

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

SUNDAY EDITION

Myanmar showcases Pyu dance at ASEAN Festival of Arts

New online Aungbalay Lottery gains traction

A new online lottery that opens twice a month has become popular, and the alphabet Ghagyi has now been extended.

The new Aungbalay online lottery has one alphabet and five digits and opens on the 2nd and 16th days of the month, once every two weeks.

It also includes a grand prize, which will be opened three times, whether either winner appears or not, and will be added to the next opening if there is no winner. Therefore, people have a chance to win a lamp sum by buying a ticket for just K1,000.

“Previously, I used to buy ordinary lottery tickets, but now I’ve tried online lottery, which enables people to choose the alphabets they prefer. Some don’t know about it. Online lottery can save time and give you more chances because it

opens twice a month,” said U Hla Myint in Pazundaung Township. — MT/ZS



This photo captures the Myanmar cultural dance troupe after the Pyu dance performance at the festival.

The ASEAN Festival of Arts (AFA) was convened on 24 October evening at the Dataran Pengkalan Rama in Malacca, Malaysia.

A Myanmar cultural dance troupe presented a performance of Pyu dance at the ASEAN Festival of Arts (AFA) held in Malacca, Malaysia, where ASEAN countries showcased their traditional cultural dances, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The ASEAN Festival of Arts (AFA) took place on the evening of 24 October at the Dataran Pengkalan Rama in Malacca, Malaysia. The festival coincided with the 11th Meeting of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA) and related meetings.

The festival was attended by the

Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia U Aung Soe Win, along with a delegation led by Permanent Secretary U Myint Oo from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, as well as other heads of ASEAN embassies based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. — ASH/MKKS

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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

Students under training to have correct thinking and outlooks

DUE to taking time to carry out the development of human resources, students must be under training to have education qualifications, learn modern techniques and technology and possess correct thinking and outlooks.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the National Planning Commission Meeting 1/2024 on 21 March 2024)

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed Deputy Director-General U Htet Shan Phyo of the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department under the Ministry of Energy as Director-General of the Office of Union Minister for Energy on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 26 October 2024)

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

SPECIAL FEACTURES: According to the observations at (18:30) hours MST today, the Severe Tropical Storm “TRAMI” over the South China Sea is likely to continue to move north-westwards. It is likely to reach near middle Vietnam coast on 27 October 2024.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 27 October 2024: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, fairly widespread in Kayin and Mon states, scattered in Kachin and Southern Shan states and isolated in the remaining regions and states. Degree of certainty is 100%.

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

STATE OF THE SEA: STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 5-8 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Fairly widespread to widespread rain or thundershowers with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region and Kayin and Mon states. — DMH

Myanmar Hindu households begin Diwali preparations

AS the Diwali festival approached, preparations were made in every home of the Hindus before the festival.

The Diwali, a religious and national festival sacred to Hindus, will fall on 1 November, and the Hindu people are now busy buying new clothes, home decorations and temple renovations, according to the local Hindu community.

“When we celebrate this festival, all members of our family will buy clothes, decorate the house and renovate the temple. Then we will buy things to fry snacks. On the eve of Diwali, we will fry snacks. Then, we will wake up early at 5 am in Diwali, take a shower, make offerings of bananas and coconuts, and worship the gods, parents, ancestors, the deceased, and relatives in other cities. We will treat our neighbouring friends to meals. We are now prepar-



This picture captures two beautiful damsels of Indian origin offering candles during the Diwali Festival.

ing all those things. This has to be done compulsorily in every Hindu house. If a person can't do it at all, there are some total or partial supporters. Even if there is no one to help, one has to fry snacks for the festival for an amount as little as K1,000 or K10,000,” said Ko Kyaw Kyaw, a Hindu from Thakayta Township.

The Diwali Festival is held every year in the fall, and it is

the most famous Hindu festival. During the festival, temples, residences, shops and public buildings are beautifully decorated with lights.

Diwali is a combination of the two Sanskrit words Dipa and Avali, meaning a puja of magnificently offering lamps in continuous rows, and the government is providing necessary assistance to this Hindus' sacred festival. — Thit Taw/ZN

National Complaint Mechanism (NCM) to deal with forced labour complaints

THE Myanmar government has been dealing with forced labour complaints in cooperation with ILO and relevant ministries since 2007. Since 2020, forced labour complaints have been settled through the National Complaint Mechanism (NCM), which includes representatives of the National Human Rights Commission, employer organizations, employee organizations, and rele-

vant ministries, including the Ministry of Labour.

Nowadays, it is reported that forced labour victims can safely contact and complain to the Office of the State Administration Council, Region and State governments, the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, the ILO Liaison Office (Yangon) and other organizations or to the Ministry of Labour Office No 51, Nay Pyi Taw, in person or in writing via 067 3430184, 067 3430229, 067 3430274 and directorgeneral.dol@gmail.com, moloffice51@gmail.com, and research.org.dol.mm@gmail.com. — MNA

NATIONAL

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)

MoEP Union Minister attends 3rd Belt & Road Energy Ministerial Conference

The Myanmar delegation, led by Union Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun, attended the Third Belt and Road Energy Ministerial Conference in Qingdao, Shandong Province, People's Republic of China, on 23 and 24 October.

In his opening speech at the forum, Union Minister U Nyan Tun highlighted that it is evident the BREP member countries and their people have received increasing attention and concern. He noted that they are building an energy cooperation platform in the five years since the launch of the Belt and Road Energy Partnership (BREP). Myanmar strives to achieve full electricity access by 2030, emphasizing energy cooperation under the Belt and Road Initia-

tive to share progress and innovations in the international energy landscape. Myanmar will actively cooperate with BREP members in implementing the Belt and Road Green Energy Cooperation Action Plan (2024-2029).

In the evening, the Myanmar delegation, led by the Union minister, met officials led by Mr Zhang Jianhua, Chairman of the China National Energy Administration (NEA), to discuss cooperation in the electricity and energy sectors between China and Myanmar.

Similarly, during the opening ceremony of the Smart Energy Sub-Forum held on the second day of the conference, the Myanmar delegation clarified its commitment to implementing the Nationally Determined



The Third Belt and Road Energy Ministerial Conference in progress in Qingdao, Shandong Province, People's Republic of China, on 23 and 24 October.

Contribution (NDC) made in August 2021, by the decisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement. The delegation highlighted the numerous opportunities for building Green Growth Mod-

els and Energy Storage Systems (ESS) in ongoing renewable energy projects in Myanmar, inviting partner organizations to invest in efforts to make Myanmar greener through the use of green energy.

The Myanmar delegation

also reportedly paid observation tours at the Huadin Qingdao Gas Turbine Engineering Project, the TELD EV Charging Network Centre in Qingdao, and the 800 kV DC Converter Substation in Yunnan Province. — MNA/MKKS

MSWRR Union Minister joins ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management



Union Minister Dr Soe Win plants the Gangaw tree during the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

THE 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) and related activities were held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, from 23 to 25 October, with Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win attending it alongside ASEAN disaster management ministers and ministers from partner countries – China, Japan, and Korea.

The Union minister attended a ceremony commemorating International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. Afterwards, he travelled to Bandar Seri Begawan and Taman

Mahkota Jubli Emas Park, where he participated in a tree-planting event alongside fellow ministers attending the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management.

At the ceremony, the host country's Minister of Home Affairs delivered a welcome speech, and a congratulatory video message from the ASEAN Secretary-General for the 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management was also played.

Following this, a ceremony was held to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 2004 Indian Ocean

tsunami. The event included a documentary screening about the tsunami disaster, interviews with survivors, and a showcase of advancements in disaster management and preparedness implemented since the disaster.

Additionally, a congratulatory video from the UN's disaster risk reduction office was played to mark International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction and the 12th ASEAN disaster management meeting. A group photo session was also conducted to commemorate the event. — MNA/TRKM

NATIONAL

MoHT Deputy Minister attends meetings with Russian companies in Yangon

DEPUTY Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Phyo Zaw Soe participated in a meeting and business matching event with delegations from tour operators and agencies from the Russian Federation as part of a familiarization trip aimed at promoting Myanmar-Russia tourism on 25 October in Yangon.

The Yangon Region economic minister, officials from tourism associations in Myanmar, representatives from the Russian Embassy to Myanmar, the Central Bank of Myanmar, Myanmar insurance companies, airlines, and representatives from hotels and tourism companies were present on the occasion.

The deputy minister high-

lighted efforts to enhance connectivity between significant tourism destinations. The new flight route from Yangon to Patheingyi, Nyaung-U, and Mandalay commenced on 13 October. Myanmar has granted a one-year visa exemption for Russian tourists holding ordinary passports, aiming to attract more visitors from Russia. U Phyo Zaw Soe also expressed a commitment to fostering sustainable cultural and tourism exchanges between Myanmar and Russia.

The Myanmar Tourism Federation president and the economic attaché from the Russian Embassy shared remarks. A delegate from the familiarization trip provided insights into their experiences and discussed



Business matching event between tour operators and agencies from the Russian Federation and Myanmar in progress in Yangon on 25 October.

information needed to facilitate smoother travel to Myanmar. Business matching activ-

ities continued in the evening and hotels and tourism companies from Myanmar. — MNA/TMT

and hotels and tourism companies from Myanmar. — MNA/TMT

Online discovery boosts reading culture among youths

THESE days, young people enjoy reading books that they found online, according to bookshops.

Reading culture has begun to develop among young people, and they especially prefer books that have been published lately.

“Youths are interested in books that are freshly published and become popular over recent years. They don’t know famous writers like Thein Pe Myint, but they are just familiar with Mya Than Tint, Juu and Tekkatho Phone Naing. They come to book shops and hunt books that are under hot topics on Facebook, and they even buy books that are out of stock,” said the owner of Soe Paing bookshop in



This photo showcases a book fair taking place in the previous year.

Kyauktada Township.

Although the price of old books hasn’t climbed up much, new book prices have been high.

“Price can’t be raised in the old books market, but the price of new books has climbed relatively. The price of a new

book, which includes around 100 pages, is now around K10,000, which is why production costs have become high. There are almost no big book fairs in Yangon, but small book fairs are occasionally held at supermarkets,” he said. — Thit Taw/ZS

Myanmar attends UNIDO Multi-country Industrial Policy Forum 2024 in Riyadh

MYANMAR’S Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Vienna, Ambassador U Min Thein, attended the United Nations Industrial Development Organization’s (UNIDO) Multi-country Industrial Policy Forum 2024 (MIPF-2024), held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 23 and 24 October, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At the forum’s opening ceremony, Saudi Arabia’s Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources Mr Bandar bin Ibrahim Alkhorayef, Saudi Arabia’s Minister of Energy, HRH Mr Abdulaziz Bin Salman, UNIDO Director-General Mr Gerd Muller, and Guinea’s Prime Minister Mr Amadou Qury Bah delivered opening remarks. The forum continued with ministerial-level roundtable discussions and high-level dialogues.

During the forum, Myanmar’s representatives attended the opening and closing ceremonies and the signing ceremonies and participated in roundtable discussions. He also visited the exhibition “Accelerating SDGs through Industry,” jointly organized by Saudi Arabia and UNIDO. — ASH/KZL



Myanmar Ambassador U Min Thein with other forum attendees.

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NATIONAL

Weekly Roundup

22 October

Missions and visions require responsibility

Ministries have to implement missions and visions successfully, emphasizing significant measures of national plans, and ministries and state and regional chief ministers have to report on measures in border regions to the Union government in time to seek directives and aid from the State, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Union government meeting 7/2024 in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar, Laos to cooperate in labour affairs



Union Minister for Labour U Myint Naung and Minister of Labour and Social Welfare of Lao PDR Madame Baykham Khattiya signed the MoU on labour cooperation between the two countries.

23 October

Global political landscape faces power imbalance

Vice-Senior General Soe Win criticized the political landscape of the world as proving hegemony, contending between multilateralism and unilateralism and staging proxy governments at the first coordination meeting to hold the 77th Anniversary of Independence Day 2025 in Nay Pyi Taw.

Deputy FM appointed

The State Administration Council has appointed and assigned U Ko Ko Kyaw to the duties of Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in accord with Section 419 of the Constitution.

Myanmar hosts 42nd ASEANPOL Conference

State Administration Council Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae attended the opening ceremony of the 42nd ASEANPOL Conference held at MICC 1 in Nay Pyi Taw as an honorary guest.

24 October

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, said SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Haing at the award ceremony of the 25th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar and Russian navy ships head to naval exercise areas



The second Myanmar-Russia joint security naval exercise was launched at Thiri Maha Zeya Kyaw Htin Hall of the Naval Training Command Headquarters with the participation of four Corvettes from the Russian Pacific Fleet and Myanmar naval vessels.

25 October

ASEANPOL Member States urged to fight transnational crime

Collaborative efforts of country-wise police forces can effectively combat illicit drug trafficking, smuggling of arms and ammunition, and online scams, said SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to receive delegates from ASEANPOL member states in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar bridges South Asia and Southeast Asia



Myanmar-Indian relations benefit technological cooperation and all economic sectors of both countries, said SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to mark the 60th anniversary of the ITEC programme 2024 in Nay Pyi Taw.

26 October

UDNR students need to foster Union spirit

In the meeting with students from the five-year BEd course of UDNR, SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pointed out that UDNR graduates have to strive for the emergence of a society built with the knowledge to raise school enrolment rate, improve school education to students and increase learning grades at relevant schools where they are assigned. — GNLM/TTA

Myanmar attends 2024 Korea-ASEAN Intellectual Property Cooperation Conference



This photo captures attendees at the 2024 Korea-ASEAN Intellectual Property Cooperation Conference.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar Ambassador to ROK U Thant Sin attended the “2024 Korea-ASEAN Intellectual Property Cooperation Conference” on 24 October at the Hotel Naru Seoul MGallery in Seoul, where he delivered a congratulatory remark.

According to the MoFA report, the conference was convened to assess the current landscape of intellectual property rights in Korea and ASEAN and to establish a platform for cooperation between the private sectors of Korea and ASEAN on intellectual property matters. The conference was hosted by Korea’s Presidential Council on Intellectual Property and organized by the Federation of Intellectual Property Societies of Korea.

Furthermore, the ambassador emphasized that strong and active collaboration to enhance public awareness of intellectual property rights is a crucial factor in successfully implementing the commitments under the comprehensive strategic partnership agreement between Korea and ASEAN.

The conference was attended by the ambassadors of ASEAN embassies in Seoul, as well as officials from the Presidential Council on Intellectual Property, the Ministry of Science and ICT, and the Ministry of Culture, Science and Tourism, along with intellectual property experts and professionals from Korea, ASEAN, and various IP-related organizations in Korea. — ASH/TMT

NATIONAL

Illegal trade crackdown seizes goods valued at over K518M

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

On 24 October, the combined on-duty teams impounded eight types of machinery parts and three types of industrial materials worth K81.666 million that were lacking official documents at Yangon International Airport, as well as five unregistered motorbikes (estimated value of K2 million) in Magway and Thayet Districts, Magway Region. The action was taken under the Export-Import Law and Customs procedures.

Similarly, on 25 October, the combined teams conducted inspections, resulting in the seizure of two vehicles (estimated value of K26 million) heading to Namti from Myitkyina, which were carrying one type of industrial material valued at K1.85 million without official documents at the 21st-Mile combined checkpoint. This action was taken under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

On the same day, five vehicles (valued at approximately



Photos show illegal personal goods and industrial materials being confiscated at Yangon International Airport and in Mandalay Region.

K150 million) were found carrying 15 types of foodstuffs, five types of industrial materials, and five types of consumer goods worth K51.723 million without official documents at the LIR 202 checkpoint on the Htilon-Hpa-an road. This action was conducted under Customs procedures.

Furthermore, a combined team confiscated one type of industrial material worth K7.65 million that had been smuggled and piled up by the side of the road near the Sinphyu border in Muse Township, as well as two types of smuggled foodstuffs piled up by the side of the road on the Mawlamy-

ine-Kyaikmaraw road. They also seized consumer goods worth K9 million without official documents from a warehouse in Myeik Township, following Customs procedures.

The combined on-duty teams managed by the Mandalay Region and Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task

Force captured a Myanmar Station Wagon (estimated value of K20 million) carrying 18 types of industrial materials and consumer goods valued at K10.583 million without official documents at the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint. They also confiscated two kinds of consumer goods and four types of animal feed valued at K7.45 million that had been piled up by the side of the road in PyinOoLwin Township, as well as illegal hardwood weighing 0.486 tonne and other timbers weighing 2.545 tonnes in Nyaunglebin District. The action was taken under the Forest Law and Customs procedures.

Overall, on 24 and 25 October, 48 arrests were made, seizing illegal items worth approximately K518 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



An official from the Amae Yingwin Orphanage in Kengtung Township accepts the donation (left photo) and actress Khaing Hnin Wai and Akha children (right photo).

K500M donated to flood-hit villages in Tachilek

THE Khaing Hnin Wai Foundation and well-wishers donated K500 million and household essentials for the resettlement of flood-affected villages in Tachilek Township, eastern Shan State, according to actress Khaing Hnin Wai.

The affected villages included in Loitawkham village-tract Aungchantha, Ngapywataw, and Homalin villages.

"We donated K500 million in cash and essential household items worth K50 million during the Tachilek trip. I am grateful to the donors who have trusted in me. I would like to share my elation from the donation with everyone," said Khaing Hnin Wai.

Similarly, the Khaing Hnin Wai Foundation and donors donated K5 million to the Amae Yingwin Orphanage in Kengtung Township. The Akha ethnic people welcomed and entertained actress Khaing Hnin Wai and her group with their traditional dances as a token of gratitude for her visit and donations. — ASH/TRKM

NATIONAL

Myanmar Insurance pays K5.7B+ to Ayeyawady crop insurance policyholders

MYANMAR Insurance paid out K5.745 billion to the insured farmers in nine townships such as Hinthada, Lamyethna, Zalun, Kyangin, Myanaung, Ingapu, Kyonpyaw and Kyaunggon in Ayeyawady Region, due to excess rainfall.

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win revealed this at the Handover ceremony of Crop insurance compensation held at the meeting hall in Hinthada Township on 23 October.

They will proceed to compensate for the flood-damaged paddy fields of the insured in cooperation with the relevant agriculture and livestock committee. He asked officials concerned to continue providing crop insurance coverage to help manage risk triggered by climate change with the weather index insurance for vulnerable farmers, he added.

Managing Director Dr Sandar Oo of Myanmar Insurance elaborated on weather index insurance. With rainfalls exceeding the set



A farmer from Hinthada Township receives compensation from the Ayeyawady Region chief minister during an event of Myanmar Insurance providing weather-based insurance due to excess rainfall in Hinthada, Ayeyawady Region, on 23 October 2024.

index, over K4 billion were paid out to the crop insurance policyholders in Thayawady, Bago Region, on 6 October. Insurance coverage will have proceeded to other regions and states as well. Myanmar Insurance will continuously provide crop insurance services by moving forward the interest of the farmers.

Afterwards, U Min Thu,

managing director of Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank, addressed the cooperation situation with Myanmar Insurance for farmers to have crop insurance coverage.

After handing over the compensations to the insured in nine townships, a farmer on behalf of policyholders also expressed appreciation at the event. — NN/KK



Spectacular hot-air balloons were seen during the 2023 Taunggyi Tazaungdine Hot-Air Balloon Festival.

Competitive bidding for shops, playgrounds, and bus terminals at Taunggyi Balloon Festival

THE Financial Supervision Committee under the Shan State government called for bids at competitive prices to procure shops, playground facilities and bus terminal businesses.

The annual Taunggyi hot-air balloon festival is scheduled to take place from 9 to 15 November 2024 at the Awayya hot-air balloon square under the guidance of the Shan State government.

Bidding forms can be purchased from 23 October

at the committee's office, and submission will be closed on 30 October.

Tendering will be held at 9:30 am on 31 October at meeting hall 2 of the Shan State government. Interested entities can submit bids in the set time frame. Late submissions will not be accepted. Individuals can enquire about details through the contact numbers of the committee at 09 2004405, 09 250964752, and 09 260027809. — NN/KK

CBM sells US\$20M, 800,000 yuan, 200,000 Thai baht on 25 Oct

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$20 million, 800,000 yuan and 200,000 Thai baht again on 25 October after

sales of \$100,000 and 8.2 million Thai baht on 24 October 2024,

CBM sold over \$2.5 million and 16.5 million baht after an-

nouncing upcoming sales of 20 million baht to importers on the foreign exchange trading platform on 23 October.

It injected over \$7.5 million and about 150 million baht into the private sector on 22 October, again after sales of 2.2 million and 1.5 million yuan on 21 October.

CBM announced the sale of \$35 million for those engaged in 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 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



A glimpse of the front wing of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Nay Pyi Taw.

OPINION

BOOKRACK POEM

Beware of infectious avian influenza in society

AVIAN influenza, caused by the H5N1 virus, began spreading globally in 2008. The virus initially spread among animals and then to humans who came into contact with infected animals. Severe cases of avian influenza can be fatal.

In early October, Vietnamese state media reported that dozens of tigers died in southern Vietnam zoos following a bird flu outbreak. Since August, 47 tigers, three lions, and a panther have succumbed to the H5N1 virus at Vuon Xoai Zoo near Ho Chi Minh City and My Quynh Safari Park in Long An province. No human infections were reported.

Practising personal hygiene and keeping poultry farms neat and tidy are crucial to preventing bird flu and cutting the chain of infection in the community. Local authorities have to take preventive measures whenever they receive information about bird flu from all over the world and warn the breeders of bird flu infection in time.

In 1997, as bird flu claimed lives in Hong Kong, approximately 1.5 million chickens were culled to prevent an outbreak in the region. In early 2004, a significant bird flu outbreak occurred in Thailand, Vietnam, South Korea, and Japan, leading to the deaths of 21 people. According to surveys, between 2003 and 2024, a total of 889 people across 23 countries were infected by the H5N1 virus. Of these, 463 died, representing 52 per cent of those infected, as reported by the World Health Organization.

Currently, people worldwide are facing outbreaks of infectious diseases. Of these, 75 per cent of the diseases that have emerged globally in the past two decades were zoonotic, meaning they were transmitted from animals to humans. As a result, it has become increasingly difficult to separate animal health from human health due to the unexpected rise in infectious diseases.

Biosecurity is crucial in poultry farming. Farmers must follow animal health protocols from relevant authorities to protect both their animals and themselves from dangerous viruses. By prioritizing biosecurity for chickens, ducks, quails, and other livestock, farmers can safeguard their animals and their own health.

The Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary in Myanmar has issued guidelines for operating animal farms. Farmers and farm workers must wash their hands with soap after working with chickens, ducks, and quails. Additionally, people should thoroughly cook meat and eggs to ensure they are safe for consumption. Following these practices can help prevent bird flu infections in daily life.

Practising personal hygiene and keeping poultry farms neat and tidy are crucial to preventing bird flu and cutting the chain of infection in the community. Local authorities have to take preventive measures whenever they receive information about bird flu from all over the world and warn the breeders of bird flu infection in time.



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Lann Haung Tein Phyu

THIS book is a translation of a book written by a Vietnamese Buddhist monk named Thich Nhat Hanh. The title of the English version is "Old Path White Clouds". The translator is a geologist, and his pen name is Saya Than Htun (GeoScience). Although the translator is used to writing books on geology, geoscience, and the environment, his translation of this book is so smooth and entertaining that readers will read it in a sitting from the introduction to the final episode.

The Vietnamese monk has placed emphasis on the highly unstable mind and the very fast-changing mood of all living beings. He points out that people cannot live in the present moment with their minds moving

back and forward, their minds drifting to the past and/or thinking of future events, unable to concentrate their minds in the present moment.

He said that it is a great wonder that people cannot live in the present, that their minds are disturbed by the likes and dislikes depending on their greed and anger, that they have extreme difficulty controlling their greed and restraining their rage and that they cannot see things as they really are. This being so, the Vietnamese monk has written this book as a tip for ordinary human beings to be able to lead a life with the most minor greed, anger and ignorance.

The writer said that this book was written with 24 books

referred to. These books were written in Pali, Sanskrit, and Chinese. What makes this book unique is that the approach to Buddhism and the Life of Buddha is quite unusual, for this approach is based on the perspective of a young buffalo herd named Suddhiya in addition to the aspects of the Buddha Himself.

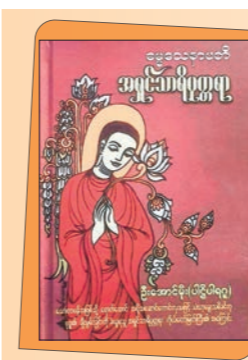
Despite the writer being a Vietnamese monk, he is not a stranger to Myanmar readers, for some of his books on Buddhism have already been translated into the Myanmar language. He has written 80 books on Buddhism, it is learnt. As the writer observes Sila, his precepts, and his being a pious Buddhist, his writings are to the taste of Myanmar Buddhist readers.

This book has 754 pages, but it will not bore the readers

because of its entertaining style of writing. The readers are guaranteed that they will not drop this book before finishing it. Episode One is about the ten-day walk from Uruwayla to Razagyo town. The writer discussed the relationship between Buddha and Suddhiya, the buffalo herd. In fact, this buffalo herd is a Buddha to be. The writer depicted the way the Buddhist monks begged for alms, the way they meditated while walking, the way they disseminated loving kindness and the way they did the concentration.

What appeals to the writer of the review of this book is the explanation or teaching of Suddhiya by Reverend Sariputtara as to how a monk should regard his teacher Buddha, how he ought to meditate to be enlightened and how he should behave towards Sangha, the monks.

Last but not least, the writer pointed out that a monk should lead a simple, ordinary life, that he must be humble enough to beg alms and that he must try his utmost to have equal love for all beings without any discrimination in terms of gender, social status or wealth etc.



Book Title - Dhamma Thaynapati Ashin Sariputtara
Writer - Saya U Aung Moe (Pali Paragu)
Publishing House - Pyi Myanmar
Publication Date - August 2024 (4th Edition)
Price - K10,000

Dhamma Thaynapati Ashin Sariputtara

WHEN one would like to deal with the Life History of Buddha and Buddhism, one cannot but ignore the life of Reverend Sariputtara, the Dhamma Senapati, the Commander of Buddha's Teachings. Reverend Sariputtara was the right-hand monk of Gotama Buddha, who was the most excellent monk after Buddha in terms of delivering the Teachings of Buddha - the Dhamma. His excellence in delivering the Buddha's Teachings won him the title 'Etadagga.' He was known as the right-hand man of Gotama Buddha, whereas Reverend Maha Moggallana was designated as the left-hand monk who was noted for his excellence in jhana and abhinna after Lord Buddha.

This book is the best one, and it mentions the life and Dhamma of Reverend Sariputtara most

comprehensively. If one reads this book, one will see that it is not a mere biography of the right-hand disciple of Gotama Buddha but also a book that records Buddhist culture. As a matter of fact, Buddhist culture is the highest culture in the world, and it can be seen in most civilized nations.

The writer of this book is the father of Saya U Thein Naing, who is now a full-fledged member of the Myanmar Language Commission. Saya U Thein Naing is also a great man of letters, as the saying goes, 'Like father, like son'. However, there is a difference between the father and the son - i.e., the father also knows Pali very well while the son only has limited knowledge of Pali. His father is known as Saya U Aung Moe, who passed the Pali Paragu Exam, Sakyasiha Dhammacariya, and

Ashoeya Dhammacariya. Saya U Aung Moe also served with the Department of the Myanmar Language at a university as an assistant lecturer.

Reverend Sariputtara is noted for his excellence in delivering Abhidhamma in a more straightforward way. As you all know, Abhidhamma is the most difficult Dhamma in three Pitaka canonical texts. In fact, Abhidhamma is very wide and highly involved for ordinary human beings to understand. Nonetheless, Reverend Sariputtara can deliver the Abhidhamma sermons, providing a succinct summary. The best scenario of his ability to make ordinary beings understand Abhidhamma was an event in which he delivered Abhidhamma to 500 Buddhist monks who were his disciples in a past existence when

they were all bats. Thanks to his brief and precise sermon, they were all enlightened.

According to the writer Saya U Aung Moe, this book was written not only on the basis of Pitaka texts but also with reference to the Pali Atthakatha texts. The writer said that he had exerted his utmost effort to be able to write a book on Reverend Sariputtara, that this book is not a product of a translation of only one book, and that it is a collection of so many articles already published in the journals and magazines, that he had taken many years to be able to compile such articles and that he had looked at the Five Nikayas for further clarifications. He continued that even with such great effort, he did not dare to declare that his product is the best or the most comprehensive book on the Abhidhamma, as expounded by Reverend Sariputtara. Although this book was first intended for the youth, his additions and repeated editions have turned this book into a book for all ages with diversified backgrounds.

This book is highly recommended to the readers, for it deserves a due place on your bookshelves.



Past Winter

By Chit Ko Pe

With a foggy shade and surround, the winter brought a chill along.

Though covered with a rug-hood.

A warmth from the firewood was either not so good.

Having hot sticky rice from a handpick and a cup of plain tea sipped a chill was dispelled to exit.

Gone is the past winter behind afar, but I quietly miss and remember.

နှောင်းဆောင်း

ဆောင်းနှင့်မြူ စိမ့်စိမ့်မှာ သိမ့်သိမ့် ခိုက်ခိုက်တုန် ဝိုင်းစု ထင်းမီးလှူ၊ စောင်းကြမ်းလည်းဖြူ မလုပ်ပါ ချမ်း၏။

ကောက်ညှင်းပူ ရေခဲကြမ်းနဲ့ အချမ်းဖြူ ရင်နှေးတဲ့ အဝေးကျန် ဟိုအတိတ်ကို ဆိတ်ဆိတ်လှမ်းမိ။

ချစ်ကိုဖေ

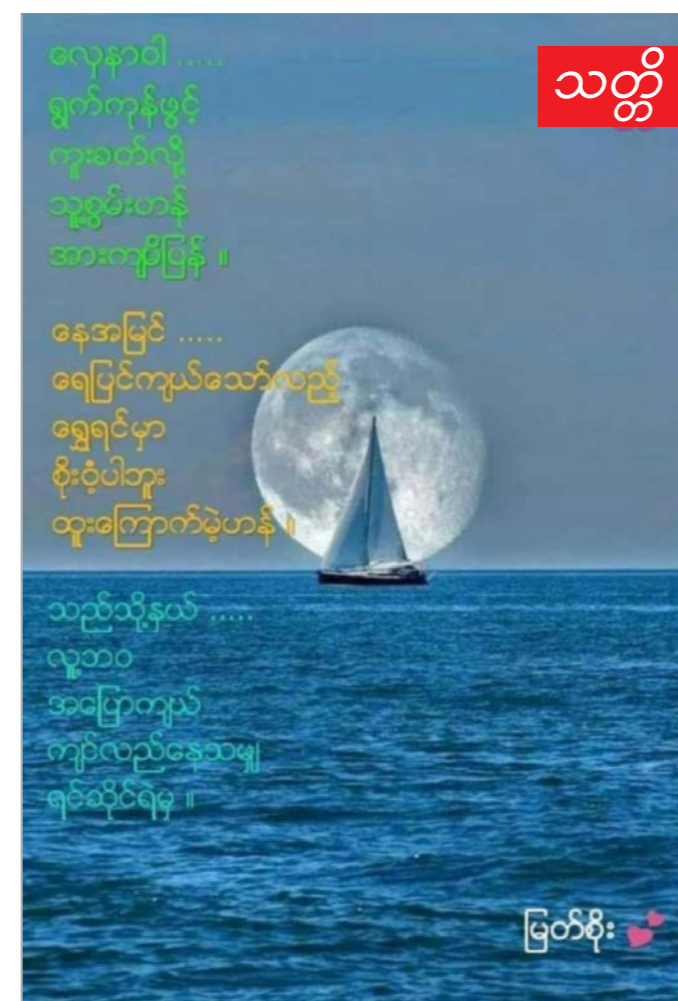


Its Works and Our Works

By Mya Thae (Research)

- Human beings and creatures will age one day.
- Besides, we all attain worse pain stays.
- Moreover, we all encounter death, actually.
- We can never avoid old, pain, or death naturally.
- These three things are nature works.
- Our works are to perform good deeds.

Based on May La Than Zin Song



သတ္တိ

လေ့နာဝါ ရွက်ကုန်ဖွင့် ကူးခတ်လို့ သူ့စွမ်းဟန် အားကျမိပြန်။

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သည်သို့နယ် လူ့ဘဝ အပြောကျယ် ကျင်လည်နေသမျှ ရင်ဆိုင်ရမှ။

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Courage

By Dr Myat Soe, Translated by Myint Zan

the boat with sails (sailing through the night) is in full swing riding the waves: one is impressed by its determined energy

although the Sun has not been seen yet and the sheen of the water is wide in one's (golden) heart one's not afraid despite the straitened circumstances

likewise, is human life as long as one has to go through it one needs to have the courage to face (all difficulties)

Translated on 26 October 2024

NATIONAL Entertainment

ND INTERNATIONAL 2024 GRAND FINAL

Miss Grand Myanmar wins 2nd Runner-Up at Miss Grand International 2024

MISS Grand Myanmar Thae Su Nyein was awarded the second runner-up in Miss Grand International 2024, held in Thailand on 25 October.

The pageant from India won the Miss Grand International 2024 crown, while the Filipino beauty was 1st Runner-Up, 2nd Runner-Up by Myanmar, 3rd Runner-Up by France and 4th Runner-Up by Brazil. Beauty Ni Ni Lin Eain won the

1st Runner-Up in the Miss Grand International 2023.

Miss Thae Su Nyein's fans supported her at Rangoon Cineplex and arranged to welcome Thae Su Nyein, who was awarded 2nd Runner-Up, Best Skin and F'aura Queen. – ASH/KTZH

Thae Su Nyein, the recipient of the 2nd Runner-Up for the Miss Grand International 2024.



C E L E B R I T Y



Daw Khin Lay Swe

AS a 93-year-old actress, Daw Khin Lay Swe, was unable to attend the respect-paying ceremony for seniors in the movie field, officials from the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization delivered K470,000 and medications to the house of the actress on 24 October. Moreover, senior actor Aung Lwin accompanied them to meet the actress and recounted their memories.

Lin Zarni Zaw

THE new Myanmar series 'Unwanted', in which actress Lin Zarni Zaw starred, was released via M Entertainment Channel on 26 October. She portrays the Daw Htar Wai character in that romance-cum-thriller drama series. Director Htoo Myat directed it, and the cast includes Sithu Ye Htut, Zaw Shine Htet, Thein Mwe Thansin and Lin Zarni Zaw.



Thet San Andersen

BEAUTY QUEEN THET SAN ANDERSEN arrived in Mexico to compete in the 73rd Miss Universe, representing Myanmar. The beauty is proficient in six different languages and pledged to bring the Miss Universe Crown to her country, Myanmar.



Daung Wai

ACTOR and vocalist Daung Wai is a fan of Miss Grand Myanmar Thae Su Nyein, who competed in the Miss Grand International 2024. As the beauty queen grabbed the second runner-up award, he comforted her and appreciated her on his Facebook page.



Alinn Yaung

ACTOR and vocalist Alinn Yaung released his new MV 'Yesterday Baby' on 13 October. He initiated the TikTok Challenge for that song and announced that those who received the highest number of viewers would receive a Vivo phone. The other three people will get a limited-edition version of his Oh, My Crush album. He paid respect to his mentor John Lwin (Star & Model International) on 23 October as a gesture of the Thadingyut festival.



Hlwan Paing

THE 'Dancing with Friends' Concert Ep-1 by Ye Lay X Hlwan Paing will be organized at Mawlamyine Glow Bar in Mawlamyine on 30 October. The event will include surprise artistes and take place from 6 pm to 11 pm. Hlwan Paing said, "I will hold a 'Two-Person Show' with Ko Ye Lay in Mawlamyine on 30 October. All can enjoy happiness like previous shows". – Htun Htun/KTZH

WORLD

PM Ishiba to struggle to form govt if LDP coalition loses majority

Analysts suggest he has three survival strategies: convincing an opposition party to join, making policy agreements with another party, or recognizing independently elected lawmakers.

JAPAN'S Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba may find it challenging to form a government if the ruling coalition loses its majority in Sunday's general election, with speculation already emerging

that he might need to find a new political partner.

Analysts say Ishiba has three options for survival — persuading an opposition force to join the government, making

policy-by-policy agreements with another party outside the Cabinet and recognizing lawmakers who were elected independently.

If none of the possibilities materialize, Ishiba's standing within the Liberal Democratic Party is likely to weaken, leaving him vulnerable to efforts by party members to oust him from power, as he is bound to face obstacles in advancing his policies.

Expectations are rising that Japan's Prime Minister Ishiba may become the shortest-serving leader in postwar history, potentially surpassing Naruhiko Higashikuni's 54-day tenure in 1945. Ishiba, who became LDP president and prime minister on 1 October faces a House of Representatives election just 26 days later, marking the swiftest call for a general vote in Japan's postwar era. — Kyodo



Candidates in Japan's super-tight election will make last-ditch appeals to voters on Saturday. PHOTO: AFP

Israel retaliates against Iran by striking military targets

ISRAEL'S military said Saturday it had conducted strikes on military targets in Iran in response to recent attacks, further raising tension in the Middle East that has been dogged by the conflict in the Gaza Strip.

"We conducted targeted and precise strikes on military targets in Iran — thwarting immediate threats to the State of Israel," Israel Defence Forces spokesman Rear Adm Daniel Hagari said in a video posted on X, formerly known as Twitter.

He also said the Israeli response to Iran's attacks had "concluded", several hours after the IDF first posted a statement about the strikes claiming that Israel, like other sovereign countries in the world, has "the



A woman holds a picture of slain Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah at a rally in Tehran after Iran fired a barrage of missiles at Israel. PHOTO: AFP

right and the duty to respond" following "months of continuous attacks" from Iran.

Iran's air defence authorities said military facilities in three provinces, including Tehran, were targeted, with limited

damage confirmed in multiple locations. State-run media reported the successful operation of the country's air defence system against attacks targeting the suburbs of the Iranian capital Tehran. — Kyodo

Smog in Pakistan megacity ends outdoor play for schoolkids

SCHOOLCHILDREN in Pakistan's second-largest city of Lahore have been banned from outdoor exercise until January because of hazardous smog levels, officials said Friday.

The eastern megacity near the border with India regularly registers among the world's most polluted cities, this week recording more than 20 times the level deemed safe by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Smog is particularly bad

in winter as a result of low-grade fuel from factories and vehicles in the low-lying megacity of 14 million, where denser cold air traps emissions at ground level.

Seasonal crop burn-off by farmers on the outskirts of Lahore is also a major contributing factor.

This week the Environmental Protection Agency of eastern Punjab province said that outdoor school activities in Lahore would end from Monday. — AFP



Schoolchildren in Lahore have been banned from outdoor exercise until January because of hazardous smog levels, officials said. PHOTO: AFP

BRIEF: WORLD

Forum on China-UK dialogue, collaboration in screen industry held in London

A forum centred on dialogue and collaboration between the Chinese and British screen industries was held in London on Friday, drawing over 200 professionals and industry insiders from both countries.

The Shanghai-London Screen Industry Forum (SLSIF) 2024 highlighted outstanding Chinese and British film and television projects, featuring speeches, panel discussions, trailer screenings, and the launch of new collaborative projects between China and the United Kingdom (UK). — Xinhua

Iran's aviation authority cancels all flights until further notice

IRAN cancelled all flights until further notice due to escalating tensions and security concerns in West Asia, according to state news agency IRNA.

The spokesperson for Iran's Civil Aviation Organization, Ja'far Yazerlou, stated today that flights on all routes have been cancelled until further notice.

His remarks come hours after the Israeli regime attacked several positions in three provinces in Iran. — ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

S Korea's GDP grows 0.1% on quarter in Q3

The rebound was due to improvements in private consumption and facility investment, which offset a decline in exports.

SOUTH Korea's gross domestic product (GDP) grew in the third quarter thanks to the recovery in consumption and investment that offset the export slump, central bank data showed Thursday.

The seasonally-adjusted real GDP, modified for inflation, gained 0.1 per cent in the July-September quarter compared to the previous quarter after contracting 0.2 per cent in the April-June quarter, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

The rebound was attribut-

ed to the turnaround in private consumption and facility investment that offset the export fall.

Export, which accounts for about half of the export-driven economy, declined 0.4 per cent in the third quarter on a quarterly basis, turning downward from an increase of 1.2 per cent in the second quarter.

Import climbed 1.5 per cent on strong demand for machinery and equipment.

Private consumption, another growth engine of the Asian economy, rose 0.5 per



This growth followed a contraction of 0.2 per cent in the April-June quarter. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

cent in the third quarter from three months earlier after going down 0.2 per cent in the

second quarter.

The turnaround was ascribed to higher demand for

cars and mobile devices as well as medical and transport services. — Xinhua

IMF throws support behind bank mergers in Europe

THE IMF said Thursday that it welcomes mergers between European banks to better finance innovative companies, although it declined to comment on talks of a tie-up between Commerzbank and Italy's UniCredit.

"That has been our recom-

mendation, that these mergers should take place," said Alfred Kammer, director of the International Monetary Fund's European department.

At a press conference, he added that "larger pan-European banks" are needed, not just

national players in the European Union's 27 countries.

"One way of doing it is through merger and consolidations," said Kammer, while adding that the IMF would not comment on individual transactions. — AFP

UNDP projects Lebanon's economy could shrink 9.2% in 2024 if hostilities continue

THE United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) estimated on Wednesday that Leb-

anon's economy could shrink as much as 9.2 per cent in 2024 if the escalating hostilities contin-

ue through the end of the year.

The scale of the military engagement, the geopolitical context, the humanitarian impact and the economic fallout in 2024 are expected to be much greater than in 2006, the report said in a rapid appraisal published on Wednesday.

The escalation of hostilities in September added another layer of complexity to the already profound economic and financial crisis that Lebanon has been struggling with for the past five years. As a result, the economy is expected to contract by 9.2 per cent, if the hostilities persist until the end of 2024, the report said. — Xinhua



A building housing a branch of Al-Qard Al-Hassan in the southern Lebanese city of Sidon – with the country in economic crisis, many Lebanese have turned to the firm's services. **PHOTO: AFP**



All 9,000 job cuts are intended to be voluntary departures. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

AI and digitalization to eliminate 9,000 jobs at Intesa Sanpaolo

ITALY'S leading bank, Intesa Sanpaolo, has reached a deal with trade unions for 9,000 voluntary job cuts — around 10 per cent of its workforce — due to the expansion of artificial intelligence (AI) and digitalization.

At the same time, the bank plans to hire by mid-2028 some 3,500 young new employees to work in wealth management, it said in a statement late on Wednesday.

The plan "aims at enabling generational change at no social cost" and the "further strengthening of future sustainability of

the Group's results... with a resilient business model in the digitalisation and artificial intelligence scenario", Intesa Sanpaolo said.

The changes should lead to 500 million euros (\$540 million) of savings annually on staff costs from 2028. Some 7,000 of the job cuts are to fall in Italy and the rest in international units.

The bank said it would take a 350-million-euro charge against fourth quarter earnings to finance the departures but that the provisions would not affect its guidance for a net profit above 8.5 billion euros in 2024. — AFP

India strengthens quality standards for bicycle retro-reflective devices

The DPIIT has amended the Bicycle Retro-Reflective Devices Quality Control Order to ease imports and enhance product quality.

DEPARTMENT for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has amended the Bicycle Retro-Reflective Devices (QUALITY Control) Order, 2020 to boost ease of doing business and enhance

product quality, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a release on Saturday.

The Bicycle Retro-Reflective Devices (Quality Control) Order, 2020 is effective from 1 July last year. The amendments, announced by the ministry, provide key ex-

emptions for imports supporting research and export.

The new amendment, formalized via notification on 17 October 2024, introduces two important relaxations in the Bicycle Retro-Reflective Devices (Quality Control) Order.

The Indian government has introduced exemptions regarding the import of bicycle

reflectors to support research and development. Manufacturers can now import up to 200 reflectors for R&D purposes and also import reflectors for bicycles intended for export under specific conditions.

These measures aim to streamline compliance processes, encouraging innovation while ensuring quality standards are met. This initiative is part of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade's (DPIIT) broader strategy to enhance quality manufacturing and position India as a global production hub. — ANI



The amendments allow manufacturers to import up to 200 reflectors for research and development, supporting innovation and compliance with quality standards. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/INDIAMART**

1 in 4 Japanese invest in securities amid govt push: survey

NEARLY one in four people in Japan invests in securities such as stocks, bonds, and investment trusts, the highest level ever thanks to the government's tax-exempt investment programme for individuals, a recent survey showed. The Japan Securities Dealers Association's survey also suggests, however, that financial education is still lagging in the country known for its high household savings rate.

The survey, conducted every three years, found that 24.1 per cent of respondents owned securities in 2024, up from 19.6 per cent in 2021, marking the highest level since the association began collecting such data on individuals in 2006. The rise comes after the government expanded the tax-free investment program in January in its push to encourage a shift from savings to investment. — Kyodo



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter shows high-rise buildings near Tokyo Station in the Japanese capital on 5 November 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

S Korea's chipmaker SK hynix logs record revenue, profit in Q3

SOUTH Korea's chipmaker SK hynix logged record revenue and profit in the third quarter thanks to solid sales of memory chips used in generative artificial intelligence (AI) chipsets, regulatory filing showed Thursday.

Revenue surged 93.8 per cent from a year earlier to hit a quarterly high of 17.57 trillion won (US\$12.7 billion) in the July-September quarter.

Operating profit reached a fresh high of 7.03 trillion won (\$5.1 billion) in the third quarter compared to a loss of 1.79 trillion won (\$1.3 billion) a year earlier.

The profit beat market expectations of about 6.8 trillion won (\$4.9 billion). — Xinhua



SK Hynix is one of the world's biggest semiconductor companies. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Afghanistan's agricultural exports reach US\$737 mln in 9 months

AFGHANISTAN exported agricultural products worth US\$737 million over the past nine months of the year, the state-run Bakhtar news agency reported Saturday. The items included fresh fruits, dry fruits, cotton, vegetables, raisins, grapes, figs and saffron. The products were mostly exported to China, Sau-

di Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, India, Russia, Germany, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Canada and Britain.

The government has been encouraging investors to invest in agriculture and farmers to increase production as part of efforts to help the war-battered country recover. — Xinhua

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



An aerial drone photo shows a harvester working in rice paddies in Luoping Village of Lixian County, central China's Hunan Province, 26 September 2024.
PHOTO: BAI YIPU/XINHUA

26 OCTOBER

Chinese agricultural provinces secure grain harvest despite extreme weather

HARVESTING is nearing completion in the major Chinese agricultural provinces of Heilongjiang, Henan and Hunan, with a bumper harvest of grain expected, despite extreme weather that caused multiple natural disasters, harming crop growth.

China's grain output is projected to hit a record high of 700 million tonnes this year, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said on Friday.

The anticipated milestone harvest follows nine consecutive years of main-

taining grain output above 650 million tonnes, the ministry said at a press conference.

As of Thursday, Heilongjiang Province has harvested over 90 per cent of its crops, covering 220.9 million mu (14.7 million hectares).

This includes 50.7 million mu of rice, 90.1 million mu of corn, and 72.8 million mu of soybeans. Despite challenges from adverse weather, advanced farming techniques and crop insurance have supported farmers' efforts. — Xinhua

25 OCTOBER

Gender divide grows in US youth vote

A significant gender divide among American youth could influence the upcoming presidential election, with young women largely supporting Kamala Harris and young men leaning towards Donald Trump.

Polls indicate that Harris has a substantial lead among young women, with 70 per cent planning to vote for her compared to 23 per cent for Trump.

However, among young men, the sup-

port is much closer, with Harris at 53 per cent and Trump at 36 per cent. As both candidates campaign in Texas, Trump aims to connect with young men through media appearances, while Harris will emphasize abortion rights in a state with strict restrictions, alongside pop culture icon Beyoncé.

Despite the overall youth vote favouring Democrats, the competition between genders is intensifying. — AFP

24 OCTOBER

Shijian-19's payloads delivered to international users

The scientific payloads for space breeding and other sci-tech experiments carried by China's first reusable and returnable satellite, Shijian-19, were delivered to Chinese and foreign users on Thursday.

At the payloads handover ceremony held by the China National Space Administration (CNSA) in Beijing on Thursday, the CNSA and the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation signed

payload delivery certificates with domestic and international users, including those from Thailand and Pakistan.

The Shijian-19 mission, launched on 27 September, successfully conducted space breeding experiments with around 1,000 germplasm species, enhancing China's innovation in this area.

It also validated domestically produced components. — Xinhua

23 OCTOBER

Sri Lanka enhances security measures for tourists

Sri Lankan police announced on Wednesday that they are taking additional proactive measures to safeguard tourists and citizens from potential threats, as the US embassy has revealed information about possible attacks in the Arugam Bay, a popular tourist destination on Sri Lanka's eastern coast.

The police also introduced the dedicated hotline "1997" for reporting any security issues faced by tourists.

In a statement, the police highlight-

ed that a record number of tourists are expected to visit Sri Lanka in the coming months, according to government estimates, and assured that the Sri Lankan government takes full responsibility for ensuring the safety and freedom of all tourists. Taking into account the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, the police will roll out a special security programme in collaboration with intelligence services to ensure the safety of visitors. — Xinhua

22 OCTOBER

Neighbours assured Iran no territory for potential attacks

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said on Tuesday that neighbouring countries have assured Iran they will not allow the use of their territories in any potential attacks against the country.

Speaking at a press conference in Kuwait, Araghchi said, "We have received reassurances from our neighbouring countries that they will not permit the use of their territories or airspace for any possible attack on Iran."

Araghchi's visit to Kuwait highlights rising tensions between Iran and Israel, amid concerns of military escalation. He emphasized Iran's desire for a comprehensive ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon but warned that any Israeli attack on Iran's oil or nuclear sites would provoke a similar response.

Araghchi noted the potential for regional war if Iranian energy installations are targeted, while asserting that such attacks violate international law. — Xinhua

21 OCTOBER

New NATO HQ in Rostock raises tensions with Russia

German defence chief Boris Pistorius presided over the unveiling a new NATO naval HQ in Rostock, northeastern Germany on Monday, with the facility not only threatening to exacerbate tensions with Russia, but violating a key deal on the non-deployment of alliance forces in the territory of the former East Germany.

The Commander Task Force Baltic HQ will prepare military situation reports and

address regional challenges, particularly in response to Russian aggression.

Pistorius emphasized the Baltic Sea's geopolitical significance as a trade and military corridor crucial for energy security. The HQ, led by a German commander with Polish and Swedish deputies, aims to enhance interoperability, plan joint drills, and manage military deployments, initially staffed by 60 personnel, expandable to 240. — SPUTNIK

20 OCTOBER

Thousands protest in Canary Islands against mass tourism

Thousands of flag-waving demonstrators hit the streets across Spain's Canary Islands on Sunday to demand restrictions to the mass tourism they say is overwhelming their Atlantic archipelago.

Demonstrators rallied across the Canary Islands under the slogan "The Canary Islands have a limit," protesting mass tourism's impact on the environment and local communities.

Gatherings occurred in popular tourist areas, including Gran Canaria and Tenerife, with around 10,000 participants. Protesters called for limits on tourist numbers and stricter regulations on holiday apartments, citing concerns over poverty and housing issues caused by unchecked tourism development. The movement follows previous large protests against these same concerns. — AFP

SPORTS

Myanmar secure 2 golds, 1 silver at Dragon Boat World Cup Trial Event



The Myanmar rowing team is seen after receiving the gold medal in China.

THE Myanmar Rowing Team won two gold medals and one silver at the Dragon Boat World Cup trial event, hosted by the International Canoe Federation (ICF), as a qualifier for the 2025 World Games in Chengdu.

In the men's 8-oar 200-me-

tre race, Myanmar took the gold, while China and Russia won silver and bronze, respectively. Myanmar also secured gold in the mixed 8-oar 500-metre event, with China winning silver and Russia taking bronze.

In the mixed 2,000-metre race,

China won gold, with Myanmar achieving silver and Russia claiming bronze.

Myanmar's rowing team has earned a total of three golds and one silver so far. The team will continue competing on 27 October. — MNA/KZL

Record-breaking 180,000 runners apply for 2024 Beijing Marathon

THE 2024 Beijing Marathon is set to kick off on 3 November, with organizers announcing a historic record of over 180,000 runners registering for the event.

Despite the participation cap of 30,000 athletes, the overwhelming demand has led to an unprecedented number of sign-ups, since registrations opened on 2 October, a remarkable 182,949 runners from 43 countries and

regions have submitted their applications in just three days.

Wang Xiaoying, a member of the executive committee of the Chinese Athletics Association, emphasized that the Beijing Marathon, as a premier marathon event in China, will continue to strengthen organizational standards, optimize event services and enhance overall quality. — Xinhua

Suarez and Alba give Miami winning start in MLS Cup playoffs

JORDI Alba struck a 60th minute winner as Inter Miami began their first MLS Cup playoff campaign of their Lionel Messi era with a 2-1 win over Atlanta United on Friday.

Miami could book their place in the Eastern Conference semi-finals if they can win game two of the best-of-three series in Atlanta on 2 November but after a tight game they will be wary of the task that awaits in Georgia.

Inter, the top seed and favourites in the playoffs, made an electric start to the game with Luis Suarez firing them ahead

in the second minute when his former Barcelona team-mate Alba found Diego Gomez and the Paraguayan slipped the ball to Suarez who made no mistake from close range.

Atlanta qualified through a wildcard game in Montreal on Tuesday and they were slow out of the blocks as Miami dominated possession and gave visiting keeper Brad Guzan a busy opening half.

Alba fed Messi, whose sweetly struck, first-time shot forced the 40-year-old keeper into a fine, diving save. — AFP



Luis Suarez opened the scoring for Inter Miami in just the second minute of their playoff first round game one against Atlanta United on Friday. PHOTO: AFP

2nd MBC Professional Boxing Tournament held in Yangon

THE Myanmar Boxing Federation, the Japan Boxing Commission, and MBC Company jointly organized the second MBC Professional Boxing tournament, held yesterday afternoon at the Theinbyu Boxing Stadium in Yangon.

The tournament featured six rounds of matches with three-minute bouts and two-minute breaks. In the men's 50.80-kilogramme weight class, Naw Phone won over Kaung Pyae Sone with a knockout in the fourth round. In the 72.57-kilo weight class, Htet Wai Lin claimed victory over Nyein Pyae Sone by points. In the 57.15-kilo category, the match between Saw Khine Ye Lin and Nay Htet Aung ended in a draw. Additionally, in the 63.50-kilo class, Min Khant Thu knocked out Min Ko Ko



Zaw Seng Naw competes against Myo Myint Myat in the men's 79.38-kilogramme weight class. PHOTO:

in the first round. In the 79.38-kilo division, Zaw Seng Naw beat Myo Myint Myat by points, while in the 59-kilo category, Naing Latt also won against Augustin Swett Rain Aung by points.

Following the matches, Myanmar Boxing Commission officials awarded winners with World Boxing Council medals.

"In the first tournament, we held four-round matches, but WBC tournaments will progress to six, eight, ten, and twelve rounds, so achieving six rounds is essential.

We plan to hold more tournaments in 2025," said an official from the Myanmar Boxing Commission.

The tournament was organized to increase the fight records of local boxers, enabling them to enter JBC tournaments as MBC's inaugural step and to facilitate MBC professional boxer licensing. — Arkar Linn/KZL



An aerial drone photo taken on 24 October 2024 shows the outdoor exhibition area of the third International Summit on BDS (BeiDou Navigation Satellite System) Applications in Zhuzhou, central China's Hunan Province. **PHOTO: CHENG JIAN/XINHUA**

Chile launches vaccine that neuters dogs for a year

This vaccine offers an alternative to traditional surgical neutering, which can be risky for some dogs.



The vaccine blocks sex hormone production in dogs for a year, preventing sexual activity and fertility. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE/ SHUTTERSTOCK**

CHILE has launched a vaccine described as the first of its kind that sterilizes dogs for a year and is expected to be sold in several dozen countries.

The injection prevents sexual behaviour and reproduction, offering an alternative to irreversible surgical castration, its creators say.

"This is the first vaccine of this type in the world for dogs," said Leonardo Saenz, from the University of Chile's veterinary sciences faculty.

Many dog owners prefer this option over surgical castration due to concerns about risks associated with surgery, such as cardiorespiratory arrest. Alternatives, like hormonal implants, can also have side effects, making the vaccine an appealing choice.

Since 2009, researchers have developed the Egalitte vaccine, which began distribution this month in a South American country.

This vaccine inhibits the production of sex hormones in both male and female dogs for a year, effectively blocking sexual activity and fertility.

Patented in 40 countries, including the US and EU, it costs \$50 per shot in Chile. — AFP

China's BeiDou navigation system drives growth in more emerging sectors

With a quick online reservation, residents in the central Chinese city of Zhuzhou can now board a bus within five to 10 minutes at "virtual bus stops". Introduced in mid-October, this bus fleet serves a community of 120,000 people, guided by China's homegrown BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS).

Named after the Big Dipper constellation, BDS has become integral to navigation for both public transport and specialized fields, including smart logistics, agriculture and disaster monitoring.

This expansion of BDS applications drew attention at the just-concluded third International Summit on BDS Applications

The introduction of virtual bus stops and efficient transit options reflects how technology can improve convenience and accessibility in urban environments.

in Zhuzhou, Hunan Province, where the technology's growing versatility was on full display. During the summit, 142 projects were signed, totalling an investment of 58.2 billion yuan (approximately U\$8.2 billion), focusing on applications of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) in areas like pipeline detection and disaster relief in Indonesia.

BDS has significantly boosted China's

satellite navigation industry, which saw a 7.09 per cent growth, reaching an output value of 536.2 billion yuan in 2023.

A UN representative highlighted China's role in global navigation systems, noting BDS's expansion for industrial and public use. Since its inception in 1994, BDS has evolved to provide global navigation services, now serving over 130 countries.

— Xinhua

London school opens to train chefs in authentic 'washoku' cuisine

DESPITE modest beginnings, the first Japanese government-certified culinary school to open in Britain is promising big things, offering a course to ground students in both the techniques and culture



Instructors serve sushi at the opening ceremony for the Tokyo College of Sushi & Washoku, London, on 19 September 2024, in London. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The Tokyo College of Sushi & Washoku has opened in London, offering official washoku chef certification.

of Japan's growingly popular "washoku" cuisine. The London branch of the Tokyo College of Sushi & Washoku, offering an officially recognized washoku chef certification, opened last month to great fanfare, albeit with only six students enrolled thus

far in the first expansion of the institute overseas. Operated by Mizuno Gakuen, a Tokyo-based corporation, the four-days-a-week, six-month course provides instructions in fish filleting and practical Japanese cooking methods as well as lessons in

making fermented seasonings, such as miso and soy sauce. Washoku, designated in 2013 by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage, is a Japanese term derived from the kanji characters "wa", meaning Japan, and "shoku", meaning food.

However, the term does not just encompass preparation methods but includes broader cultural aspects such as presentation, etiquette and the dishes used to serve the food. — Kyodo