

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and dignitaries view a competition of Sagaing Region troupe in the ethnic traditional and rural folk dance (open class) contest (pictured below) in MICC II yesterday.

SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla enjoy performances of competitors in 25th Performing Arts Competition

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla yesterday afternoon viewed the competition of participants at the national level of the 25th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Senior General, his wife and his entourage watched a competition of traditional dance troupes from regions and states in the ethnic traditional and rural

folk dance (open class) contest at the Plenary Hall of MICC II.

Also present at the events were SAC members and their wives, union ministers and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers, members of the panel of judges, national brethren and people.

After the competitions, the Senior General and his wife warmly conversed with maestros, who served duties as members of the panel of judges and competitors. — MNA/TTA





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DENTIST RECOMMENDED



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

Literature: A Source of Knowledge to Enrich Lives and Guide Society

THE knowledge gained from individuals' reading of literature will be able to provide significant support to improve their lives. They can provide guidance and clear direction to their families and society in their workplaces.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with tutors, teachers and trainees at Mandalay Education Degree College on 26 August 2024.)

Myanmar Buddhist delegation returns after attending 6th World Buddhist Forum



A Myanmar Buddhist delegation, led by Chairman of the SSMNC Aggamahapandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa, attends the 2024 Sixth World Buddhist Forum in Ningbo, People's Republic of China.

A nine-member Buddhist delegation, led by Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and Presiding Patron of the Thanlyin Minkyaung Pahtamapyan Buddhism Learning Centre, Aggamahapandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa, along with Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Aye Tun, attended the 2024 Sixth World Buddhist Forum held in Ningbo, People's Republic of China, and returned to Myanmar yesterday.

During the tour, the delegation attended the forum from 15 to 17 October and met with the Buddhist Association

of China, led by Chair monk Yan Jue, at the Howard Johnson Hotel in Ningbo, China.

In the meeting, Yan Jue, the chairman of the Buddhist Association of China, stated that arrangements would be made to hold Buddhist dialogues between Myanmar and China and exchange experiences. Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa emphasized that the gathering of Buddhists in China contributes to the development of Buddhism and expressed the hope of bringing Buddha's tooth relic to Myanmar at a relevant time so that the people of Myanmar can pay their respects.

After the meeting, the

deputy minister presented alms to the delegation led by Chair monk Yan Jue, Patron of the Buddhist Association of China. On 8 October, the deputy minister and the Myanmar Buddhist delegation met Mr Luo Yu Hai, Vice-Chair of the China Association for International Friendly Contact, Mr Liu Xiao Ming, Vice-Chair of the Southern China Association for International Friendly Contact, and Mr Chen Tao, Chair of the Yunnan Association for International Friendly Contact, in Beijing, People's Republic of China. A round of discussions was held to further develop cultural relations. — MNA/TKO

Weather

Special Weather News

Issued at 19:00 hours MST on 19 October 2024

ACCORDING to the observations at 17:30 hours MST today, the low-pressure cell over the North Andaman Sea still persists. It is likely to move northwestwards and may intensify into a low-pressure area over the Eastcentral Bay of Bengal and adjoining North Andaman Sea around 21 October 2024 and Depression around 23 October 2024.

Due to the low-pressure cell and which may form low-pressure area, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls, isolated heavyfalls and strong winds from tonight to 24 October 2024.

Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) miles per hour and wave height will be about (8-10) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware the natural disasters such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, thunder, lightning, hails, flash flood and landslide in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flight. — DMH

Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal Condition

Issued at 14:00 hours MST on 19 October 2024

ACCORDING to the observations at 12:30 hours MST today, a low-pressure cell has formed over the North Andaman Sea. It is likely to move Northwestwards and may intensify into a low-pressure area over the Eastcentral Bay of Bengal and adjoining North Andaman Sea around 21 October 2024 and Depression around 23 October 2024. — DMH

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

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



SAC Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo views the Myanmar traditional orchestra solo contest at basic education level (aged 10-15) male from Chin State.



Singing contestants of higher education level male contest from regions and states (above) and a contestant of Puppets Show Competition at the amateur-level second-grade male (R) compete at MICC II yesterday.

Day 6 of 25th Anniversary Performing Arts Competition underway

THE Silver Jubilee of Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2024 continued its sixth day in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory on 19 October.

“Song Competition for Promoting National Honour and Pride” was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC II). Contestants of the professional-level higher-education male contest competed with the song named “Kyayywa Wada” (Ruralism), and the contestants of the amateur-level second-grade female contest competed with the song “Gita Yayeegyaung” (music genre).

Also, the amateur-level second-grade male and female contests of the “Puppet Show Competition” were also held in the Signing Hall of MICC II. The contestants competed with Puppet and Zawgyi show performances.

Ethnic and rural folk dance (open-level) contests were also held at the Plenary Hall. Amateur-level second-grade contenders for the Song-composing Contest also competed with the theme title “Adorning the Nation with Music”.

Amateur-level first-grade male and female contests, basic education level (aged 10-15)

female and male contests, amateur level second-grade male and female contests, higher education level male and female contests, basic education level (aged 15-20) male and female contests were involved in the contest for playing a musical instrument ‘Donmin’ which took place at the News Briefing Room.

Ethnic traditional musical instruments (open-level) contest took place at the Plenary Hall. The xylophone contest was held at the Mini Theatre of the National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw). It involved amateur-level first-grade male and female

contests and basic education level (aged 10-15) male contests.

Myanmar traditional orchestra solo contest took place at the Wunzin Minyaza Hall of the National Library (Nay Pyi Taw). It involved amateur-level second-grade male contests and basic education level (aged 10-15) male and female contests.

The “Kwetsait” narration contest took place at the Training Theatre of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. It included amateur-level (first-grade) contests. The Yokeson Thabin (marionette) troupe contests were organized at the

Yadana Hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. An amateur-level first-grade contest was held.

The Jataka drama contest was conducted at the open-air theatre of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee. It involved an amateur-level first-grade troupe contest.

The contestants’ competitions at yesterday’s events were attended by members of the State Administration Council, union-level dignitaries, deputy ministers, regional and state ministers, departmental personnel, staff families, and contestants’ parents. — MNA/TMT

NATIONAL

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views the puppet show competitions held in the MICC II yesterday.



People who adore Myanmar traditional performing arts and parents of contestants view the Jataka drama at amateur-level first-grade troupe contest from Bago Region at the open-air theatre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



A narration contestant from Magway Region.



A traditional orchestra solo contestant from Mandalay Region.



A xylophone contestant from Sagaing Region.



The Yokeson Thabin (marionette show) troupe from Kayin State competes at the Yadana Hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

Union Industry Minister inspects industries in Mandalay

UNION Minister for Industry, Dr Charlie Than, held a meeting with Chief Minister U Myo Aung of the Mandalay Region at the Mandalay Region government office on 17 October. During the meeting, they discussed matters related to the development of the Yadanabon Industrial Zone with government officials. The discussion also covered strategies for achieving self-sufficiency in domestic edible oil

and the progress made in the cotton sector. The Chief minister provided a detailed update on the region's efforts to boost oil crop production to ensure a sufficient domestic supply of edible oil, develop the cotton industry, and implement solar-powered double roller cotton gins. The meeting also focused on future strategies for fostering the growth of MSMEs and establishing well-organized

industrial zones. Following the meeting, the Union minister visited the Mandalay Region Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department office to meet with employees and provide them with rice and oil. On 18 October, the Union minister visited the No 2 Industrial Training School in Mandalay to inspect preparations for the opening of garment training schools with Chinese

technical assistance. He also instructed the school officials to develop a well-structured curriculum. After he visited the industrial training school, the Union minister proceeded to the December Dairy Cattle Farm in PyinOoLwin, where he inspected the construction of a dairy factory and pledged technical support for its success. Furthermore, on the morning of 19 October, the Union

minister went to the No 7 Garment Factory in Myittha. He met factory managers from the Kyaukse Industrial Area and the factory's employees, attending to the needs. In the afternoon, he inspected the solar-powered oil crop milling system at the No 8 Garment Factory Branch in Yamethin and ensured that all requirements were fulfilled. — MNA/TRKM



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

NATIONAL

Weekly Roundup

14 October

Government provides cash assistance for flood victims

The government provides K1 million per dead person for bereaved families suffering harmful impacts of flash flood triggered by Typhoon Yagi recently, said National Disaster Management Committee Chairman State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the ceremony to mark the International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction 2024 at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-I in Nay Pyi Taw.

15 October

Performing Arts Competition fosters unity among national races

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing emphasized that the performing arts competition aims to initiate friendly relations among national races and contribute to the uplift and preservation of their traditional fine arts through a comprehensive understanding of culture among them at the opening of the 25th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition at the MICC II in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar, India sign MoU under Quick Impact Projects



The signing ceremony for five Memoranda of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of India under Quick Impact Projects (QIP) was held at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 October 2024.

16 October

Ninth Anniversary of NCA marked

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing urged all to work together with the government to put an end to the terrorists who are disrupting the peace and stability of the country at the ceremony to mark the ninth anniversary of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw. — GNLM/TTA

NACU (Mandalay) to launch postgraduate courses on 2 Nov

THE National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay) will open a one-year post-graduate diploma course and two-year master courses for the 2024-2025 Academic Year.

NUAC will offer an extensive range of one-year Post-graduate diploma courses in Music, Performing Arts, Art, Sculpture, Acting and Theatre. Those who hold a bachelor's degree, government staff with the approval of the respective department's head, and those who are passionate about arts and have a basic knowledge of applied subjects are eligible to apply for admission between 15

October and 13 November. The oral entrance exam will take place on 18 November.

Two-year master's courses related to music, performing arts, arts, sculpture, acting and theatre will be offered. Those who have qualifications to attend master courses are eligible to apply for it. Civil service personnel need the approval of the related department's head. They must not currently attend any other classes at the university. The applications are to be submitted from 1 to 14 November. The written test will be held at 9-12 am on 18 Novem-

ber for English and 1-4 pm for the relevant art subjects. The oral test will take place from 9 am to 4 pm on 19 November.

Those who pass the entrance exam will be announced on the notice board of the NUAC Mandalay and www.nuacmdy.edu.mm on 20 November. Application is available at NUAC (Mandalay), Shwesaryan Pagoda Road in Patheingyi Township, Mandalay. Bachelor's degree and grading certificates must be provided. Individuals can enquire about details through 09 250762203 (Day Class) and 09 400404172 (University Registrar). — NN/KK

Illegal trade crackdown nets K207M in three days

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

On 15 and 18 October, the combined on-duty teams nabbed a kind of consumer goods worth K47.642 million without official documents from four containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, consumer goods and jewellery valued at K69.301 million without official documents at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk) and consumer goods that were smuggled and piled up by the side of road over the Sinyu border, valued at K32.4 million in Muse Township. The action was conducted following Customs procedures.

The combined teams supervised by the Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections in the seizures of a Mitsubishi Canter (approximately K25 million), heading to Myaingkalay from Hpa-an, car-

rying industrial materials worth K9.72 million without official documents at the Thanlwin bridge combined checkpoint (Tayokhla side) and a Daihatsu Hijet (estimated value of K15 million), travelling from Hpa-an to Mawlamyine, carrying a kind of industrial materials valued at K3 million without official documents at the Zathapyin combined checkpoint. The action was carried out according to Customs procedures.

On 19 October, illegal teak weighing 7.249 tonnes, illegal hardwood weighing 4.660 tonnes and illegal other timbers weighing 3.511 tonnes were captured in Bago Region. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 11 arrests on 15, 18 and 19 October, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods worth approximately K207 million. — MNA/MKKS



Photos show confiscated illegal items and unregistered vehicle in regions and states.

NATIONAL

Kachin State Chief Minister attends graduation and donation ceremony

KACHIN State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan and his wife, accompanied by state government officials, attended the graduation of the Arise New Generations October Children Camp, organized by the Light for All Nations Ministry, at 9 am yesterday.

The founder of the organization, Priest Laja, first explained the objectives of the training course. He elaborated on the organization's efforts to rehabilitate drug-addicted youths and provide them with vocational training to help them become self-sufficient. The Chief Minister expressed his admiration for the achievements of the Light for All Nations Ministry in rehabilitating approximately 3,000 drug-addicted youths in the state and equipping them with the vocational skills necessary



Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan inspects advanced patient beds donated by well-wishers yesterday in Kachin State. **PHOTO: STATE IPRD**

for self-sufficiency.

The event continued with traditional Kachin dance performances and a talent show by

the trainees. The Chief Minister and his wife donated K1.6 million for educational materials and meals, while State Social

Affairs Minister U Moe Min Thein and his wife donated sports equipment. The school principal expressed her sincere

gratitude for the donations.

Additionally, the chief minister and his team attended a ceremony where a foundation providing free medical services in Kachin State donated advanced hospital beds to the Myitkyina General Hospital (500-bed). Continuing the ceremony, the chief minister, on behalf of the donors, presented the advanced patient beds to the medical superintendent, Dr Win Maw. Ten beds were donated by U Htun Yee and Dr Sampri from Shwe Phyu Home Furnishings, while six were donated by the Yunnan Buddhist Temple.

Subsequently, the chief minister and officials inspected the placement of the 16 donated advanced patient beds within the hospital and assessed their usability. — State IPRD/TRKM

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 19 October 2024)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at 17:30 hours MST today, the low-pressure cell over the north Andaman sea still persists. Weather is partly cloudy over the North Bay and Westcentral Bay of Bengal and cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 20 October 2024: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in northern Shan State, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions and Kachin, (southern and eastern)Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah states, fairly widespread in Bago Region and Kayin State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is 100%.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and (Southern and Eastern) Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, 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: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35-40 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 5-7 feet in off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Fairly widespread to widespread rain or thundershowers with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavyfalls in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 October 2024: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

Facebook celebrity stars in movie

A celebrity, Kyaw Kyaw Nanda, well-known on Facebook, will be featured as the main cast in a new film.

The film titled 'George Sparrow and Fish' will be produced by Chit Tone Tone Production, and filming is set to begin in the third week of October, primarily in Yangon, directed by Ko Nge.

Ko Nge and Kanote May wrote the film's script and will direct the shooting.

"The story and script are perfect. It is not just a comedy; it also involves dramatic scenes. We are also hiring expert supporting cast members. Please don't judge by the title; the scenes and plots are really good," said director Ko Nge.

'George Sparrow and Fish' will feature Kyaw Kyaw Nanda, Shin Nan, Kyaw Kyaw Eaindra,



The filming ceremony of 'George Sparrow and Fish'.

Academy Takkatho Gwan Pon, Daung Wai, Mammy Than, Ngaletma, U Win Myaing, Nang Lu, Academy Cho Pyone, Academy Moe Di, Academy Zaw Oo, Academy Khin Soe Paing, Academy Khin Moh Moh Aye, Mo Kham, Daw San San Win,

Gwan Pone Gyi, and other supporting cast members.

The ceremony to mark the start of filming was held on 17 October at Shwephonepint Pagoda in Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region. — ASH/TKO

Sai Sai to host One-Person Show at Inya Lake Hotel Garden

SINGER-actor Academy Sai Sai Kham Leng will hold his one-person show at the Inya Lake Hotel Garden, located in Mayangon Township, on 20 October.

The talented Mercury IX band will support the Sai Sai One-Person Show. Sai Sai Kham Leng said, "I planned this show because I want to

meet my fans. While I wish I could reach every fan, I apologize that I am only able to schedule performances in a few selected locations."

As a special treat for the audience, the Sai Sai One-Person Show will feature a raffle for 18 brand watches from the Cherry Oo. — ASH/TRKM

Myanmar's manufacturing attracts FDI of \$81M in H1 this FY

FOREIGN direct investments of more than US\$81.7 million were pumped into Myanmar's manufacturing sector from 25 enterprises in the first half of the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, as per the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Chinese companies primarily made investments in the manufacturing sector. The manufacturing enterprises that need a large labour force are prioritized to create job opportunities for the locals.

The Myanmar Investment Commission gave the green light to 30 foreign projects from seven countries (China, Chinese (Taipei), Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand) to make investments of \$223 million in the past six months, adding increased capital by the existing enterprises.

The Transport and Communication sector pulled \$87.7 million with the capital expansion of \$82.66 million this FY. The manufacturing sector drew \$81.225 million, and the services sector received \$44 million. The power sector brought in an FDI of \$8.5 million, while investments of less than one million flowed into the agriculture sector respectively.

Singapore stood as the largest foreign investor in Myanmar, with \$87.74



A garment factory running on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis is seen in Yangon Region.

million of FDI in the H1 of the current FY, followed by Thailand and China.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is concentrated mainly in garment and textiles produced on a Cutting, Making, and Packaging basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) is committed to accelerating its effort to keep improving Myanmar's garment sector, joining hands with international brands and partners, as per the MGMA's statement on its commitment re-

leased on 25 August 2023. MGMA also offers an HR management course, an occupational safety and health (OSH) course, and basic and advanced sewing machine operator training to enhance the capacity of the staff.

There are 548 active factories operated under the MGMA as of September 2024, comprising 323 from China, 56 from South Korea, 17 from Japan, 16 from other countries, 63 domestic factories and 25 joint ventures. Forty-eight are temporarily closed for now, according to the MGMA's monthly Newsletter. — KK

CBM sells \$33M, 260M Thai baht, 3M yuan within 20 days

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) injected over US\$33 million, over 260 million Thai baht and three million yuan into the financial sector within 20 days.

It sold \$6 million and 200 million baht on 15 October; \$730,000 on 11 October; \$12.4 million and 38.7 million baht on 10 October; 660,000 yuan on 9 October and over 10 million baht on 7 October into the private sector.

CBM also pumped \$13.1 million and 288,000 yuan on 4 October; \$780,000, 1.2 million yuan and one million baht on 3 October and over 1.2 million yuan and 10.2 million baht into the financial market on 2 October.

CBM also injected over \$76 million, 86 million baht and 4.8 million yuan into financial markets in September. Moreover, CBM sold over \$190 million, 19 million yuan and 79 million baht in August.

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

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Paddy reference price set at K960,000 per 100 baskets

A leading group for the protection of farmer rights and enhancement of their benefits announced a paddy reference price at K960,000 per 100 baskets (a basket is equivalent to 46 pounds), according to its notification 1/2024.

In accordance with the provisions of the Law of Protection of the Farmer Rights and Enhancement of their Benefits, the leading group set the reference price of the paddy at K950,000 per 100 baskets, which meets the prescribed criteria: a 14-per-cent moisture content and a fixed percentage of impurities such as sand, dust, and small stones in order

to ensure fair market and fair price for the growers.

The transaction must be made according to the reference price if the market price exceeds it and sits below it.

This price is designated for monsoon paddy produced in 2024 and summer paddy that will be made in 2025 to have a decent price during the harvest season. Those farmers who have difficulty in selling them as per the reference price can link with township representatives of the Myanmar Rice Federation or dial MRF's contact numbers: 01 2301128, 01 2301129, and 01 218266. — NN/KK



Farmers join the winnowing of paddy on the plain of the field.

OPINION

Scheme family plans for reproductive health

THE rapid increase in the global population has created significant challenges in areas like poverty, education, healthcare, and food security. Addressing these issues through family planning and reproductive health measures is crucial for enhancing individual well-being and contributing to socioeconomic development.

Reproductive health planning is essential for both men and women. According to the United Nations, the global population is expected to reach 8.2 billion by 2024 and grow to 10.3 billion by the 2080s. This population surge raises concerns about food shortages, water scarcity, climate change, the spread of communicable diseases, and widening socioeconomic inequalities.

However, population growth varies significantly across countries. In nations with populations exceeding one billion, the growth rate has been kept below one per cent. In contrast, many African countries experience growth rates of two to three per cent.

As such, the right to choose the number of offspring and control birth spacing is fundamental for every woman. Contraceptive pills play an essential role in this effort. Implementing systematic family planning and reproductive health measures can reduce maternal and child mortality, prevent illnesses, and avoid unintended pregnancies. It contributes to stabilizing the socioeconomic sector so that it can thrive in a healthier and happier environment.

size and plan pregnancies.

In Myanmar, the Ministry of Health's 2015-2016 population and health survey found that 97 per cent of married women aged 15 to 49 were aware of modern birth-spacing techniques. However, only 51 per cent were actively using them. An additional 16 per cent expressed a desire to use these methods but were unable to access them. Higher birth rates tend to occur in regions where family planning services are less accessible.

To address these disparities, ongoing efforts to promote reproductive health, improve access to contraceptives, and raise awareness about family planning are essential. By supporting these initiatives, countries can better manage population growth, reduce the strain on resources, and improve the quality of life for future generations.

As such, the right to choose the number of offspring and control birth spacing is fundamental for every woman. Contraceptive pills play an essential role in this effort. Implementing systematic family planning and reproductive health measures can reduce maternal and child mortality, prevent illnesses, and avoid unintended pregnancies. It contributes to stabilizing the socioeconomic sector so that it can thrive in a healthier and happier environment.

These differences result in varying life expectancies and birth rates, with some countries actively working to raise awareness about reproductive health. Several nations distribute free contraceptives to curb population growth and promote family planning. Modern birth-spacing techniques have seen increasing adoption, rising from 52 per cent usage in 1994 to 58 per cent in 2019. Despite this progress, challenges remain globally. Societies with gender inequality, religious extremism, or cultural restrictions imposed by husbands or family members can prevent the implementation of effective reproductive health measures. These barriers make it difficult for people to access or use birth control, limiting their ability to manage family



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Danakatha Silakatha Bhavanakatha

CONCERNING Dana, the writer provides his own presentation with main ideas based on the Buddhist canonical texts. With regard to Sila, the writer has quoted the book written by Mingun Sayadawgyi Reverend Vicittasrabhivamsa titled "Maha Buddhawun Anudipani. When it comes to Bhavana, the writer has quoted Mahasi Sayadaw, Shwedaunggon Sayadaw, Saddammaramsi Sayadaw and Chanmyay Sayadaw.

As the readers are all aware, there are three stages or three age groups in the life of us human beings: in the first stage - i.e. people belonging to the age group of childhood and teenage, they have to pursue education; and in the second stage - i.e. those belonging to the age group of adult,

they have to earn a livelihood and continue to pursue further studies at the same time. When people can earn an income regardless of the earnings being small, medium or large, they must not be forgetful of Dana - i.e. giving or donation, for the effect of Dana will follow the donor throughout his existence hereafter until he attains Nibbana.

The writer also reminds the readers of the saying, "Health is wealth", the Pali equivalent of which will be Arogyam param labham." He has advised the readers to be health conscious leading a healthy, happy life.

After discussing Dana - donation, the writer deals with Sila - morality or observance of Five Precepts, at the least, for Sila is genuine wealth. When a person

observes the Five Precepts, Eight Precepts, Nine Precepts and Ten Precepts, the effect of his observance of the moral characters or Sila will follow him throughout the Samsara - the cycles of rebirths until he becomes the Fourth Elect - i.e. Rahanta.

Only after he has discussed Dana and Sila does he come to Bhavana - the meditation, which is a prerequisite for a yogi to be enlightened. When people meditate, they will find it extremely difficult to have complete control over their minds. Naturally, people tend to be indulged in desires. They will definitely give in to their wishes, aspirations or desires. Matter-of-factly, he who can control his mind, exercising utmost restraint, will have peace of mind. As long as people yield to their desires, they will be in big trouble. To be able to control one's mind,

one must practice mindfulness - i.e. Satipatthana.

Before practising Satipatthana, one must commence by saying the prayers, reciting the Eleven Holy Discourses, listening to the sermons delivered by the great Sayadawgyis and propagating and disseminating Metta (loving-kindness). Afterwards, one can turn to concentration (Samatha) practice or go directly to Vipassana (meditation) - i.e. being invariably mindful of whatever is occurring. Samatha is keeping one's mind at a single target, not letting one's mind drift, bringing the drifting mind back to his target. Both Samatha and Vipassana involve mindfulness of breathing in and breathing out. For this purpose, the Yogis should approach the Sayadawgyis like Mogok or Mahasi Sayadawgyis, who are widely regarded as Rahantas or Ariyas - at least Sotapana, the First Elect. Only when the masters are Ariyas can their disciples attain the Sotapanahood, from which they can go up to the level of Fourth Elect, the rahanta. People need to be possessed with a high level of Samadhi (concentration power) to reach this first level of attainment. Only when people can concentrate will they be able to attain wisdom, which will help them reach enlightenment.



Book Title - Laungzar Thein Hma Mee Nyein Myi
 Writer - Maung Yin Hline (Hinzhada)
 Publishing House - Ko Lat Sarpay
 Publication House - October 2024 (1st Edition)
 Price - K10,000

Laungzar Thein Hma Mee Nyein Myi

THIS is the fourth book of Saya Maung Yin Hline, who has already published three popular books - Travelogue Experience I, Travelogue Experience II and the Collection of Articles on Pilgrimage to Bodh Gaya. He comes from Hinzhada (Henzada) in Ayeyawady Region. To make the readers know his native town, he put the word Hinzhada in brackets after his name, Maung Yin Hline. The book under review is a collection of 26 articles on Buddha Dhamma, the title of which is Laungzar Thein Hma Mee Nyein Myi. That is also the title of a Dhamma article contained in this book. There are three forewords written by himself, the writer, Saya Nwe Oo Hlaing and Saya Aung Zin Minn. Saya Nwe Oo Hlaing said that it is easier

to extinguish the physical fire burning outside our body. At the same time, it is complicated to put out the fire burning inside our body. There is an analogy between the two types of fire: when a fire breaks out, we have to extinguish it with the use of fire-fighting materials like water or sand, wet clothes, etc. When putting out the fire, the firefighters try to extinguish it, ridding the source of the fire and preventing the fire from spreading to other buildings and/or materials. What counts is to kill the source of the fire. The same principle is to be used when it comes to putting out the fire burning inside our bodies. In so doing, we must first identify the root causes of the burning sensation. Unless we know what is making us feel passionate, de-

pressed, downhearted, etc, we will not be able to keep ourselves calm, peaceful and pacific. Only when we can kill the root causes of our bad feelings will be able to calm down ourselves. As long as we are putting the fuel into the fire and fanning the flame, we will never be able to extinguish our inner fire. Therefore, we must rid ourselves of the fuels, keeping them at bay.

Saya Maung Yin Hline said that as we are living a secular life, we will invariably have difficulty ridding ourselves of the root causes of Lobha (greed), Dosa (anger) and Moha (ignorance) and that we can, nevertheless, reduce the greed, anger and ignorance if we are practising mindfulness - Satipatthana. In this regard, we must not forget that we cannot be highly obsessed with our spiritual outlook and

beliefs because we are leading a secular life. Therefore, it is crucial for all ordinary human beings to strike a proper balance between spiritual outlooks and practices and worldly principles and practices. It is true that we must be pious, lead a virtuous life, be free from evils, misdeeds and extreme desires for sexual intimacy, etc. and that our role model should be Buddha or Jesus or Mohamad or Hindu God and other highest saints. Nonetheless, we cannot preserve the agape love or divine love for all beings when it comes to being involved with our closest relatives. If we act like the highest saints, our families and friends will misunderstand us when they know we are not the saints. Therefore, we are required to be poised well and strike a proportionate balance between secular and spiritual principles and practices.

In a nutshell, his articles on Buddha Dhamma are worth reading, and therefore, this book deserves a good place on the bookshelves of the readers. I have no reservations whatsoever in giving my recommendation of this book to the readers.

လာဗင်ဒါ

Lavender

By Chit Ko Pe

နှိုင်းမဲ့အစစ်
 ရင်နှစ်မေတ္တာ
 သစ္စာအတည်
 နှောင်ချည်မပျက်
 အသက်ဆုံးတိုင်
 သင်းကြိုင်နံ့လွင်
 လာဗင်ဒါဝန်းသို့
 ရိန္နဲစီးကြွေစေ ချစ်မပြေ။
 ချစ်ကိုဗေ

*There is no yardstick to measure
 how my love brims over,
 like a fragrant Lavender -
 a sort of royal flower
 being afresh for you, dear,
 though it wilts and withers.*



(ပေါ်တူဂီနိုင်ငံ၏ တော်ဝင်ဝန်းတစ်မျိုးဖြစ်သော လာဗင်ဒါဝန်း၏ပြယုဂ်တစ်ခုကို ရည်ညွှန်း ရေးဖွဲ့ပါသည်။)
 (Composed in light of the significance of Lavender, Portugal's royal flower)



Graceful and Noble Day

By Mya Thae (Research)

Full Moon Day of Thadingyut is a graceful day
 Buddhists pay homage to pagodas sharing
 merits and peacefully stay
 Pagodas, houses, and buildings are decorated with
 lanterns graciously
 Buddha descended from Tavatimsa (တာဝတိံသာ)
 Devas by Ruby Stairs piously
 Youths and students pay obeisance to teachers
 and elders nicely
 Good deeds make enormous wisely.

Finding Fault and Light of Loving-kindness

By Ant Maung, Translated by Myint Zan



အပြစ်ကိုရှာ
 ရာထောင်နဲ့တွေ့
 မေတ္တာရောင်တစ်ချက်လင်းလျှင်
 ကင်းပျောက်စင်မွေ့

အံ့မောင် (မုံရွာ) ၏ ၇၇ နှစ်ပြည့်စိန်ရတုမွေးနေ့ အထိမ်းအမှတ်
 ထုတ်သော သူ၏ ကဗျာစာအုပ်တွင် ဖော်ပြထားသည်။

if one (always try to) find fault
 there would be hundreds, thousands
 of them
 when the light of loving-kindness
 permeates
 then such unhealthful practices
 disappear
 and one is in repose.

Translated on 15 October 2024

(Taken from the book containing the collection of poems of the late poet Ant Maung commemorating his 75th birthday.)

NATIONAL Entertainment

MMPO assists elderly artistes unable to attend 47th respect-paying event



This picture captures senior comedian U Chit Saya receiving appreciation cash and medicines presented by MMPO representatives.

U AYE KYU LAY, Vice-Chair of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO), announced that elderly artistes who were unable to attend the 47th Respect-Paying Ceremony due to health reasons received cash and gifts as part of the ceremony, which began on 14 October.

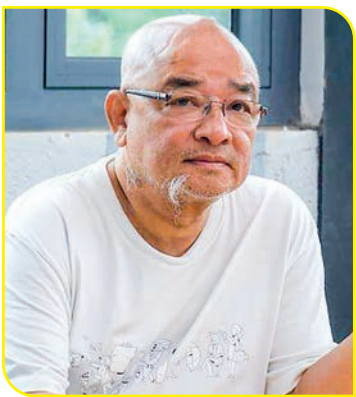
Despite the 104th Myanmar Film Day and the 47th Respect-Paying Ceremony being held on 16

October, nearly 100 film veterans could not participate.

“Unfortunately, due to limited space, we could only accommodate about 40 older artistes at the recent ceremony. Many of our beloved seniors couldn’t attend due to their age and health conditions, including those who rely on wheelchairs. Therefore, we’ve arranged for the remaining 100 older veterans to receive cash and materials starting on 14 October.

However, some artistes are too ill to leave their homes, and we are paying our respects personally at their residences. Nearly 50 have come to collect their appreciation gifts,” said U Aye Kyu Lay.

A total of 139 seniors were honoured during the respect-paying ceremony. Each artiste who was unable to attend received K470,000 and 70 different types of medications. — ASH/TRKM



Zarganar

MULTI-TALENTED ARTISTE
ZARGANAR, also known as Maung Thura, has been undergoing medical treatment at Aryu Hospital in Tamway Township. Comedian Ngapyaw Kyaw’s wife, Nay Chi (Tarot), who visited him, shared on her social media, “He’s like my second father. I’m worried, but his face still looks vibrant. I hope he recovers quickly”.

Saung Yun Zan

WHILE pursuing her acting career, actress Saung Yun Zan remains committed to her religious practices. She spent nine consecutive days at the Shwedagon Pagoda reciting the Mahasamaya Sutta in

dedication to those who have passed away. On Thadingyut Full Moon Day, she offered food at the pagoda and shared merits for those who haven’t yet reached liberation, wishing for them to attain peace and for everyone to enjoy good health and prosperity.



Nyein Min

IN line with the Thadingyut festival, writer Nyein Min visited and paid respects to U Ko Lay (Inwa Gonyi), an esteemed poet who has won both the National Literary Award and the National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement and is now 90 years old. U Ko Lay is known for his contributions to both music and literature and is one of Nyein Min’s teachers. He had been hospitalized recently, but according to Nyein Min, he has now been discharged and is recovering well.

Saung Wutt Yi May

THE birth date of actress Saung Wutt Yi May took place on 17 October. Fans and friends expressed their heartfelt birthday wishes for her. Recently, she has been acting in the series ‘Hnyo’, portraying a character who is quietly attempting to gain the affection of someone she has romantic feelings for, referred to as her ‘crush’. Reflecting on her role, she said, “I don’t mind being insulted for playing a villain, but I hope people dislike the real Saung Wutt Yi May. Some think being verbally abused means success, but honestly, I feel hurt when humiliated.”

Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi

DURING the Thadingyut festival, actress Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi posted on her social network to wish her beloved fans a joyful celebration with their loved ones, to accumulate good deeds, and to enjoy peace of mind and good health.

Wine Lay

SINGER WINE LAY also took to Instagram on 17 October to share her well wishes, saying, “On this Thadingyut Full Moon Day, the sacred Abhidhamma Day, I wish all my beloved fans happiness, peace of mind, and good health.” — Htun Htun/ TMT

CELEBRITY

BRIEF

Drone attack from Lebanon targets Netanyahu's residence in Caesarea

Netanyahu addressed the situation, stating that the conflict with Hamas could end if they agree to lay down arms and return hostages.

ISRAEL Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's private residence in Caesarea was targeted in a drone attack from Lebanon earlier this morning, The Times of Israel reported, citing Israel PM's Office, The Times of Israel reported.

In a statement, the Israel Prime Minister's Office said that Netanyahu and his wife Sara were not at home at the time of the attack and there were no injuries reported in the incident.

Two other drones that were fired from Lebanon this morning were downed by Israel's air defences, triggering sirens in Tel Aviv, according to The Times of Israel report. Meanwhile, sirens sound again in several northern communities in the Haifa Bay area, warning of incoming rocket fire from Lebanon.

The latest alerts can be



Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, were not home during the attack, and no injuries were reported. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

heard in cities and towns including Haifa Bay, Kfar HaMaccabi, Usha, Kiryat Yam, Kfar Biyalik, Kiryat Motzkin, Kiryat Atta, Kiry-

at Bialik, Ramat Yochana, Shfar-am, Tamra, Kiryat Haim, Kiryat Shmuel, and Nesher, The Times of Israel reported. — ANI

Japan youth sue utilities over climate impact

A group of 16 Japanese young people is suing utility firms over their carbon emissions, in the latest case worldwide of activists using courts to press for action on climate change.

The plaintiffs, all in their teens and 20s, say it is the first such case brought by young people in Japan, which advocates say has the dirtiest energy mix among G7 nations.

The lawsuit was filed in August against 10 operators of power plants burning fossil fuels whose emissions are incompatible with Japan's climate commitments, their lawyers said. The first hearing is set for 24 October.

The aim of the suit is to protect the young "from the dangerous and negative impacts of climate change" which is a "violation of their human rights and those of future generations", the lawyers said in a statement.

The defendants' self-imposed 2030 emission reduction targets are "extremely inadequate" and rely on "technically unproven technologies" like burning coal mixed with ammonia or storing carbon dioxide underground, they added. — AFP



Japan is a major importer of liquefied natural gas (LNG), which fuels many gas-fired power plants. Natural gas has been promoted as a cleaner alternative to coal. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

NATO must not be party to war: Scholz

GERMAN Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Friday reaffirmed his unwavering support for Ukraine during a joint press conference with US President Joe Biden in Berlin, but Scholz stressed that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) must not become a party to the war.

"We stand with Ukraine, as long as it is needed," Scholz said, adding that actions have been very closely coordinated across the Atlantic. — Xinhua

US regulator probes Tesla's self-driving mode after crashes

THE US auto safety regulator said Friday that it has opened an investigation into Tesla's Full Self-Driving (FSD) software after receiving four reports of crashes, one of which involved a pedestrian being struck and killed.

The crashes all occurred when "a Tesla vehicle travelling with FSD engaged entered an area of reduced roadway visibility conditions (sun glare, fog, dust) and Tesla's FSD continued operating," the statement from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said. — AFP

Ship Ruby stranded in North Sea due to hazardous cargo



The heavy fuel oil spilled by the Erika polluted hundreds of kilometres (miles) of coastline. **PHOTO: FRANK PERRY / AFP**

THE Maltese-flagged ship Ruby, carrying 20,000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate, has been stranded in the North Sea for weeks after being rejected by European ports due to its hazardous cargo.

The ammonium nitrate, used in fertilizers and explosives, poses risks reminiscent of the 2020 Beirut explosion, where a similar substance caused widespread devastation.

After departing from Russia on 22 August, Ruby

encountered a storm, sustaining damage that required inspection in Tromsø, Norway. Following orders to leave, the ship was turned away by Lithuania, which insisted the cargo must be offloaded first. Since 25 September, it has remained anchored near the busy Dover Strait, with its Syrian crew on-board. Efforts to find a suitable UK port for offloading have faced logistical challenges, as ports fear the risks associated with accepting vessels like Ruby. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan's 2024 new rice price rises to 31-year high after summer heat

Rice from each year's harvest typically appears on store shelves around September in Japan.

THE price of newly harvested rice has surged 48 per cent from a year earlier to the highest level in 31 years, reflecting a shortage caused by extreme summer heat that reduced the previous season's harvest, the farm ministry's data showed Friday.

The average price of unpolished rice sold by the National Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Associations and other supplier bodies to wholesalers was 22,700 yen (\$151) for 60 kilo-

grammes in September, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries reported. In Japan, rice from each year's harvest begins appearing on store shelves around September.

This year's price is the highest since 1993 when it reached 23,607 yen, according to data from the National Rice Exchange and Price Formation Centre, though the ministry's data only goes back to 2008. — Kyodo



A shopper browses in the food section at a supermarket in Tokyo's Ota Ward in May 2022. PHOTO: KYODO

Canada reduces credit card fees by 27% for small businesses

THE Canadian federal government announced Thursday that new credit card fee reductions for small business owners will come into effect this Saturday.

More than 90 per cent of Canadian businesses that accept credit cards will receive lower rates and see interchange fees reduced by up to 27 per cent, the Federal Eco-



nomics Development Agency for Southern Ontario said in a press release. These fee reductions, which the federal government negotiated with Visa and Mastercard, will save eligible small businesses about 1 billion Canadian dollars (US\$720 million) over five years, the release said. — Xinhua

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UAE launches TradeTech Accelerator

THANI Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, has officially launched a TradeTech Accelerator, an innovative in-

cubator designed to support startups developing advanced technology solutions for use in the trade sector.



This initiative aims to support startups developing advanced technology solutions in the trade sector, focusing on enhancing logistics, customs, trade finance, and cross-border payments. PHOTO: PEXELS

Forming one of the key pillars of the TradeTech Initiative, which was launched by the UAE in collaboration with the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development (ADDED), the Accelerator will help nurture enterprises and projects that will contribute to modernize and improve logistics, customs procedures, trade finance and cross-border payments. Al Zeyoudi launched the Accelerator during WEF's Annual Meeting of the Global Future Councils 2024, which took place on 15-17 October in Dubai. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ethiopia-Djibouti railway connection boosts economic growth prospects

THE successful connection of the Ethiopia-Djibouti railway line to Ethiopia's Dire Dawa Free Trade Zone is set to pave the way for economic growth, the Ethio-Djibouti Standard Gauge Railway Share Company (EDR) has said.

According to the EDR, linking the free trade zone with the railway infrastructure is expected to enhance trade and commerce in the region, effectively benefiting businesses with an efficient transport network, the state-affiliated Fana Broadcasting Corporate reported Wednesday. — Xinhua

Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves increase by US\$215 mln

THE State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said Thursday that its foreign exchange reserves had increased by US\$215 million.

During the week ending on 11 October, the total foreign exchange reserves of the bank reached around \$11 billion, the central bank said in a statement.

Net foreign reserves held by commercial banks came at around \$5.1 billion, it added. — Xinhua

Malaysia's trade up 10.2% on year in January-September

MALAYSIA'S trade during the period from January to September 2024 rose 10.2 per cent year on year to 2.14 trillion ringgit (US\$497 billion), official data showed Friday.

The Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) said in a statement that Malaysia's trade remained buoyant, mainly thanks to the export of palm oil-based agricultural products. — Xinhua

International ceramic expo starts in China's "porcelain capital"

The event emphasizes integrated development in trade, investment, and culture, featuring international brands from 12 countries, including Japan, Germany, and the United States.

THE 2024 China Jingdezhen International Ceramic Expo kicked off on Friday in Jingdezhen, renowned worldwide as the "porcelain capital", in east China's Jiangxi Province.

This year's exhibition area has expanded by 33 per cent from last year to 140,000 square metres. It includes eight major sections, including international brands, renowned kilns and artistic ceramics.

Over 1,100 exhibitors are showcasing products from international brands,

traditional kilns, and local Jingdezhen ceramic enterprises and art studios.

With an emphasis on integrated development in trade, investment, and culture, the event features international brands from 12 countries, including Japan, Germany and the United States.

In a bid to foster innovation, the expo has also enlarged its zone for entrepreneurship and innovation to provide a platform for young artists and local entrepreneurs.

In addition to the main expo, a series of high-profile events will be held, including forums on ceramic culture heritage and innovation, and art exhibitions.

First held in 2004, the expo, formerly the China Jingdezhen International Ceramic Fair, has become a significant platform to showcase the world's finest porcelain. — Xinhua



This photo shows a piece of porcelain artwork at a museum in Jingdezhen, east China's Jiangxi Province, 5 June 2024. PHOTO: LIU LIHANG/XINHUA

Environmental activist addresses challenges after BioLab chemical fire

IN the wake of a devastating fire at a BioLab chemical plant in Conyers, Georgia, local environmental activist Rachael Thompson discussed the ongoing challenges faced by communities in transitioning from heavy industries despite public health concerns.

The fire, which erupted in late September, forced the evacuation of over 90,000 residents due to a plume of toxic smoke.

Chemicals released, including chlorine and chloramine, posed serious health risks, particularly for individuals with pre-existing conditions.

Thompson highlighted that this incident was not an isolated event; similar fires have occurred at BioLab and other chemical facilities in neighboring cities, including Brunswick, which experienced two major incidents leading to mass evacuations in the past two years.

She criticized local authorities for their inadequate responses to such chemical disasters, emphasizing the need for more effective safety regulations and a shift away from reliance on hazardous industries to protect public health and the environment. — SPUTNIK

Vistara, Air India flights receive hoax bomb threats

THREE international flights of Vistara airline and one belonging to Air India received bomb threats that turned out to be hoaxes, officials said Saturday.

Of the three Vistara flights, one was diverted to Frankfurt, Germany as a precautionary measure.

According to officials, the flights to London, Paris and Hong Kong from the national capital New Delhi received bomb threats on social media on Friday.

A Dubai-Jaipur Air India Express flight made an emergency landing at the Jaipur airport in the early hours of Saturday due to a bomb threat, which later turned out to be a hoax. — Xinhua

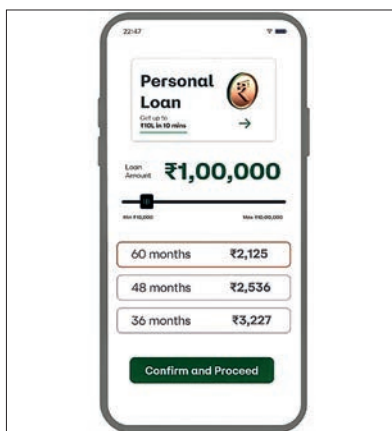
Instant loan apps provide quick funds for unexpected expenses

IN today's fast-paced environment, instant loan apps are emerging as a convenient solution for unexpected expenses, allowing users to access funds quickly with minimal documentation. These platforms are gaining traction among Indian consumers, thanks to their user-friendly interfaces and rapid approval processes.

Among the top contenders is Moneyview, which offers loans up to Rs10 lakh with interest rates starting

at 10 per cent per annum. The app provides flexible repayment terms ranging from three months to five years.

KreditBee also stands out, enabling users to borrow between Rs1,000 and Rs5 lakh. With interest rates between 15 per cent and 29.95 per cent, KreditBee boasts a remarkable disbursement time of just 10 minutes. Bajaj Finserv, a reputable name in lending, offers loans up to



Moneyview is a leading app offering loans up to Rs10 lakh. PHOTO: MONEYVIEW

Rs40 lakh with repayment options stretching up to 72 months. Users can expect loan disbursement within 24 hours. — ANI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (24014)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (24014)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-10-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

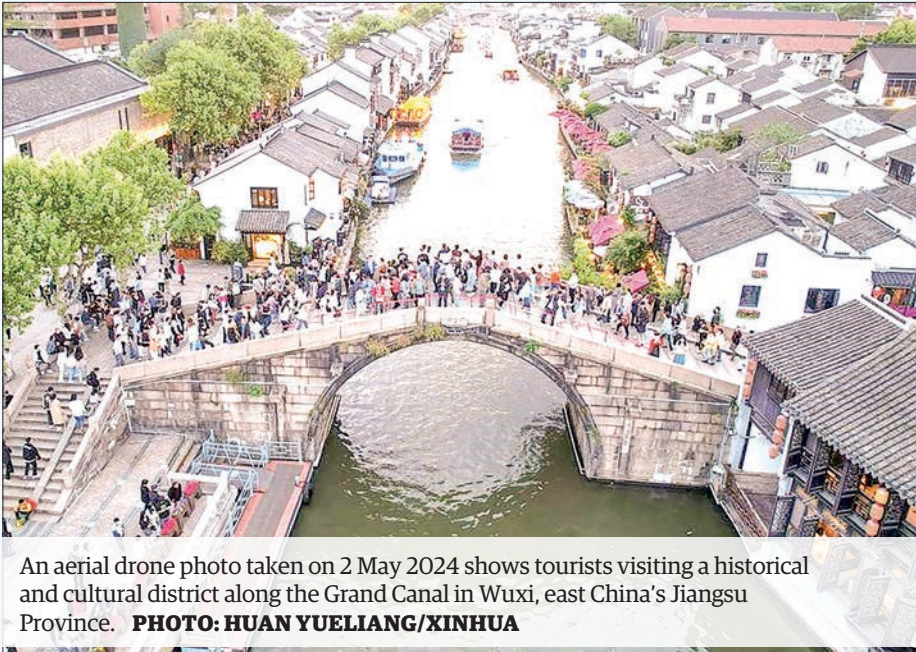
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S MAWLAMYINE CENTURY LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



An aerial drone photo taken on 2 May 2024 shows tourists visiting a historical and cultural district along the Grand Canal in Wuxi, east China's Jiangsu Province. **PHOTO: HUAN YUELIANG/XINHUA**

19 OCTOBER

Greeks welcome China's new visa-free policy

Travel agents and cultural figures praise the initiative for simplifying travel and promoting cultural exchanges.

GREEK citizens have warmly welcomed China's new visa-free policy, which took effect earlier this week, offering easier and more affordable travel opportunities.

Starting from 15 October and lasting until 31 December 2025, Greek citizens with ordinary passports can visit China for up to 15 days without a visa for tourism, business, family reunification, or

transit, according to Pan Ziyang, an official from the Consular Department of China's Embassy in Greece. A new visa-free policy facilitates travel between Greece and China, praised by travel agents and cultural figures.

It simplifies travel, reduces costs, and promotes cultural exchanges. — Xinhua

18 OCTOBER

Coca production in Colombia hits record levels

COLOMBIA, the world's biggest cocaine exporter, set a new record last year for production of the drug and cultivation of the coca leaf it is made from, a United Nations report said Friday.

Coca leaf cultivation was 10 per cent higher last year than in 2022, while cocaine production rose 53 per cent from 1,738 tonnes to 2,600, according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Colombia's coca leaf production reached record levels, covering 253,000 hectares in 2023, primarily aimed at the US and Europe. This increase persists despite ongoing US drug war efforts since 2014. Notably, the Cauca and Narino departments saw the most significant growth, influenced by dissident FARC guerrilla groups. — AFP

17 OCTOBER

Sinwar's death marks a major blow

CHIEF ARCHITECT of the 7 October 2023 attack on Israel, the deadliest in its history, Sinwar was killed during an operation in Gaza, Israel's military said on Thursday.

Hamas has yet to confirm his death.

Sinwar was the head of Hamas in Gaza during the 7 October attack, and rose to become the group's overall leader in August after the killing of political chief Ismail Haniyeh.

Hamas leader Sinwar's death was celebrated by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu as a significant blow to Hamas. In July, Israel was implicated in the killings of Haniyeh and claimed responsibility for Mohammed Deif, though his death remains unconfirmed.

The conflict has resulted in significant casualties on both sides. — AFP

16 OCTOBER

Students protest funding cuts outside universities

ARGENTINE university professors and students took their classes onto the streets of Buenos Aires on Wednesday to protest President Javier Milei's veto of a funding increase for cash-strapped public universities.

Literature students from the University of Buenos Aires, the country's most prestigious school, brought their desks out onto the sidewalk in the centre of the city as professors lectured loudly over the din of the traffic.

The protests come a week after Milei vetoed a law approved by the

Senate that envisaged regular funding increases for public universities, whose budgets he slashed.

The law also provided for university instructors and other staff to receive pay increases to offset Argentina's stubbornly high inflation rate.

Annual inflation stood at 209 per cent in September.

At the University of Buenos Aires, the faculties of law, medicine, philosophy and arts, economy, science and social science all took their classes outside. — AFP

15 OCTOBER

China promotes international collaboration in space science

CHINA will pursue extensive and in-depth international cooperation in space exploration, according to a press conference held on Tuesday unveiling the nation's mid and long-term space science development programme.

Wang Chi, director of the National Space Science Centre under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said that international cooperation in space science can significantly multiply scientific output and foster mutual understanding and friendship among countries worldwide.

China aims to encourage multinational

collaborations in space science projects to enhance scientific achievements and data sharing. Notable initiatives include the Advanced Space-based Solar Observatory and the Einstein Probe.

Yang Xiaoyu from the China National Space Administration revealed that China has signed cooperation agreements with 17 countries for the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS). The focus will be on joint verification, design, and data sharing, emphasizing the importance of space technology in supporting the development of emerging nations. — Xinhua

14 OCTOBER

Iraq struggles to control pro-Iran factions

THE Iraqi government is facing challenges in controlling pro-Iran factions that could drag the country into a wider regional conflict amid escalating tensions in Gaza and Lebanon.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an alliance of Iran-backed groups, has launched drone attacks against Israel in solidarity with Hamas, although most have been intercepted. A recent drone strike from Iraq

resulted in the deaths of two Israeli soldiers, prompting Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu to declare a defence across multiple fronts, including against Shiite groups in Iraq.

Despite its Iran-aligned leadership, Iraq seeks to prevent further violence from spilling over. Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein emphasized opposition to any use of Iraqi airspace for attacks against Iran or Israel. — AFP

13 OCTOBER

Biden praises Japanese atomic bomb survivors' advocacy

US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN on Sunday commended Nihon Hidankyo, Japan's leading atomic bomb survivors organization, for serving as a "human testament" to the tragedy of nuclear weapons for decades and telling a story that the world needs to hear.

In a statement released to congratulate the group on its receipt of the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize, Biden touched on his visit last

year to Hiroshima, when he met on the sidelines of the Group of Seven summit with a survivor of the world's first atomic bomb attack.

Biden said he was powerfully reminded that "we must continue making progress towards the day when we can finally and forever rid the world of nuclear weapons." — Kyodo

SPORTS

THE first day of the second round of the 2024-2025 Myanmar National League season on 19 October saw the top three teams secure victories. In a match held at Taunggyi, defending champions Shan United celebrated a

At Yangon United Sports Complex, Yangon United dominated Dagon Port with a 5-1 victory, keeping the pressure on the other top teams. Yan Kyaw Htwe netted Yangon United's goals in nine minutes, David

Top three teams win in MNL's second round opener

2-0 win over Ayeyawady United, maintaining their lead at the top of the table. Despite a strong effort from Ayeyawady United, they were unable to avoid their second defeat to Shan United this season. Goals for Shan United came from Marksaki in the 33rd minute and Ye Yint Aung in the 83rd minute. Shan United captain Nanda Kyaw was named Man of the Match.

Htan in 41 minutes, Yan Naing Oo in 61 minutes, Kaung Sithu in 76 minutes, and Eee Soe in 82 minutes, while Dagon Port's lone goal came from Mogou in 19 minutes. Yangon United's David Htan was awarded Man of the Match.

At Thuwunna Youth Training Centre, Hanthawady United edged out Mahar United with a 3-2 win. Soe Kyaw Kyaw scored



Shan United and Ayeyawady United battling it out during their match. PHOTO: SUFC

twice for Hanthawady in 20 minutes and 58 minutes, with Than Toe Aung adding another goal in 35 minutes. Kaung Myat Thu netted twice for Mahar United in 40 and 48 minutes. Soe Kyaw Kyaw was named Man of the

Match. Following these matches, Shan United leads the table with 34 points, Hanthawady United follows with 31 points, and Yangon United is third with 30 points. Mahar United and Dagon Port

have 16 and 12 points, respectively, while Ayeyawady United sits at the bottom with 5 points. In Fixture 12, Myawady FC will face Thitsa Arman FC at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre today. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

China-Myanmar Disability Rehabilitation & Friendship Sports Festival held in Ruili

THE China-Myanmar Disability Rehabilitation and Friendship Sports Festival took place on 15 October in Ruili, China, bringing together participants from both nations to foster camaraderie through sports.

The event, organized under the "Belt and Road" initiative for 2024, featured a series of football-related games and six rehabilitation-focused sports competitions. A total of 140 athletes with disabilities from both China and Myanmar participated, showcasing their skills and determination.

During the festival, China generously donated ten prosthetic limbs, 15 hearing aids, and 100

wheelchairs to Myanmar's disabled community. Additionally, before the event, Ruili's Disability Association provided free services to equip disabled individuals with prosthetics and orthotics.

Moreover, the association also fitted 18 individuals from China and Myanmar with personalized assistive devices, further supporting their rehabilitation journey.

The festival not only highlighted the athletic achievements of disabled participants but also underscored the strengthening of friendship between China and Myanmar through shared efforts in rehabilitation and inclusion. — ASH/KZL



Scenes from the China-Myanmar Disability Rehabilitation and Friendship Sports Festival.

Cycling: Yamasaki gets Japan long-awaited world keirin gold



Japan's Kento Yamasaki reacts to his victory in the men's keirin at the track cycling world championships in Ballerup, Denmark, on 17 October 2024. PHOTO: KYODO

TRACK cyclist Kento Yamasaki won the men's keirin at the world championships Thursday, making him the first Japanese to win the discipline since Harumi Honda in 1987. The 31-year-old Yamasaki crossed the finish line ahead of second-place Israeli Mikhail Yakovlev

and third-place Colombian Kevin Santiago Quintero Charro on the second day of the championships in Ballerup, Denmark.

"I still can't believe I won," Yamasaki said. — Kyodo



People visit the 2024 Los Angeles Lantern Art Expo in Arcadia, Los Angeles County, California, the United States, on 17 October 2024. **PHOTO: QIU CHEN/XINHUA**

Los Angeles Lantern Art Expo showcases Chinese traditional culture

The 2024 Los Angeles Lantern Art Expo features 66 lantern displays celebrating Chinese culture and heritage.

THE 2024 Los Angeles Lantern Art Expo was launched Wednesday evening, showcasing Chinese traditional culture with more than 60 sets of lantern displays, cultural performances and Chinese cuisine.

A total of 66 sets of lanterns are on display at the expo, featuring themes including the Great Tang Dynasty, 12 Chinese zodiac animals, prehistoric dinosaurs, and holidays such as Halloween and Christmas.

“Today, as we light up the lanterns here, we once again highlight the tremendous potential

and continued efforts of China and the United States to foster cultural and tourism exchanges,” said Chinese Consul General in Los Angeles Guo Shaochun at the opening ceremony of the event. Lantern art is a good expression of Chinese traditional culture, carrying both deep cultural significance and aesthetic beauty, Guo said. The 2024 Los Angeles Lantern Art Expo, running from 18 October to 17 November, showcases Chinese craftsmanship and celebrates immigrant contributions, emphasizing shared aspirations for a bright future. — Xinhua

Japan prioritizes financial education for children after adulthood age change

Parents seek early financial literacy for their children, reflecting their own missed opportunities.



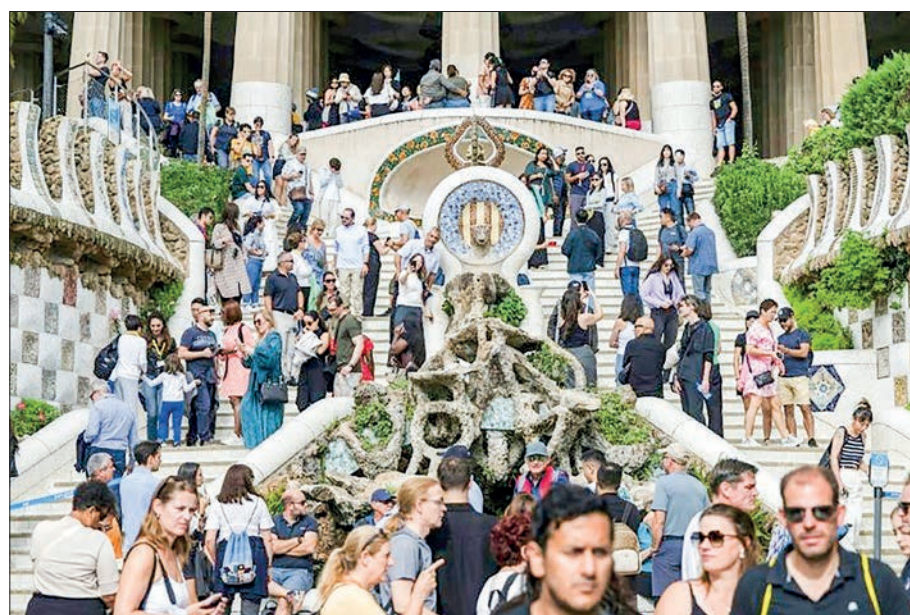
Teachers participate in financial and economic education training hosted by Daiwa Securities Group's head office in Tokyo in July 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Barcelona turns against surging tourism

BARCELONA, renowned for its Belle Epoque architecture and vibrant beaches, attracts about 170,000 visitors daily, contributing to 13.5 per cent of its GDP.

However, a municipal survey indicates that tourism has become the third most pressing concern for its 1.6 million residents.

The aggressive post-pandemic tourism rebound has sparked protests against the city's tourism-centric economy, highlighted by graffiti reading “Tourist go home” and confrontations involving locals



Visitors jam Antoni Gaudi's architectural masterpiece Park Guell, one of Barcelona's most visited sites. **PHOTO: AFP**

The city is at a critical juncture, trying to protect its cultural fabric while managing a vital economic sector.

and tourists. Residents complain of housing shortages, noise, and disturbances linked to short-term rentals, prompting legal battles over property conversions

Mayor Jaume Collboni plans to eliminate licences for approximately 10,000 short-term rentals by 2028 to combat rising rents. Critics argue that current

measures, including potential cruise ship restrictions, fail to address “overtourism” adequately.

Traditional shops are disappearing, replaced by tourist-focused businesses, prompting calls for a more sustainable tourism strategy that balances economic growth with social and environmental considerations.

As Spain approaches record tourist arrivals, the tension between tourism and local life intensifies. — AFP

FINANCIAL education for children in Japan has gained importance since the legal age of adulthood was lowered to 18 in 2022.

Major securities firms are now expanding programmes aimed at teaching responsible money management to elementary school students.

These initiatives incorporate games and activities to make learning enjoyable, while also training teachers to conduct lessons independently.

For example, SMBC Nikko Securities invited around 1,500 elementary students and their families to participate in interactive sessions where they learned about money fundamentals and stocks. Parents, eager for their children to acquire financial literacy, expressed their desire for early education in this area, citing their own lack of opportunities.

In addition, Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities and Daiwa Securities Group are offering similar programmes and teacher training to promote financial understanding. Daiwa has even created a game using toy money to help children learn asset allocation for future life events. As a result, junior high students can now trade stocks with parental consent, providing practical experience and enhancing their understanding of investment risks. — Kyodo