable

future, the Russian President said. Putin's remarks come ahead of the summit of BRICS scheduled to be held in Kazan on 22-24 October.

According to TASS report, Putin said that in the year 1992 the share of the Group of Seven countries is 45.5 per cent while that of BRICS countries account for 16.7 per cent of global GDP. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

India commits to food security and poverty eradication

INDIA reiterated its commitment of ensuring food security for its vast population through various initiatives at the United Nations, while highlighting that 250 million people have been lifted out of poverty.

India's First Secretary at UN, Sneha Dubey delivered India's statement at the General Discussion of the Second Committee on Eradication of Poverty and Agriculture development, food security and nutrition.

Dubey attributed India's success to the government's targeted policy interventions, which empower marginalised and vulnerable communities. In her statement, she highlighted that global poverty levels have continued to rise in recent years; along with a surge in multidimensional poverty. — ANI

Sri Lanka's election commission bans opinion polling

Sri Lanka's Election Commission said on Thursday that it has banned opinion polls during the parliamentary election period.

Commissioner General of Elections Saman Sri Ratnayake said in a press briefing that the decision was made to prevent the manipulation of public opinion in the lead-up to the election scheduled for 14 November. He noted that many of the opinion polls conducted during the 21 September presidential election were not scientifically sound.

Additionally, Ratnayake said that the commission has set the upper limits for campaign expenses for candidates in the upcoming parliamentary election. — Xinhua

Kenyan lawmakers remove deputy president from office over corruption

KENYAN Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua was removed from office on Thursday night following a historic vote in the Senate, marking the first impeachment of a deputy president under the country's 2010 constitution.

"Senators have this night voted to impeach the deputy president of the Republic of Kenya," Senate Speaker Amason Kingi announced. "Senators found him guilty on five out of 11 grounds brought against him by the National Assembly. Effectively, Gachagua ceases to hold office." — Xinhua



US President Joe Biden meets German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.
PHOTO: AFP

Biden arrives in Germany to hold talks with French President, UK PM

US President Joe Biden on Friday arrived on a visit to Germany, marking the first official state visit by an American President since the German reunification.

He is expected to hold meetings with the German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Chancellor Olaf Scholz. French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer will also join Biden and

Scholz later.

Expected on the agenda of discussions are conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia according to a Biden administration official who said the two leaders will discuss "increased reports of antisemitic acts in both countries over the last year as war has raged in the Middle East" as per a Voice of America report.

"I look forward to his visit and I am grateful for the good

cooperation between me and the American president," German Chancellor Scholz said on Wednesday as per the NYT.

Biden was initially scheduled to visit Germany and Angola, earlier this month, on 10-15 October but his visit got postponed due to Hurricane Milton.

The visit is taking place just three weeks ahead of the scheduled US presidential polls. — ANI

SPORTS

Myanmar secures 4th in International Equestrian Event



Myanmar's equestrian athlete Kyaw Wunna Aung (fifth from the right), who secured fourth place, is pictured with officials.

MYANMAR'S equestrian athlete, Kyaw Wunna Aung, won the fourth place in an International Equestrian competition held in India on 12 and 13 October, featuring participants from 11 nations.

The event, organized by the Indian Equestrian Federation at the invitation of the Asian Equestrian Federation's Regional Group 3, was explicitly for athletes under 21 years age. Kyaw Wunna Aung competed in the show jumping contest representing the Myanmar Equestrian Federation.

As the first competitor in the event, Kyaw Wunna Aung focused on clearing the hurdles in line with the usual competition format, where the first round emphasizes a clean show jumping. He narrowly missed third place, trailing by just a fraction of a second behind a competitor from Hong Kong, according to sources from the Myanmar Equestrian Federation.

The competition saw participation from 12 athletes across 11 countries. Kyaw Wunna Aung successfully cleared all hurdles with a timing of 89.66 seconds, securing the fourth place in the rankings.

Notably, Kyaw Wunna Aung had to compete with a horse provided by the host Indian, as opposed to his usual mount, which added to the challenge. Despite this, he performed admirably in both rounds of the competition. — ASH/KZL



Liverpool face a test of their title credentials against Chelsea. PHOTO: AFP

Liverpool v Chelsea the highlight but lots to anticipate as Premier League returns

THE return to action in the Premier League presents a host of interesting clashes and one standout game, as league leaders Liverpool entertain Chelsea on Sunday afternoon.

Liverpool have won all of their matches since a home defeat to Nottingham Forest and have looked assured under new coach Arne Slot, even if Caoimhin Kelleher will deputise in goal for the injured Alisson.

Chelsea have also begun to overcome early season doubts over their chaotic transfer policy, and the pace of Nicolas Jackson, along with Cole Palmer's class, has made them a team to fear.

Enzo Maresca will have to reshuffle his defence for the visit to Anfield, with Wesley Fofana and Marc Cucurella both suspended after racing to five yellow cards each. Manchester City also play on Sunday, with Pep

Guardiola's side travelling to play bottom side Wolverhampton Wanderers, who are struggling with just one point from seven games in which they have conceded 21 goals.

City are without long-term absentee Rodri, and Kevin de Bruyne is a doubt with a groin strain, but Guardiola's side should be able to pick holes in the league's worst defence.

The fact Liverpool and Manchester City play on Saturday allows Arsenal the chance to go top if they win on their visit to Bournemouth. — Xinhua



Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti (L) said Kylian Mbappe (R) 'seems unaffected' after Swedish media reported he was being investigated for an alleged rape. PHOTO: AFP

Mbappe 'seems unaffected' by rape investigation reports: Ancelotti

REAL Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said Friday the club's French striker Kylian Mbappe "seems unaffected to me" after Swedish media reported he is being investigated for an alleged rape during a visit to Stockholm.

Mbappe's lawyer told AFP this week the France captain was "shocked" to see his name linked to the investigation and he will take action for libel. The forward was not selected by France for UEFA Nations League matches

after an injury and visited the Swedish capital with a group of people last week. "In this moment (the reports) are speculations, I see him working every day, he is happy, content, he doesn't seem affected to me at all," Ancelotti told a news conference. "He's looking forward to keep on helping the team." Carlo Ancelotti confirmed that Kylian Mbappé was given time off by Real Madrid, allowing players to choose their own rest locations. — AFP



Xi to attend 16th BRICS Summit in Russia

CHINESE President Xi Jinping will attend the 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia, from 22 to 24 October at the invitation of President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying announced here on Friday.

The upcoming summit, the first to be held after the BRICS expansion, has attracted wide attention from the international community, Mao Ning, another foreign ministry spokesperson, told a news briefing on the same day.

According to Mao, Xi will attend small- and large-scale leaders' meetings and the BRICS Plus leaders' dialogue, and deliver important speeches. Xi will also have in-depth exchanges with leaders of other countries on the current international situation, practical BRICS cooperation, the development of the BRICS mechanism and important issues of common concern.

Mao said that since the inception of BRICS, the member states have been committed to upholding multilateralism and becoming a positive, stabilizing and benevolent force in international affairs.

— Xinhua

Chinese officials emphasize BRICS' commitment to multilateralism and its role as a stabilizing force in global affairs.



The BRICS Summit is the highlight of Russia's Chairship of BRICS in 2024. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

Over 10 million Californians take part in earthquake drill

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, a devastating event in California's history.

MORE than 10 million Californians on Thursday took part in an annual state-wide earthquake preparedness drill, the

world's largest earthquake drill.

At 10:17 am local time (1717 GMT) Thursday, Californians stopped what they

were doing, and practiced "Drop, Cover and Hold On" and other self-protective actions when a major earthquake hits.

Over 10.5 million participants registered in the drill, named "Great California ShakeOut," according to the organizer's website.

The drill falls this year on the 35th anniversary of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, one of the deadliest and most destructive in the state's history.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) requested residents to get ready in case of a strong quake in the future by participating in the drill. "The 'Drop, Cover, and Hold On' drill we practise each year on Great California ShakeOut Day helps us prepare ourselves and our families, classrooms, and businesses for earthquakes," said Lori Nezhura, deputy director of Planning and Preparedness at Cal OES. — Xinhua



People practise Drop, Cover and Hold On during an earthquake preparedness drill in Los Angeles County, California, the United States, on 17 October 2024.

PHOTO: QIU CHEN/XINHUA

EIGHT TASK FORCES

Indonesia deploys 115,000 police, military personnel to secure presidential inauguration

INDONESIA has deployed a total of 115,000 personnel, including 100,000 soldiers and 15,000 police officers, to secure the inauguration of the new president and vice-president scheduled for Sunday.

"We, along with the Commander of the Indonesian National Armed Forces, will continue to work to mitigate and minimize risks related to the inauguration plans," said Indonesian Police Chief General Listyo Sigit Prabowo on Friday.

A total of eight task forces have been prepared to manage the high public enthusiasm expected during the inauguration. The police chief also emphasized the readiness of the task forces to address any potential protests from elements of the society during the event. — Xinhua