

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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By Phoe Aung

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(File) Female farming workers are picking out wools of cotton plantations.

Bago Region extends agriculture, livestock businesses

Local farmers are scaling up agricultural and livestock operations with support from the State economic promotion fund and technical assistance from relevant departments

as part of efforts to produce agricultural and livestock products. Local farmers have grown the long staple cotton plantations in Wuntinseik Village, Pyay Township, Bago Region. Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Live-

stock and Irrigation Dr Aung Gyi on 1 November met with local cotton growers to discuss cultivation of cotton crops to meet the target cultivation and viewed thriving Raka 666 long staple cotton plantation. **SEE PAGE 2**

Ngwetaung Beach sees 17,566 visitors in September this year

IN September 2024, Ngwetaung Beach in Ngaputaw Township, Ayeyawady Region, welcomed 17,566 domestic tourists, as visitors have been coming throughout the year to relax and unwind, according to Daw Ni Ni Mar, an executive member of the Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Association (Ngwetaung Beach).

Ngwetaung Beach is also a popular destination for domestic tourists due to its proximity to Myat Mawtinsoon Pagoda, making it a year-round retreat. Many travellers from the Yangon Region and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area visit this beach.

"During January 2024, there were 35,455 domestic visitors; in February, the number was 36,555; in March, it was 38,955; in April, there were 48,955; in May, we had 54,555; in June, the number was 17,455; in July, we saw 15,455 visitors; and in August, there were 14,155 domestic tourists. Even during the rainy season, tourists are present and continually coming to relax at Ngwetaung Beach," said



Locals visiting Ngwetaung Beach during September 2024.

Daw Ni Ni Mar.

Efforts have been made at Ngwetaung Beach to ensure that visitors can

relax in a safe and peaceful environment, with services such as bicycle rentals, motorboat rentals, and horse-drawn car-

riage rides. Moreover, local shops offer a variety of snacks and souvenir items at reasonable prices. — ASH/KZL

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

Guiding Youths: Fostering Exploration, Creativity, and Patriotism with Ethical Responsibilities

YOUTHS must be guided to foster a spirit of exploration, creativity, and rational thinking, along with national pride and patriotism, while upholding ethics and social responsibilities.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting to provide guidance to outstanding students for the 2023-2024 academic year on 26 April 2024)



Traditional handicraft fair attracts public attention

THE traditional handicrafts trade fair, which is in progress at Times City Jewellery Mall in Yangon, has caught much attention of visitors.

Lucky Pot organizes it, and it will take place from 1 to 3 November.

The exhibition features textiles, food, accessories, handmade products, and local products that reflect Myanmar's traditions and culture.

"All booths exhibit local products. It can catch the public attention. This is the

third time we organized," said a member of Lucky Pot.

Pasoe, longyi (male and female sarongs), and scarves are the most popular at the event, and people buy them to be used in the Tazaungdine Festival.

"It includes velvet scandal shop and wooden scandal shop and traditional weaving textiles such as scarfs, blankets and silk wares," she said.

People who love Myanmar culture are invited to join it. — Thit Taw/ZS

Various sorts of traditional handicraft displayed at the trade fair at Times City, Yangon.



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Bago Region extends agriculture, livestock businesses

FROM PAGE 1

After that, a discussion was held to review the operations of Khittaya Hintha Company Limited, which is currently renting and operating the Department of Agriculture's jute processing factory. The Deputy Minister viewed round a showroom for tractors, and work process of the factory, urging company officials to emphasize the benefits for farmers.

On 2 November, the Deputy Min-

ister met with breeders, dairy farmers, and dairy product producers at the office of the western Bago Region Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department. They discussed ways to promote livestock feed production systems and coordinated responses based on the presentations made by the breeders.

In meeting with officials from the agricultural sector in the western Bago Region, he stressed the implementation

of projects funded by State economic promotion fund, including plans for growing summer and monsoon rice, oil crops, peanuts, sesame, and cotton crops in addition to selecting suitable regions for operating dairy cow breeding farms.

Additionally, he looked into the dairy cow breeding operations at Shwe Myint Mo Dairy Farm in Pyay and the milk collection activities of Ngwe Sin Pearl Company in Shwetaung Township.

He inspected the twelve varieties of rice cultivated by the Department of Agriculture and local farmers in Shwetaung Township. Subsequently, the Deputy Minister visited various private breeding operations, including poultry farms in Nathmaw Village in Paungde Township.

He also inspected breeding operations in Nattalin, Gyobingauk, Letpadan, and Thayawady townships. — MNA/TMT

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)

New roads inaugurated to hail Kayin State Day

The Kayin State Rural Road Development Department of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development on 2 November organized an opening ceremony for roads in the Mizan livestock breeding zone as a gesture of hailing the 69th anniversary of Kayin State Day.

State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo, State Chief Justice Daw Khin Swe Tun and relevant officials first cut the ribbon to inaugurate four-mile and 5.4-furlong long paved roads – entrance to the Mizan livestock breeding zone, inner part of zone and outskirt part of

zone and expansion processes of a concrete bridge built by Zweekabin May May, Ngwe Kabbar Aung, Thabyay Thukha and Kaung Myat Aung Kyaw companies using K571.452 million of the 2024-2025 financial year State budget.

In his speech, the chief minister highlighted the two major breeding industries – pig and goat breeding in the Mizan Livestock Breeding Zone, and the benefits of interconnected roads in the zone, ensuring the emergence of a focal livestock breeding zone that transports products to market at affordable costs.



The opening event of roads in the Mizan livestock breeding zone in progress in Kayin State on 2 November 2024. **PHOTO: SAW MYO MIN THEIN**

He also inspected the 100-pig breeding farm of farmer U Saw Kapaw Htoo and the 150-goat breeding farm of Yoon Sa Lin Goat MZ-Farm.

The state chief minister then attended the ceremony of providing sunflower seeds, black grams, and green gram

to farmers by the state government and Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association at Zweekabin Hall on the same day.

At the event, the farmers were provided with 100 baskets of quality black gram seeds, 100

baskets of green gram, and sunflower seeds, as well as a half the cost of regular sunflower cultivation.

It is estimated that local authorities earmarked cultivation of 4,000 acres of sunflowers in Kayin State this year. — Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)/KTZH

Hotel operators urged to boost tourism with contributions to security concerns

A meeting between Kachin State government officials and hotel and lodge operators from Myitkyina was held at the Malikha Hall of the state government office on 3 November to discuss facilitating the operations of hotel and guesthouse businesses in Kachin State.

During the meeting, Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan emphasized that hotel, motel, and lodging business owners must adhere to the stipulated procedures and pay their taxes to the State. He noted that the licences issued to these businesses include a set of regulations and codes of conduct that the owners must follow. Furthermore, the Chief Minister urged business owners to strive for high-quality service and maintain a good reputation for their es-



A meeting between Kachin State government officials and hotel and lodge operators from Myitkyina in progress in Myitkyina, Kachin State yesterday. **PHOTO: KACHIN STATE IPRD**

tablishments. He assured the attendees that the state government and relevant departments would provide the necessary assistance. Additionally, he strongly

encouraged everyone to actively participate in maintaining the township's security and peace.

The meeting then continued with

discussions on security measures, including the timely submission of accurate guest lists and the installation of CCTV systems at hotels and lodges. State officials emphasized the importance of cooperation and compliance with regulations. Hotel and lodging business owners raised questions about licensing procedures and collaboration.

In response to the presentations and discussions, the Chief Minister reiterated the importance of providing high-quality services during the peak tourist season. He also stressed the need for businesses to maintain clean and well-kept premises and to prioritize security through closer collaboration between government officials and business owners. — Kachin State IPRD/ TRKM

NATIONAL

Labour DM views hotel waiter level-1 assessment at Sanon Assessment Centre in NyaungU

DEPUTY Minister for Labour U Win Shein inspected skills assessment for the Hotel Waiter (Waiting Staff) Level 1 at the Sanon Assessment Centre in Ward 3, Pyusawhti Road, NyaungU Township, yesterday.

In meeting with hoteliers and officials, the Deputy Minister stated that the National Skills Standards Authority (NSSA) is developing skill standards for workforce development, including skill evaluation and certification issuance. In the hotels and tourism sector, professional standards for 18 job types have been approved: eight jobs each at the level 1 and 2, and two jobs at the level 3, totalling 18. Since

2014, skill certificates have been issued to 1,485 individuals in recognition of the specified qualifications in three job categories: hotel waiters, housekeeping, and reception occupations.

He also encouraged officials from the Sanon Assessment Centre to continuously participate in the NSSA process to create opportunities for hotel job seekers by conducting training and skill testing. — MNA/TKO

Deputy Minister U Win Shein looks into skills assessment for the Hotel Waiter (Waiting Staff) Level 1 at the Sanon Assessment Centre, NyaungU Township, yesterday.



Star tortoises, golden deer attract visitors during Shwesettaw pagoda festival

DURING the festival season of the Mann Shwesettaw pagoda in Minbu Township, Magway Region, visitors can observe and learn about nature of star tortoises and golden deer at the wildlife sanctuary, according to the board of trustees of the Shwesettaw pagoda.

The programme for breeding star tortoises began in 2004 through a collaboration between the Forest Department, Wildlife Group, and Turtle Survival Group. Golden deer were introduced to the sanctuary in 2012, with five males and seven females sourced from the Safari Park in Nay Pyi Taw, and Lawkananda Park in Bagan.

“Star tortoises and golden deer are listed as endangered species. Myanmar’s golden deer are endemic to our country, making them very rare. Special care is needed to ensure their breeding and increase their pop-



Golden deer (above photo) rare species Star tortoises (right photo) and are seen at the Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary in Minbu Township.

PHOTOS: ZEYAR HTET (MINBU)

ulation. During the Shwesettaw pagoda festival and the open season, visitors to landmarks in Minbu Township can also learn about native species, including Myanmar’s golden deer and star

tortoises,” said U Thein Hlaing, vice chairperson of the Shwesettaw pagoda board of trustees.

The wildlife sanctuary is located three miles west of the Shwesettaw pagoda, beyond the

Hlaytin Bridge. In addition to star tortoises and golden deer, it is home to a variety of species, including various mammals, amphibious animals, and birds. Species such as the Spotted Dove, White-eyed River Martin, Myanmar Bulbul, and White-throated Kingfisher can also be found, although some have already become extinct, according to the Shwesettaw pagoda trustees. — Zeyar Htet (Minbu)/KZL



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NATIONAL

Linkadipa Arts Group's operas now streaming in HD on Mahar App

OPERAS performed by the Linkadipa Arts Group are now streaming in HD quality on the Mahar application, according to director Aung Kyaw Tun.

The operas titled 'Sanda Keinari' and 'Paysatthu Hnalonetha' are being broadcast through the application starting Tuesday and Thursday nights at 7 pm on 31 October.

"The famous Myanmar song 'Sanda Keinari' is being adapted into an eight-episode opera by the Linkadipa arts group. It can be watched in high-quality video on the Mahar app. Following that, another eight-episode opera called 'Paysatthu Hnalonetha' will be shown. Both operas feature mu-

sic played by the Hein Yaza Myanmar Traditional Orchestra and the Linkadipa Symphonic Orchestra," said director Aung Kyaw Tun.

The script for 'Sanda Keinari' was arranged by Sein Hla Myaing, and the songs were performed by Htet Ko, Myint Myint Zaw, and Shwe Phue Thwe. The opera was performed by Ye Min Thway and Han Wint Wah.

Moreover, Aung Ko Min penned the script for 'Paysatthu Hnalonetha'. The opera's songs were sung by Yin Wai Yan Tun and Shwe Min Eain, while Ye Htet, Htet Ko, and Han Wint Wah performed the opera. — ASH/TRKM



This image showcases a poster of an opera performed by the Linkadipa arts group.

CRIME NEWS

Crackdown on illegal trade: Timber, industrial materials, consumer goods, foodstuff and unregistered vehicles



Confiscated illegal generator at Myanmar Industrial Port on 31 October.

EFFORTS to combat illegal trade, supervised by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, are being made effectively in accordance with the law.

On 31 October, combined teams under the management of the Customs Department seized four kinds of industrial materials (estimated value of K182 million) without legal documents from five containers at the Asia World container checkpoint and one kind of

industrial material (estimated value of over K130 million) which could not show the proper documents from three containers at Myanmar Industrial Port. Action was taken according to the Customs procedures.

Besides, on 1 November, a combined team under the management of Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force made inspections near Ywangan crossroad and confiscated twenty-two kinds of industrial materials, two kinds of consumer goods, one kind of foodstuff (estimated value of over K207 million) without official documents from three Hino Ranger trucks (estimated value of K120 million).

The action was taken in accordance with the Customs procedures.

On 2 and 3 November, a combined squad under the

management of Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized one unregistered Toyota Crown and one unregistered JAC truck (estimated value of K32 million) at the Yadanabon checkpoint.

Moreover, on 3 November, a combined team under the management of Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force inspected 1.193 tonnes of illegal teak timber (estimated value of over K1 million) in the Bago District and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, on 31 October, 1, 2 and 3 November, there were 16 arrests with the value of illegal goods seized amounting to approximately K674.595 million, reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/ TRKM

Drugs seized in various townships

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Police Force, drugs were seized in various townships including Tatkon, Kyaikto and Namsang.

A combine squad from anti-narcotic unit of the Myanmar Police Force inspected a motorbike driven by Aung Zaw Min (aka) Aung Min near Thaphanchaung Village in Tatkon Township on 2 November and seized 9,750 tablets of stimulant drugs.

On 1 November, another team also inspected a Toyota Passo driven by Aye Min Paing near Mayanchaung Village in Kyaikto Township and seized a total of 200,000 tablets of stimulant drugs.

Again on 2 November, the team also inspected the house of Ye Yint Aung located in Ward 4 in Namsang and seized 1,400 stimulant tablets. Consequently, the team also inspected the house of Myo Win Tun (aka) Ko Lin in Ward 4 and the house of Ma Yee located in Villate-tract 5 and seized 6,000 tablets and 4,200 tablets respectively.

Moreover, the Myanmar Police Force reported that there were seizures of drugs in the townships of Thazi, Kengtung



Aye Min Paing seen with seized stimulant tablets and a vehicle.

and Tachilek.

At 10:10 pm on 31 October, a combined squad including police from Mandalay Region Police Force inspected Sithu Htaik, Thaha Aung and Myo Min Oo along with a Light Truck near Seikpyoyay village in Thazi Township and seized 90,000 stimulant pills.

One more combined squad checked a motorcycle driven by Ar Gyo near Hongpan Village of Kengtung Township at 2:25 pm on 1 November. They seized 2,000 stimulant tablets.

Another combined team inspected a motorcycle near Mongphon village-tract, Tachilek Township, at 2.30 pm on 1 November and nabbed 10,000 stimulant pills. Offenders were prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/TMT/TRKM

NATIONAL

Maha Arnthtoo Kantha Pagoda in PyinOoLwin to host Tazaungdine lighting festival

THE PyinOoLwin Tazaungdine lighting festival, hot-air balloon festival, and weaving competition of Matho Thingan (non-stale robe) are planned to be held on a grand scale on the full moon of Tazaungmone at Maha Arnthtoo Kantha Pagoda in PyinOoLwin, according to U Win Myint, a member of the pagoda board of trustees.

“The Matho Thingan weaving competition will start on 11 November, and the non-stale robes will be offered to the pagoda on 15 November, the full moon of Tazaungmone. The hot-air balloon festival will begin the day before the full moon in the hot-air balloon field near the pagoda, with fire balloons being

hoisted both during the day and at night,” said U Win Myint.

The weaving competition for non-stale robes and the 9,000 oil lamps offering festival will be held on the pagoda platform. The non-stale robes will be offered to the pagoda in the morning of the full moon day, while 9,000 oil lamps are planned to be lit in the evening of the same day, followed by the releasing hot-air balloons in the parking lot to the northern archway of the pagoda.

At the hot-air balloon festival, revellers will be entertained by traditional dances, including the Toenaya dance performed to the melody of a Shan traditional drum troupe. — ASH/TH



This photo shows PyinOoLwin Tazaungdine hot-air balloon festival last year.

Myanmar attends Jakarta Forum on ASEAN-China Relations



Attendees posing group photo at the Jakarta Forum on ASEAN-China Relations.

MYANMAR'S Permanent Representative to ASEAN U Aung Myo Myint participated in the Jakarta Forum on ASEAN-China Relations on 1 November,

according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the forum, opening remarks were made by the Secretary-General of ASEAN,

the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to ASEAN, and the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to ASEAN, who serves as the country coordinator for ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations.

The theme of the Jakarta Forum was “Bridging and Bonding by Connectivity”, aligning with the designation of 2024 as the ASEAN-China Year of People-to-People Exchanges. The forum aimed to facilitate discussions on strengthening ties between ASEAN and China, as well as promoting inclusive development among all ASEAN member nations. — ASH/TMT

Myanmar film 'Voucher' premieres in Thamada Cinema

A Myanmar comedy horror film named “Voucher” is set to premiere at Thamada Cinema at 5:30 pm on 4 November.

The film was produced by BoBo Film Production and will be screened in cinemas nationwide throughout November. Thet Oo Maung wrote the novel and script for “Voucher”, which was directed by Soe Moe

Min.

“I'm happy to have the opportunity to play a role that I have never played before. Everyone worked together, and there were no difficulties. The film is a combination of comedy and horror genres. The audience will be both scared and amused. It's a good story about a unique spirit, so

please come and watch it when it's released,” said actress Cho Madi Thwin.

Academy Myint Myat, Min Phone Myat, Chue Lay, Chue Sitt Han, Cho Madi Thwin, Hla Nu Tun, Honey Zaw, Moe Moe, Mommy Thet, and other senior artistes have all played their roles in the film. — ASH/TRKM

Myanmar Pet Expo 2024 launches nation's first Pet Charity Show

MYANMAR'S first-ever Pet Charity Show was showcased at the Myanmar Pet Expo 2024, held at Fortune Plaza in Thakayta Township, Yangon, as reported by the Myanmar Kennel Club, organizers of the event.

The Expo ran from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on 2 and 3 November and featured a range of activities, including free pet health education seminars, a dog fashion show, a grooming show, live training demonstrations, and educational talks. The event exhibited around 50 dogs and other pets, with special segments introducing rep-

tiles, various bird species, and diverse cat breeds.

The Expo also includes an International Dog Show with participating breeds from across the region, represented by dog breeds associated with notable figures from Candy Liu (Chinese Taipei), Simon Sim (the Philippines), Jongmin Lee (South Korea), and Somsak Taechapeti (Thailand). Attendees enjoy free admission for pets and have access to facilities like playgrounds, photo booths, pet spas, clinics, and stalls offering feed and medical supplies. — ASH/TKO



Myanmar's first Pet Charity Show.

Bike sales expected to pick up from this November

BICYCLE sales are expected to improve starting from November, according to data collected from the bicycle trading market.

The best season for bicycle sales has started since November after a somewhat slow market.

“The current sales are a bit slow, but starting from November, the beginning of the cold season, to April and May of school opening period is the best season for the bicycles. Especially, mountain bikes for adults. In December, parents buy these bikes for their children. From now to April, May and June, it is the best season for bike sales,” said Ko Yan Naung Soe, the owner of Danatheikdi Japan-made Bicycle and Spare Parts Trading in Insein township.

People chose bicycles to ride in the areas where motorcycles have been restricted since 2023 such as Hlinethaya, Shwepyitha, North Okkalapa, Htaukkyant, and Hmawby, leading to a good outlook for bicycle market.

“With more arrests of motorcycles last year in some areas, it seems to be replaced by bicycles. For example, people could ride motorcycles in Hlinethaya, Shwepyitha, North Okkalapa, Htaukkyant, and Hmawby before. When it has been banned since last year, people chose bicycles. Sales increased by 40 per cent. The bicycle market became more active last year,” he explained. — Thit Taw/ZN



Bicycles seen in a shop.



A Chinese cabbage plantation.

Aungban-produced Chinese cabbage and chayote receive orders from Yangon

CHINESE cabbage and chayote produced from Shan State's Aungban have received orders from Yangon Region.

Of the two vegetables, Chinese cabbage price has in-

creased but the chayote price has been steady.

“At present, there are many Yangon's orders for Chinese cabbage and chayote. In Aungban, Chinese cab-

bage price has elevated while the price of chayote has been steady. Now Chinese cabbage is produced again,” said an official from Aye Myat Aungban vegetables retail and wholesale trading.

Recently in Aungban vegetables market, cabbages have also received orders from northern Shan State. “Recently, cabbages have been also sold well and the price has been high. Aungban is wholesale market,” he said. — Thit Taw/ZS

Japanese companies to recruit around 1,400 Myanmar workers



Myanmar workers sent to Japan seen at the lounge of the airport.

MORE than 430 Japanese companies will recruit around 1,400 Myanmar workers, according to a statement on demand letters issued by the Myanmar Embassy to Japan.

The embassy has managed timely verifications of demand letters received from the Ministry of Labour via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it said. It verifies whether labour supervi-

sory companies and factories or companies that offer jobs in Japan are officially established and re-submits its findings and remarks to the Ministry of Labour through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. About 431 demand letters are submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after verification until 11 September 2024. According to the report, up to 430 Japanese companies would offer jobs to more than 300 Myanmar male workers and more than 1,000 Myanmar female workers. The embassy's statement on 15 October said more than 400 Japanese companies would recruit more than 1,400 Myanmar workers. — MT/ZS

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 3 November, 2024)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 4 November 2024: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway Region and Southern Shan, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is 80%. Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Bago and Taninthayi regions. 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: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 3-6 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Shan and Chin states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 November 2024: Partly cloudy and likelihood of isolated light rain. Degree of certainty is 60%.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 November 2024: Partly cloudy and likelihood of isolated light rain. Degree of certainty is 60%. Degree of certainty is 60%.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 November 2024: Partly cloudy. — DMH

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OPINION

Maintain harmonized communities in a peaceful country

As the Diwali festival highlights harmony and unity among diverse religious communities in Myanmar, all members of the Hindu community come together to participate in the festival, marking a significant milestone.

The light from oil lamps dispels darkness in society, symbolizing the arrival of good fortune while casting away negativity and fostering anticipation. This interpretation captures the essence of the festival as a source of strength and empowerment for all. Therefore, it is believed that Hindus beautifully illuminate their temples and homes with oil lamps during this occasion, embracing their traditions to gain vitality and inspiration in their lives.

This year, the Diwali festival celebration was unlike any previous year, as it was joyfully organized on a grand scale, bringing

together all Hindu religious groups, social organizations, and followers in Myanmar. People from other faiths also joined in the festivities. Hindus participated in the lighting festival in harmony with all ethnic groups across the nation, fostering peace, unity, and fraternity.

Everyone must consider the potential negative consequences of actions taken by both external and internal forces that do not prioritize the interests of the people who are striving for a peaceful, stable country with food security. Therefore, everybody needs to make concerted efforts to build a modern, developed nation without following actions of disunity among all national races and various communities while initiating a Union based on democracy and federalism.

is essential that everyone focuses on actions and commitments that serve the interests of the State and the entire populace. By doing so, the country can return to the path of democracy as swiftly as possible.

Everyone must consider the potential negative consequences of actions taken by both external and internal forces that do not prioritize the interests of the people who are striving for a peaceful, stable country with food security. Therefore, everybody needs to make concerted efforts to build a modern, developed nation without following actions of disunity among all national races and various communities while initiating a Union based on democracy and federalism.

Let's Get a Reward for Reporting Illegal Trade

By Phoe Aung

In the country's economic sector, the trade sector is an important part, and it can be said that it is a major sector that provides the country's tax revenue. While the State is making policies for developing the trade sector, it must take action to prevent economic fraud. On the other hand, greedy businesspeople, regardless of the interests of the State and the people, find ways to trade through illegal imports and exports. Among the definitions of various interpretations regarding unlawful trade, "the production of illicit goods as defined by international law, purchasing, shipping, migration, transferring, accepting, keeping in hand or distribution and any conduct intended to encourage such activities is defined as illegal trade by the World Trade Organization."

Illegal trade hinders national economic development and people's socioeconomic development activities and results in the loss of tax revenues that should be available to the State. In addition, the loss of market for the goods

produced by the domestic micro, small and medium enterprises due to the lack of fair competition in the market is a major threat to the long-term survival of domestic manufacturing enterprises. The increase in illegal trade has led to high commodity prices, financial instability, and national security, as well as affecting law and order. Illegal trade must be effectively prevented as a national duty. Regarding unlawful trade, in the World Illegal Trade Index released in 2018, Myanmar ranked 82nd out of 84 countries with only 23 points. The Global Illegal Trade Status Index is known to be measured by four indicators such as government policy, supply and demand, transparent trade, and customs procedures. Regarding the increase in the global illegal trade situation due to Myanmar's illegal trade, the "Steering Committee on Countering Illegal Trade" was re-organized in December 2021, aiming to coordinate with the relevant departments in order to promote inter-departmental cooperation at the national level



Illegal trade hinders national economic development and people's socioeconomic development activities and results in the loss of tax revenues that should be available to the State. ILLUSTRATION: ALAMY

and to receive the full tax through the reduction of illegal trade. The Steering Committee on Countering Illegal Trade also implemented its tasks at a rapid pace without delay for the benefit of the country

and the people. The purpose and duties of the Steering Committee on Countering Illegal Trade are very good. To ensure no loss of the State's tax revenue, no entry of food products that are not suit-

able for consumption, low-quality consumer goods, illegal drugs and imports and exports of prohibited goods into the country, the committee has carried out effective preventions.

Since illegal trade has been rooted and flourishing for decades, effective anti-illegal trade operations can only be prevented by the participation of the entire public. At present, some people with the spirit of responsible citizenship are reporting illegal trade activities. Information about the sender is also kept confidential. According to reports, 20 per cent of the money obtained from the collection of fines on the illegal goods intercepted or seized as public funds and sold at auction (for example - K20 million if it is K100 million) is being secretly awarded to whistleblowers in accordance with the procedure of the Union Government's Notice 70/2020. In addition, the existing Union Tax Law exempts the reward money obtained from the seizure of illegal goods and the reward money for whistleblowers from paying income tax. There were 3,642 cases that reached the reward level and were awarded, including 333 cases that were arrested due to reports from responsible citizens. It is known

that K1,430.260 million has been awarded to whistleblowers. It is also learned that the remaining cases are being under-processed to reward as soon as possible. I believe that if there is more participation from the public in reporting, we can prevent and control illegal trade with more effective measures. Although some people want to report, they do not know the right place and person to report. Some people keep silent because they are afraid of being harmed by unscrupulous and greedy businessmen.

In order to combat illegal trade, the Steering Committee publicized contact numbers and email addresses in national newspapers, MRTV and FM Radio to report and complain about illegal trade. Furthermore, any report can also be made by phone, letters, email, or in person with confidence to the special groups combatting illegal trade in respective regions and states.

The word 'whistleblower' can be considered as a person who

reports complete and accurate information of apprehending prohibited or duty-evading or attempting to evade duty or duty-free goods. It is known that the information about the whistleblower is kept confidential so that the whistleblowers do not have to worry, and the relevant departments receiving the information also provide assurances for the whistleblower. If we can effectively prevent illegal trade due to whistle-blowing complaints, we will be able to prevent the above-mentioned damage to the public interest and loss of tax revenue that the State should receive.

Therefore, as the Steering Committee on Eradicating Illegal Trade is laying down and implementing effective strategies to reduce and eliminate illegal trade, we urge the citizens to join together as a national duty to prevent illegal trade that harms the country's economic sector and the socioeconomic development of the people and proudly receive the reward awarded by the State.

Kite of the Soul: Loop or Liberation?

By Yadanar Soe

At 17:00, the sun prepares to bid its bittersweet farewell to the world. The author takes her evening walk through a green field where the horizon seems to smile. Little creatures in the sky head home for the night, and the atmosphere slows down, reflecting our own feelings.

"Off to the sky!" The author hears nearby children bursting with joy and excitement as a kite flies into the air. Some run and laugh, while others watch curiously how kites are made. As the author enjoys this moment, she stops to watch a kite dancing above the green field. That's when her mind begins to journey along with it - "Loop & Liberation".

The kite flies up and down in the evening atmosphere. The

longer she stares at it, the more she feels a connection to the kite's struggle against the wind. With a whisper of 'Loop!' she begins to reflect on her own thoughts. As the kite twists and turns, she sees how it resembles her own mind, stuck in repetitive patterns shaped by her past and societal expectations. Ideas like 'I have to meet society's expectations' and 'I'm still not good enough unless I achieve this' weigh her down. This constant pressure of her ideal success has hidden her true passions, trapping her creativity and happiness like a bird in a cage.

As the author continues looking at that little thing in the sky, her eyes are drawn to the string holding it up. She realizes that this string isn't just a limit but a tool for the kite's direction. It

helps the kite rise higher, offers stability during uncertain moments, and catches the winds of change. Choosing how to hold the string - tight or loose, confidently or hesitantly will shape the kite's path. In that moment of understanding, the author sees the kite's string as her guide to liberation, opening up a new road forward.

In that moment of realization, the author sees that the loop is not what it seems. With a clearer mind, she thinks about her own string - her choices and beliefs. Each decision can lift her up or drag her down. This understanding fills her with strength, helping her face life's challenges with a sense of purpose and courage.

As the last rays of sunlight warm the field, the author feels

a wave of hope. The kite dances happily in the sky, showing her the freedom of breaking away from her own limits. At that moment, she understands that true freedom is not about letting go of things but about being true to herself. It's about balancing her ambitions with who she really is, letting her heart rise while staying grounded. She whispers to herself, "Loop or Liberation?" - knowing that the choice is hers, shaped by how she views the world.

At last, the sun bids farewell to the world, painting the sky in stunning shades of gold. The author walks on, feeling the weight of her past doubts begin to lift from her spirit. She is open to the unknown journey ahead, allowing

herself to experience both the constraints and the freedom that life offers.

Carrying the lesson of the kite in her heart, she realizes that true freedom is rooted within and shaped by her perspective. With a warm smile, she welcomes the beauty of both "Loop & Liberation", understanding that they can coexist in her journey.

True freedom is found not in escaping constraints, but in understanding our choices and embracing our authentic selves, striking a balance between ambition and inner truth. ILLUSTRATION: PEXEL/ Images for Visual Representation



SCI/ENVIRON: WORLD

Judge tosses New York plastic pollution lawsuit against PepsiCo

A New York Supreme Court justice has thrown out an environmental pollution lawsuit against PepsiCo, in a blow to authorities in the US state who wanted the beverage giant to rein in its use of single-use plastics.

New York Attorney General Letitia James had sued the company last year, seeking a finding that it contributed to a “public nuisance” in the Buffalo River with its products.

She also sought an order that the company cease the sale of single-use plastic on goods that do not warn of their environmental ills.

A survey conducted by Attorney General Letitia James’

office revealed that PepsiCo’s plastic packaging is the leading contributor to plastic pollution in the Buffalo River, surpassing McDonald’s by three times.

However, Justice Emilio Colaivoco dismissed the lawsuit against Pepsi, labeling the claims as “speculative” and attributing the littering to individual consumers rather than the company.

He emphasized that without legislative action or executive orders establishing liability, the lawsuit was merely “policy idealism”. PepsiCo expressed satisfaction with the ruling, reaffirming its commitment to plastic reduction and recycling. — AFP



New York state had sued PepsiCo, saying the company’s use of single-use plastics harms the Buffalo River and constitutes a ‘public nuisance’. **PHOTO: PEXEL**

UN nature summit agrees on body for Indigenous representation

The world’s largest nature protection conference in Cali, Colombia, established a permanent body to represent Indigenous peoples under the UN biodiversity convention.



Representatives of Indigenous peoples broke out in cheers and chants as 196 countries agreed on a ‘subsidiary body’ dedicated to Indigenous representation. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE world’s biggest nature protection conference agreed in Cali, Colombia on Friday to create a permanent body to represent the interests of Indigenous people under the UN’s biodiversity convention.

Representatives of Indigenous peoples, many in traditional dress and headgear, broke out in cheers and chants as 196 countries agreed on a “subsidiary body” dedicated to “matters of relevance to Indigenous peoples and local communities”.

It was the first major breakthrough for the 16th Conference of Parties (COP16) to the UN’s Convention on Biodiversity, which opened in Cali nearly two weeks ago and went deep into extra time Friday as delegates clashed on ways to raise funding for plans to preserve nature.

“This is an unprecedented moment in the history of multilateral agreements on the environment,” an overjoyed Camila Romero, an Indigenous representative from Chile, told

delegates after the adoption at the summit, themed “Peace with Nature”.

“Parties have recognized the constant need for our full and effective participation, our knowledge and innovations, technology and traditional practices”, she added.

Delegates also agreed on a specific role for Afro-descendent communities in the new subsidiary body, though a number of details have yet to be ironed out. — AFP

Anger at government grows in ground zero of Spain floods

FOUR days after terrifying floods razed towns in eastern Spain, frustration at the state’s response is growing among some despairing residents.

“They’ve abandoned us,” said Charo de la Rosa as she joined dozens of people queuing outside the only surviving pharmacy in Alfajar, a devastated suburb of Spain’s third city Valencia.

“I know of dead and missing people... they are neighbours, people you love, you grew up with them... and their cruel death

could have been avoided,” the hospitality employee told AFP.

Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez vowed on Wednesday that his government would not “abandon” the victims as the enormity of the catastrophe became clear. At least 211 people have been killed and dozens are still missing, according to the latest toll.

In the wake of devastating floods, Spanish Prime Minister Sanchez admitted the government’s response has been inadequate, deploying an additional

10,000 soldiers and police.

In towns like Alfajar and Sedavi, residents face immense destruction, with mud-covered cars blocking streets and homes filled with debris. Locals, like 66-year-old Estrella Caceres, expressed frustration at the lack of official aid, emphasizing that volunteers have been their only support. — AFP

Pavements have become dumping grounds for mountains of now unusable furniture. **PHOTO: AFP**



'Keep Kamala and carry on-ala!' Harris tells comedy show SNL

Vice President Kamala Harris surprised viewers with a comedic appearance on "Saturday Night Live," playfully mocking Donald Trump and her own public persona.

US Vice President Kamala Harris wrapped a day on the campaign trail Saturday with a surprise appearance on "Saturday Night Live," mocking her presidential election rival Donald Trump on the sketch show.

Appearing in the long-running series' "cold open" — the sketch before the opening titles — Harris appeared as her own reflection in a dressing room mirror, joining in good-natured

mockery of her laughter and playing on her own name for laughs.

Harris, who was appearing on SNL for the first time, has been portrayed by Maya Rudolph as "America's fun aunt" — an interpretation that Harris herself has proudly shared on social media and gushed about on TV.

The New York studio broke into raucous applause as Harris came onscreen and immediately

began making fun of Trump's recent photo op in a garbage truck, after he almost fell over as he was trying to get into it.

"I'm here to remind you, you got this because you can do something you cannot do — you can open doors," Harris joked.

The vice president giggled as Rudolph roasted her for her distinctive laugh, which Republicans refer to as a "cackle." — AFP



US Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris (R) appeared on Saturday Night Live with actor Maya Rudolph. PHOTO: AFP

Argentine LGBTQ march targets Milei's 'discriminatory' laws

AN annual LGBTQ Pride march in Buenos Aires drew thousands of participants Saturday, with speeches and banners targeting austerity policies of far-right President Javier Milei that the group says are discriminatory.

Under the slogan "There is no freedom without rights," marchers paraded down the boulevard from the Plaza de Mayo square.

In a festive mood despite their serious message, demonstrators decried budget cuts they said affected HIV treatment and reproductive rights, denounced what they said was a hostile attitude from the government, and demanded passage of a comprehensive anti-discrimination



Protesters in Buenos Aires sported the green and purple favoured by women's rights groups in Argentina. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

law.

Milei, a libertarian former economist sometimes compared to Donald Trump, had angered the community by dissolving the Ministry of

Women, Gender and Diversity, as well as the National Institute Against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism in his first year in office. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Brat' named word of the year by Collins dictionary

BRAT, redefined by singer Charli XCX and embraced by Kamala Harris' supporters, was declared Collins Word of the Year 2024.

Brat, the word redefined by singer Charli XCX and adopted by supporters of US presidential candidate Kamala Harris, was on Friday named the Collins Word of the Year 2024.

"Brat" was the name of the UK singer's hit sixth album, and the word has now come to represent a "confident, independent, and hedonistic attitude", said Collins, rather than simply a term for a badly-behaved child.

"Inspired by the Charli XCX album, 'brat' has become one of the most talked about words of 2024," said the UK-based dictionary.

"More than a hugely successful album, 'brat' is a cultural phenomenon that has resonated with people globally, and 'brat summer' established itself as an aesthetic and a way of life," it added. The 32-year-old pop star, whose real name is Charlotte Emma Aitchison, described the typical brat girl as someone "who is a little messy and likes to party and maybe says some dumb things sometimes, who feels herself, but then also maybe has a breakdown, but kind of parties through it". — AFP

Shells to surfboards: how wildlife has adapted to plastic



A hermit crab trundles across a beach in Japan's Okinawa, carrying its home on its back: not a shell, but a disintegrating plastic yellow measuring spoon.

The crab is far from alone. Plastic waste has become so pervasive in the natural environment

Birds, bees, crabs and other marine life now regularly incorporate that refuse into their homes. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

that it is fundamentally changing the ways animals live and travel, according to scientists. Plastic pollution is driving remarkable adaptations in wildlife, with numerous species incorporating plastic waste into their habitats. Each year, approximately 435 million tonnes of plastic are produced globally, and around 22 million tonnes find their way into the environment, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

One striking example involves hermit crabs, which have been observed using plastic items, such as bottle necks and detergent caps, as shells. This behaviour has been documented worldwide, highlighting how these crabs adapt to a diminishing supply of natural shells due to declining mollusc populations. Researchers suggest that the abundance of plastic may make it energetically easier for hermit crabs to use artificial materials. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan trade houses push for locally farmed salmon as imports to peak

Major Japanese trade houses, led by Marubeni Corp., are promoting land-based salmon farming to boost supply as imports peak.

MAJOR Japanese trade houses, led by Marubeni Corp., have been pushing for the land-based farming of salmon, a popular type of sushi and sashimi, in Japan, as supply from Norway is starting to peak.

In October, Marubeni started selling salmon to supermarkets and fishmongers that was farmed by its Norwegian partner, Proximar Seafood AS, at a plant in Oyama, Shizuoka Prefecture near Mt Fuji.

Under an exclusive distribution agreement Marubeni signed with Proximar in 2022,



Photo taken on 25 October 2024, in Tokyo shows locally farmed salmon sold by Marubeni Corp. **PHOTO: KYODO**

the trading house plans to ship 4,700 tonnes by 2025 and raise the figure to 5,300 tonnes by 2027, when the plant becomes fully operational.

“In the future, Marubeni will consider exporting salmon to neighbouring countries that highly value Japanese food products,” Marubeni said in a press release.

Land-based salmon farming has its merits, such as being less susceptible to parasites and red tide, and preventing feces of the fish from polluting the sea.

Norway is a major sup-

plier of salmon to Japan but it has been struggling to meet demand, as suitable areas for sea-farming, its mainstream aquaculture method, are reaching their limits.

Among Marubeni's rivals, Mitsubishi Corp. has partnered with fishery processing company, Maruha Nichiro Corp., to start land-based farming of salmon at a plant in Nyuzen in Toyama Prefecture on the Sea of Japan coast from 2025. It aims to start shipments from 2027 and onwards, of 2,500 tonnes a year.

— Kyodo

US restaurant chain TGI Fridays files for bankruptcy

CASUAL American dining chain TGI Fridays filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on Saturday in the US state of Texas, a company statement said.

The bar and grill chain — known for serving up hamburgers, chicken wings and signature cocktails — said its dozens of restaurants in the United States and abroad would remain open to customers while the company uses the restructuring process to “explore strategic alternatives in order to ensure the long-term viability of the brand”.

TGI Fridays Inc, which filed for bankruptcy, owns and oper-

ates 39 restaurants in the United States.

Not included in the Chapter 11 process are 56 franchise TGI Friday's locations in the United States and 40 other countries, which are independently owned, the firm said.

“The next steps announced today are difficult but necessary actions to protect the best interests of our stakeholders, including our domestic and international franchisees and our valued team members around the world,” executive chairman Rohit Manocha said in the statement. — AFP



TGI Fridays filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in Texas, aiming to restructure while keeping its restaurants open during the process. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

Iraq reduces oil exports to 3.3 mln barrels per day



Iraq's Oil Ministry announced a reduction in oil production and exports to 3.3 million barrels per day to comply with OPEC+ agreements. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

IRAQ'S Oil Ministry said Friday that the country has reduced its oil production and cut its crude exports to 3.3 million barrels per day, in line with its commitment to the OPEC+ agreement on output cuts.

“We confirm that Iraq has lowered its oil production and reduced its exports to 3.3 million barrels per day, along with lim-

iting domestic consumption,” the ministry said in a statement.

According to official data, the country's daily oil export volume was approximately 3.43 million barrels earlier this year.

The statement said the reduction will continue in the coming months to ensure output is within Iraq's OPEC+ specified quota and to compensate for

exceeding the quota during previous months.

The statement stressed that the cut in production and exports is aimed at supporting balance and stability in the global crude oil market. Iraq's economy heavily relies on crude oil exports, which account for about 90 per cent of the country's revenues. — Xinhua

Foreign investment commitments reach NPR 16.4 billion in Nepal

NEPAL has witnessed a significant surge in foreign investment commitments, totalling NPR 16.4 billion in the first quarter of the current fiscal year, which runs from September to October.

According to the Department of Industry, this figure includes a notable NPR 3.45 billion in pledges made during September alone, the Kathmandu Post reported.

Among these commitments, NPR 150 million was pledged for 21 industries through the automatic approval route, a system implemented following the Third Nepal Investment

Summit held in April. This streamlined process aims to encourage foreign investors by reducing bureaucratic hurdles. An additional NPR 3.3 billion in pledges was secured through the approval route for 34 industries.

The tourism sector emerged as a leading recipient of foreign investment, capturing 64 per cent of the total commitments. This was followed by the services sector at 24 per cent, manufacturing at 7 per cent, agriculture at 4 per cent, and information technology at 1 per cent, reported the Kathmandu Post. — ANI

Chinese carmaker BYD launches premium brand DENZA in Thailand

CHINESE carmaker BYD officially launched its premium brand DENZA in Thailand on Friday in a move to expand its presence in the Southeast Asian country's upscale automotive market.

Narit Therdsteeerasukdi, secretary general of the Thailand Board of Investment, emphasized in his opening speech the importance of the entry of the DENZA brand into the Thai market, which marks a milestone in the development of Thailand's electric vehicle (EV) industry.

Narit noted that the debut of the DENZA brand not only reflects the confidence of international brands in the Thai market, but will also



A DENZA vehicle is on display in Bangkok, Thailand, 1 November 2024. PHOTO: RACHEN SAGEAMSAK/XINHUA

inject new impetus into Thailand's economic development. Thailand will continue to support the development of the EV industry and provide a good

investment environment for enterprises.

Thailand has long been a regional automotive manufacturing and export hub. With the gov-

ernment's investment promotion efforts, the nation aims to convert 30 per cent of its annual auto production into EVs by 2030. — Xinhua

Reactor in Japan's 2011 disaster area to stop just days after restart

A nuclear reactor in northeastern Japan will be halted just days after becoming the first one to restart in the region since the 2011 earthquake and tsunami disaster, the plant operator said Sunday, citing the need for checkups.

Tohoku Electric Power Co. said it has not confirmed any abnormalities in the No 2 reactor at the Onagawa plant in Miyagi

Prefecture.

The latest decision stemmed from a problem in sending in a device necessary to confirm the reactor's condition.

The No 2 unit on Tuesday joined a dozen reactors in the country that have been rebooted after meeting more stringent safety standards in the wake of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear

power plant accident, triggered by the quake-tsunami disaster that devastated coastal areas including in Miyagi Prefecture.

Tohoku Electric Power was planning to restart power generation and transmission on Sunday but decided to postpone it after failing to place the device to adjust the readings of a neutron detector inside the reactor. — Kyodo



At Naulo restaurant in Kathmandu, robots efficiently serve customers, adding a modern twist to the dining experience. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AFP

Announcement

Nielsen Media Myanmar Ltd hereby announces that a reduction of its capital by USD 1,155,813 has been approved by its members on 1 November 2024.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (919N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (919N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-11-2024** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (439N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (439N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-11-2024** 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.

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

UN sounds alarm over Israeli operations affecting Lebanon's heritage sites



A tourist visits the Baalbek temple complex in Baalbek, Lebanon, 26 July 2023. PHOTO: LIU ZONGYA/XINHUA

UN voices concern over Israeli military operations harming civilians and damaging religious sites in Lebanon, violating international humanitarian law protections.

THE United Nations Human Rights Office voiced concern on Friday regarding the severe civilian impact of Israeli military operations in Lebanon, with a focus on damage to religious and cultural landmarks.

According to the UN office, since last October, Israel has destroyed or heavily damaged at least 10 mosques and churches. It emphasized that under international law, attacks on religious sites are prohibited.

Expressing further concern over strikes near the UNESCO-listed ancient temple complex in Baalbek, the UN noted

that international humanitarian law mandates the protection of civilian sites, except where military use is confirmed. Even in such cases, it underscored, attacks must be proportionate and executed with caution.

Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, the UN special coordinator for Lebanon, also warned on social media of risks to Lebanon's heritage sites in Tyre and Baalbek, home to UNESCO-designated Roman ruins. "Lebanon's cultural heritage must not become another casualty in this devastating conflict," she stated. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Moldova vote pits pro-EU president against ex-prosecutor

MOLDOVA'S pro-EU President Maia Sandu is facing Alexandr Stoianoglo, whom she fired as prosecutor general in 2023, in a tense presidential election on Sunday.

The vote is seen as key to determining whether the ex-Soviet republic sandwiched between Ukraine and the EU will continue on a pro-European path, with fears of Russian interference looming large.

For many Moldovans, Sandu, who became president after defeating a Moscow-backed incumbent in 2020, has become a symbol of change as she seeks to chart a new pro-European path for the tiny country. — AFP

German law easing legal gender change comes into force

GERMANS will be able to change their legal gender more easily from Friday thanks to a new law hailed as a "historic" step for the LGBTQ community.

Under the Gender Self-Determination Act, anyone will be able to change their name or legal gender by making a simple application to their local registry office.

The legislation replaces a law known as the Transsexuals Act dating back to the early 1980s, under which Germans who wanted to change their legal gender had to submit two psychological reports and wait for a court decision. Some 15,000 people had already submitted applications to change their gender in advance of the law coming into force, according to Der Spiegel magazine. — AFP

Elon Musk supports Trump, raising \$75 million for his campaign



Elon Musk speaks on stage as he joins Donald Trump during a campaign rally. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

IN a surprising development in the upcoming election, Elon Musk has emerged as Donald Trump's most prominent supporter, significantly influencing his campaign against Kamala

Harris.

Musk's America political action committee (Super PAC) has raised around \$75 million, focusing on voter turnout in key swing states and implementing controversial initiatives like cash incentives for voter referrals and a daily lottery prize for petition signers. These tactics have sparked legal challenges, with accusations of violating electoral laws. Musk has also actively campaigned alongside Trump, making public appearances and emphasizing the stakes of the election, declaring it "the last election" if Trump loses. — AFP

New Zealand celebrates diversity through Asia Pacific films

THE New Zealand Asia Pacific Film Festival (NZAPFF) 2024, showcasing films from China, South Korea, Japan and New Zealand, was launched on Friday night.

Chairman of NZAPFF Bo Li stressed the festival's commitment to diversity in his opening speech.

"At this year's festival, we have maintained strong international inclusion, inviting filmmakers and artistic panels from all backgrounds to share their unique stories. This commitment to diversity enriches our festival and deepens our understanding of the world through the lens of the film," Li said. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Shnaider wins Hong Kong Open for fourth title of 2024

RUSSIA'S Diana Shnaider won her fourth WTA title of a breakout season Sunday as she blew away Katie Boulter in straight sets at the Hong Kong Open.

The top seed dismantled Britain's second-seeded Boulter 6-1, 6-2 in a one-sided final at Victoria Park lasting 71 minutes.

The 20-year-old Shnaider, who is ranked 14th in the world, added the Hong Kong crown to titles in Budapest, Bad Homburg in Germany and Hua Hin, Thailand.

"This year I did an amazing job," she said, admitting that she will have a target on her back from now on after such a successful 2024.

"Next year everyone will be getting ready, knowing my game."

She added: "Even if there are a lot of losses, I'll be as positive as possible, just keep building my game, my mentality, my physical strength."

"There are a lot of things I can improve and achieve to be, say, a top-10 player. It's not a rush, I'll have to be patient."

Separately, Switzerland's Viktorija Golubic defeated Rebecca Sramkova of Slovakia to clinch the Jiangxi Open in China. The 32-year-old Golubic won the final 6-3, 7-5 for her first title since 2016. — AFP



Russia's Diana Shnaider hits a return to Britain's Katie Boulter. **PHOTO: AFP**

Hanthawady, Yangon share spoils in 2-2 draw



Hanthawady United and Yangon United in action during the match. **PHOTO: MNL**

THE MNL Fixture (13) kicked off yesterday at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre, where Hanthawady United and Yangon United played to a 2-2 tie.

Both teams aimed to apply pressure on table-toppers Shan United, but the match ended in a stalemate, prov-

ing to be a frustrating result for both sides. With this draw, only Shan United could capitalize on their performance to gain points.

The match was intensely contested right from the start. Hanthawady took the lead in the first half with a

goal in the 11th minute by Than Toe Aung and added a second goal in the 33rd minute by Aung Myat Thu, giving them a two-goal advantage.

However, Yangon United made tactical changes in the second half and managed to fight back, scoring two goals within six minutes to equalize. Goals for Yangon were scored by Okka Naing in the 55th minute and Wai Lin Aung in the 61st minute. Wai Lin Aung was named the player of the match.

Following this draw, Hanthawady United has accumulated 32 points from 13 matches, while Yangon United has 31 points from the same number of games.

Fixture-13 continues today with Myawady facing Ayeyawady United at Yangon United Sports Complex and the ISPE FC competing against Dagon Stars at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Myanmar secures more gold, silver in Dragon Boat World Cup

THE International Canoe Federation (ICF) hosted the 2024 Dragon Boat World Cup, where team Myanmar achieved one gold and one silver medals. This event took place in Puerto Princesa, the Philippines, on 2 and 3 November.

Rowing teams from Myanmar, Indonesia, Chinese Taipei, Spain, the Philippines, and Hungary competed in the men's 200-metre 10-oar race on 2 November. Indonesia won the gold medal, Myanmar the silver and Chinese Taipei the bronze.

Furthermore, in the mixed 500-metre 10-oar race on 3 November, Myanmar, Hungary, Indonesia, Korea, Chinese Taipei, and Ukraine competed, with Myanmar winning gold, Hungary silver, and Indonesia bronze.

The competitions in both the men's 200-metre 10-oar and the mixed 500-metre 10-oar races featured a total of 16 teams competing through heats, semi-finals, and finals.

Myanmar's dragon boat athletes participated in races from 24 October to 3 November in Yichang, China, and Puerto Princesa, the Philippines, finishing with a total of six gold and three silver medals. They are set to compete again at



Activity of team Myanmar seen celebrating victory for the mixed 500-metre 10-oar race.

the World Games Dragon Boat Championship on 9 and 10 August in 2025 in Chengdu, the People's Republic of China. — Arkar Linn/KZL

Myanmar to face Australia today in ASEAN Futsal Championship

THE group stage matches of the 2024 ASEAN Futsal Championships, currently being held in Thailand, will continue today, with the Myanmar team setting to play against Australia in their first group match.

Myanmar team will play against Australia at 10 am (Myanmar Standard Time), followed by matches between Cambodia and Indonesia at 12:30 pm, Malaysia and Vietnam at 3 pm and Timor-Leste and Brunei at 5:30 pm.

A total of nine teams are compet-

ing in this championships, with Group A featuring the defending champions Thailand, along with Vietnam, Malaysia, Timor-Leste, and Brunei, while Group B includes Indonesia, Myanmar, Australia, and Cambodia. The matches in Group A were held on 2 and 3 November, when Vietnam defeated Timor-Leste 4-1, Thailand triumphed over Brunei with a score of 13-0, and Malaysia trounced Brunei 11-0, while Thailand thrashed a 7-1 victory against Timor-Leste. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Osasuna, Girona all claim home wins in La Liga

OSASUNA moved into the top-four of La Liga on Saturday after a 1-0 win at home to struggling Valladolid in its El Sadar Stadium.

Striker Ante Budimir scored the only goal of the game from the penalty spot after he had been fouled by Valladolid defender Luis Perez in the 18th minute.

Osasuna controlled the first half and Budimir went close to doubling their lead in the 54th minute, but his

effort hit the base of the post.

Valladolid failed to react and the defeat leaves it firmly rooted second from bottom of the table, with just eight points from its first 12 games and a dreadful goal difference of minus 15. Girona won a thrilling game 4-3 at home to Leganes, with the visitors fighting back twice from a goal down and then threaten to do so again in the closing minutes.

— Xinhua



China's Shenzhou-18 spaceship separates from space station combination

CHINA'S Shenzhou-18 manned spaceship separated from the space station combination at 16:12 on Sunday, and the astronauts aboard — Ye Guangfu, Li Cong and Li Guangsu — are returning to Earth, according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA).

The CMSA said that prior to the separation, the Shenzhou-18 crew, with the assistance of the ground staff, completed various tasks such as setting the status of the space station combination, processing and transmitting the experimental data, and transferring remaining supplies, and then carried out handover work with the Shenzhou-19 crew.

China launched the Shenzhou-19 crewed spaceship on 30 October sending three astronauts Cai Xuzhe, Song Lingdong and Wang Haoze to its space station for another six-month mission. — Xinhua

China's Shenzhou-18 spaceship separated from the space station, with astronauts returning to Earth after completing various tasks and handovers.



This image captured at Beijing Aerospace Control Centre on 30 October 2024 shows a group photo of the crew of Shenzhou-18 and Shenzhou-19 manned spaceships.
PHOTO: LI JIE/XINHUA

Mongolia observes National Pride Day

Mongolia celebrated National Pride Day on Saturday, honouring Genghis Khan's birthday, with officials emphasizing national unity and historical studies.



Celebrations took place in Ulan Bator, the capital of Mongolia, specifically in front of the statue of Genghis Khan.
PHOTO: X/FILE

MONGOLIA on Saturday commemorated National Pride Day, marking the anniversary of the birth of Genghis Khan.

Mongolian President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh, Prime Minister Luvsan-

namsrai Oyun-Erdene and other members of parliament and government ministers paid their respects to the statue of Genghis Khan in front of the government palace in Ulan Bator, capital of Mongolia.

During the observance, Khurelsukh issued a decree aimed at enhancing Mongolian historiography. This decree seeks to deepen the study of the origins of the Mongolian nation, its state traditions, the heritage of nomadic civilization, and the contributions of the Mongolian people to world history, while also promoting national unity and values to reinforce Mongolia's independence, according to the presidential press office.

Additionally, the president conferred the Order of Genghis Khan, the country's highest state award, on Ban Ki-moon, former secretary-general of the United Nations to recognize his leadership in adopting the Sustainable Development Goals and ratifying the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as his unwavering commitment to global peace, human rights, justice, and equality. — Xinhua

Active Cyber Defence

Japan cybersecurity bill delayed amid postelection uncertainty

THE Japanese government is unlikely to submit an envisioned bill to enhance cybersecurity capabilities by year-end, a government source said Sunday, as discussions have stalled following last month's change in prime ministers and the ruling party's defeat in the general election.

The bill, initially planned for introduction during an extraordinary parliament session in the fall, aims to introduce "active cyber defense" — an approach to monitor and detect signs of cyberattacks against the government and critical infrastructure, and, if necessary, disrupt enemy servers with computer viruses to neutralize them.

Among the issues to be addressed are concerns that active cyber defence, which would involve monitoring communications under normal circumstances, may violate the constitutional guarantee of communication secrecy. — Kyodo