

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Mr Alexey Sambuevich Tsydenov, Chair of the Government of Buryatia Republic, the Russian Federation, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

## Myanmar, Buryatia Republic partner for techno cooperation in industrial production

**C**hairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Government of Russia's Buryatia Republic Chair Mr Alexey Sambuevich Tsydenov, at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his greetings, the Senior General said the Buryatia Republic is cementing significant relations with Myanmar. So, he welcomed the Head of the Buryatia Republic on his goodwill visit to Myanmar.

The Chair of the Government of Bury-

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing explains the potential for cooperation in agriculture, fertilizer production, mineral and industries, education, health and tourism sectors.

atia Republic said he took pride in having a chance to make a goodwill visit to beautiful Myanmar. He expressed his satisfaction with the peace, stability, and pleasant atmosphere in Myanmar during the visit. The delegation warmly appreciated Myanmar's friendly welcome and hospitality.

Both sides frankly exchanged views

on the promotion of friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries, exchange of goodwill visits, primary cultivation of paddy, oil crops and beans in Myanmar; construction of factories to produce natural fertilizers for agricultural purposes, the situation to cooperate in increasing cultivation of sunflower; condi-

tions to use forest products of Myanmar to make plywood and pulps, the potential to collaborate in rubber cultivation and production, increased production of cotton and producing raw materials to finished goods and cooperation in enhancement of technologies in the industrial production.

**SEE PAGE 3**

### Article

The Importance of Kindness, Politeness and Compassion in Healthcare

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

**PAGE 8-9**

### NATIONAL

**PAGE 2**



Myanmar delegation attends China-Myanmar Cultural Exchange Week & 4<sup>th</sup> Twin City Media Forum

### NATIONAL

**PAGE 11**



Myanmar attends Euro Tier, Energy Decentral 2024 in Germany

# NATIONAL

## Empowering Citizens with Wisdom: Key to National Strength and Progress

Wisdom equips individuals with the ability to critically analyze right and wrong, good and bad, and cause and effect.

When every citizen possesses wisdom and knowledge, the nation can cultivate true strength that advances the interests of the State.

*(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony of presenting awards to outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination 2024 with distinctions in all subjects on 22 July 2024)*



The commemorative group photo of the China-Myanmar Cultural Exchange Week and fourth Twin City Media Forum in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China, on 11-15 November.

## Myanmar delegation attends China-Myanmar Cultural Exchange Week & 4<sup>th</sup> Twin City Media Forum

A Myanmar delegation, led by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, attended the opening ceremony of the China-Myanmar Cultural Exchange Week and the 4<sup>th</sup> Twin City Media Forum, held in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China, from 11 to 15 November.

The delegation, accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador to China U Tin Maung Swe, Consul-General U Thwin Htet Lin in Yunnan Province, and other officials, continued their study tour on 13 November. On 14 November, they visited several sites, including a media centre, a traditional Chuxiong Yi ethnic knitting business, in Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture and the Tianchi Mountain Lake Recreation Beach in Kunming City. In the afternoon, the Union Minister and his team visited the Chuxiong-Yi Ethnic Traditional Digital Embroidery Industry Centre in Chuxiong. The ethnic group, which started with 13 workshops in 2022, has grown to more than 500 workshops this year, significantly increasing its income. Through market promotion, they have expanded their reach from Shanghai and Beijing to exhibitions in Paris and Milan, showcasing

their embroidery styles, clothing types, and designs. The delegation toured the exhibition, which featured designs, clothing, archival photos, and practical knitting demonstrations.

Afterwards, indigenous Chuxiong Yi ethnic models wore their traditional and innovative knitted dresses in a fashion show. During the event, the Myanmar Radio and Television group performed the song "Malay Lat Khat Than", and the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture's traditional choral dance group performed the "Welcome to Mandala Land" song.

Tianchi Mountain Lake, known as "the shining pearl buried in the highlands", was constructed in imitation of the lake at the Summer Palace in Beijing. The lake stretches 40 kilometres from north to south and is 12.5 kilometres wide. As it is located at 1,886 metres above sea level, it is divided into two parts by two dams. Like other lakes in Yunnan Province, it plays a vital role in maintaining biodiversity.

Yesterday afternoon, the Union minister and the delegation left Kunming by air and arrived back in Yangon in the evening. — MNA/TKO

## Fuel available, prices drop during Tazaungdine Festival

THE Maravijaya Buddha in Nay Pyi Taw and Taunggyi are currently hosting the Tazaungdine festival with lantern and hot-air balloon displays. At the same time, Kathina robe-offering ceremonies and related religious events are being held vibrantly across Myanmar. These celebrations have led to a notable increase in travel, with large numbers of motor vehicles transporting festival-goers to various locations.

Thanks to the Fuel Import, Storage, and Distribution Supervisory Committee's proactive management, sufficient fuel is made available, enabling the public to buy fuel smoothly as needed. Fuel prices also dropped by K10 to K35 per litre compared to previous days, according to reports. — MNA/KZL



## MRF member associations, partners provide K500M in flood relief aid

FOR flood-affected areas, Myanmar Rice Federation's member associations and partner companies transferred relief assistance totalling K500 million to the Leading Committee for Farmer Rights Protection and Enhancement of their Benefits, according to MRF.

It aims to help farmers in flood-affected regions and states, including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, regrow damaged crops and prevent a decline in production of damaged crop fields, MRF said in a statement on 15 November.

The transfer of the financial

assistance allocated for Nay Pyi Taw Council Area was held on 14 November at Thanetpin Sate village in Pynmana Township. It was attended by the MRF chair, director from the Department of Agriculture's paddy session, staff officer from the regional agriculture department in Nay Pyi Taw and farmers from six townships which were covered in water.

In addition to K500 million, MRF will continue offering financial support worth K1250 million in collaboration with the agriculture department. — MT/ZS

Advertise  
with us/ Hotline:

09 255597511, 09 454237515

# 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)*

As the full moon of Tazaungmone which coincides with Samañaphala Day is one of the significant days of Buddhism, Myanmar people have been preserving a good tradition with lighting activities in the Tazaungdine festival yearly.

Buddhists observe the Sabbath by meditating, reciting the Pathana and Paritta, offering Kathina robes to the Sangha, and visiting religious monuments on that significant day.

Yesterday evening, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, and Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime



SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla light oil lamps for Tazaungdine Festival.

## Myanmar, Buryatia Republic partner for techno ...

### FROM PAGE 1

They also discussed the promotion of technological cooperation in mineral production and transport services, cooperation in tourism development, extension of direct flights, sending of scholarship students to improve human resources, enhancement of cooperation in the education sector, prospects to promote further collaboration in the health sector, religious and cultural exchange, and political progress in Myanmar.

The delegation led by the Chair of the Buryatia Republic Government arrived in Myanmar on 12 November. During the visit, they toured landmarks in Yangon, including the Shwedagon Pagoda and Chaungtha Beach, as well as other significant venues in Ayeyawady Region. They have more plans to visit prominent areas in Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Union Ministers U Tin Oo Lwin, Dr Charlie Than, U Tun Ohn, Dr Nyunt Pe and Dr Thet Khian Win, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo and officials. The Chairman of the Buryatia Republic Government was accompanied by Mr Iskander Azizov, Russian Ambassador to Myanmar, Deputy Head of Buryatia Republic Health Minister Mrs Ludupova Evgeniia Iurevne and delegation members. — MNA/TTA

## Religious edifices in regions/states host lighting activities on Samañaphala Day, on full moon of Tazaungmone



Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye and his wife, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, and Union-level dignitaries and their wives, lit oil lamps, offered flowers and water dedicated to the Lord Buddha at Shwephonepint Pagoda in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory as enjoying the Tazaungdine lighting festival.

Roads, buildings and trees in the compound of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) were illuminated with multi-colour lighting to mark the Tazaung-

Residents enjoy Satuditha (charity) food during the Tazaungdine Festival.

dine lighting festival. Families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) happily enjoyed the festival.

Religious edifices in regions and states hosted Tazaungdine lighting festivals. Moreover, people joined ceremonies to pay homage to Shin Uppagutta, set oil lamps afloat on the water, offer Mathoe robes to members of the Sangha and Buddha images, and donate rice to members of the Sangha. Moreover, people participated in the charity fairs.

In the evening, well-wishers donated Cassia bud salad to each other while some people freely discarded property for all.

During the Tazaungdine holidays, resorts, beaches and parks in regions and states were crowded with holiday-makers. — MNA/TTA

# NATIONAL

A ceremony to hold the hot-air balloon contest to mark the 2024 Tazaungdine lighting festival was held in conjunction with the awarding of the Mathoe lotus robe contest at the water fountain square in the precinct of Buddha Park of the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday evening.

Also present at the ceremony were State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, the Council Secretary and his wife, the Joint Secretary and his wife, Chair of Government of Russia' Buryatia Republic Mr Alexey Sambuevich Tsydenov and delegation members, council members and their wives, Union ministers and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the



SAC Chair Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents the first prize-winning bowl, K1.5 million, and a certificate of honour to Amara Shwepyi Loom from Mandalay Region.

## Winners awarded in hot-air balloon contest, Mathoe lotus robe weaving contest 2024 at Tazaungdine lighting festival at Maravijaya Buddha Image



The Senior General and Buryatia Republic Chair from Russia watch the ascent of a hot-air balloon in honour of the latter.

Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and officials, contestants from regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area in the hot-air balloon contest and lotus robe-weaving contest together with pilgrim monks and people.

The Senior General and his wife, the Chair of Government of Russia's Buryatia Republic and attendees paid homage to the Maravijaya Buddha Im-

age and offered flowers, water and oil lamps. They also lit oil lamps together.

After visiting the pagoda, they beat Saddhahipati Bell.

The Senior General, his wife and attendees were welcomed by ethnic traditional cultural troupes with traditional dances.

The Senior General and the Chair of the Government of Russia's Buryatia Republic and delegation members watched the release of hot-air balloons.



They also enjoyed releasing the Myat Yaungchi Seinnaban hot-air balloon to mark the Russia-Myanmar friendly relations. The hot-air balloon was decorated with Myanmar handicraft works and pictures bearing a lotus flower and a letter Buryatia.

While making preparations, ethnic cultural troupes performed dances and songs to audiences.

The Senior General and the Chair of Government of Russia's Buryatia

Republic visited the stone plaque chambers.

SAC members presented prizes to the relevant winners in the lotus robe weaving contest.

Council member General Mya Tun Oo, the Joint Secretary and the Secretary presented the fifth prize to the Nay Pyi Taw Council team, the fourth to the Kachin State team and the third prize to the Sagaing Region team, respectively.

The SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister gave the trophy, cash award and a certificate of honour to the second prize-winning Taninthayi Region team.

The Senior General presented the trophy, cash award and a certificate of honour to the first prize-winning Mandalay Region team.

Council members handed prizes to relevant winners in the hot-air balloon contest.

The Council Secretary and the SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister awarded the third prize winning Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, respectively.

The Senior General presented the trophy, cash award and a certificate of honour to the first prize winner, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) team of the Ministry of Defence.

Council members also gave prizes to relevant teams in the night flare hot-air balloon contest.

The Secretary and the the SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister presented prizes to the third prize-winning Ministry of Border Affairs and the second prize-winning Ministry of Home Affairs, respectively.

**SEE PAGE 5**

# NATIONAL



## Winners awarded in hot-air balloon contest, ...

### FROM PAGE 4

The Senior General gave the trophy, cash award and a certificate of honour to the first prize-winning Ministry of Transport and Communications.

The Senior General and his wife cordially greeted audiences to the contests and festivals and pilgrim monks and people.

The Tazaungdine lighting festival was held at the Buddha Park of Maravijaya Buddha Im-

age in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory from 13 to 15 November. During the period, Maha Pathana treatises and religious verses were recited. Moreover, fireworks were displayed, hot-air balloons were released, and the second Mathose lotus robe-weaving contest was held for the Buddha image. The precinct of the Buddha image was illuminated with LED bulbs. The shops sold MSME products, domestic products, foodstuffs and personal goods. Artistes from the Fine Arts Department and Pho Chit theatrical troupe performed entertainment, crowded with pilgrims and people. — MNA/TTA

The Senior General and Buryatia Republic Chair from Russia views the stone inscription stupas at Buddha Park of the Maravijaya Buddha Image.

## Russian Buryatia delegation visits notable places in Nay Pyi Taw

The delegation from Russia's Buryatia Republic, led by Mr Alexey Sambuevich Tsydenov, visited notable landmarks in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The delegation began their visit at the National Museum, where they were greeted by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Daw Nu Mra Zan and officials. They were particularly impressed by scale models of the famous Bagan pagodas, including Ananda, Thatbyinnyu, and Dhammayangyi, as well as the royal thrones and

other artefacts on display. The visit concluded with the signing of the guest book and an exchange of gifts.

A luncheon was hosted by Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo in honour of the visiting delegation at the Aureum Palace Hotel. The event was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein, other Union ministers, and the Russian Ambassador to Myanmar.

The delegation then visit-



Russian Buryatia Republic Chair Mr Alexey Sambuevich Tsydenov tours the Defence Services Museum yesterday.



ed the Defence Services Museum in Zeyathiri Township, where they learned about the

monarchical era of Myanmar's ancient kings and explored exhibits showcasing the country's heritage. After their tour, they signed the guest book.

Russia's Buryatia Republic Chair Mr Alexey Sambuevich Tsydenov views round the National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw.

In the evening, the delegation attended the Tazaungdine Festival at Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw. The festival included a lighting ceremony and a hot-air balloon launch. — MNA/TRKM

# NATIONAL

## Golden robe donation ceremony celebrated at Maravijaya Buddha Image



SAC Members, Union Ministers and dignitaries attend the ceremony to offer golden robes to the Maravijaya Buddha Image.

THE grand offering ceremony of golden robes to the revered Maravijaya Buddha Image was held for the second time yesterday morning at the auspicious time in Buddha Park, Dekkinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

Members of the State Administration Council, General Nyo Saw, Dr Ba Shwe, and U Shwe Kyein, and their spouses,

along with Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, senior officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, and representatives from religious associations joined the event.

Participants escorted 15 sets of golden robes in a ceremonial procession to the sacred

Maravijaya Buddha Image. Devotees carried the robes clockwise around the statue in veneration while religious groups recited the Nine Attributes of the Buddha.

The robes were folded four times, gathered together, and presented by SAC Member General Nyo Saw, Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture,

and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo. The lay disciples then placed the robes on the hands of the Maravijaya Buddha Image, symbolizing their reverence.

During this time, the MC read the blessing for the golden robe offering. The attendees, led by General Nyo Soe, paid homage to the Maravijaya Buddha statue, presenting offerings of

food, fruits, water, and candles and sending merit and blessings to the devas and guardians of the 31 realms. The ceremony concluded with a recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Titthatu three times to pray for the endurance of the Buddha's teachings.

As part of Myanmar's traditional Buddhist customs, robe offerings are prepared in the days leading up to the full moon of Tazaungmone and completed before dawn on the full moon day as an offering to the Buddha. This ritual is celebrated annually across towns and villages with vibrant festivity. Among the most revered Buddha images, the Maravijaya Buddha Image is highly venerated, and this year marks the second donation of golden robes to this sacred statue led by State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and his family. — MNA/KZL

## Tazaungmone full moon day celebrations attract devotees across Nay Pyi Taw

ON the 13<sup>th</sup> full moon day of the 1386 ME (the full moon of Tazaungmone), which was celebrated yesterday, various pagodas, stupas, and shrines within the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area saw a large number of people engaging in meritorious acts. Devotees and those performing good deeds, including those who took Precepts, were involved in charitable activities and made the day particularly lively.

In the morning, residents of Nay Pyi Taw visited several revered sites such as the Maravijaya Buddha Image, the Uppatasanti Pagoda, the Datusaya Stupa, the Eternal Peace Pagoda, the Bodhi Gaya in Nay Pyi Taw, the Mahathakyananthi Pagoda, the Yanaungmyin Shwelethla

Stupa, the Yanaungchantha Pagoda, the Hlekwin Hill Pagoda, the Koenawin Stupa, and the Hsutaungpyae Lawka Marazein Stupa. At these sites, people engaged in religious activities such as chanting, offering worship, making merit, and donating charity feasts.

Additionally, people in Nay Pyi Taw engage in the practice of making Kathin donations once a year, which typically occurs during the Tazaungmone. Villages, wards, and streets organize collective Kathin offerings at monasteries, and making donations to the Sangha.

Since the Tazaungdine festival falls on a public holiday, many people from surrounding areas visit the pagodas and shrines in Nay Pyi Taw. Pop-



Devotees are seen at the Uppatasanti Pagoda.

ular destinations such as the National Landmarks Garden, Safari Park, Zoological Gardens, Ngalaik Elephant Camp, and Mingala Lake were filled with visitors seeking relaxation.

The term "Tazaung" refers to a traditional form of lighting involving candles, oil lamps, and torches, while "Mone" refers to brilliance. The phrase symbolically means "a bright blaze of light", which reflects the practice of lighting oil lamps at pagodas and houses. In the evening, people also donated food, offered support, and contributed to various charity efforts in a peaceful and joyous atmosphere. — MNA/KZL

# NATIONAL

**T**HE Tazaungmone Festival, held at the Maravijaya Buddha Image, concluded successfully yesterday, attracting a large crowd of devout Buddhists from various regions. The event, which marked the final day of the festival, saw attendees from all over the country gather to pay respect and engage in spiritual activities.

The Maravijaya Buddha Image, renowned for its high religious significance, became a focal point for devout people who participated in the festival's activities, including offering oil lamps and reciting prayers. Security measures were put in place to ensure smooth access to the area, with traffic being managed efficiently to avoid any disruptions. Attendees were able to visit various prayer sites, observe traditional rituals, and enjoy the illuminated displays of the festival, including the successful release of lanterns into the sky.

Throughout the event, visitors enjoyed Myanmar's cultural performances, including traditional music and dance, with prominent figures contributing to the entertainment. Vendors selling local goods, including traditional food and handmade crafts, were also present, adding to the vibrant atmosphere.

The festival, which ran from 13 November, was a significant religious and cultural occasion, attracting people from across Myanmar to engage in both spiritual devotion and community celebration. — MNA/KZL

## Tazaungdine Festival at Maravijaya Buddha Image concludes successfully



Photos depict pagoda-goes and festival-goers on pilgrimage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image (above) and enjoying festivities (below) on the Full Moon of Tazaungmone.



## OPINION

### Overcome challenges of climate change through global strength

If countries continue with current climate policies, global temperatures are projected to rise by 3.1° Celsius above before the industrial era by 2100 – over twice the increase seen in the past decade, according to a United Nations annual report comparing climate impacts with these countries' pledges.

These countries agreed to limit global warming to 1.5°C as part of the Paris Agreement in 2015 to prevent dangerous consequences. However, greenhouse gas emissions increased by 1.3 per cent during the period between 2022 and 2023, reaching a record volume of 57.1 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide.

As a source of carbon emission, the global population is currently increasing, contributing significantly to carbon emissions. Factories, machinery, and vehicles release gases and pollutants

All global countries, to combat this, must reduce their reliance on fossil fuels and stop deforestation to prevent the emergence of barren hills and plains while promoting tree cultivation in all parts of the world as part of conserving the environment and habitats of living beings in order to defy climate change, especially global warming. That is why accelerating the use of renewable energy is essential to overcome the challenges posed by climate change.

ciers, rising sea levels, and shortages of food and drinking water year after year. Additionally, the depletion of forests, which absorb carbon dioxide, exacerbates global warming.

Global countries must implement effective management strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change, alleviating the suffering caused by natural disasters and global warming. Experts have warned that nations may face severe consequences from rising temperatures. Therefore, it is crucial for everyone to be aware of the potential impacts of environmental degradation.

All global countries, to combat this, must reduce their reliance on fossil fuels and stop deforestation to prevent the emergence of barren hills and plains while promoting tree cultivation in all parts of the world as part of conserving the environment and habitats of living beings in order to defy climate change, especially global warming. That is why accelerating the use of renewable energy is essential to overcome the challenges posed by climate change.

that contaminate soil, water, and air worldwide. The global people's heavy reliance on fossil fuels for daily activities exacerbates the spread of greenhouse gases, leading to rising global temperatures. Additionally, poor forest management, often without effective planning, results in natural disasters, threatening biodiversity and ecosystems.

Currently, the world is experiencing a temperature increase of 1.3° Celsius compared to the pre-industrial era. People globally are suffering the impacts of unprecedented temperatures, both day and night. This warming contributes to the spread of infectious diseases, deteriorates public health, triggers natural disasters, and exacerbates malnutrition, particularly among children. These factors lead to the outbreak of various catastrophes.

Climate change causes significant suffering for people worldwide, leading to flash floods, droughts, heatwaves, wildfires, storms, melting glaciers, rising sea levels, and shortages of food and drinking water



# The Importance of Kindness, Politeness and Compassion in Healthcare

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

In the heartfelt land of healthcare, treating patients with kindness, politeness, and compassion is a crucial role and landmark for respective institutions. The way healthcare providers interact with patients has profound implications not only for individual well-being but also for overall health outcomes. In an environment often characterized by stress and vulnerability, the need for empathy and respect is paramount. This essay explores why kindness, politeness and compassion should be foundational principles for healthcare providers and how they can enhance patient experiences and improve health outcomes.

❖ **Building Trust and Understanding:** One of the primary benefits of treating patients with kindness is the establishment of trust and understanding. When healthcare providers approach patients with warmth and respect, they foster an environment where patients feel safe to

express their concerns and fears. This trust is crucial, as it encourages open communication, allowing healthcare professionals to gather comprehensive information about a patient's condition. When patients feel heard and understood, they are more likely to follow medical advice, attend follow-up appointments, and engage in their treatment plans.

❖ **Enhancing Patient Satisfaction:** Patient satisfaction is a vital metric in healthcare, directly linked to quality of care. Studies consistently show that compassionate interactions lead to higher patient satisfaction scores. When healthcare providers take the time to listen actively, provide clear explanations, and demonstrate honest concern for their patients' well-being, it creates a positive experience. This satisfaction not only reflects the quality of care but also impacts a patient's overall health journey. Satisfied patients are more likely to adhere to treatment protocols and report better health outcomes.

❖ **Psychological and Emotional Impact:** The psychological and emotional dimensions of healthcare are often overlooked, yet they are critical to patient recovery. Kindness, politeness and compassion can significantly alleviate the anxiety and fear that patients often experi-

ence, particularly in high-stress situations like surgeries or chronic illness management. By providing emotional support and demonstrating empathy, healthcare providers can help patients feel more in control and resilient. This emotional backing can enhance patients' coping mechanisms and contribute to quicker recovery times and improved mental health.

❖ **Ethical Responsibility:** Healthcare providers have an ethical obligation to treat patients with dignity and respect. Compassionate care aligns with the principles of medical ethics, which emphasize the importance of kindness and respect for patient autonomy.

By expressing these principles through kind interactions, healthcare providers fulfil their moral duties, enhancing not just the individual patient experience but also the integrity of the healthcare system as a whole. Compassionate care reflects a commitment to holistic curative, acknowledging that physical health is intertwined with emotional and psychological well-being.

❖ **Challenges and Solutions:** Despite the clear benefits of kindness, politeness and compassion, healthcare providers often face challenges in delivering such care. High patient loads, time constraints, and the pressures

of medical environments can delay the ability to engage compassionately.

However, organizations can support providers by fostering a culture of compassion through training programs, adequate staffing, and promoting work-life balance. Encouraging self-care among providers can also enhance their capacity for empathy, enabling them to be more present and engaged with their patients. Healthcare providers should treat patients with kindness, speaking to them politely and acting with compassion.

Briefly, treating patients with kindness, politeness, and compassion is essential for effective healthcare. It builds trust and mutual understanding, enhances patient satisfaction, and promotes emotional well-being, all of which contribute to better health outcomes.

As the healthcare landscape continues to evolve, prioritizing compassionate care must remain a central focus. By embracing kindness, politeness, and compassion as fundamental principles, healthcare providers can create a caring and effective healthcare system that values the individual experiences of patients and promotes healing in all its dimensions.



## Study finds techniques to protect neurons from harmful impact of high-fat diet on multiple sclerosis progression

*New research shows that palm oil-induced ceramide production worsens MS progression.*

A recent study led by Patrizia Casaccia, the founding director of the Advanced Science Research Centre at the CUNY Graduate Centre and Einstein Professor of Biology and Biochemistry, has provided new insights into the harmful effects of palm oil on the central nervous system, particularly in relation to Multiple Sclerosis (MS). This groundbreaking research delves into how certain enzymes, ceramide synthase 5 (CerS5) and ceramide synthase 6 (CerS6), are implicated in the toxic effects of a diet high in palm oil. The study suggests that these enzymes are responsible for exacerbating MS symptoms by contributing to neu-

ronal damage in the central nervous system. This discovery is crucial as it opens up new avenues for understanding the mechanisms behind neurodegeneration in MS and offers potential strategies for slowing down disease progression through dietary interventions.

### Understanding Multiple Sclerosis (MS)

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is a chronic autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system mistakenly attacks and damages the protective sheath surrounding nerve fibres, known as myelin. Myelin is essential for the proper transmission of electrical signals along nerves. When myelin

is damaged or destroyed, nerve signalling becomes impaired, leading to a wide range of neurological symptoms such as weakness, numbness, vision problems, and in some cases, paralysis. MS symptoms can vary in severity and can fluctuate over time, with periods of relapse and remission. The disease can progress in severity, causing significant long-term disability.

The exact cause of MS remains unknown, but it is generally believed to be the result of a combination of genetic and environmental factors, with autoimmune activity playing a central role. While current treatments focus on modulating the immune system to reduce inflammation and slow the progression of the disease, neurodegeneration — the damage to neurons and their protective myelin — remains a significant challenge. Much of the

damage in MS occurs because of inflammation, but the molecular processes that lead to neuronal damage and the progression of the disease are still not fully understood.

### The Role of Diet in MS

Research has shown that diet can have a profound impact on the severity and progression of MS. A high-fat diet, in particular, has been implicated in worsening MS symptoms, but the exact mechanisms by which this occurs were not fully understood until now. Previous work, including studies from Casaccia's own lab, demonstrated that certain dietary fats, particularly those found in palm oil, could influence the course of the disease. However, this new study provides the first molecular explanation of how palm oil might negatively impact neuronal health in the context of MS.

### Palm Oil, CerS5, and CerS6: Key Players in the Study

Palm oil is a commonly used vegetable oil that is rich in palmitic acid, a saturated fat. Casaccia's research team focused on understanding how palmitic acid in palm oil could contribute to the exacerbation of MS symptoms. Their investigation centered around ceramide synthase enzymes, particularly CerS5 and CerS6, which are responsible for producing ceramides — lipid molecules that play a crucial role in cell structure and function. Ceramides are important components of cellular membranes and have been implicated in various cellular processes, including cell death and inflammation.

The researchers hypothesized that in neurons, palmitic acid from palm oil might be converted into a toxic form of ceramide, called C16 ceramide, by

the enzymes CerS5 and CerS6. This ceramide is known to cause mitochondrial damage within neurons, disrupting their energy supply. Neurons require large amounts of energy to maintain their function and combat inflammation. When mitochondrial function is impaired, neurons are unable to meet their energy demands, making them more susceptible to damage and death.

### Key Findings of the Study

The study utilized an experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE) model, which mimics the inflammatory processes seen in MS. This animal model is commonly used in MS research to test potential therapeutic approaches. In the study, the researchers fed mice a diet high in palm oil and observed the effects on their disease progression. The results showed that a



Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is an autoimmune disease where the immune system damages myelin, impairing nerve function and causing neurological symptoms. PHOTO: ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/CANVA

palm oil-rich diet led to a more severe course of MS in the mice, supporting the idea that dietary fats, particularly those found in palm oil, can worsen the symptoms of MS. Next, the team tested the impact of inactivating the

enzymes CerS5 and CerS6 in the neurons of these mice. By genetically deleting these enzymes, the researchers found that the neurodegeneration typically induced by a palm oil-rich diet was prevented.

Source: ANI



# NATIONAL

## Devotees flock to Shwedagon on Tazaungmone Full Moon Day

ON the auspicious Tazaungmone Full Moon Day, also known as Samanaphala Day, Yangon was vibrant, with worshippers and devotees offering merit and donations at the sacred Shwedagon Pagoda and other pagodas. Yesterday, Myanmar's Buddhists celebrated one of the nation's most revered days by making offerings and paying homage to Shwedagon Pagoda and other sacred sites throughout Yangon.

The Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees organized the 1386 ME Tazaungmone Full Moon Samanaphala ceremony on designated areas of the pagoda platform yesterday morning. Attendees included Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, regional ministers, board members, staff, religious associations, participants from the 36<sup>th</sup> Robe Weaving Contest, and worshippers. Carrying traditional golden robes, participants circumambulated the pagoda in a clockwise direction, starting at the ancient Buddha statues and paying homage by offering the golden robes.

Following this, the chief minister and officials offered golden robes to the precious Buddha image on the upper terrace of



Photos showcase devotees and worshippers on pilgrimage to Yangon's prominent pagodas on the Full Moon of Tazaungmone.

the pagoda. Board members and religious groups then presented the golden robes to the four Buddha images — Kakusandha, Konagamana, Kassapa, and Gotama — on the lower terrace. Afterwards, they offered traditional alms, including food, flowers, water, and incense, at the Shwedagon Pagoda. The Board of Trustees also made offerings

to the distinguished Sayadaws presiding over the event.

The morning was full of water sprinkling ceremonies, robe offering ceremonies, and Sayadaws blessing attendees with the Five Precepts and delivering sermons. At the Botahtaung Pagoda, officials, board members, religious associations, and donors offered golden robes to

Buddha statues, participated in circumambulation, and presented awards to winners of the robe-weaving contest.

Similar ceremonies were held at other significant Yangon pagodas, including the Maha Wizaya Pagoda, Sule Pagoda, Kyaikakan Pagoda, and Koehtetkye Pagoda, where monks and donors offered alms, golden robes, and prayers for world peace.

Across Myanmar, the Samanaphala Day was marked with large gatherings at pagodas for robe offerings, Buddha sermons, and massive communal alms events. — Zaw Min Latt (MNA)/KZL



## Tazaungmone Full Moon Day: Mandalay brims with devotion and festivities

ON the Full Moon Day of Tazaungmon, Mandalay was lively as people engaged in religious merit-making and enjoyed leisurely activities across the city. Starting at dawn, residents and visitors thronged pagodas, stupas, and Dhamma halls to make donations, offer Kathina robes, and participate in almsgiving and Dhamma activities.

Prominent temples like Mahamuni Buddha Image saw monks and devotees gather for face-washing rituals and offerings of food, water, and flowers while chanting and meditative sessions were held throughout the day. Other sacred sites – the Mandalay Hill, Kyauktawgyi, and

Shwekyemyin pagodas – hosted robe donation ceremonies and candle-lighting festivities.

The evening was highlighted by a sea of candlelights at temples, with devotees releasing paper lanterns and illuminating their homes, creating a vibrant citywide display. Local parks, including City Garden on Strand Road and Taungthaman Lake, were also abuzz with residents and visitors enjoying the festival atmosphere. — Maung Aye Chan/KZL

This image shows pagoda-goers at one of the pagodas in Mandalay.



# NATIONAL

## Myanmar attends Euro Tier, Energy Decentral 2024 in Germany

U Kyaw Htin Lin, Charge d’Affaires at the Embassy of Myanmar in Berlin, attended the opening ceremony of co-located Euro Tier 2024 and Energy Decentral 2024 on 12 November in Hanover, Germany, on behalf of the Myanmar’s Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

Euro Tier 2024, organized by the German Agricultural Society (commonly known as DLG), is a leading international trade fair for efficient, innovative and sustainable animal husbandry. A parallel trade fair – Energy Decentral 2024 – is a networking platform for leading stakeholders in the global renewable energy sector. Those events took place from 12 to 15 November 2024, with over 2,282 booths from 51 countries and attracting 220,000 international visitors.

Mr Hubertus Paetow, DLG president and Mr Stephan Weil, Saxony’s Chief Minister, gave opening remarks and handed over awards to award-win-



This image depicts attendees of the Energy Decentral 2024 Official Opening Tour.

ning companies, respectively. Officials concerned also inspected the booths on the exhibition grounds.

Officials of Germany’s central government, regional and local gov-

ernment officials, heads and diplomats of the foreign embassies in Germany, officials of the livestock and energy sector and representatives attended the opening ceremony. — ASH/KK



This photo showcases Myanmar’s beauty pageant, Miss Thet San Andersen, in a golden owl national costume.

### Myanmar beauty pageant competes with golden owl costume at Miss Universe 2024

IN the Miss Universe 2024 pageant being held in Mexico, Miss Thet San Andersen, representing Myanmar, entered the competition wearing a golden owl costume as her national costume.

In the Miss Universe 2024 pageant, the golden owl symbolizes good omens in Myanmar. The costume was reportedly created and sewn by designer Myat Kalayar Myo.

“Myanmar people hang cute little owls with round eyes as good luck charms or symbolic offerings to invite prosperity. If an owl enters the house, they consider it an omen that money will come. They often release the owl by pouring gold and silver water on it. Therefore, the golden owl is intended to bring good omens to the public. The cute Myanmar golden owl is presented as a national costume,” said Thet San Andersen.

In the “30 Second Hot Picks” list of international beauty pageants for Miss Universe 2024, Miss Thet San Andersen ranks 20<sup>th</sup>. In the “Voice for Change Project” fan vote, she is ranked 16<sup>th</sup> among the 20 international beauty pageants.

In the 73<sup>rd</sup> Miss Universe 2024 pageant, which will be held on 16 November, Miss Thet San Andersen, representing Myanmar, is competing alongside contestants from more than 70 countries. — ASH/TKO

## MTF to hold Myanmar Tourism Fair 2025 at national level

THE Myanmar Tourism Federation (MTF) will organize the Myanmar Tourism Fair 2025 at the national level, in collaboration with its sister associations, to promote Myanmar’s tourism sector, according to an official from the MTF.

“We aim to promote Myanmar’s travel and tourism industry and will be working with our sister associations to achieve this goal. The specific month for the event has not yet been decided. However, to plan for the Myanmar Tourism Fair 2025, we met with our sister associations on 12 November,” the official said.

The Union of Myanmar Travel Association (UMTA), a sister association of the MTF, plans to hold a travel



This photo depicts the Myanmar Tourism Exhibition 2023.

exhibition in June 2025. To attract overseas tourists to Myanmar in 2025, travel companies from various tourism sectors are also exploring new markets. — ASH/MKKS

## MMPO holds its 20<sup>th</sup> Collective Maha Kathina offering ceremony

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO), they held their 20<sup>th</sup> communal Maha Kathina offering ceremony at the Naga Cave Kalewa Tawya Monastery Buddhism Learning Centre situated in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region.

More than K30 million in

cash donations and over K10 million worth of offerings, including robes for monks, were donated at the ceremony. Additionally, artistes provided day meals to 600 monks.

MMPO Chair Academy Sithu U Kyi Soe Tun, Vice-Chair U Aye Kyu Lay, patrons, director Alinka Kyawswa

Academy Pachi Soe Moe, academy-awards winners Yan Aung, and Khant Sithu, U Win Myaing, Nwet Nwet San, Mothers Group, Academy May Than Nu, Academy Soe Myat Thuzar and Hsu Pan Htwar, Khaing Hnin Wai, Saung Eaindray Tun, and Amy Zan attended the ceremony. — ASH/TRKM



This photo depicts the 20<sup>th</sup> communal Maha Kathina offering ceremony of MMPO.

# NATIONAL BUSINESS

## Myanmar attracts US\$43M FDI from China in Apr-Oct

MYANMAR drew more than US\$43 million from China in the past seven months of the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, including an expansion of the capital by the existing enterprises, as indicated by a statistics release of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Chinese companies primarily made investments in the manufacturing sector.

Singapore is the leading foreign investor in Myanmar, with \$87.74 million of FDI in the past seven months of the current FY, followed by Thailand and China.

The Myanmar Investment Commission gave the green light to 33 foreign projects from seven countries (China,



A general view of the entrance to the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand) to make investments of over \$220 million in the past seven months, adding increased capital by the existing enterprises from China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong SAR, India, Republic of Korea, Japan, Seychelles. MIC prioritizes manufacturing enterprises that need a large labour force to create jobs for locals.

The Transport and Communication

sector pulled \$87.7 million with the capital expansion of \$82.66 million this FY. The manufacturing sector drew over \$84 million, and the services sector received \$44 million. The power sector brought in FDI of \$8.5 million, while investments of less than one million flowed into the agriculture sector, respectively. The livestock and fisheries sector witnessed a \$1 million increase in capital from existing enterprises. — KK

## CBM sells US\$400,000 on 14 Nov

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) injected US\$400,000 into the financial market on 14 November.

It sold 14.5 million Thai baht on 12 November; after announcing to sell 15 million baht to importers on 11 November.

It sold over 800,000 yuan on 11 November; over 2.17 million yuan and \$3,000 again on 8 November after sales of over 2.1 million baht, two million yuan and over \$3,300 on 7 November and about \$9,000, 490,000 yuan and 1.2 million baht

on 6 November.

It announced on 5 November that it would sell seven million yuan and 20 million baht to importers on foreign exchange trading platforms. CBM sold \$15 million, 1.5 million yuan and 100.8 million baht on 4 November.

CBM injected over \$91 million, over 9.8 million yuan and over 610 million baht into the financial market in October 2024. 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 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

## 2024 Shenzhen Food Expo welcomes Myanmar businesspeople

THE 2024 Global High-End Food and Quality Agricultural Products (Shenzhen) Expo, which is scheduled to be held on 7-9 December 2024 at the Shenzhen Convention and Exhibition Centre in Guangdong Province, China, invited the participation of Myanmar businesspeople, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

The expo aims to showcase unique food from various countries, high-end products and quality agricultural products, promote investment opportunities and bolster international cooperation.

The first Shenzhen Food Expo was held on 1-3 December 2023, and 12,000 companies participated. This year's expo is organized by the Agricultural Food Processing Industry Committee of the

China Rural Development Association and arranged by Shenzhen Huajuchen International Convention and Exhibition Group Co, Ltd, focusing on exhibition marketing to attract customers and increase brand awareness and sales.

The exhibition area is 67,500 square metres wide and will feature over 70,000 foods and agricultural products from 1,800 companies. Food brands from the Greater Bay Area and Shenzhen area, snacks, high-end agrarian products and innovative kinds of stuff, kitchen utensils, ready-made food, meat, seafood and frozen meals, imported food products, coffee, alcoholic beverages, drinks, health supplements, packaging goods, equipment and advanced agricultural products will be displayed.

Myanmar companies can enjoy a 50 per cent discount. Officials from the consulate-general are cordially invited to attend the ceremony as well. The exhibition booth (nine square metres) will cost 12,800 yuan per one-side booth and 13,800 yuan for a two-side booth.

Shenzhen's per capita gross domestic product (GPD) is the highest in China. It is also a city in the Guangdong-Hong Kong SAR-Macau Greater Bay Area. This expo will help connect with Chinese businesspeople to boost exports of Myanmar's food products, agricultural produce and fisheries. It will also create an opportunity to entice investors in the food processing industry.

Interested individuals can register to join the 2024 Global High-End Food and Quality Agricultural Products (Shenzhen) Expo through the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization at 067 408622 and email event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/KK

## Agri Dept holds meeting to set 2024-2025 sugarcane floor price

THE Agriculture Department will hold a work coordination meeting on 11 November in Nay Pyi Taw to decide the floor price for sugarcane in the coming 2024-2025 sugarcane season.

Director-General Dr Ye Tint Tun of the Agriculture Department, officials concerned, the chair of the Sugar and Sugarcane Related Products Manufacturers Association, sugar millers, factory owners and sugarcane farm representatives attended the meeting. The director-general discussed matters regarding access to pedigree sugarcane, technical awareness campaigns, sugar export and the association's recommendation to import equipment.

Afterwards, attendees elaborated on the targeted volume for sugarcane milling, purchase price, plans for purchase and delivery, contract farming with sugarcane farmers, work procedures and requirements to fully operate sugar mills and floor price for the 2024-2025 sugar season. Mya Bayin Sugar Mill notified sugarcane growers that it will offer K200,000 per tonne of sugarcane in the 2024-2025 sugarcane season, up from the previous rate of K150,000 in the 2023-2024 sugarcane season.

The hike is to adapt to high sugar prices in domestic markets and cover the input costs of the growers.

Myanmar's annual sugar production is estimated at 450,000 tonnes. Myanmar earlier sent sugar to China and Vietnam beyond self-sufficiency. At present, it is delivered to Vietnam only, U Win Htay, vice-president of the Myanmar Sugar and Cane Related Association (MSCRA), said.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Myanmar's sugar was sent to China's border province. Later, sugar exports were completely halted amid China's strict policy on imports. Therefore, Myanmar's sugar traders call for a quota to have a legitimate export to China. Myanmar enjoyed tax exemption for preferential origin rules while exporting sugar to Vietnam.

Sugarcane is commonly found in the upper Sagaing Region, followed by northern Shan State. It is also found in the western and eastern Bago Region, Yangon Region and Mandalay Region.

The sugarcane is grown in December-January. It can be harvested from November to February of the following years. The sugarcane growing rotation cycle lasts four years in Myanmar. — NN/EM

## Meiji University buys Hilltop Hotel in Tokyo, eyes renovation

*Built in 1937, the hotel was designed by American-born architect William M Vories, known for blending Japanese and Western architectural styles.*

MEIJI University in Tokyo said Friday it has acquired the land and building of Hilltop Hotel adjacent to its main campus with plans to renovate the historic building beloved by many renowned figures in Japanese literature.

The private university aims to reopen the hotel, which has been closed since February due to its run-down condition, as part of projects to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in 2031. It is considering using part of the building for student dormitories.

The art deco-style building, constructed in 1937, was designed by American-born architect William M Vories,

who was known for works incorporating features of both Japanese and Western architecture.

After opening as a hotel in 1954, it was often visited by Yasunari Kawabata, who in 1968 became the first Japanese writer to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, and novelist Yukio Mishima.

The hotel is located on a hilltop near Tokyo's Jimbocho area, home to many publishing companies and bookstores.

"Although its reopening date is undetermined, we'd like to pass it on as a new symbol of the university while maintaining the building's exterior," a university official said. — Kyodo



File photo taken in February 2024 shows the Hilltop Hotel in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward, which has been closed due to its run-down condition. **PHOTO: KYODO**

## TikTok makes AI driven ad tool available globally



**PHOTO: ILLUSTRATION: CANVA**

TIKTOK on Thursday began letting all marketers on its platform use an artificial intelligence-powered tool for generating marketing clips, becoming the latest platform to let advertisers tap into the technology.

The news came with word that Getty Images will make its stockpile of pictures and video available to TikTok's AI powered video generation tool — called Symphony Creative Studio.

Brands will be able to use Getty's licensed images and videos to create AI-generated ads, including marketing messages featuring characters resembling real people, according to the companies.

Getty and TikTok did not disclose financial terms of the deal. — AFP

## Palestinians turn to local soda in boycott of Israel-linked goods

IN a red box factory that stands out among the drab hills of the West Bank, Chat Cola's employees race to quench Palestinians' thirst for local products since the Gaza war erupted last year.

With packaging reminiscent of Coca-Cola's iconic red and white aluminium cans, Chat Cola has tapped into Palestinians' desire to shun brands perceived as too supportive of Israel.

"The demand for (Chat Cola) increased

since the war began because of the boycott," owner Fahed Arar, told AFP at the factory in the occupied West Bank town of Salfit. Julien, a restaurateur in the city of Ramallah further south, said he has stocked his classic red Coca-Cola branded fridge with the local alternative since the war began in October last year. Supermarket manager Mahmud Sidr described how sales of Palestinian products surged over the past year. — AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Over 4,300 new technologies, products shine at China Hi-Tech Fair

THE 26<sup>th</sup> China Hi-Tech Fair (CHTF) kicked off on Thursday in south China's tech hub of Shenzhen, attracting more than 5,000 enterprises and international organizations from over 100 countries and regions.

During the three-day event, more than 4,300 new technologies, products and achievements will be released, including a number of advanced intelligent robots, artificial intelligence digital avatar products, and intelligent terminal applications, according to the organizer.

Enterprises and institutions from the United States, France, the Republic of Korea, Australia, Canada, Denmark and other countries and regions have organized groups to participate in the exhibition, bringing their latest cutting-edge technologies.

The annual CHTF, inaugurated in 1999, is the largest and the most influential science and technology fair in China. — Xinhua

#### Ford fined with US second-largest penalty in history for delaying recalls

US auto-safety regulators on Thursday hit Ford Motor with a hefty civil fine of 165 million US dollars for delaying the recall of more than 600,000 vehicles with defective rearview cameras. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said the penalty is the second-largest in its history and is part of a consent order that will also require Ford to review all recalls it has issued over the past three years to ensure they have been adequate. The action, announced on Thursday by NHTSA, followed a multiyear investigation into the faulty rearview cameras, which the regulator found were prone to an electrical glitch that caused them to fail intermittently. The agency linked the defect to 15 complaints but no injuries.

"NHTSA said that Ford has disputed its findings but agreed to the consent order to administratively settle the issue. The Dearborn, Michigan, automaker said it appreciates the opportunity to resolve the matter and remains committed to improving safety and compliance," reported The Wall Street Journal about the move. — Xinhua

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD



King Charles III turns 76 while undergoing cancer treatment, but remains dedicated to his royal duties. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## King Charles turns 76 after year of little celebration

BRITAIN'S head of state King Charles III turns 76 on Thursday, still in the grip of cancer treatment but with his passion for work undimmed by what his son and heir Prince William called a "brutal" year.

Charles paused royal duties in February after he was diagnosed with an undisclosed cancer. Two and a half months later at the end of April he was back at work.

"The problem is trying to stop him," his wife, Queen Camilla, has said several times since.

Last month, the couple even resumed their foreign travels, with the king pausing his treatment while visiting Australia then Samoa for a Common-

wealth heads of government meeting.

According to those close to him, Charles returned "invigorated" from the 11-day trip, while one palace official said the king intended to return to a "normal" schedule of overseas trips next year.

His desire to fulfil his public duties may be influenced by the fact when he succeeded his mother Queen Elizabeth II, he was the longest-serving heir apparent in British history at 70 years.

Upon ascending the throne on 8 September 2022 when Elizabeth died, Charles pledged to perform his constitutional role "throughout the remaining time God grants me". — AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Business park plans on Nazi camp site sparks ire

PLANS to build a business park on the site of a former Nazi concentration camp have drawn outrage in Austria, with the Mauthausen Memorial calling for the site's preservation. Austrian media revealed this week that the real estate company of Andreas Ramharter, the mayor of Leobersdorf town in Lower Austria, sold a plot of land which houses the remnants of former labour camp barracks.

Around 400 women, mainly Russian, Italian and Polish, were forced to manufacture infantry munitions between September 1944 and April 1945 at the Hirtenberg site, an annex of the Mauthausen concentration camp complex. — AFP

#### Canada's postal workers begin nationwide strike

SOME 55,000 postal workers represented by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) went on a nationwide strike on Friday.

The union issued a statement at midnight saying that after a year of bargaining with little progress, postal workers made the difficult decision to strike. Canada Post had the opportunity to prevent this strike, but it has refused to negotiate real solutions to the issues postal workers face every day, said the CUPW.

"A strike is a last resort," the CUPW said.

The demands listed by the CUPW are fair wages, safe working conditions, the right to retire with dignity, and the expansion of services at the public post office. — Xinhua



Even if Ukraine hypothetically possessed an atomic bomb, it would not impact the battlefield situation. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP/FILE**

## Zelensky's office states nuclear bomb will not help Ukraine win the conflict

UKRAINIAN presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak has said that Ukraine is not engaged in the creation of nuclear weapons, expressing the opinion that even the hypothetical possession of an atomic bomb by Kyiv would not affect the situation on the battlefield.

"Even if Ukraine were able to develop such a weapon in the foreseeable future (which is not on the agenda), it could not deter an empire with the world's second-largest nuclear arsenal. This

is evident," Podolyak said on X on Thursday.

On Wednesday, UK newspaper reported that Ukraine could develop a nuclear bomb within a few months if the United States reduces military aid to Kyiv. Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Heorhii Tykhyi said later that Ukraine does not possess nuclear weapons, does not intend to create them, and closely cooperates with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). — SPUTNIK

## French Senate rejects bill to ban under-16s from attending bullfights

FRANCE'S upper house of parliament on Thursday rejected a bill to ban children under 16 from attending bullfights, which has sparked emotional debate.

In a 237-64 vote, the Senate dominated by the right rejected the legislation that sought to protect children from "traumat-

ic" scenes but enraged aficionados of the centuries-old tradition. French legislation bans cruelty to animals and bullfighting is outlawed in most of France.

However, corrida is allowed in the south in cities such as Bayonne, Nimes and Beziers where it is regarded as a

cultural tradition, despite complaints from activists. "Is it acceptable for minors to witness the suffering of a living being, when their understanding of the values of compassion and benevolence is still being formed?" said senator Samantha Cazebonne, who authored the bill.

"We have a duty to protect their innocence."

Another senator, Guillaume Gontard, added: "Adults standing up and applauding blood is an important symbol. And the responsibility of adults is to protect children." — AFP

# SPORTS

## Myanmar team aims for success at 2024 ASEAN Women's Futsal Championship

U HTAY MYINT, head coach of the Myanmar National Women's Futsal team, said that the Myanmar team will try their best to get good results during the 2024 ASEAN Women's Futsal Championship to be held in the Philippines.

He said at the pre-match press conference held on the morning of 15 November at the Marcopolo Hotel, where the participating teams are staying.

"ASEAN Women's Futsal Championship is a tournament where you can gain good experience. Thailand, Vietnam, and Indonesia are good teams, and the host, the Philippines, is well-prepared for every

match to be difficult. Before this tournament, our team practised and played a warm-up game in Thailand," he continued.

Coaches and captains from the Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam attended the press conference and answered questions from the media.



Photos showcase the Myanmar national women's futsal team training in Thailand for the tournament.



Myanmar national women's futsal team captain, Phu Pwint Khaing, said, "I am pleased to have the opportunity to participate in this tournament. This tour-

namment will help Myanmar in hosting the Asia Cup Women's Futsal Qualifiers next January."

The Myanmar team trained at the KBU Sports Complex in Thailand and left for the Philippines on 14 November to participate in the championship.

Myanmar will compete with the host Philippines on 16 November at 5:30 pm, Vietnam on 17 November at 2:30 pm, Thailand on 18 November at 5:30 pm, and Indonesia on 19 November at 2:30 pm Myanmar standard time. — Htun Htun/ZN



The expanded Club World Cup is the brainchild of FIFA president Gianni Infantino. PHOTO: AFP

## FIFA Club WC trophy unveiled

THE trophy of the restructured FIFA Club World Cup was unveiled Thursday.

The trophy was designed by FIFA and crafted in collaboration with luxury jewellery Tiffany, the world football governing body announced.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino said: "Innovative, inclusive, groundbreaking and truly global, the new 32-team FIFA Club World Cup deserves a trophy that represents all of this. It is both prestigious and timeless — a golden trophy that is a symbol of the future and inspired by the past."

The 2025 Club World Cup will be hosted in 11 cities in the United States from 15 June to 13 July, 2025. The final will be played at the MetLife Stadium in New York. — Xinhua

## China edges Bahrain in World Cup qualifiers, South Korea and Iran remain unbeaten

CHINA registered its second consecutive win in 2026 FIFA World Cup Asian qualifiers, edging Bahrain 1-0 away in a dramatic fashion on Thursday, while South Korea and Iran maintained their unbeaten records with additional wins.

Having suffered three consecutive defeats in the opening rounds, China earned its first victory in the fourth round by beating Indonesia 2-1, but still sat bottom in Group C before Thursday's fifth round fixture, while Bahrain managed one win, two draws and one defeat.

In the 11<sup>th</sup> minute, China's Zhang Yunying missed a scoring chance after a long ball put him through, but his shot was too central and lacked power to trouble goalkeeper Ebrahim Lutfallah.

The home side had a penalty appeal in the 58<sup>th</sup> minute when Mohamed Marhoon



Team China line up for national anthem before the 2026 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers Group C match between China and Bahrain in Riffa, Bahrain, 14 November 2024. PHOTO: WANG HAIZHOU/XINHUA

went down in the box after a collision with Yang Zexiang, but the referee waved play on.

Bahrain thought it had scored the

last-gasp winner in the 87<sup>th</sup> minute when Ali Haram chested it down to slot home, but it was ruled out due to offside after a long time VAR checking. — Xinhua

## Van Nistelrooy says he will 'cherish' Man Utd memories in farewell message

RUUD van Nistelrooy said Friday he would "cherish the memories" of his time at Manchester United in an emotional farewell message days after he left the Premier League club. The Dutchman was put in temporary charge after the sacking of Erik ten Hag late last month. He oversaw three wins and a draw in his four-match spell, signing off with a 3-0 victory against Leicester in the Premier League on Sunday.

The former PSV Eindhoven boss, appointed as an assistant coach in July on a two-year contract, had voiced a desire to stay at Old Trafford under new manager Ruben Amorim. But United issued a statement on Monday confirming the 48-year-old would not be part of the new coaching set-up.

Van Nistelrooy, a star striker for United and Real Madrid, said the English club would always have a "special place" in his heart. — AFP

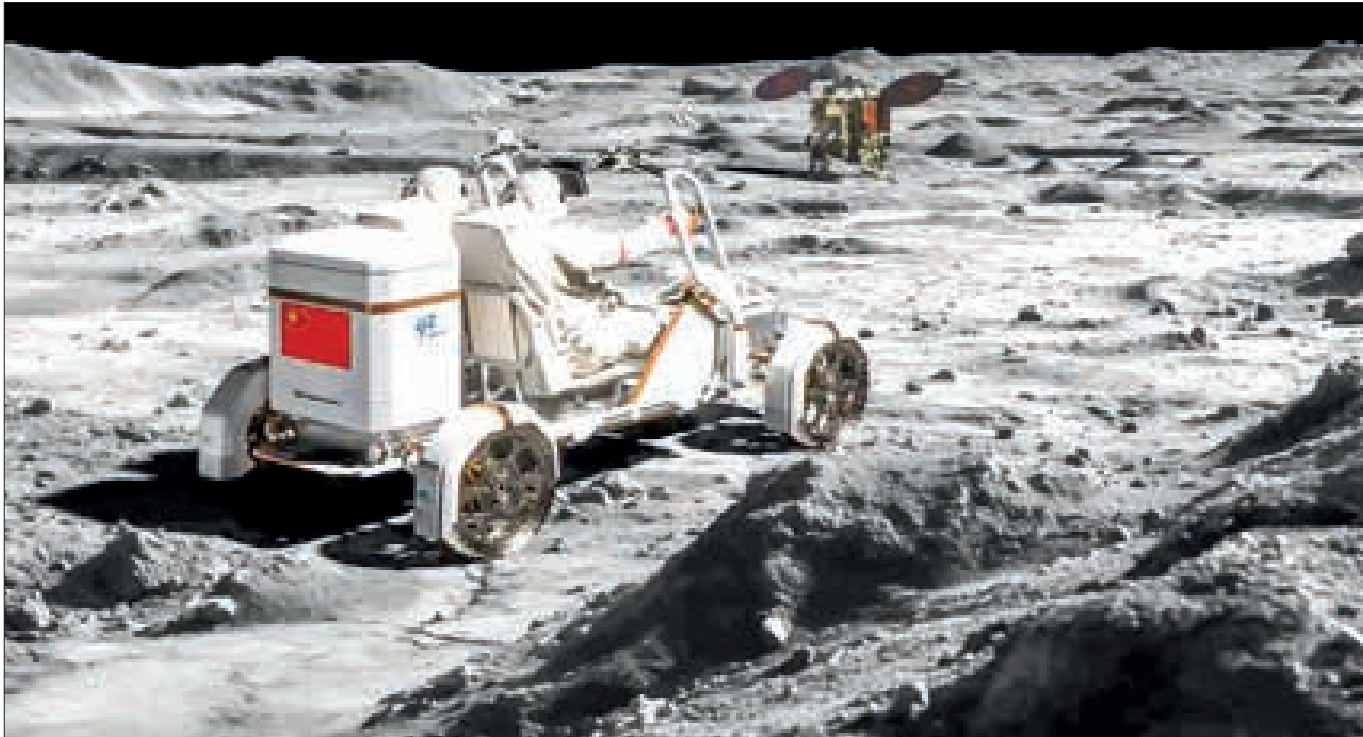
King Charles turns 76 after year of little celebration

PAGE 14



# WORLD

## China's manned lunar rover prototype advances to initial development stage



The rover, which draws inspiration from ancient Chinese chariots, is being developed with contributions from multiple universities and companies, and will support human-machine exploration on the Moon's surface. **PHOTO: ILLUSTRATION: THE CHINA MANNED SPACE ENGINEERING OFFICE (CMSEO)**

THE prototype of a Chinese lunar rover designed for the country's manned lunar missions is now in its initial development phase, according to a statement made by the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST) on Friday.

The lunar rover, featuring a modular and foldable structure, is equipped to carry two astronauts for manned operations. A concept image released by the CAST illustrates the rover, which has the appearance of an open-top off-road vehicle, and incorporates elements from ancient Chinese chariots.

Auto manufacturer GAC Group,

*China's prototype lunar rover for manned missions is in development, featuring a modular, foldable design to carry two astronauts.*

Tsinghua University, Xi'an Jiaotong University, Harbin Institute of Technology and Hong Kong Polytechnic University have all contributed to the design of this lunar

rover, the CAST revealed.

Also, a parallel development programme for China's lunar rover is being carried out by the Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology (SAST).

The manned lunar rover is designed for swift movement on uneven lunar landscapes, precise navigation and positioning, enhanced safety support and continuous real-time communication with Earth. It will, in addition, collaborate with lunar infrastructure to execute integrated human-machine exploration missions on the moon's surface. — Xinhua

### AIMING FOR RECOVERY

## 'Megaquake' warning hits Japan's growth

JAPAN'S growth slowed in the third quarter after warnings of a major earthquake hit activity, official data showed Friday, as Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba seeks to jumpstart the world's fourth-largest economy.

A "megaquake" alert in August and one of the fiercest typhoons in decades resulted in gross domestic product (GDP) expanding just 0.2 per cent between July and September from the previous quarter, according to preliminary government data.

The data met market expectations, but marked a slowdown from a revised 0.5 per cent in the previous three months.

On an annualized basis, GDP grew 0.9 per cent, much slower than the revised 2.2 per cent growth in April-June.

Japan's government is aiming for a "gradual recovery" from decades of stagnation, focusing on wage hikes and investment. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi outlined plans to implement comprehensive economic policies, including a \$64 billion boost for AI and semiconductor sectors by 2030.

Despite challenges, such as Typhoon Shanshan and global trade uncertainties, Japan is working on a new stimulus package and fiscal reforms to support recovery. — AFP

## COP29 host Azerbaijan says doors 'still open' after spat with France

AZERBAIJAN'S "doors are still open", the COP29 presidency's lead negotiator said Thursday after France's ecology minister pulled out of the UN climate summit over "unacceptable" remarks by President Ilham Aliyev.

Aliyev used a speech at COP on Wednesday to attack Paris for alleged colonial "crimes" and "human rights violations" in its overseas territories, notably in the troubled Pacific archipelago

of New Caledonia.

French Environment Minister Agnes Pannier-Runacher slammed the remarks as "deplorable" and said she was cancelling her trip to Baku.

Azerbaijan's leader was using "the fight against climate change for a shameful personal agenda", she added, with relations between the two countries already frosty.

But the COP29 presidency's lead negotiator Yalchin Rafiyev

insisted Thursday that Azerbaijan had fostered "an inclusive process".

"We have opened our doors to everybody to come to engage in very constructive, fruitful discussions. Our doors are still open," he added.

Despite her pullout, Pannier-Runacher said the team of French negotiators in Baku would not relent in their efforts to do a deal "to protect the planet and its populations" from cli-



The conference aims to accelerate climate action by enhancing ambition and enabling action through increased climate finance. **PHOTO: AFP**

mate change.

Relations between Paris and Baku are tense over

France's longtime support for Azerbaijan's arch-rival Armenia. — AFP