

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the award-presentation ceremony of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition yesterday.

### Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General in awarding of the Performing Arts Competition

1. National culture, national spirit, and value systems are very important factors in the independent development of a region.
2. All citizens need to be aware of penetrating alien cultures through a national outlook.
3. The participation of new generation youths with keen performances in songs and music created by ancient musicians are the best scenes to uplift national prestige and integrity.

## Citizens urged to guard against foreign cultural influence

National culture, national spirit, and value system are crucial factors in the independent development of a region.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing noted that the participation of new generation youths with keen performance in songs and music created by ancient musicians are the best scenes to uplift national prestige and integrity.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said so at the awards ceremony of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Myanmar Traditional Cultural

Performing Arts Competition at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC II) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General underlined holding the Performing Arts Competition in order to keep the capability and value of Myanmar's culture and fine arts in the soul of new generation youths and to help uplift national integrity as much as possible.

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Areca nut market thriving in Myeik District

# 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

## Police and Officials Urged to Prioritize Public Welfare and Safety Without Burdening Citizens

MEMBERS of the Myanmar Police Force and administrative officials must prioritize public welfare while ensuring the safety of the people without imposing burdens.

*(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting hall of the Eastern Command Headquarters on 3 September 2024)*

## Cyclonic Storm “DANA” News, No 8, 2024

23 October 2024 (19:00) MST Today

### Cyclonic Storm

According to the observations at (17:30)hrs MST today, the Cyclonic Storm over Eastcentral Bay of Bengal has moved northwestwards and it is centred at about 325 nautical miles westwards of Gwa(Myanmar), 295 nautical miles south-southeast of Sagar Island West Bengal (India). The central pressure of Cyclonic Storm is 998 hPa and maximum wind speed near the center is 40-45 miles per hour.

It does not intend to move towards Myanmar coasts at the present stage and therefore the Cyclonic Storm is coded as yellow stage.

### Forecast

It is likely to continue to move northwestwards and may further intensify into a Severe Cyclonic Storm over Northwest Bay of Bengal around 24-10-2024 and cross North Odisha and West Bengal Coasts between Puri and Sagar Island close to Dhamara(India) early morning of 25-10-2024.

Due to the Cyclonic Storm, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, Northern Shan, Chin, Rakhine States with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavyfalls and strong winds from tonight up to 24 October 2024.

Frequently squalls with rough to very rough seas will be experienced in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (50-55) mph and wave height will be about (11-15) feet Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts.

### Advisory

People should be aware of the natural disasters such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, thunder, lightnings, hails, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flight. — Department of Meteorology and Hydrology

## Myanmar and Russian navy ships head to naval exercise areas



Myanmar and Russian naval officers seen before departing for Maritime Security Exercise yesterday.

THE opening ceremony of the second Myanmar-Russia joint security naval exercise was held at Thiri Maha Zeya Kyaw Htin Hall of the Naval Training Command on 22 October.

It was attended by senior officials of Tatmadaw (Navy) and the Russian Navy, the Russian military attaché to Myanmar and invitees. They all posed for documentary photos after the ceremony.

The four navy ships from the Russian Pacific Fleet arriving in Myanmar for the second joint

naval exercise left Myanmar from Thilawa Port yesterday morning.

During the visit, they visited famous sites in Yangon, joined in friendly sports competitions, studied naval vessels of two countries, hosted dinner events and conducted harbour phase exercises.

The Russian navy ships headed to naval exercise operating areas together with vessels of Tatmadaw (Navy). — MNA/KTZH

## Announcement of public holiday on Deepavali

DUE to the celebration of Deepavali, Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> Waxing of Tazaungmone 1386 ME (1 November 2024) has been declared a public holiday across the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for all offices and under the provisions of Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act. The State Administration Council has made this announcement under Order No 175/2024.

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# NATIONAL

## Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

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

### FROM PAGE 1

He also noted that national culture, national spirit and value system are crucial factors for the independent development of a region.

The Senior General expressed his satisfaction with excellent performance in Myanmar's marionette and drama contests.

He said that all citizens need to be aware of penetrating alien cultures through a national outlook.

The Senior General highlighted that efforts must be made to foster Myanmar's culture and fine arts and to encounter these dangers and penetrations effectively.

The Senior General urged all maestros and new generation artistes to protect the future of the State and nationals through the strength of fine arts in order to stand tall on the correct way to serve the national interests.

The Senior General presented honorary awards to ethnic traditional dance troupes from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states, whereas the wife of the Senior General gave honorary awards to folk cultural troupes from Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, respectively.

The Rakhine ethnic traditional music band played the song with the title "Rakhine music in a variety of instruments".

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win presented honorary prizes to ethnic traditional cultural troupes from states and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, medals and certificates of honour to first, second and third prize winners in the Maha Gita (clas-

## Citizens urged to guard against foreign cultural influence



SAC Vice-Chair Deputy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win presents an honorary awards to the ethnic traditional cultural troupe yesterday.

sic song) female amateur (first grade) contest.

SAC Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo gave medals and certificates of honour to first, second and third prize winners in the Maha Gita song male amateur (first grade) and amateur (second grade) contests and council members, winners in the Maha Gita song male higher education level and basic education level (aged 15-20) and (aged 10-15) contests.

The wife of the Joint Secretary and wives of the SAC members handed medals and certificates of honour to the winners in the Maha Gita female amateur (second grade), higher education

and basic education level (aged 15-20) and (aged 10-15) female contests.

Council members awarded winners in the old/modern song amateur (first and second grades), higher education, basic education (aged 15-20) and (aged 10-15) male contests and wives of the council members, winners in the female contests.

The council members and their wives gave medals and certificates of honour to winners in the amateur (second grade) and higher education female and male prestige and integrity uplifting song contests.

Ma Thoon Wady Htut, representing Mandalay Region, who

won the gold medal in the old/modern song basic education (aged 10-15) contest, sang the song "Flourishing of Myanmar music".

Council members and their wives presented medals and certificates of honour to the winners in the dancing female and male amateur (first and second grades), higher education and basic education (aged 15-20) and (aged 10-15) contests.

Maung Hein Lin Marn Thway from Ayeyawady Region, who was the youngest contestant in the basic education (aged 10-15) dancing contest, performed dances.

Union-level dignitaries, Un-

ion ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief also awarded winners in the dancing, song-composing and music contests, respectively.

After the awarding ceremony, Ma Eaindray Myint Mo from Yangon Region in the basic education (aged 15-20) song-composing contest sang the song "Lasting Strength of Youth", and Maung Hein Htet Paing from Bago Region who won the gold medal in the music contest (Donmin) in the basic education (aged 15-20) contest performed the song "Shwe Min Gan".

The wife of the Senior General presented medals and certificates of honour to first, second and third prize-winning troupes in the marionette troupe contest and the outstanding puppeteers, song performers, supporting musicians and scriptwriters, respectively.

The Senior General presented medals and certificates of honour to the first, second and third prize-winning troupes in the Maha Zanaka drama contest and outstanding performers, duet dancers, scriptwriters, director and supporting musicians, respectively.

The Performing Arts Competition was participated in by 2,584 contending artists under the assessment of 180 maestros who served the duties of members of the panel of judges. — MNA/TTA

# NATIONAL



SAC Chair Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attend the honorary dinner yesterday.

## Maestros urged to pass fine arts heritage to new-generation artistes."

Only when national culture strengthens in all aspects will proper forms of foreign cultures aligned with the national culture of Myanmar be applied for the nation, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to present certificates of

honour in conjunction with the dinner in honour of artistes of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC II) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

The Senior General spoke on the occasion that it is necessary to stimulate the flourishing

of national integrity through fine arts to preserve national culture for the entire people, including the new generation of youths.

He urged maestros to hand the heritage of fine arts to new generation artistes while preserving fine traditions and good practices of ancient artistes.

He acknowledged all maes-

tros for their contribution of relevant professions to respective events of the Performing Arts Competition.

The Senior General presented certificates of honour to Chairperson Daw Thin Thin Myat for the song contest panel of judges, Chair U Aung Tin Win for the dancing contest panel of judges, Chair U Maung Maung

for the song-composing contest and U Aung Kein for music contest, judge maestros Sithu Daw Htar, ethnic traditional band master Deputy Permanent Secretary U Hlaing Win Maung of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, eldest competitor U Tin Ohn from the singing contest amateur (first grade) contest, youngest contestant Maung Hein Lin Marn Thway of the dancing contest basic education (aged 10-15) contest, Chairman of Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) U Po Chit for contribution to the drama contest and officials from regions and states.

Sithu Daw Htar spoke words of thanks.

The Senior General, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, and the attendees joined for dinner together.

Also present at the dinner were SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, the secretary and his wife, the joint secretary and his wife, council members and their wives, union-level dignitaries, union ministers and their wives, the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, and officials.

After the dinner, the Senior General presented the flower basket to the artistes who performed songs during the dinner. — MNA/TTA

## MIFER Union Minister receives UNFPA Humanitarian Response Division Director

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw received the delegation led by Ms Shoko Yasuda Arakaki, Director, Humanitarian Response Division, UNFPA in Geneva, at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

They cordially discussed matters re-

lating to UNFPA's ongoing Humanitarian Assistance programme and future work plans to be carried out in Myanmar.

Officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, as well as representatives from the UNFPA Myanmar office, were also present at the meeting. — MIFER



UNFPA Humanitarian Response Division Director Ms Shoko Yasuda Arakaki calls on Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw yesterday.

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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

## Myanmar aims for 30% forest reserve, 10% protected land

BIODIVERSITY conservation faces challenges due to intensifying climate change effects. Meanwhile, Myanmar has targeted establishing 30 per cent of the country's total area with reserve forests and 10 per cent of protected land area. It is also working hard in environmental conservation activities with other countries.

The survival of biodiversity is related to the abundance of forests, and global warming causes damage to ice mountains and forests, resulting in the disappearance of inhabitants of biodiversity. Therefore, a total of 196 countries, including Myanmar, conduct environmental conservations.

"Myanmar is working with the relevant countries for environmental conservation. It needs global cooperation to succeed. The country aims to grab 30 per cent of forest coverage and 10 per cent of protected land area. Fine environmental conservation can reduce natural disasters, and so we conduct forest plantation and environmental conservation yearly. The country possesses ice-capped mountains among



Myanmar land contributing to global environmental conservation. **PHOTOS: KANU**

ASEAN countries, and we are also working with Korea to develop the Khakaborazi National Park. The glaciers melt due to high temperatures, and the evaporation causes storms. Due



The forest in Myanmar.



Waterfowl seen in Myanmar's ASEAN Heritage Site.

to the storm initiated in the Bay of Bengal and the South China Sea, the areas with weak conservation can encounter landslides and flooding. Myanmar needs to keep conserving the forests like Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary," said U Aung Khine Soe, director of the Environmental Conservation Department.

Myanmar hosts eight ASEAN Heritage Sites, including Khakaborazi National Park, Natmataung National Park, Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary, Alaungtau Kathapha National Park, Mainmahla Island Wildlife Sanctuary, Lampi Marine National Park, Inlay Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, and Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

## Fake overseas worker cards warned

BROKERS have cheated Myanmar migrant workers on overseas worker identification cards (OWIC), labour affairs activists told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The Ministry of Labour has officially made public information on how to apply for OWIC; however, brokers have taken advantage of people who are weak in acquiring informed knowledge.

"For example, they don't know where they can apply OWIC. The gov-

ernment has already clarified it. But they don't know how to do it, so brokers ask them for K800,000 or K1 million by saying they would help seek OWIC. People think it is real, but the card is fake," said a labour affair activist.

Some people were denied going abroad as their OWICs were identified as counterfeit at the airport.

"Housemaids who try to go abroad unofficially are often cheated. So I would like to suggest they follow the government's rules and try to go



An online advertisement on OWIC services.

abroad officially. If not, fake documents may be verified," he added. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS

## Deputy Ministers meet UNFPA Humanitarian Response Division Director

DEPUTY Minister for Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo met with Ms Shoko Yasuda (Arakaki), Director of the Humanitarian Response Division of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Geneva, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. They discussed ongoing collaboration between the Myanmar government and UNFPA, as well as future joint projects.

Additionally, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement U Soe Kyi met Ms Shoko Yasuda (Arakaki), Director of the Humanitarian Response Division of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Geneva, at the ministry's guest room yesterday. The discussion centred around potential collaboration on a work plan between the Ministry and UNFPA, with a focus on ongoing efforts to assist vulnerable households, particularly women and young girls, in flood-affected regions through the ministry's psychosocial support teams. Both sides exchanged views openly on humanitarian aid and future cooperation. — MNA/KZL

## Mandalay places major orders for Ywangan's tea leaves

TEA leaves produced from Ywangan Township have received orders mostly from Mandalay Region.

The supply of wet tea leaves has been short, as tea leaf season will end soon. However, the trade has been fine, and the price has been high, too.

"Tea leaves have been in short supply now because its season is going to end. The supply has been low

even at sources. The price has been pretty good this month. The majority of orders have been placed from Mandalay and Yangon, but Mandalay is the biggest buyer and has many dealers, too," said a tea leaf farmer from Ywangan Township.

Over the previous six months, Ywangan's tea leaves sales have been fine, and prices will continue to in-

crease in the following months, like October.

"There is no likelihood that tea leaf price will fall in the coming months because the supply has been short now. This year, tea leaf season began in March and will end in November. The sale in the last six months is equivalent to this month's sale; the price just differs," he said. — Thit Taw/ZS

# NATIONAL

## Bagan's stone powder Buddha images receive orders from Yangon, Taunggyi, and Mandalay

BUDDHA statues carved with stone powder from Bagan are being bought and ordered from Taunggyi and Mandalay, including Yangon, according to market sources.

Although they are not as strong as stone statues, there is interest in them, and people are buying stone-powder images.

"Some people are interested in worshipping the pagoda statue moulded with stone powder and plaster.

They are not as strong as stone statues. I have been in this business for about 15 years. There are also other sellers. We get orders from Mandalay, Taunggyi, Yangon and others. We carve and mould stone powders in different sizes," said the Thanaka Pan religious goods store.

In February of this year, according to religious goods stores, stone-powder statues sold well in the market. Among the spiritual goods,

sales of Buddha images, statues, images of venerable Sayadaws, and water-offerings of cups and lamps are continuously selling well. — Thit Taw/ZN

This photo displays Buddha images carved with stone powder from Bagan.



## Film stars donate K25M in supplies to flood victims Mandalay



This photo shows celebrities providing donations to flood-impacted people.

ACADEMY Award-winning actor Khant Sithu, along with fellow artistes, donated essential food supplies such as rice and oil to residents affected by flooding in Singaing Township, Mandalay Region, on 22 October.

The donations were distributed to 330 families in Wunpatate village who had been

impacted by the disaster. The relief supplies included rice, oil, and other foodstuffs. Additionally, it was reported that offerings and monetary donations were made to the Shwe San Nwe Monastic School in Mandalay, along with contributions of various essential items.

"Due to the flooding in Wunpatate village, over 330

homes were destroyed. In response to a request for help from the Sayadaw of the Shwe San Nwe monastery, we provided donations to support the families affected by the disaster. These included rice, oil, medicine, salt, soap, curry powder, fish sauce, tea, mock meat, dried noodles, clothing, school supplies, blankets, snacks, basic necessities, sanitary pads, and kitchen items like plates, spoons, and cups, along with clean water bottles, shoes, and other essentials. The total value of the donations is estimated at around 25 million kyats," said Khant Sithu.

Khant Sithu, artistes, and other generous donors also visited the flood-stricken community in Loikaw Township, Kayah State, on 4 October. There, they supported 500 people with donations of rice, oil, food supplies, and monetary aid. — ASH/TMT

## Miss Universe Myanmar showcases 1980s vintage dress

THET San Anderson, who departed from Myanmar to Thailand on 22 October to represent Myanmar in the Miss Universe 2024 competition, which will be held in Mexico, was reported to have worn a Myanmar women's dress from the 1980s at the airport.

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Miss Universe competition will take place on 16 November, featuring contestants from over 40 countries.

"Designer Ko Nyein Ko cre-

ated this Myanmar outfit with a vintage 1980s style. I love the dress. I want to give my best performance and walk the runway with confidence. I've also practised Myanmar traditional dances. I will do my utmost to represent Myanmar in this international competition. Miss Universe has been my greatest dream since childhood, and I will give my all," said Thet San Anderson, Miss Universe Myanmar 2024. — ASH/TKO



The beauty pageant Thet San Anderson in the style of 1980s Myanmar Lady at Yangon International Airport.

## Thukha Dagon Housing to allocate over 70 buildings via 3<sup>rd</sup> drawing

MORE than 70 buildings in the Thukha Dagon public rental housing estate, located in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region, will be allocated for the third time by means of a drawing,

according to the Department of Urban and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction. Previously, 73 buildings were allocated in the first round of drawing and 50 in the second.

The housing estate provides apartments for individuals facing housing difficulties, retired government employees, and those still in government service.

The monthly rental rates are

K67,000 for first-floor apartments, K60,000 for second-floor apartments, K55,000 for third-floor apartments, and K46,000 for fourth-floor apartments. — ASH/MKKS

## CBM injects US\$7.5M, 150M Thai baht into private sector on 22 Oct

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$7.5 million and about 150 million Thai baht to those engaged in the private sector on 22 October, again after the sales of \$2.2 million and 1.5 million yuan on 21 October.

CBM announced it would sell \$35 million for those engaged in the fuel oil and edible oil sectors as per its notification dated 20 October.

CBM injected \$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 sold over \$76 million, 86 million baht and 4.8 million yuan 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 devaluation of currency. 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

## Areca nut market thriving in Myeik District

THE soft areca nut market is flourishing in the Myeik District and Taninthayi Region. Bustling trade activity of soft areca nut raises the prices, the Department of Consumer Affairs (Taninthayi) stated.

The areca nut from Myeik District is distributed to other regions and states, especially Yangon and Mandalay regions. China's strong demand pushed up the sales.

China prefers soft and moist areca nuts rather than dried ones. As it can save production costs, the farm owners are keen on selling soft, green and moist

areca nuts rather than dried ones.

Myanmar's areca nut market has become widespread. There is competitive pricing in the market. Conical-shaped nuts, rather than round ones, are mostly traded. After baking the soft areca nuts with heat, they are exported to China.

Areca palm business thrives well in moist soil, yet soaking wet with overwatering is bad for them. They are commonly found in Ayeyawady, Bago, and Taninthayi regions, as well as the Mon, Kayin, Kachin, and Rakhine states. — KK



This file photo shows a worker cleaning the dried betel nuts.

## YGEA warns of security measures for gold shops



Gold ornaments are displayed for sales at one gold outlet in Yangon.

YANGON Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YEA) alerted gold shops in Yangon Region to enhance security measures on 22 October 2024.

The warning includes the installation of CCTV at the gold shops, home vicinity, and car parking, as well as the installation of alarm bells, GPS, and front and cabin dashcams for

comprehensive in-vehicle surveillance for vehicles that will transport gold and cash. YGEA also expressed appreciation for the cooperation of the gold shops in protecting against robbery.

YGEA issued warnings after the six armed robbers stole three boxes loaded with five visses of gold en route to home from a gold shop in Hlaing Township on 21 October. — NN/KK

## India imports 400,000 tonnes of Myanmar black gram in H1

INDIA steadily imports Myanmar's black gram (urad), and the import volume reached over 400,000 tonnes in the first half of the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April, Rahul Chauhan from iGrain India said.

"India continuously brings in Myanmar's black gram. The volume rose to 408,000 tonnes in the first six months (April-September) this FY from 240,000 recorded last year. During the Khariff period (autumn reap season), India's black gram acres remarkably declined com-

pared to the previous year. It is forecast that rainfed crops might result in high yields. They import pulses to meet growing domestic consumption. Additionally, India's low output of pigeon peas (tur) raised demand, causing a shortage in the market. Therefore, Chauhan said India's pigeon pea import is likely to be 609,000 tonnes in the April-September period to meet increasing demand, up from 274,000 tonnes recorded last year.

India primarily imports pigeon peas from countries in East Africa, such as



A vendor shows black grams at the market. PHOTO XINHUA

Mozambique, Tanzania and Myanmar. India's pulses import grew to 73 per cent in H1 this FY. The pulses import is worth US\$2.187 billion, surging from 1.265 billion in the year-ago period, according to news released by India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Yet, India's lentil import decreased on high yield, and so did peas, commodity depots guessed.

An increase in India's pulses import will create market potential for Myanmar's pulses traders, an economic attache in Kolkata pointed out. — NN/KK

# OPINION

# ARTICLE

## Enhance the role of information and public opinion

**I**N today's knowledge-driven age, access to information is crucial for individuals to navigate societal challenges and make informed decisions. Without a robust understanding of available resources and processes, individuals may struggle to execute their responsibilities effectively and avoid mistakes. This highlights the necessity for governments and national bodies to take the lead in mobilizing public opinion and disseminating information.

National governments worldwide must prioritize establishing and strengthening institutions dedicated to enhancing public awareness and engagement. By mobilizing public opinion, they can empower societies and regions, facilitating long-term development initiatives. This includes incorporating information-rich content into educational curricula for young people, reshaping mindsets to foster critical thinking, and promoting new perspectives among adults to cultivate a more informed society.

World Development Information Day, celebrated on 24 October, serves as a key platform for raising awareness about development issues and enhancing international collaboration to address these challenges. Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972, this day coincides with United Nations Day, commemorating the adoption of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade in 1970. The Assembly recognized that improving the dissemination of information and mobilizing public opinion — particularly among youth — could significantly enhance awareness of developmental challenges and stimulate international cooperation.

The metaphor invokes an imagery of tidiness and responsibility, suggesting that once a commitment is fulfilled, one should take the necessary steps to tidy up and move on to the next chapter. Thus, it underscores the value of closure and the need to complete what has been started.

For countries like Myanmar and others around the globe, improving information technology infrastructure is vital. By fostering a culture of informed discourse and active public engagement, nations can implement essential projects that benefit both the state and its citizens. The positive effects of such initiatives can lead to enhanced socioeconomic conditions, creating opportunities for individuals to thrive.

The role of information and public opinion in contemporary society cannot be overstated. Governments must actively work to harness these elements, transforming them into powerful tools for development and societal advancement. By prioritizing the dissemination of information and promoting active public participation, countries can ensure a more informed populace, ultimately driving progress and improving the quality of life for all citizens.

In order to improve information technology, it is necessary to reform educational institutions that initiate the lives of children so that they can enjoy the development of modern society. As such, it is necessary to turn out human resources with higher skills in information technology and deploy them to improve society, relying on correct information and public opinion on a daily basis. If so, the country, combined with relevant societies, will achieve greater process and success in applying it to the people.

# Connecting on the Universal Dance of Words

By AUGUSTIN

**K**NOWING idioms is useful in everyday conversation to sound more fluent and natural, as they can convey complex ideas briefly and add a layer of cultural richness to your language, making interactions more engaging and relatable.

ပတ်စာခွာ ဖျာသိမ်း / pá sa khwa hpja thein:/

- to the very end.
- to complete a task thoroughly.
- to fully accomplish a task.
- ပြီးဆုံးသည်အထိ ဆောင်ရွက်သည်။
- မြန်မာ့ဇာတိပွဲအဆုံးတွင် ဗိုလ်များကို ချီးကျူးရာတွင် အသုံးပြုသော ပတ်စာခွာ ခွာထုတ်ရ... ဝရိသတ်သုံးတဲ့ ဖျာတွေကိုလည်း လိပ်ရ....
- အလျှအိမ်မှာ ပတ်စာခွာဖျာသိမ်း လုပ်နေ၍ အိမ်သို့ ခေါ်ကြီး ပြန်မရောက်သေးပါ။

**To Detach the Paste from the Drum and to Roll Up the Mat**  
At the conclusion of a Myanmar theatrical performance, it is necessary to detach the paste used for tuning the drums and to roll up the mats used by the audience.

Therefore, to finish a task completely is referred to as “detaching the paste from the drum and rolling up the mats.”

This Myanmar idiom embodies the importance of completion and closure in any endeavour. When a theatrical performance concludes, it is symbolic of wrapping up the event and signifies that all tasks related to it have been finalized.

This action reflects a broader life lesson about the significance of seeing things through to the end. Whether in work, relationships, or personal projects, completion ensures that nothing lingers or remains unresolved.

The metaphor invokes an imagery of tidiness and responsibility, suggesting that once a commitment is fulfilled, one should take the necessary steps to tidy up and move on to the next chapter. Thus, it underscores the value of closure and the need to complete what has been started.

### USAGES:

**“Close the book”**  
*Meaning:* To end or finish a discussion or activity.  
*Example:* After a long meeting, we decided to close the book on the project.

**“Bring it to a close”**  
*Meaning:* To conclude something decisively.  
*Example:* It's time to bring this discussion to a close.

**“Tie up loose ends”**  
*Meaning:* To complete any remaining tasks.  
*Example:* Before going on vacation, I need to tie up all loose ends at work.

**“Put a finishing touch on it”**  
*Meaning:* To add the last detail or improvement.  
*Example:* I just need to put a finishing touch on my painting before I show it.

**“Wrap it up”**  
*Meaning:* To finish or conclude something.  
*Example:* Let's wrap it up before we run out of time.

**“Cross the T's and dot the I's”**  
*Meaning:* To finish with attention to detail.  
*Example:* Before submitting the report, make sure to cross the T's and dot the I's.

### “Call it a day”

*Meaning:* To finish working for the day or to conclude an activity.  
*Example:* It was a long day, so let's call it a day.

ပတ်ထမ်းတွေ / paat htam twae/

- တစ်စုံတစ်ခုသော အကျိုးကို မျှော်မှန်း၍ ညောင်ရေပွဲကို နွဲ့ရာမှ ပတ်မကြီး ဝင်ထမ်းရသကဲ့သို့ အကျိုးတစ်စုံတစ်ရာ ရမည်ဟု မျှော်မှန်း၍ ပါဝင်ဆောင်ရွက်ခါမှ ထင်သလို ဖြစ်မလာဘဲ အဆိုးနှင့် ကြုံရသည်။

### To Undergo a Queer Punishment of Shouldering a Big Drum

In a fable, a clever judge commanded both the plaintiff and the accused in a defamation case to go around with a large drum hung from a long pole, which they had to shoulder together. Inside the drum was a man instructed to eavesdrop on their conversation.

Thus, to suffer for one's intervention in a matter, despite having good intentions, is referred to as “undergoing a queer punishment of shouldering a big drum.”

This idiom conveys the irony of becoming entangled in a situation despite intending to provide help or resolution. The fable illustrates how even good intentions can lead to unintended consequences.

The image of shouldering a cumbersome drum emphasizes the burden one bears as a result of meddling or intervening in conflicts that may not directly involve them.

This serves as a warning against overstepping boundaries; the act of eavesdropping and holding the drum becomes a cumbersome, shared punishment, illustrating that good intentions do not always lead to positive outcomes.

Ultimately, it captures the idea that sometimes, it's better to remain uninvolved rather than bear the unnecessary weight of others' issues.

### USAGES:

**“Caught in the crossfire”**  
*Meaning:* To become involved in a conflict between two other parties.  
*Example:* She didn't mean to take sides; she just got caught in the crossfire.



ပတ်စာခွာ ဖျာသိမ်း / pá sa khwa hpja thein:/

### “Burnt by the fire”

*Meaning:* To suffer negative consequences due to one's actions or involvement.  
*Example:* He was burnt by the fire when he tried to help them with their problems.

### “Too close for comfort”

*Meaning:* To be entangled in a situation that feels risky or uncomfortable.  
*Example:* Their arguments got too close for comfort, and I had to leave the room.

### “Stepping on toes”

*Meaning:* To interfere in someone else's affairs or enter their territory.  
*Example:* I didn't want to step on any toes, but I felt the need to intervene.

### “Biting off more than you can chew”

*Meaning:* To take on too much responsibility or involvement.  
*Example:* He bit off more than he could chew by trying to resolve everyone's problems.

### “A double-edged sword”

*Meaning:* An action that can yield both positive and negative consequences.  
*Example:* His good intentions were a double-edged sword, creating more complications.

### “Playing with fire”

*Meaning:* To engage in risky or dangerous behaviour that may lead to trouble.  
*Example:* Trying to mediate their argument felt like playing with fire.

### ခွာရာတိုင်း

- / hkwar rar tine /
- To compare hoof marks
  - To analyze hoof prints
  - To examine hoof impressions

When a small buffalo intends to confront a giant buffalo, it examines its own hoof marks in comparison to those of the larger animal.



ပတ်ထမ်းတွေ / paat htam twae/



ခွာရာတိုင်း / hkwar rar tine /



# NATIONAL

## Illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth over K475M



Illegal personal goods, industrial materials and vehicles being confiscated in Shan State.

EFFORTS to combat illegal trade, overseen by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, are being carried out effectively following the law.

On 21 and 22 October, the combined on-duty teams captured industrial materials worth K61.184 million without official documents from a container at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, industrial materials valued at K56.729 million without official documents at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk), and illegal teak weighing 1.366 tonnes and illegal timbers weighing 1.284

tonnes valued at K1.124 million in Lewe, Ottara and Pinyin Districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law and Customs procedures.

Similarly, the combined teams conducted inspections and seized an Isuzu box truck (worth approximately K15 million) carrying four kinds of industrial materials and consumer goods valued at K24.462 million without official documents at the Thanlwin Bridge (Tayothla side) combined checkpoint, five types of smuggled jewellery worth about 1.71 million near the Sinphyu border crossing in

Muse Township, and a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (estimated value of K50 million) carrying 13 kinds of industrial materials and ten kinds of consumer goods worth K57.569 million without official documents in Hopong Township. The action was conducted as per Customs procedures.

Furthermore, a combined team supervised by the Taninthayi, Bago and Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Forces confiscated an unregistered Honda Insight (estimated value of K9 million) in Myeik Township, two vehicles (estimated value of K40 million)

carrying two kinds of consumer goods and two kinds of foodstuffs worth K6.06 million without official documents at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray station, two vehicles (estimated value of K63 million) carrying seven types of foodstuffs and two kinds of industrial materials valued at K14.055 million without official documents at the Myitnge checkpoint and a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (estimated value of K17 million) carrying ten kinds of industrial materials worth K39.976 million without official documents at the Singaing toll-gate in Singaing Township. The

action was carried out in line with Customs procedures.

The joint on-duty teams captured 21 barrels of illegal petroleum and two barrels of diesel (worth about K5.962 million) in Pathein District, two kinds of foodstuffs worth K2.89 million in Ngaputaw Township, an unregistered Honda Airwave (estimated value of K9 million) in Hinthada Township and illegal teak weighing 0.479 tonne and illegal timbers weighing 6.92 tonnes worth K382,744 in Myanaung and Pathein Districts. The action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law, the Excise Law, the Export-Import Law and the Forest Law.

Overall, on 21 and 22 October, 33 arrests were made, leading to the seizure of illegal items worth approximately K475 million. The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee has reported that unlawful trade poses a significant obstacle to the country's economic development and significantly impacts the socioeconomic sector. Consequently, the committee has stated its commitment to intensifying efforts against illicit trading. — MNA/MKKS

## Myanmar film 'If My Lover Were a Flower' to screen at Philippines film festival in Nov

'CHIT Thu Tha Pan Ta Pwint Phyt Khe Hlyin' (If My Lover Were a Flower), a Myanmar film, has been selected to screen at the QCinema International Film Festival to be held in the Philippines in November.

Academy Sai Sai Kham Leng, Academy Wut Hmon Shwe Yi, Academy Min Oo, Min Thu, Academy Khin Zarchi Kyaw, Academy Khin Mo Mo Aye and many other actors and actresses starred in the movie. Featuring many natural beautiful scenes of Shan State, the film attracted many supportive fans.

The movie has been selected to be shown as a Special Screening at the QCinema International Film Festival in the Philippines to be held from 8 to 17 November, said Director Kaung Zan.

During the screening of the film, it received many positive reactions from the audience. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN



This image shows the names of the films selected to be screened at the Philippines Film Festival, their directors, and their countries.

## Counter-argument to false information

### Media accuses security forces of abducting 50, killing 22 in Butalin

MALICIOUS media outlets intentionally spread false information, claiming that, security forces detained 50 people as hostages and killed 22 civilians in Butalin township of Sagaing Region.

According to the security officer, security measures were taken as usual to curb the entry of insurgents and terror attacks in Butalin Township, Sagaing Region.

There was no abduction and murder cases. PDF terrorists brutally murdered six innocent people in Sipa Village, Butalin Township, and the State-run media already announced that news on 21 October.

Subversive media outlets intentionally spread fake news to mislead the people about security forces, to cover terror attacks of terrorists, to instil fear among the public and to jeopardize the State's stability. — MNA/KTZH



This screenshot validates fake news.



Ruari Black is one of only a few remaining craftsmen in Edinburgh who makes bagpipes by hand. **PHOTO: AFP**

## ‘One of the last’: handmade bagpipes a dying art in Scotland

THE Highland bagpipe is an integral part of Scottish culture and history, famous for its distinctive, powerful sound that even accompanied troops as they landed in northern France on D-Day.

But the wind instrument is slowly growing silent as demand dwindles and machine-made bagpipes replace traditionally crafted ones, consigning their use to largely ceremonial occasions.

Just off Edinburgh’s historic Royal Mile, which sweeps down from the city’s imposing castle to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, is a faded storefront sign for artisan bagpipe maker Kilberry Bagpipes.

Ruari Black is among the last artisan bagpipe makers in

Edinburgh, crafting the iconic instrument by hand at Kilberry.

The intricate process involves nine stages, taking about a week to complete each set of Highland bagpipes. Black emphasizes the distinct sound and character of handmade pipes, appealing to both experienced musicians and beginners.

Despite bagpipes’ long history in Scotland, many producers have shifted to machine-made instruments, which lack the unique qualities of artisan creations.

With a current wait time of two years for a custom-made set, Black notes that customers value the craftsmanship and sound associated with traditional methods. — AFP

## UN group questions France over racial profiling

A United Nations group on Tuesday raised the issue of racial profiling by French police during identity checks.

The UN’s committee responsible for verifying the application of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights said it “continues to receive disturbing information about systemic racism and the persistence of racial and ethnic profiling, and about the inadequacy of complaints handling procedures”.

Yvonne Donders, the com-

mittee’s vice-president, said during a regular examination of France that the body had been informed that “people of colour are subject to identity checks by police approximately 20 times more often than other citizens”.

The French delegation at the meeting responded that the codes governing France’s security forces “explicitly” ban discriminatory identity checks, and that the security forces all receive training on this issue. — AFP

## ‘Serious business’: influencer degree launches in Ireland

Course director Irene McCormick, a former television producer, noted that the initiative stemmed from a successful summer crash course called “Digital Hustle”, which attracted 350 applicants for just 30 spots.

IT’S a job that didn’t exist until recently but becoming an influencer is an ever more popular career path among Gen-Z youth in the modern era of social media.

Now a first-of-its-kind course at an Irish university is teaching wannabe influencers how to convert online presence and content on platforms such as Instagram, TikTok and YouTube into revenue streams.

“Influencing is something that’s catching fire,” course director Irene McCormick told AFP at South East Technological University (SETU) in Carlow, an hour’s drive southwest from the capital Dublin.

The idea grew out of a summer crash course “Digital Hustle” launched by McCormick that was taught by TikTokers and attracted 350 applicants for 30 places. McCormick, a former television producer, launched a



South East Technological University (SETU) in Carlow, eastern Ireland is running a course in the subject. **PHOTO: AFP**

four-year bachelor’s degree in “Content Creation and Social Media” after recognizing strong demand.

Accredited after two years of development, the course welcomed its first cohort of 15 students last month. The cam-

pus buzzes with students engaging in social media during breaks, reflecting their digital immersion. Many participants aim to enhance their skills in online audience engagement, as self-learning alone isn’t sufficient for career growth. — AFP

## Toxicology tests show Liam Payne had ‘multiple’ drugs in system

POP star Liam Payne had multiple drugs including crack cocaine and methamphetamine in his system when he fell to his death from a hotel balcony in Argentina, according to initial toxicology reports cited by US media on

Monday.

The British singer and former One Direction member died last week at the age of 31, after plunging from a third-floor hotel room in Buenos Aires.

ABC News and TMZ said a cocktail of drugs called “pink cocaine” — containing methamphetamine, ketamine and MDMA — had been found during a partial autopsy, citing anonymous sources familiar with the preliminary tests.

Crack cocaine and benzodiazepine were also listed.

An “improvised aluminum pipe to ingest drugs” was also found in the room, ABC reported. — AFP



Fans have paid tribute to British singer Liam Payne in front of the hotel where he died in Buenos Aires. **PHOTO: AFP**

# ECONOMY WORLD

## IMF maintains 2024 global growth forecast at 3.2% warns of geopolitical tensions

*Increased volatility in financial markets has raised concerns about hidden vulnerabilities, particularly following a turbulent summer.*

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday maintained its global growth forecast in 2024 at 3.2 per cent, consistent with its projection in July, according to its newly released World Economic Outlook (WEO).

The level of uncertainty surrounding the global economic outlook is high, the report noted.

“Newly elected governments (about half of the world population has gone or will go to the polls in 2024) could introduce

significant shifts in trade and fiscal policy,” the report said.

“Moreover, the return of financial market volatility over the summer has stirred old fears about hidden vulnerabilities. This has heightened anxiety over the appropriate monetary policy stance — especially in countries where inflation is persistent and signs of slowdown are emerging,” it further said.

The report also noted that a further intensification of geopolitical rifts could weigh on

trade, investment and the free flow of ideas. “This could affect long-term growth, threaten the resilience of supply chains, and create difficult trade-offs for central banks,” it said.

In response to a question from Xinhua, IMF Chief Economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas said at a press conference that rising geopolitical tensions are “something that we are very concerned about”, noting that there are two dimensions of the impact. — Xinhua



IMF Chief Economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas (2<sup>nd</sup> L) speaks at a press conference in Washington, DC, the United States, on 22 October 2024. **PHOTO: HU YOUSONG/XINHUA**

## Cambodia's trade with RCEP countries rises to over US\$25 bln in first 9 months



A lorry drives out of the Hong Leng Huor Dry Port on the western suburb of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 13 January 2022. **PHOTO: PHEARUM/XINHUA/FILE**

CAMBODIA'S trade with Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) countries hit US\$25.54 billion in the first nine months of 2024, up 17.1 per cent over the same period last year, a report said on Tuesday.

The kingdom's trade volume with the fellow RCEP members accounted for 61.6 per cent of its total trade volume during the period, said the report from the General Department of Customs and Excise.

The country exported products worth \$6.76 billion to the RCEP countries, up 16.3 per cent, while it recorded the import of goods worth \$18.78 billion from the RCEP countries, up 17.3 per cent, the report added. — Xinhua

## Argentine govt replaces national tax agency

ARGENTINA'S government on Monday announced the replacement of the country's tax agency with the Tax Collection and Customs Control Agency as part of belt-tightening measures.

As of Monday, the Federal Administration of Public Revenues, better known as AFIP, will cease to exist, and the Tax Collection and Customs Control Agency will be created with a simplified structure,

said Manuel Adorni, the presidential spokesperson, at a press conference. “This will mean a budgetary savings of around 6.4 billion pesos a year (about US\$ 6.5 million),” he said. — Xinhua

## Bangladesh's garment export to Europe falls 3.53% in January-August

WHILE retaining its second place in garment exports to the European Union (EU) market, Bangladesh saw the apparel shipments dropped 3.53 per cent from January to August to US\$12.90 billion due in large part to domestic political turmoil and labour unrest, local media report said Wednesday, citing Eurostat data.

High inflationary pressures on the European economy also had an impact, The Daily Star newspaper reported.

Bangladesh's garment exporters have been mired in crises in past months, with political and economic uncertainty as well as incidents of arson and

extortion casting a shadow over normal business operations, according to the report.

The situation was exacerbated by spells of labour unrest in industrial belts of the South Asian country since September, which led to production losses worth \$400 million, showed data from the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

The impact from months of turmoil on business operations included work order cancellations and postponement of factory visits by representatives of international clothing retailers and brands, according to the report. — Xinhua



This decline is attributed to domestic political turmoil, labour unrest, and high inflation in Europe, which have negatively affected demand. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Starbucks preliminary results show declining sales

US coffee giant Starbucks on Tuesday released preliminary results showing that sales are continuing to fall, as the new CEO vowed a strategic overhaul to turn the company around.

“Our fourth quarter performance makes it clear that we need to fundamentally change our strategy so we can get back to growth and that’s exactly what we are doing with our ‘Back to Starbucks’ plan,” CEO Brian Niccol said in a statement. “I believe that our problems are very fixable and that we have significant strengths to build on,” he added.

Niccol took over the chain last month, after the abrupt departure in

August of Laxman Narasimhan, who had held the post of CEO for only 16 months. Preliminary quarterly results showed that sales had fallen 3.2 per cent year-on-year to \$9.1 billion. The company reported preliminary adjusted earnings per share of 80 cents. Full quarterly results are due to be published on 30 October.

The company said such results were driven by “softness in North America’s revenues in the quarter,” specifically a six per cent decline in US comparable store sales, driven by a 10 per cent decline in comparable transactions — but partially offset by a four per cent increase in average transactions. — AFP



Starbucks is an American multinational coffee company and coffeehouse chain, renowned for its specialty coffee drinks, including espresso, lattes, and cold brews.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

## Volvo Cars cuts sales forecast on market headwinds

*Volvo anticipates minimal growth in the fourth quarter.*

SWEDEN’S Volvo Cars on Wednesday drastically cut its sales forecast for the year, saying car markets in China, Europe and the United States are “increasingly under pressure”.

The Chinese-owned automaker reported a net profit of 4.4 billion kronor (\$416 million) for the third quarter, up from 3.2 billion kronor for the same period in 2023.

However, Volvo Cars said it expected to see minimal growth in the fourth quarter.

“As a result of this, we now anticipate full-



Volvo Cars said it expects to see minimal sales growth in the fourth quarter. PHOTO: AFP

year sales growth of 7–8 per cent instead of 12–15 per cent,” CEO Jim Row-

an said in the company’s third quarter earnings report.

The carmaker said its sales rose by three per cent to 172,849 cars in the third quarter.

Revenue for the quarter came in at 92.8 billion kronor, just beating the 92 billion kronor reported for the same period a year earlier.

Operating income meanwhile rose to 5.8 billion kronor, up from 4.5 billion kronor for the third quarter of 2023.

“The car market in our main regions of China, Europe and the US is increasingly under pressure which affects demand,” Rowan said. — AFP

## Libya’s livestock devastated by foot-and-mouth disease outbreak

ON Najmeddine Tantoun’s farm near Misrata, Libya, silence reigns where once dairy machines buzzed, as an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease has devastated livestock.

Tantoun has lost nearly half of his 742 cows, severely impacting dairy pro-

duction, which plummeted from 70,000 litres to just 20,000 daily. Farmers in Misrata report losses of up to 70 per cent of their cattle, with many now resorting to slaughter to control the epidemic.

The delayed vaccine response from authorities

has led to significant economic strain, causing meat and dairy prices to soar.

Salem al-Badri, head of the local cattle farmers’ committee, criticized the government for inadequate preventive measures and slow action, stating that timely vacci-

nations could have mitigated the crisis

Libya’s ongoing struggles post-2011 uprising complicate efforts, leaving farmers to grapple with the fallout of both political instability and the devastating disease affecting their livelihoods. — AFP

## Bengaluru to host Indian Travel Expo 2024

BENGALURU is gearing up to host the Indian Travel Expo 2024 from 25-27 November at the Manpho Convention Centre, marking a significant event for the travel and tourism industry. Organized by Way 2 Media Network Private Limited and co-organized by the Asian Arab Trade Chamber of Commerce, this expo aims to connect leaders, innovators, and stakeholders globally.

Following the success of the Asian Travel Expo, the Indian Travel Expo promises to offer a platform for professionals to explore emerging opportunities.

Highlights include panel discussions on industry trends, networking sessions, a focus on sustainable tourism, and the Indian Travel Awards 2024.

Supported by various associations and strategic partnerships, the expo is set to facilitate collaboration and idea exchange among participants. — ANI

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC FORTUNE VOY.NO. (SB441A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC FORTUNE VOY.NO. (SB441A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-10-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (918N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (918N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-10-2024** 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:

**(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE**

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD



The initiative, proposed by Thailand, aims to enhance cross-border travel among six Southeast Asian countries. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Cambodia to mull over Thailand-proposed joint tourism initiative

*Cambodia is considering Thailand's "Six Countries, One Destination" initiative, aimed at boosting cross-border travel and tourism among six Southeast Asian nations.*

CAMBODIA is expected to mull over the Thailand-proposed "Six Countries, One Destination" initiative, which aims to facilitate the cross-border travel among six regional countries.

Dusit Manapan, an adviser to Thai Foreign Minister Maris Sangiampongsa, raised the proposal during a courtesy meeting with Cambodian Minister of Tourism Huot Hak in the

capital Phnom Penh on Monday, said a Cambodian Ministry of Tourism's statement issued on Wednesday.

During the meeting, Huot Hak informed the Thai side that he took note of the "Six Countries, One Destination" initiative and requested the Thai side to provide comprehensive concept note and related documents of this initiative through diplomat-

ic channel, said the statement.

According to the statement, the minister has not yet confirmed Cambodia's support for the initiative, as reported by some media outlets.

The Thailand-proposed initiative aims to enhance economic and tourism cooperation between Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam. — Xinhua

### BRIEF: WORLD

#### Orban criticizes EU pressure, defends Hungary's sovereignty

HUNGARIAN Prime Minister Viktor Orban delivered a defiant speech in Budapest on Wednesday, marking the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1956 revolution by emphasizing Hungary's determination to defend its national sovereignty against growing pressure from the European Union (EU).

Addressing thousands of supporters, Orban likened the current struggle against EU interference to Hungary's historic fight for freedom, while also criticizing Europe's role in the ongoing Ukraine conflict and warning of the potential dangers of further escalation.

"Brussels's pressure on our country and government grows stronger day by day," Orban warned, highlighting what he described as increasing efforts by the EU to undermine Hungary's national government. — Xinhua

## Gates funds Harris with \$50 million donation: Report



Bill Gates is an American billionaire, software developer, and philanthropist, best known as the co-founder of Microsoft Corporation. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

US billionaire Bill Gates has quietly donated \$50 million to a nonprofit supporting Vice-President Kamala Harris's presidential run, The New York Times

reported, citing three sources.

While Gates hasn't publicly endorsed Harris, his sizable donation was made to Future Forward, a "dark money" group backing her campaign. The funds were intended to remain anonymous, the report said.

"Mr Gates's donation went specifically to Future Forward's nonprofit arm, Future Forward USA Action, which as a 501(c)(4) 'dark money' organization does not disclose its donors, according to the people briefed. So any contribution by Mr Gates will never appear on any public filing," the media clarified. — SPUTNIK



This agreement reflects Venezuela's desire to strengthen ties with BRICS nations and promote its perspectives on global issues through the platform provided by BRICS TV. **PHOTO: BRICS TV**

## Venezuela inks cooperation agreement with BRICS TV

VENEZUELA'S Minister of Communication and Information Freddy Nanez has signed a memorandum of cooperation between state-owned Venezuelan Television (VTV), Caracas-based news network Telesur and TV BRICS, VTV announced Tuesday in the Russian city of Kazan.

In statements to VTV, Nanez said signing the agreement was a "big step" that allows the two channels that broadcast out

of Venezuela to be part of TV BRICS, which broadcasts news from members of the BRICS bloc and their partners.

"The excitement we feel is the excitement of being in a place where we are going to be useful," said the minister, adding that another Venezuelan channel, VIVE TV, will soon be part of the cooperation agreement.

Through TV BRICS, "the true face of Venezuela, the beau-

ty of our landscapes, the richness of our culture ... will be able to be seen, will be able to be heard, will be able to be understood," said Nanez.

There can be no economic and political integration "if there is no cultural integration first," he noted. "The great TV BRICS family" has only one purpose, he added, "to make international communication democratic." — Xinhua

# SPORTS

## FIFA president confirms at least 9 African teams for 2026 World Cup

FIFA President Gianni Infantino on Tuesday confirmed that at least nine African teams will compete in the 2026 World Cup that will take place in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

Infantino made the remarks when the 46<sup>th</sup> Confederation of African Football (CAF) Ordinary General Assembly opened on Tuesday in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, bringing together leaders and delegates of member associations from across Africa.

"In World Cup 2026, there will be nine



Lionel Messi holds the trophy after Argentina beat France on penalties in last year's World Cup final in Doha.  
**PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

or ten African countries (and regions) participating in the World Cup," said Infantino, noting that the increase is to be made in line with FIFA's expanded World Cup format.

Infantino urged African countries to further invest in and unleash the potential of the continent's young football players.

"I encourage all of you to continue investing in youth football because those kids, those girls and boys, will be the stars of tomorrow," he said.

The president said FIFA is also considering increasing the number of African teams participating in the FIFA Women's World Cup to six.

He also noted that Morocco is set to host the FIFA World Cup in 2030, which would make the country the second-ever African nation to host the World Cup.

While addressing the opening session of the Assembly, Ethiopian President Taye Atske Selassie appealed to the CAF to endorse Ethiopia's bid to host the 2029 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON 2029) tournament. — Xinhua

## Myanmar rowing team departs for Dragon Boat World Cup

THE Myanmar rowing team, led by Myanmar Rowing Federation Chairman U Thaung Htike Min, departed yesterday morning from Yangon International Airport to compete in the 2024 ICF Dragon Boat World Cup and the 2024 ICF Dragon Boat World Championships. These events will be held from 24 October to 3 November in Yichang, China, and Puerto Princesa, the Philippines.

Officials from the Department of Sports and Physical Education, along with representatives from the Myanmar Rowing Federation, bid farewell to the team at the airport. The team includes Chairman U Thaung Htike Min as the head of the delegation, Secretary U Thet Lwin, Coach U Phone Myint Tayza, and ten athletes, totalling 13 members. — Arkar Lin/KZL



The Myanmar rowing team poses for the group photo at the Yangon International Airport yesterday.

## Myanmar team departs for Lancang-Mekong Sepak Takraw competition

THE Myanmar national Sepak Takraw team departed on 22 October for Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China, to participate in the Lancang-Mekong Sepak Takraw Competition, which will be held from 23 to 27

October. Officials from the Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation saw off the team at Yangon International Airport.

Teams from Myanmar, China, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam will compete in the tournament. — Arkar Linn/KZL



The Myanmar national Sepak Takraw team is seen before departing for China.

## Real Madrid pay injury price for Champions League win

REAL MADRID have suffered a double injury blow in their preparations for Saturday's 'Clasico' at home to FC Barcelona in La Liga. Carlo Ancelotti's side produced an amazing second half comeback on Tuesday night to go from 2-0 down at home to Borussia Dortmund, to win 5-2, with Vinicius Jr scoring a hat-trick.

However, the win has come at a price with the club confirming on Wednesday that goalkeeper, Thibaut Courtois has suffered an injury in his left abductor muscle. Although the club report on their official website that Courtois' injury is "pending evolution," the fact he suffered a similar injury that sidelined him for two weeks before the last international break, implies he will not be fit for Saturday, with Andriy Lunin stepping into the team. — Xinhua

## Myanmar U-17 team suffers heavy defeat in AFC Cup qualifiers

IN the opening match of Group I at the 2025 AFC U-17 Cup Qualifiers, held in Vietnam on 23 October, the Myanmar team faced a crushing defeat against Yemen, losing 1-6.

Myanmar struggled throughout the match, unable to compete with Yemen. Just before halftime, Myanmar was reduced to 10 men after Bhone Myat Thu was sent off with a red card, which led to further difficulties in the second half. Yemen capitalized on this advantage, scoring two goals in the first half and four more in the second. Myanmar's only goal came in the 70<sup>th</sup> minute, scored by Thura Min Than.

Myanmar is placed in the same Group as Yemen, Vietnam, and Kyrgyzstan. The team will face host Vietnam in their second group match on 25 October. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar and Yemen teams are in action during the game. **PHOTO: MFF**



## Xi advocates high quality development of greater BRICS cooperation

**C**HINESE President Xi Jinping on Wednesday called on BRICS countries to work for high quality development of greater BRICS cooperation.

In a speech addressing the 16<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit, Xi said the ongoing BRICS summit has decided to invite a number of nations to become partner countries. He hailed the decision as another important development in the course of BRICS development.

Xi called on BRICS members to build the multilateral mechanism into a major venue of solidarity and cooperation for the Global South and a vanguard force for global governance reform.

He called on the BRICS members to build BRICS for peace and act as guardians of common security, urging the BRICS countries to uphold the three principles of no expansion of the battlefield, no escalation of fighting and no provocation by any party, to work for de-escalation of the Ukraine crisis as soon as possible.

Xi called on the BRICS members to build BRICS for innovation and act as pioneers for high-quality development.  
— Xinhua

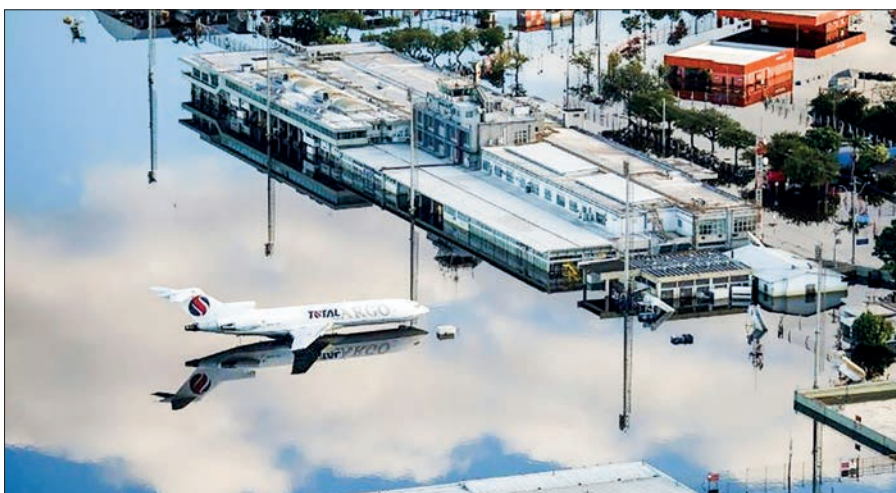
*At the 16<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping urged member nations to unite for high-quality development and expand their cooperation.*



Chinese President Xi Jinping emphasized the need for BRICS to champion peace, innovation, and sustainability while leading reforms in global governance to elevate the voices of the Global South. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

## Rich nations must pay more to tackle climate change, G24 says

*The G24 comprises a variety of emerging market and developing nations.*



In Brazil, the escalating impacts of climate change have led to an increase in natural disasters, threatening both biodiversity and the livelihoods of vulnerable communities. An aerial view shows the flooded tarmac of Salgado Filho International Airport in the city of Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul state, Brazil, on 20 May 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

**R**ICHER countries must put more money on the table to support the world's developing and emerging market economies tackle climate and development challenges, or risk undoing recent progress, the G24 group of nations said Tuesday.

"The global community is falling short of attaining climate and development goals, and in providing the commensurate financial support to developing countries towards achieving them," the G24 group announced in a statement.

The G24, which includes a wide range of emerging market and developing economies including Argentina, Ghana, Nigeria, and the Philippines, met at the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Washington this week.  
— AFP

### STRATEGIC DETERRENCE

#### DPRK top leader inspects strategic missile bases

**T**HE top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has inspected strategic missile bases, calling for the country's strategic missile force to keep counteraction posture in response to the ever-increasing threat by the United States, state media reported on Wednesday.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, examined the readiness for action of strategic deterrence directly connected with the state security, including the functions and capabilities of missile-launching facilities in the missile bases and the strategic missile combat duty, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported, without specifying the exact date of the inspection tour. — Xinhua