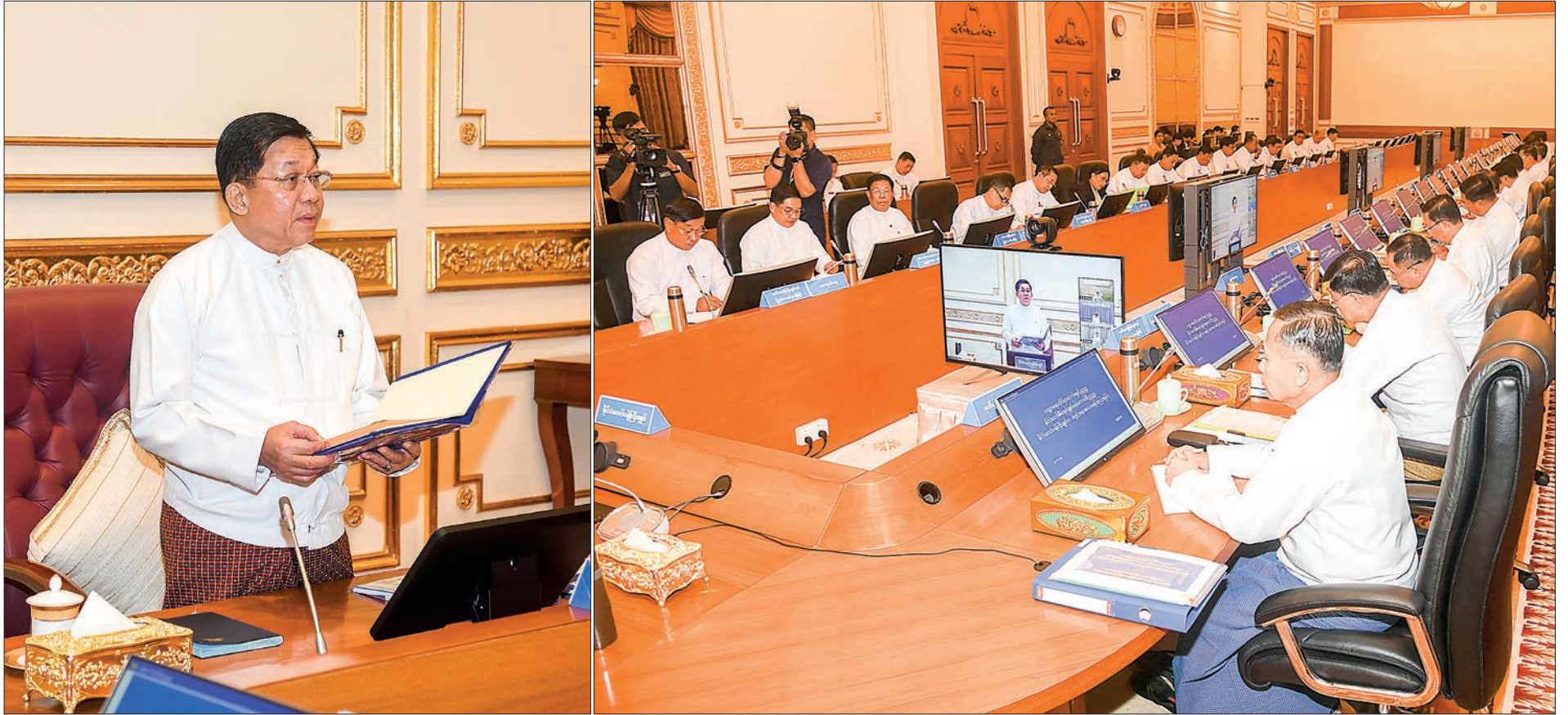


# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the Financial Commission meeting yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

**T**he Senior General pledged to arrange investments and fulfillment of other needs to operate agriculture and livestock-based businesses.

Chairman of the Financial Commission Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said so at the Financial Commission meeting at the SAC Chairman's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Senior General disclosed that this meeting aims to approve the demand for the additional budget for the Union as well as regions and states in the 2024-25 financial year.

He underscored that only when domestic production increases will import volumes be reduced and will spending foreign currency decline. Only then, domestic currency circula-

## Production development can boost State GDP

Union ministries and regional and state governments have to scrutinize the spending of additional budget on prompt development of the State economy and the socioeconomic development of entire people.

tion improves and it will contribute to the stability of the State's monetary sector.

He instructed Union ministries, and regional and state governments to scrutinize the spending of additional budget on prompt development of the State economy and socioeconomic development of the entire people.

He highlighted that the development of production can help increase the GDP of the State. As the development of agricultural, industrial, service and financial sectors are inter-related, efforts must be made for the improvement of agricultural and livestock sectors.

The Senior General pointed out that it is necessary to

consider upgrading airports, repairing railways damaged by natural disasters, and learning opportunities and vocational learning for the offspring of Tatmadaw members and MPF members who sacrificed their lives and limbs in serving duties of State peace and stability and rule of law.

**SEE PAGE 3**

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the financial commission meeting

1. Union ministries, regional and state governments to scrutinize spending of additional budget on prompt development of State economy and socioeconomic development of the entire people.
2. The Senior General pointed out that it is necessary to consider an upgrade of airports, repairing of railways damaged by natural disasters, and learning opportunities and vocational learning for the offspring of Tatmadaw members and MPF members who sacrificed lives and limbs in serving duties of State peace and stability and rule of law.

### Article

## The Quiet Catalyst

By Laura Htet (UDE)

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### NATIONAL

**PAGE 6**



Initiatives to develop Nay Pyi Taw as clean, green, smart city

### NATIONAL

**PAGE 11**



Mount Mongshu's cloud sea sees surge in visitors, expected to increase in Dec

# NATIONAL

## Communities Urged to Unite Against Armed Groups to Safeguard Peace and Security

RESIDENTS must work together to prevent the presence of armed groups in order to reduce acts of terror, as these groups undermine peace and stability in the region and threaten residents' security.

*(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with members of the Kayah State government, state-level departmental officials, town elders and locals on 4 September 2024.)*

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

#### Second Amendment to Myanmar Accountancy Council Law State Administration Council Law No 57/2024

12<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tazaungmone 1386 ME  
27 November 2024

THE State Administration Council hereby enacts this Law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

- This Law shall be called the Second Amendment to the Myanmar Accountancy Council Law.
- Subsection (q) of Section 2 of the Myanmar Accountancy Council Law shall be substituted as follows: -  
“(q) Association means the Myanmar Certified Public Accountants Association or the body that succeeds the said association which is formed as a national-level body related to accounting and conferred duties and authority by the law to implement the missions of the Myanmar Accountancy Council”.
- Section 4 of the Myanmar Accountancy Council Law shall be substituted as follows: -  
“4. The Union Government shall form the Myanmar Accountancy Council with the following persons: -

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| (a) Auditor-General of the Union   | Chairperson        |
| (b) Deputy Auditor-General   | Vice-Chairperson 1 |
| (c) Chairperson of the Association   | Vice-Chairperson 2 |
| (d) Region and State Auditors-General  | Members            |
| (e) Vice-Governor, Central Bank of Myanmar   | Member             |
| (f) Director-General, Internal Revenue Department  | Member             |
| (g) Director-General, Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration                         | Member             |
| (h) Director-General, Department of Inspection, Union Auditor-General's Office                       | Member             |
| (i) Rectors from the Universities of Economics not exceeding 3 in number                             | Member             |
| (j) Nine representatives of associations   | Member             |
| (k) Vice-president, UMFCCI   | Member             |
| (l) Suitable citizen statisticians not exceeding 5 in number   | Member             |
| (m) Director-General (Permanent Secretary), Union Auditor-General's Office                           | Secretary          |
| (n) Director-General, Department Technology Development and Training, Union Auditor-General's Office | Joint Secretary 1  |
| (o) Secretary of the association   | Joint Secretary 2  |

- In Section 12 of the Myanmar Accountancy Council Law,
  - Subsection (g) shall be substituted as follows: -  
“(g) Council Joint Secretary 1”
  - paragraph (h) of Subsection (g) shall be added as follows: -  
“(h) Council Joint Secretary 2”

I hereby sign under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing  
Senior General  
Chairman  
State Administration Council

## Announcement for public awareness on right to object

- Under Article 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law, the Karen National Democratic Party (KNDP), headquartered at No 4/413, Thudanu Road, Ward 4, Hpa-An, Kayin State, has been registered as a political party. The party has submitted to the Union Election Commission its intention to modify and use its party flag and logo as shown.
- Therefore, following Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, it is hereby announced for public awareness that any objections to the proposed changes to the party flag and logo must be submitted to the Union Election Commission within seven days from the date of this announcement, along with valid evidence.

Union Election Commission



The flag design of the Karen National Democratic Party.



The emblem of the Karen National Democratic Party.

## Easily Spot Voting Fraud and Unlawful Acts on Our Website and Mobile App



Findings from the investigation into voting fraud and unlawful acts in the 2020 multiparty democratic general election are available in five languages.

အမျိုးသမီးများအပေါ် အကြမ်းဖက်မှုပျောက်ရေး(၁၆)ရက်တာ လှုပ်ရှားမှု  
၂၅-၁၁-၂၀၂၄ ရက်မှ ၁၀-၁၂-၂၀၂၄ ရက်ထိ

“အမျိုးသမီးများအပေါ်အကြမ်းဖက်မှု ရုပ်တံနိမ့် အားလုံးပေါင်းစု ကြိုးပမ်းလို့  
ဘေဂျင်းကြေညာစာတမ်းနှင့် လုပ်ငန်းစီမံချက် နှစ်(၃၀)ပြည့်ဆီ အရောက်လှမ်းဖို့”

“ Towards 30 years of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action:  
UNITE to End Violence Against Women”

# NATIONAL

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

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

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

### FROM PAGE 1

He pledged to arrange investments and fulfilment of other needs to operate agriculture and livestock-based businesses. Priority will be given to fulfil the basic needs of the people in Nay Pyi Taw as well as regions and states this FY and coming FY.

He stressed that relevant ministries and regional and state officials need to consider how to provide the full volume of inputs to the agricultural tasks.

The Senior General noted that chicken, pig, goat, cow and fish can be bred in relevant regions, if people really operate their businesses, these sectors

## Production development can boost State GDP

can help ensure the food security of the region. Hence, special emphasis must be placed on the welfare of people from basic strata.

The Senior General stressed the need to efficiently allocate the additional budget to Union ministries, regions and states under financial rules and regulations without waste and loss.

Myanmar's GDP is lower

than that of neighbouring and regional countries, so Union-level organizations, regions and states have to strive for an increase in GDP.

Vice-Chairman of the Commission SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win explained that the National Disaster Management Fund must be provided for rehabilitation for un-

expected natural disasters and preventive measures against other disasters, and basic needs and management measures for displaced people and the cash assistance account from the additional budget of the Ministry of Planning and Finance was added with K275 billion. So, the additional budget bill was submitted to seek the approval of the Financial Commission.

Secretary of the Commission Union Minister U Win Shein reported on the additional accounts of the Union, the prepared estimated accounts and the additional budget of the Union for the 2024-25 financial year.

Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo and Union Auditor-General Dr Khin Naing Oo discussed measures related to the bill and measures to be taken in the future for the findings on the budgets.

The Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman and chief ministers of regions and states reported on their sectors. — MNA/TTA

## Country's exports exceed imports, creating trade surplus

IN his capacity as Chairman of the Central Committee on Ensuring the Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo attended the 4/2024 meeting of the central committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the Deputy Prime Minister said the central committee is currently working hard to facilitate the export and import to exceed the target, logistics with container system via the Myanmar-Thai border (Yangon-Kawthoung-Ranong) shipping route, fast unloading system of containers, entry of export incomes in time, distribution processes of fuels, seizures of illegal fuel and fuel distribution, and CMP sector.

He continued that the export volumes exceeded the import volumes and so the country received Trade Surplus. Meanwhile, the CMP sector showed a decline when compared with the same



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo presides over the fourth meeting of the Central Committee on Ensuring the Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods yesterday.

period, so the relevant departments should make efforts to promote the export sector. The ministries concerned and UM-FCCI, MRF and brother associations should cooperate to exceed the export volume target. The penetration of new markets for export items can increase export volumes, allowing the country to earn more foreign income.

He then mentioned the container shipping system via the Yangon-Kawthoung-Ranong and Ranong-Kawthoung-Yangon route with border trade method initiated at Myanmar Industrial Port (MIP) and the Myanmar Terminal (TMT) in June 2024, US\$59.996 million worth of export volume until October 2024 and 1767.829 tonnes of freshwater fish

in 17 container vessels starting March 2024 via Aungmyingala jetty.

Moreover, a total of 2,799 containers were issued at bonded terminals following warehouse procedures of the Customs Department from March to November, whereas 191,387 containers at jetty and inland container depots between March and October.

The officials should discuss with the companies that remained to deposit export incomes to support their difficulties, and actions should be taken against companies that did not make contact or that failed to deposit after signing a pledge per the procedures of the relevant departments.

He also added that a total of 432,675 tonnes of diesel and petrol worth \$337.63 million were imported in October to meet the country's needs, 454 tonnes of illegal fuel were seized and actions were taken under the law. Education programmes should be also conducted to prevent fire on oil tankers.

He then urged the attendees to stabilize the market and price of palm oil while a direct distribution system to wholesale and retail shops was conducted on 3 June 2024 and highlighted the efforts to promote the CMP sector.

Afterwards, attendees coordinated the discussion and General Mya Tun Oo concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

# NATIONAL

## DPM MoFA Union Minister receives Adviser to Thai Foreign Minister

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Than Swe received Mr Dusit Manapan, Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

Both sides deliberate together

on the further enhancement of bilateral relations and ongoing cooperation and discussed matters pertaining to the advancement of multi-sectoral cooperation, maintenance of security and stability along the border and strengthening people-to-people contacts as well as closer collaboration at both regional and multilateral arenas. — MNA



Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe meets Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Mr Dusit Manapan in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

## MIFER Union Minister receives Adviser to Thai Foreign Minister

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw received the delegation led by Mr Dusit Manapan, Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign

Economic Relations, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

They frankly discussed and exchanged views on increasing economic cooperation and investment enhancement between Myanmar and Thailand, and border trade

matters.

Senior officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, and representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand were also present at the meeting. — MNA



Union MIFER Minister Dr Kan Zaw discusses with the delegation led by Mr Dusit Manapan, Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

### Deep Depression News, No 8, 2024

27 November 2024 19:00 MST

#### Deep Depression

According to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST, the Depression over Southwest Bay of Bengal has moved north-northwestwards. It is centred at about 730 nautical miles west-southwest of CoCo Island (Myanmar), 270 nautical miles south-southeast of Chennai (India). The centre pressure of Deep Depression is 1001 hPa and maximum wind speed near the center is 35 miles per hour.

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

#### Forecast

It is likely to move north-northwestwards and may further intensify into a Cyclonic Storm tonight. Thereafter, it may cross near Sri Lanka Coast and reach to Tamil Nadu Coast (India) during next two days.

Due to the Deep Depression, rain is likely to be isolated to scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah States from 28 November 2024 to 30 November 2024.— DMH



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**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**  
(+95) (01) 8604530,  
Hotline - 09 251022355  
marketing@gnlm.com.mm  
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# NATIONAL

## Rehearsals, preparations for opening/closing of National Sports Festival inspected

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn and Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan inspected the rehearsals and preparations for the opening and closing events of the Fifth National Sports Festival yesterday.

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn first observed the practice sessions of the Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation, Myanmar Comedians Association and Myanmar Theatrical Association for opening and closing events at Wunna Theikdi Stadium B and BEHS 6 Zabuthiri.

Union Ministers U Maung Maung Ohn and U Min Thein Zan inspected the installation of



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn inspects the rehearsals and preparations for the opening and closing events of the Fifth National Sports Festival at Wunna Theikdi Stadium B yesterday.



LED, sound system and electric bulbs in detail at Wunna Theikdi Stadium.

The upcoming Fifth National Sports Festival 2024 will be impressively held at Wunna Theikdi

Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw from 9 to 20 December. Sports teams from various ministries, states and re-

gions, and para-athlete teams will compete in the competition. — MNA/KTZH

## Nay Pyi Taw Council Chair presents victory flag to sports team



The Nay Pyi Taw Council chair hands over the flag for victory.

THE Nay Pyi Taw Council held a ceremony yesterday evening at the Zabuthiri Hall to present the victory flag and host a celebratory dinner for the Nay Pyi Taw sports team, which will compete in the Fifth National Sports Festival of 2024.

During the event, the Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, who also serves as the Patron of the Nay Pyi Taw Sports and Physical Education Committee, encouraged the athletes to compete with full sportsmanship and determination across all disciplines. He urged them to strive not only to win and bring honour to Nay Pyi Taw but also to become exemplary athletes who bring national pride. He assured that deserving recognition and rewards would follow their

successes and called for collaborative efforts to achieve victory at the festival.

The Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman presented the victory flag and K435.463 million in funding to U Myint Soe, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Sports and Physical Education Committee, and U Khin Zaw, Director-General of the Nay Pyi Taw Sports and Physical Education Department.

Following this, the chair had dinner with the athletes, coaches, supervisors, team managers, and officials participating in the festival.

Nay Pyi Taw will compete in 23 sports disciplines with a contingent of 450 members, comprising 347 athletes, four team leaders, 96 supervisors and coaches, and three referees. — MNA/KZL

## Myanmar discusses illegal immigration, online fraud with foreign diplomats

A discussion was held yesterday between the Supervisory Committee on Prompt Legal Action and Deportation of Foreigners Who Enter Myanmar Illegally and the heads of foreign embassies and diplomats in Myanmar.

The meeting took place at the Arindama Hall of the Myanmar Police Force Headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw. It was attended by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Toe Yi, who serves as Chairperson of the Supervisory Committee, along with the committee's secretary, joint secretaries, and members. Also present were the heads of foreign embassies and diplomats in Myanmar, as well as chairpersons and deputy chairpersons of subcommittees from Kayin and Shan states.

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Toe Yi explained that Myanmar is actively working to identify and deport foreign nationals who have entered the country illegally, particularly those involved in online fraud operations. He emphasised that these measures are taken

following the law, established procedures, and principles of mutual respect and humanitarian considerations. He also highlighted ongoing efforts to uncover and apprehend individuals engaged in online scam operations, including foreign nationals orchestrating these schemes. Between 1 January 2022 and 22 November 2024, a total of 1,242 foreign nationals in difficult circumstances were located, assisted, and deported to their respective countries

following official procedures.

An open and constructive discussion followed between committee members and the heads of foreign embassies and diplomats. Topics included the challenges of identifying, assisting, and rescuing foreign nationals, as well as deporting them in line with official processes. Participants shared ideas and explored potential solutions to address these challenges more effectively. — MNA/TMT



A meeting between the Supervisory Committee on Prompt Legal Action and Deportation of Foreigners Who Enter Myanmar Illegally and the foreign diplomats in Myanmar in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday

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# NATIONAL

## Initiatives to develop Nay Pyi Taw as clean, green, smart city



The photos (top and above) capture some places developed in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE Nay Pyi Taw Council has announced ongoing efforts to transform Nay Pyi Taw into a Clean City, Green City, and Smart City.

The council area currently boasts a total of 38 tourist destinations, including four newly established sites.

Collaborative measures are being implemented to promote tourism development, enforce tourism-related regulations, enhance human resources and employment opportunities, and support ecotourism initiatives while prioritizing environmental conservation. — ASH/MKKS

## Press launch held for new Myanmar film

A press event to introduce the upcoming Myanmar film 'My Ego and Me' took place on 26 November at M3 Food Centre in Bahan Township, Yangon, according to lead actor Aye Chan Maung.

Aung Chan Lu crafted the storyline and script, with the film produced and directed by Film 3H Art Production.

Speaking about the movie's theme, Aye Chan Maung stated, "Excessive ego can be destructive. Everyone possesses ego but the film portrays how unchecked ego burns like a steady flame. The less ego we have, the better. It is not ideal to live — or die — overwhelmed by it."

The cast includes Kyaw Htet Aung, Aye Chan Maung, Nyi Nanda, Khin Wint Wah, Zin Myo, Tin Zar Win Pyae, Academy Award winner Khin Moh Moh Aye, Thar Thar, Myat Amara, and Yoon Wati Hlaing, as well as child actress Hein Thiri San. — ASH/TKO



This photo shows artistes from the 'My Ego and Me' movie at the press launch.

## Trang Province online business matching explores Thai-Myanmar economic opportunities

MYANMAR Trade Promotion Organization informed Myanmar businesspeople of Trang Province Online Business Matching 2024, which will be held virtually on 1 December 2024 to boost economic opportunities between Myanmar and Thailand and strengthen ties.

Thirteen individuals engaged in the food and beverage sector and manufacturing sector will participate in the online business matching event.

Interested individuals can register through the email address of the Office of Commercial Affairs in Yangon: yinmaythein@gmail.com and ditpyan-gon@gmail.com or the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization at 067 408622 and email event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/KK

## MoHT to host Thai Fam-Trip in Dec

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism plans to host a familiarization trip (Fam-Trip) programme in December, inviting Thai tourism companies to promote Myanmar-Thailand tourism collaboration.

Thai tourists participating in the programme will enjoy a five-night, six-day

trip covering major destinations such as Yangon, Bago, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, and Bagan.

"We aim to launch the Myanmar-Thailand Fam-Trip programme in December, inviting approximately 30 participants, including representatives

from Thai tourism companies and media," stated an official from the ministry.

The initiative follows similar Fam-Trips aimed at fostering tourism collaboration with other countries. In May, the ministry organized a Fam-Trip to enhance Myanmar-China tourism ties, hosting 40 representatives from Chinese travel companies, agencies, and media. The delegation visited destinations, including Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Bagan, and Ngwehsaung.

In October 2023, a Fam-Trip targeting Myanmar-Russia tourism was conducted. It brought 30 representatives from Russian travel companies, tour agencies, and media outlets to explore 14 prominent tourist destinations in Myanmar.

These efforts underline the ministry's commitment to strengthening international tourism partnerships and showcasing Myanmar's diverse attractions. — ASH/TMT



This photo showcases a group photo at one of the tour destinations in Myanmar for Fam-Trip.

## GUSTO College launches 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of Innovation Bootcamp 2024

GUSTO College's third edition of GUSTO Innovation Bootcamp 2024 took place on 26 November at the GUSTO JS Campus. Engineers, technical leaders, and business leaders participated.

Partnering with one of the top UK Universities, this event is the first step of GUSTO College's plan to foster a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation and help every student fulfil their full potential to become outstanding leaders.

Under the outstanding leadership of Dr Win Htein Win, Founder and President of GUSTO College, this GUSTO Innovation Bootcamp 2024 aims to provide the technical skills necessary for creating innovative solutions with a socially positive impact.

"Innovation is a foundation of development and education is a tool to upgrade humankind's ca-



Pictures showcase the third edition of GUSTO Innovation Bootcamp 2024 hosted by GUSTO College.

capacity. I believe this GUSTO Innovation Bootcamp 2024 will produce leading entrepreneurs and business leaders who will be a part of the country's economic transition in future," Dr Win Htein Win gave a remark.

Dr Aung Kyaw Myat, President of the Myanmar Engineering Council and the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and Pacific (FEIAP), President U Tun Khaing of the Myanmar Computer

Professionals Association, Chairman U Min Oo of the Myanmar Business Executive Association, chairpersons of related institutions, top business leaders and professionals from respective sectors attended the event, promoting collaborations among institutions.

As Innovation is the engine of growth and development, Dr Aung Kyaw Myat highlighted that the creative works of youths are a driving force of the country's development to

keep up with international young innovators. GUSTO College empowers young people and inspires them to unleash their creativity and innovation.

U Tun Khaing of MCPA also remarked on the role of GUSTO Innovation Bootcamp from the perspective of a computer professional: "Myanmar needs programmes like GUSTO Innovation Bootcamp to embrace innovation and rapid change in the young people to keep

pace with digital transformation. I firmly believe that this will produce successful and talented youths".

U Min Oo also elaborated on creating an innovation boot camp as a unique and high-quality engaging programme to empower future leaders.

Dr Win Htein Win, Founder and President of GUSTO College, received the Young Leader Programme (YLP) Scholarship from Japan and the Young Business Leaders

Initiative (YBLI) Award from New Zealand's government. He launched this innovation boot camp to share his international experiences, leadership and outstanding skills. GUSTO College will help shape the students' future and produce social and business leaders who can contribute to their country in many ways. Dr Win Htein Win, Dr Aung Kyaw Myat, U Tun Khaing and U Min Oo formally opened the ceremony by cutting a ribbon.

GUSTO Innovation Bootcamp 2024 will provide a platform to integrate students, teachers and business leaders and empower a new generation of entrepreneurs with innovative thinking skills. He concluded the innovation bootcamp with a speech "Shaping the future of Myanmar to keep up with global innovation and advancements". — MT/KK

## CBM sells 1.79M yuan on 26 Nov



The facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) office in Yangon.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) injected over 1.79 million yuan into the financial market on 26 November after selling 17.8 million Thai baht and US\$25,000 on 22 November.

It sold 50 million baht to importers through the foreign exchange trading platform on 21 November.

CBM sold over \$3,900 on 21 November; \$24 million on 20 November; \$20 million and 100 million baht on 19 November and over \$12,000 on 18 November. CBM announced on 16 November to sell \$35 million to fuel oil importers on 16 November.

CBM injected \$400,000 into the financial market

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 hands with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

on 14 November. On 12 November, it sold 14.5 million baht after announcing it would 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 the sale of seven million yuan and 20 million baht to importers on foreign exchange trading platforms. CBM sold \$15 million, 1.5 million yuan

## Myanmar pineapple to be exported to China by sea

MYANMAR pineapples will be shipped to China through maritime trade, said the Myanmar Economic attache in Nanning citing the Produce Report.

The General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) announced on 11 November that Myanmar's pineapple will be allowed to be imported to China, following the Phytosanitary issue.

Myanmar's pineapple is cultivated in northern and southern Shan State. The harvest season usually takes place in June-September. Earlier, Myanmar's pineapple export to China was conducted via a green channel under a cross-border trade plan. Yet, China halted this trade route on 16 June 2019, affecting Myanmar's pineapple industry adversely.

Myanmar's exporters

explored new markets in Thailand, Singapore and other countries. However, market share is quite low. A series of negotiations between Myanmar and China in the past years reaped a fruitful result and Myanmar's pineapple is now allowed to be exported to China via sea trade.

According to GACC's notification, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation needs to forward the list of pineapple farms and processing factories to the China side to seek approval from the GACC. The approved list will be disclosed on its website. Myanmar's growers are required to strictly adhere to good agricultural practices and implement quality management, a tracking system for food security and integrated pest management measures,

Packing fresh fruits

includes washing fresh fruits with high-pressure spray and checking and removing debris to be free from insects, snails, invasive grass seeds, soil, crop residue weeds and dirt.

Infestation of the spiralling whitefly (*Aleurodicus dispersus*), grey pineapple mealybug (*Dysmicoccus neobrevipes*), passionvine mealybug (*Planococcus minor*), Jack Beardsley mealybug (*Pseudococcus jackbeardsleyi*) and the fungal plant pathogen *Fusarium sacchari* are considered as devastating pests.

Therefore, Myanmar's relevant authorities are asked to check samples of not less than two per cent of export volume within the first two years of pineapple trade. Inspection of food samples will be reduced to one per cent if pests cannot be detected in two years. — NN/KK

# OPINION

## Atar Thingyan festival: The intangible cultural heritage

THE dossier on Myanmar's traditional New Year Atar Thingyan festival, submitted for UNESCO's World Intangible Cultural Heritage list, has been included on the preliminary list, according to a press release issued by the Department of Archaeology and National Museum on 6 November.

The 19<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage will take place in Asunción, Republic of Paraguay. During this session, the committee will formally decide whether the Atar Thingyan Festival from Myanmar should be recognized as an intangible cultural heritage.

Countries have celebrated traditional festivals tied to their people, religions, and customs since the dawn of civilization. However,

Countries around the world have unique traditions, cultures, and heritages, and they strive to have their tangible and intangible heritage recognized on the UNESCO World Intangible Cultural Heritage List. These sorts of cultural heritage are a source of pride for nations. Therefore, the people of Myanmar should support the efforts of relevant departments and officials in their pursuit of UNESCO recognition for Myanmar's intangible cultural heritage. This recognition would help preserve and promote Myanmar's cultural legacy on the global stage.

ancient monuments, sites, and objects, are scattered throughout the nation, representing both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. These artefacts reflect the rich history and traditions of the various ethnic groups in Myanmar.

So far, the government has approved 2,289 intangible cultural heritage items, including language, oral traditions, fine arts, social customs, festivals, environmental knowledge, and traditional crafts. Currently, efforts are underway to gain UNESCO approval for Myanmar's Thanaka culture mostly enjoyed by Myanmar belles as the number of Thanaka plants are thriving in dry regions of Myanmar.

Countries around the world have unique traditions, cultures, and heritages, and they strive to have their tangible and intangible heritage recognized on the UNESCO World Intangible Cultural Heritage List. These sorts of cultural heritage are a source of pride for nations. Therefore, the people of Myanmar should support the efforts of relevant departments and officials in their pursuit of UNESCO recognition for Myanmar's intangible cultural heritage. This recognition would help preserve and promote Myanmar's cultural legacy on the global stage.

THERE'S a subtle kind of magic that shapes our lives in ways we often don't fully understand. It isn't anything you can touch or measure, but its absence can be felt deeply, like a shadow that clouds the brightest moments. I witness this every day in my classroom. It's present in the hesitant voice of a student, in the bright spark of confidence in another, and even in the quiet uncertainty of those who question whether their efforts will ever be enough. This invisible force — whether it's there or missing — has a profound impact on how we grow, how we see ourselves, and how we move through the world.

For years, I've observed my students face their struggles, noticing patterns take shape along the way. One student, let's call her Thiri, stands out for her incredible dedication. Her grades are exceptional, her work ethic is unrelenting. Yet, despite her remarkable efforts, there's a quietness about her. She often offers small glimpses into her life beyond the classroom, a world where her accomplishments seem to go unnoticed. "No matter what I do," she confessed once, "it's never enough for my parents." There's no anger in her voice, just a profound sense of resignation, as though she's silently asking why her best will never be enough to earn the recognition she deserves.

On the other hand, there's Aye, a student whose life is surrounded by a constant flow of encouragement. Her family takes pride in her every accomplishment, no matter how minor — a thoughtful gesture, a strong

grade, or even the determination she shows when facing a difficult day. This ongoing support is impossible to ignore. Aye steps into the classroom with a calm confidence, grounded in the belief that she belongs and that every effort she makes, no matter its size, holds worth.

Shaped by such contrasting experiences, these two students stand as compelling reminders of how deeply acknowledgement — or the lack of it — can influence who we become.

### Tracing the Seeds of Recognition in My Journey

My understanding of recognition is something deeply personal, rooted in the experiences that shaped my childhood. Growing up in a fractured family, my little brother and I were raised without the presence of our parents. What could have been a story filled with sorrow and loss instead became one of resilience and hope, thanks to the unwavering support of Ba Gyi, our uncle.

Ba Gyi wasn't merely a guardian; he became the cornerstone of our world. His encouragement wasn't limited to the big milestones; it seeped into the everyday moments, making the ordinary feel extraordinary. When I excelled on a school project, he celebrated it with me. When I showed kindness to someone, he acknowledged it. And even when things didn't go as planned, his response was never criticism, but a quiet recognition of the effort and potential I had shown.

For us, his recognition was more than just a kind gesture;

it was the fuel that pushed us to keep moving forward. It taught me what true resilience looks like, helped me build a stronger sense of self-worth, and encouraged me to dream bigger than the circumstances I was born into. Through his constant support, we learned that true recognition isn't about words of praise alone — it's an act of nurturing, a force that shapes who we become.

time and again: a student, previously quiet and hesitant, suddenly begins to engage more after their effort is recognized. Another, once held back by self-doubt, starts to believe in their abilities, slowly but surely, after receiving consistent encouragement. Appreciation, it turns out, has the power to awaken something deep within — instilling a sense of purpose and sparking a drive to keep moving

stead, it becomes a never-ending search for validation that never seems to arrive.

I've come to realize that many parents, perhaps unknowingly, underestimate the power of appreciation. It may stem from their own experiences, perhaps because they were never shown appreciation in their childhoods. For some, the belief is that love is something inherently understood,

# The Quiet Catalyst

By Laura Htet (UDE)

### A Silent Language of the Heart

Why does recognition hold such power? At its essence, it is the recognition of another's existence, effort, and value. Experts in psychology have long recognized that this kind of recognition speaks to one of our most fundamental human needs: the desire to feel valued. It doesn't matter if we are six or sixty, the need for acknowledgement is universal. It nourishes the soul in the same way food nourishes the body. Research consistently shows that when people feel appreciated, they tend to adopt a more positive outlook on life, display better behaviour, and pursue their goals with a determination that is hard to shake.

This isn't just an abstract idea — it's something I witness daily in my classroom. I've seen it happen

forward.

### When Appreciation is Absent

But what happens when appreciation is absent? The impact can be just as profound but in a much more negative way. Without appreciation, even the most resilient spirits can falter. The absence of acknowledgement creates an emotional void, a sense of invisibility that eats away at one's confidence.

Thiri's experience highlights this all too well. Despite her many accomplishments, the lack of recognition from her parents leaves her feeling disconnected, as though her efforts are unnoticed and unworthy. She continues to excel academically, but her achievements seem to echo in a hollow, uncelebrated space. For her, achievement no longer feels like something to be proud of, in-

stead, it doesn't require words. But the truth is, especially for children, love and value need to be voiced, seen, and felt.

### The Power of Small Gestures

Appreciation doesn't always need to be grandiose. Sometimes, a simple "thank you", a note of encouragement, or even a smile can make a world of difference. Ba Gyi's way of showing appreciation was never about lavish praise or extravagant gestures. It was in the small, meaningful acts — a pat on the back, a moment of listening, a word of encouragement.

Aye's experience mirrors this in many ways. Her family doesn't overwhelm her with extravagant gifts or accolades; instead, they offer what truly matters — a sense of being recognized and valued. This steady affirmation has shaped her worldview, foster-



Appreciation is essential for healing, connection, and inspiration. ILLUSTRATION: CANVA

ing not only confidence but also a deep sense of empathy. She, in turn, passes along the gift of acknowledgement, sharing positivity with everyone she encounters.

### Appreciation in the Classroom

As a teacher, my goal is to foster an environment where acknowledgement is at the heart of our daily interactions. It's not just about applauding academic achievements; it's about celebrating the journey — recognizing the effort, resilience, and growth that each student demonstrates. When I see a student struggling yet pushing through, I make sure to highlight their persistence. When kindness is shown to a peer, I take the time to recognize their em-

pathy.

The effects are transformative. Students who once hesitated to speak up now share their thoughts with confidence. Those who once feared failure are now more willing to take risks, confident that their efforts will be appreciated, regardless of the outcome.

What I've come to understand is that recognition is far more than just a morale booster. It's a cornerstone for trust and connection. It communicates to students that they are seen, not only as learners but as unique individuals with their own strengths and potential. When we fail to acknowledge their contributions, we miss an opportunity to empower them, to affirm

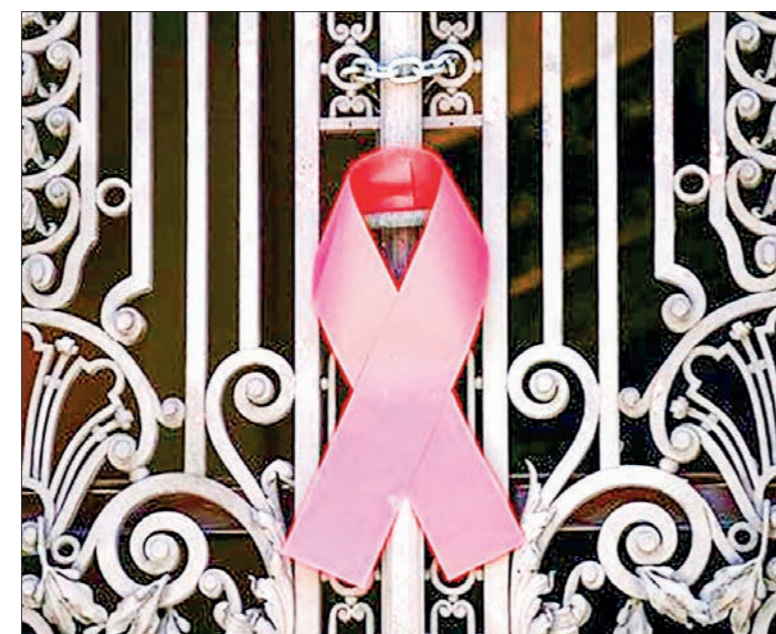
that their efforts truly matter.

### A Last Reflection

Appreciation is more than just a kind gesture; it's a fundamental responsibility we often overlook. Its power to heal, connect, and inspire is profound, yet it's frequently brushed aside, and deemed less important than concrete achievements.

So, is acknowledgement truly necessary? Or has it become a rare luxury in a world that values results more than recognition? Can we, as individuals, break free from this cycle of silence and rediscover the lost art of meaningful appreciation?

All in all, appreciation is more than just a kind gesture; it's a fundamental responsibility we often overlook. Its power to heal, connect, and inspire is profound, yet it's frequently brushed aside, and deemed less important than concrete achievements. There's a subtle kind of magic that shapes our lives in ways we often don't fully understand. It isn't anything you can touch or measure, but its absence can be felt deeply, like a shadow that clouds the brightest moments. So, is acknowledgement truly necessary? Or has it become a rare luxury in a world that values results more than recognition? Can we, as individuals, break free from this cycle of silence and rediscover the lost art of meaningful appreciation? Perhaps the real answers don't lie in what we say but in what we choose to do. Maybe the quiet strength of appreciation holds the most transformative power of all. What will you choose to do with it? ■



Number of HIV infections across the world declined by a fifth during the 2010s, a new study says. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

## HIV cases and deaths declining

Global HIV infections and deaths have significantly decreased, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. However, progress is uneven, with rising infections in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Despite effective treatments like PrEP and lenacapavir, high costs and limited access in low-income countries hinder further progress towards eliminating AIDS-related deaths by 2030.

THE number of new HIV infections and deaths has fallen across the world, marking significant progress in the fight against the disease.

But HIV is far from being stamped out, health experts warn ahead of World AIDS Day on Sunday.

During the 2010s, global HIV infections decreased by 20 per cent, and AIDS-related deaths fell by 40 per cent, according to a major study in The Lancet HIV.

This decline was largely driven by improvements in sub-Saharan Africa, the hardest-hit region. However, infections continued to

rise in other areas, including Eastern Europe and the Middle East, underscoring uneven progress. Despite these advances, the world is still far from the United Nations' target of nearly eliminating AIDS-related deaths by 2030.

Preventative treatments like Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis

(PrEP), which reduces the risk of HIV transmission by 99 per cent, have proven effective, particularly in wealthier countries.

Health authorities are pushing for broader access to PrEP, not just for men who have sex with men. Additionally, antiretroviral therapy can reduce HIV

viral loads to undetectable levels, minimizing transmission risks.

The new drug lenacapavir, a twice-yearly injection, offers hope as it has shown 100 per cent effectiveness in preventing HIV.

However, its high cost remains a barrier, especially in low-income countries. Despite

Gilead's recent licensing deal to produce the drug in poorer nations, many countries remain excluded. While HIV vaccines are still elusive, treatments like lenacapavir offer a potential breakthrough in HIV prevention and care.

SOURCE: AFP



# NATIONAL

## Preparations at sports complex for 5<sup>th</sup> National Sports Festival inspected

UNION Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the fifth National Sports Festival 2024, U Min Thein Zan, accompanied by officials, inspected the preparations at various sports venues within Nay Pyi Taw's Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex yesterday.

The Union minister first visited Sports Hall A to view the readiness of the pole vault arena, the installation of backdrop vinyl boards, and the set-up of state and region flags. At Sports Hall B, he inspected the completion of floor installations. After inspecting these areas, he provided necessary directives for further improvements.

The inspection continued at



Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan inspects the preparations at various sports venues within Nay Pyi Taw's Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex yesterday.

other key venues, including the Weightlifting Sports Hall, Box-

ing Hall, Billiards and Snooker Hall, Tennis Court, and Training

Hall 3, which will host karate-do and taekwondo competitions.

He also observed the training sessions of Sepak Takraw athletes and emphasized that all preparations must be flawless to ensure the festival's success. Officials were instructed to promptly address any remaining needs and to collaborate across departments to guarantee a smooth event.

The Fifth National Sports Festival 2024 will feature over 9,200 participants. This includes more than 2,500 athletes and coaches competing in six ministerial-level sports disciplines, over 6,600 athletes and officials participating in 23 state and regional-level sports disciplines, and over 140 athletes competing in four para-sports disciplines.

— MNA/KZL

## Rehearsal for opening ceremony of 5<sup>th</sup> National Sports Festival reviewed

DEPUTY Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Daw Nu Mra Zan, Vice-Chairperson of the Opening and Closing Ceremony Committee for the Fifth National Sports Festival, visited the rehearsal site in Nay Pyi Taw on the afternoon of 26 November.

She was accompanied by the director-general of the Department of Arts and Culture. The rehearsal focused on the presentation of the 'Six Eras' dance, which will be featured during the festival's opening ceremony.

The 'Six Eras' dance performance involves 300 participants, including 75 artistes from the Department of Fine Arts a, 100 students from the National

University of Arts and Culture (Yangon), 50 from the National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay), 25 students each from the High School of Fine Arts (Yangon) and (Mandalay), and 25 students from Kayin State.

The performance highlights six historical eras – Pyu, Bagan, Inwa, Konbaung, Yadanabon, and the present day. Each era is represented through unidentical unique dance movements, musical compositions, and symbolic designs reflecting its cultural significance. The rehearsal is being supervised by the pro-rector (Training) from the National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay). — MNA/KZL



Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Daw Nu Mra Zan observes the rehearsal focused on the presentation of the 'Six Eras' dance for the National Sports Festival in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

## Anti-Corruption Commission, Russian Prosecutor-General hold roundtable on asset recovery, anti-corruption workshop

THE Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission U Sit Aye received a Russian delegation led by Mr Bazhutov Sergey, Head of the General Department of Criminal Court Proceedings at Lake View Hall of Shwe Nan Taw Hotel yesterday to hold a roundtable on recovering assets from corruption and workshop on anti-corruption, as part of MoU on corruption in anti-corruption (2024-2026) signed by the commission and Russian Prosecutor-General Office on 4 September 2024 in Russia.

During the roundtable, the commission chairman discussed the benefits of bilateral cooperation in sharing experience and information, holding international seminars, workshops and roundtables, and active cooperation in combating transnational crimes.

He also highlighted the intention of the commission to grab public participation in anti-corruption activities and create a society that condemns corruption at all to establish clean government and good



Attendees of a roundtable on recovering assets from corruption and workshop on anti-corruption pose for the documentary group photo in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

governance, and willingness to deepen bilateral cooperation.

Then, Mr Bazhutov Sergey remarked, and the deputy director-general and director of the commission's office discussed the international experience in recovering assets from corruption, setting up focal points and negotiations among countries at international anti-corruption platforms.

During the workshop, Russian Senior Prosecutors Ms Shikhanova Anna and Mr

Gudkov Nikolay discussed the topics – "International cooperation on detection of corruption crimes" and "Improvement of methods of countering crimes committed with the use of information and communication technologies and in the sphere of computer information, using digital traces to detect persons who commit such deeds".

The commission chairman hosted dinner for the Russian delegation at Pool Side Hall of the hotel in the evening. — MNA/KTZH

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar hosts CLMV, ACMECS tourism meetings to boost regional cooperation

MYANMAR is hosting the seventh CLMV (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam) Tourism Ministers' and Senior Officials' Meeting, along with the sixth ACMECS (Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy) Tourism Ministers' and Senior Officials' Meeting. These biennial events, held on a rotational basis, are taking place in person at the Sedona Hotel, Yangon, from 27 to 29 November.

The opening ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khaing, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, government ministers, senior tourism officials, and representatives from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. Also present were the Chairman of the Myanmar Tourism Federation, officials from sister asso-



Attendees of the seventh CLMV and the sixth ACMECS Meetings of Senior Tourism Officials pose for the documentary group photo in Yangon, yesterday.

ciations, and guests.

In her address, the Union Minister emphasized the need to accelerate regional tourism development through enhanced cooperation between governments and the private sector. She highlighted the importance of adopting modern technologies

to elevate regional tourism to a global level and called for initiatives such as visa liberalization, connectivity programmes, sister city partnerships, and multi-country tours to attract international visitors.

Following the opening ceremony, the Union Minister and

the Yangon Region Chief Minister took commemorative photographs with leaders and delegates from member countries.

The seventh CLMV Tourism Senior Officials' Meeting, chaired by U Maung Maung Kyaw, Director-General of the Department of Hotels and Tour-

ism, reviewed ongoing regional tourism promotion activities and discussed future collaboration under the CLMV Regional Tourism Cooperation Action Plan 2023-2025.

The Union minister later visited the Myanmar-Vietnam Expo 2024 at the Yangon Convention Centre in the Inya Lake Hotel complex. She toured booths showcasing Vietnam-based businesses, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), clothing and food products, electrical appliances, airlines, and hotel and tourism associations.

In the evening, Myanmar hosted a dinner for delegates from the member countries. Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine delivered opening remarks, welcoming participants to the seventh CLMV and sixth ACMECS Tourism Ministers' and Senior Officials' Meetings. — MNA/TKO

## Mount Mongshu's cloud sea sees surge in visitors, expected to increase in Dec



THE number of vacationers who come to visit Mount Mongshu in Mongshu to enjoy the view of the cloud sea has visibly increased this year compared to last year and it is expected to be larger in December when the scene of the cloud sea is the most beautiful, said the developer of the destination.

The destination was first developed in 2021 and it is located below the Ancestors' Climb-

ing Path Pagoda (PNO) and it just takes about 45 minutes from Mongshu. Mount Mongshu Cloud Sea Resort was opened to the public in September and the scene of Cloud Sea was beautiful in November and will look the most beautiful in December.

"Mongshu Cloud Sea was opened in September and the scenery looks incredibly beautiful in November. But the most beautiful time is December first

week. The visitor arrival was just a few in the same period last year. In this year, nearly all rooms are occupied every night. We have to create accommodation in the dining room for some visitors because rooms are unavailable. The visitor arrival has started increasing since Thadingyut and rooms are booked until 25-30 November," she said.

Among visitors this year, the majority are from Tangyan and others are from Lashio and the surrounding area, at the same time there are many enquiries from Yangon Region. Designated photo shooting spots have been provided and admission is K4,000 per person and will be raised to K5,000 in December.

Overnight visitors can stay at bungalows, which cost K 40,000 for double room and K100,000 for quadruple room. There are restaurants too. — MT/ZS

## Gems Emporium finale logs sale of 3,966 jade lots

THE 2024 Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium continued at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

On the tenth and final day, 741 lots of jade in Group C, which local gems merchants can purchase were sold.

From 18 to 27 November, 208 lots of pearls, 62 sets of gems, 1,823 lots of jade from Group A and B and 2,143 sets from Group C were sold to do-

mestic and foreign merchants through an open tender system.

The Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee arranged sales of raws jade for finished jade industries of MSME businesses in Mandalay and Sagaing, earning incomes for the State and benefiting citizens.

The emporium was held successfully from 18 to 27 November. — MNA/TTA



Gem merchants are seen on the final day of the 2024 Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

# NATIONAL

## 2-day illegal trade crackdown seizes items worth K1.243B

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

On 24 and 26 November, the combined teams seized industrial materials valued at K108.84 million without official documents from a boat from Kawthoung that was docked at the Shweme jetty in Shwepyitha Township in Yangon, illegal timbers weighing 3.67 tonnes valued at K341,310 in Taikkyi Township and an unregistered Toyota Crown (worth approximately K4.5 million) in Tamway Township. The action was conducted under the Export-Import Law, the Forest Law, and Customs procedures, respectively.

Similarly, on 26 November,

the combined teams conducted inspections and seized industrial materials worth about K292 million without official documents from eight containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port, five unregistered vehicles (worth approximately K50 million) at the Hoping Tollgate in Hoping Township, three unregistered vehicles valued at K33 million in Paung, Mudon and Belin Townships and Faw and Hino trucks (estimated value of K85 million) carrying foodstuffs valued at K38.87 million without official documents in Myeik Township. The action was taken under the Export-Import Law and Customs procedures.

Additionally, the combined teams impounded a Sunlong bus (worth approximately K90 million) carrying industrial materials



Confiscated illegal construction materials in Yangon.

and consumer goods (valued at K15 million) without official documents at the Myitnge checkpoint, a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (estimated value of K28 million) carrying consumer goods worth K66.26 million without official documents at the Yadanabon bridge (Man-

dalay) checkpoint, a Mitsubishi Canter truck (estimated value of K28 million) carrying industrial materials (worth K48.9 million) in Kyaukse Township, a Nissan Condor truck (estimated value of K41 million) carrying vehicle parts worth K18 million without official documents at mile-post 352 on Yangon-Mandalay expressway, a Higer bus (worth approximately K50 million) carrying consumer goods (worth K32.77 million) without official documents in Pyigyidagun Township and a Dongfeng tractor head with a trailer (estimated value of K76 million) carrying vehicle parts and industrial materials (worth K50 million) without official documents near Myitnge Tollgate. The action was conducted per Customs procedures.

The combined on-duty teams nabbed two trucks (estimated value of K60 million) carrying foodstuffs and consumer goods (worth K15 million) without official documents near Shwethanlwin Tollgate in Phayagyi, illegal teak weighing 0.360 tonne and illegal hardwood weighing 0.107 tonne (valued at K160,000) in Thayawady District, and an unregistered Toyota Wish (estimated value of K12 million) in Bago Township. The action was taken under the Forest Law, the Export-Import Law, and Customs procedures, respectively.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 38 arrests on 24 and 26 November, confiscating goods worth approximately K1.243 billion. — MNA/MKKS

## Young fraudster arrested in counterfeit currency scam



The offender with the cell phone used in her fraudulent schemes.

UNSCRUPULOUS individuals have been using social media, especially Facebook, to create fake pages claiming to sell counterfeit currency, deceiving and defrauding potential buyers. In response, security forces formed special investigation teams to track and apprehend these scammers.

On 17 November, a Facebook post was identified in a

gold trading group, where an account under the name Amara Pan advertised counterfeit currency with a message stating: "Selling counterfeit currency. Not a scam. Don't buy if you think it's a scam. Contact via Viber 09971007328." Images of counterfeit currency accompanied the post.

Investigators traced the Amara Pan account to Ma Aye

Aye Aung, an 18-year-old from Zeephyugon Village, Dekkhinathiri Township. She was arrested on 24 November at her residence, where a Vivo Y83 red mobile phone was seized.

During questioning, Ma Aye Aye Aung admitted to creating the Facebook account and posting messages in groups to attract buyers. She falsely claimed buyers could exchange one genuine banknote for eight counterfeit ones. For local buyers in Myingyan, she offered payment on delivery, while others had to transfer half the payment upfront and the remainder after delivery. Payments were sent to a Wave Pay account under the name Hnin Mya, linked to the Viber number provided. After receiving funds, she blocked victims' accounts and kept the money.

Ma Aye Aye Aung has been charged under Section 66 (c) of the Telecommunications Law. Authorities continue to monitor and investigate similar fraudulent activities on social media. The public is urged to report any knowledge of such schemes to the nearest police station. — MNA/TMT

## Counter-argument to false information

### Security forces accused of detaining six locals of Ywangan

SUBVERSIVE media spread fake news, claiming that security forces detained six civilians in Nwabangyi village of Ywangan Township, Shan State, on 26 November.

According to a security official, security forces conducted their normal security measures to curb the entry and destructive actions of terrorists in Ywangan Township and did not arrest locals.

Malicious media circulated fabricated stories to mislead the public about security forces. — MNA/KTZH

### False reports claim forced payments in Mawlamyinekyun

REPORTS have emerged on social media alleging that village heads in Kwinchaunggyi village, Mabay Village-Tract, Mawlamyinekyun Township, Ayeyawady Region, are collecting money from households with male residents under the pretext of mandatory public service recruitment. These reports suggest payments starting from K100,000, claiming collaboration with Tatmadaw.

However, according to a local administrative official in Mawlamyinekyun Township, the government's implementation of public service requirements

strictly adheres to the People's Military Service Law. The official confirmed there were no incidents of forced contributions, monetary demands, or coercive collections in the area.

Malicious news media use these false narratives to incite public mistrust regarding the People's Military Service Law, discouraging compliance and eroding support for the government and the military. Such activities are part of a broader propaganda effort aimed at undermining the trust between citizens and the State. — MNA/KZL

# China's leading advertising companies see revenue growth in first three quarters

China's leading advertising enterprises and public institutions saw a 6.1 per cent revenue growth in 2024's first three quarters.

CHINA'S leading advertising enterprises and public institutions posted solid revenue growth during the first three quarters of 2024, official data showed Wednesday.

Revenues of the 857 leading advertising enterprises and public institutions reached around 1.13 trillion yuan (about US\$156.97 billion) during the period, up 6.1 per cent

year on year, according to the State Administration for Market Regulation.

Internet advertising revenues of the enterprises and public institutions grew faster, up 15.4 per cent from a year ago.

Traditional media have been accelerating the digital transformation of their advertising business. Public institutions represented by radio, tel-

evision, and newspapers achieved internet advertising revenue of 2.37 billion yuan from January to September, surging 75 per cent year on year.

The market outlook for advertising companies has continued to improve, and their development confidence has significantly increased, the administration said. — Xinhua



Workers sort parcels at a transit hub of SF Express in Tianjin, north China, 18 June 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Volkswagen Group and SAIC Motor extend joint venture contract to 2040



SAIC Volkswagen is China's first joint venture for passenger cars. PHOTO: SAIC

VOLKSWAGEN Group and SAIC Motor announced on Wednesday that they have signed an extension for their joint venture contract in Shanghai until 2040, further strengthening their long-term partnership.

SAIC Volkswagen is China's first joint venture for passenger cars. This marks the second time that both parties have renewed the contract, extending the period of their joint venture to 55 years.

"The foundation of our success in China lies in the strong, trustful partnerships. The best example of such a partnership is our long-term, successful cooperation with SAIC," said Ralf Brandstätter, member of the board of management of Volkswagen AG for China, who delivered a speech via video link during the signing ceremony. — Xinhua

## One Piece-themed shinkansen to run in western Japan in 2025

A shinkansen bullet train adorned with characters from the popular manga series "One Piece" will start operations in western Japan next spring, its operator said Wednesday.

The service will mark the 50th anniversary of the Sanyo Shinkansen Line between Osaka and Fukuoka prefectures and coincides with the 2025 World Exposition to be held in

Osaka between April and October.

"We want to build momentum for the Expo and provide a comfortable service," West Japan Railway Co President Kazuaki Hasegawa said at a press conference in Tokyo.

The project will start with one decorated train running between Shin-Osaka and Hakata stations. — Kyodo

<p><b>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</b> M.V MSC KANU F VOY.NO. (SB446A)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on <b>M.V MSC KANU F VOY.NO. (SB446A)</b> are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on <b>28-11-2024</b> and cargo will be discharged into the premises of <b>AWPT</b> where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: <b>2301185</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Shipping Agency Department</b> <b>Myanma Port Authority</b></p> <p>Agent For: <b>M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A</b></p>	<p><b>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</b> M.V HE LE VOY.NO. (0UVAQS1NC)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on <b>M.V HE LE VOY.NO. (0UVAQS1NC)</b> are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on <b>28-11-2024</b> and cargo will be discharged into the premises of <b>MITT/AWPT</b> where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: <b>2301185</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Shipping Agency Department</b> <b>Myanma Port Authority</b></p> <p>Agent For: <b>M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD</b></p>	<p><b>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</b> M.V LEGEND OY.NO. (05/2024)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on <b>M.V LEGEND VOY.NO. (05/2024)</b> are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on <b>29-11-2024</b> and cargo will be discharged into the premises of <b>WILMAR</b> where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: <b>2301928</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Shipping Agency Department</b> <b>Myanma Port Authority</b></p> <p>Agent For: <b>M/S WILHELMSSEN PORT SERVICE(S) PTE LTD</b></p>
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# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Israel, Hezbollah agree on ceasefire in Lebanon; Netanyahu warns against any violation

*The ceasefire was driven by three key reasons: focusing on the Iranian threat, allowing Israeli forces to replenish supplies after delays, and isolating Hamas by separating it from Hezbollah.*



This photo shows a convoy of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in Sidon, Lebanon, 25 November 2024. **PHOTO: ALI HASHISHO/XINHUA**

AFTER months of skirmishes and thousands of casualties, Israel and Hezbollah agreed to the ceasefire deal on Tuesday (local time).

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, however, also stressed that the “length” of this ceasefire will depend on “what happens in Lebanon”.

“With the United States’ full understanding, we maintain full freedom of military action. If Hezbollah violates the agreement and tries to arm itself, we will attack. If it tries to rebuild terrorist infrastructure near the border, we will attack. If it launches a rocket, if it digs a tunnel, if it brings in a truck carrying rockets, we will attack”, Netanyahu noted.

The speaker outlined three key reasons for calling a ceasefire: first, to focus on the threat posed by Iran; second, to allow Israeli forces time to rest and replenish their stocks, particularly after delays in weapons and munitions deliveries; and third, to separate the fronts by isolating Hamas, which had relied on Hezbollah for support.

With Hezbollah no longer involved, Hamas is left to face increased pressure. The Israeli military is focused on completing its mission, which includes releasing hostages.

The conflict, which escalated after Hezbollah’s 8 October attack in support of Hamas, has led to significant casualties and ongoing military operations. — ANI

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Russia expels British diplomat over spying

RUSSIA on Tuesday announced the expulsion of a British diplomat over charges of espionage. The British diplomat, identified as Wilkes Edward Prior, was accused of providing false information on his documents and carrying out espionage and sabotage activities, the TASS news agency reported, citing Russia’s Federal Security Service (FSB).

He must leave Russia within two days, the FSB said. — Xinhua

#### Vietnam death row tycoon begs court for her life

A Vietnamese property tycoon sentenced to death for multi-billion-dollar fraud begged a court to spare her life Tuesday, saying she was trying to repay the stolen funds.

Property developer Truong My Lan, 68, was convicted earlier this year of embezzling money from Saigon Commercial Bank (SCB) — which prosecutors said she controlled — and condemned to die for fraud totalling \$27 billion in one of the biggest corruption cases in history. She is appealing against her sentence at a court in Ho Chi Minh City, with the ruling expected in the coming days. — AFP

#### South Africa sees decline in serious crimes in Q3

South Africa saw a decrease in serious crimes in the third quarter of this year, according to the latest crime statistics released by the police ministry on Monday.

From 1 July to 30 September, the 17 categories of community-reported serious crimes, including murder, robbery and carjacking, showed an overall decline of 5.1 per cent, Police Minister Senzo Mchunu announced during the release of the quarterly crime statistics. — Xinhua

## Global Media Congress kicks off in UAE

THE third Global Media Congress kicked off at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Tuesday, bringing together global media leaders, innovators, and policymakers.

Organized by the ADNEC Group and the Emirates News Agency, the event runs through 28 November, focusing on discussions on the future of the media industry and ways to address challenges and grasp opportunities in the rapidly evolving media landscape.

In his keynote address at the opening ceremony, Abdulla bin Mohammed bin Butti Al Hamed, chairman of UAE’s National Media Office, emphasized the UAE’s role as a global hub for media innovation and collaboration and highlighted the congress as a platform for fostering meaningful partnerships, unlocking new

opportunities, and addressing the media sector’s transformation driven by digital advancements. — Xinhua



Abdulla bin Mohammed bin Butti Al Hamed, chairman of UAE’s National Media Office, speaks at the opening ceremony of the third Global Media Congress in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, on 26 November 2024. **PHOTO: WEN XINNIAN/XINHUA**

## German Chancellor Scholz nominated as lead candidate in snap election

AFTER weeks of deliberations within the party, Germany’s Social Democratic Party (SPD) on Monday decided to nominate Chancellor Olaf Scholz as the candidate to lead the upcoming snap election next year.

The announcement was made at a press conference attended by Scholz alongside SPD co-leaders Lars Klingbeil and Saskia Esken.

Scholz had been under pressure to give up his candi-

dacy amid internal disagreements.

According to the political research institute INSA, Defence Minister Boris Pistorius is currently the most popular German politician. — Xinhua

# SPORTS

## Ancient Uygur sport shines at China's National Traditional Games of Ethnic Minorities

UNDER the warm sun of Sanya, a coastal city in Hainan Province, athletes in traditional Uygur hats moved skilfully across the field. Using wooden sticks, they struck a tightly woven ball with precision, sending it soaring in graceful arcs.

"This looks like hockey!" a curious spectator exclaimed, sparking a conversation among onlookers. "They're using sticks to hit the ball and trying to score, just like hockey."

What they were witnessing at China's 12<sup>th</sup> National Traditional Games of Ethnic Minorities

wasn't hockey but Maire Ball, an ancient Uygur sport originating from Hotan Prefecture in north-west China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

"It is indeed similar to modern hockey," explained Metrozi Imin, a retired sports official from Yutian County, Hotan, who has spent over 20 years advocating for the sport. "But unlike hockey, it doesn't have a goalkeeper or strict requirements for field size or team numbers. From just a few players to dozens, you can start a match almost anywhere," he added.



Athletes of Xinjiang compete in a Maire Ball match at China's 12<sup>th</sup> National Traditional Games of Ethnic Minorities in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, on 24 November 2024. **PHOTO: CHEN SHUO/XINHUA**

Once widespread in ancient times, this traditional game still holds a special place in the hearts of the people of Yutian, a small town on the southern edge of the Taklamakan Desert, the world's second-largest shifting

sand desert.

In Yutian, Maire Ball is more than just a game -- it is a way of life. In 2019, the Yutian team debuted at the 11<sup>th</sup> Games in Zhengzhou, earning admiration. This year, they competed

in Sanya with a diverse group, including farmers, a baker, and a middle school teacher. Captain Umarjan Memetmin expressed pride in representing southern Xinjiang after a long journey to the event. — Xinhua

## Myanmar to host Group D matches of 2025 AFC Women's Futsal Qualifiers



Myanmar women's football squad. **PHOTO: MFF**

MYANMAR will host the Group D matches of the 2025 AFC Women's Futsal Qualifiers, which include the participation of the Myanmar national team.

A total of 19 teams will compete in the qualifiers, divided into three groups of five teams and one group of four. Group A consists of Thailand, Lebanon, Bahrain, Palestine, and Iraq. Group B features Indonesia, Hong Kong, Pakistan, India, and Kyrgyzstan. Group C includes Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Australia, the Philippines, and Kuwait. Group D comprises Vietnam,

Chinese Taipei, Macau, and Myanmar.

According to the tournament format, the top two teams from each group, along with the best third-placed team, will advance to the final stage, making a total of nine qualifiers. These teams will join host China, Iran, and Japan, who have automatic berths in the final round.

Group D matches will be held from 15 to 19 January 2025. Team Myanmar will face Vietnam on 15 January, Chinese Taipei on 17 January, and Macau on 19 January. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## FA probes referee David Coote over betting claim

THE Football Association is investigating allegations Premier League referee David Coote discussed giving a yellow card with a fan before a match in England's second-tier Championship.

The Sun newspaper reported on Wednesday that 42-year-old Coote, who strongly denies any wrongdoing, discussed the prospect of booking then Leeds player Ezgjan Alioski with a supporter of the club the day before a game between Leeds and West Brom

in October 2019. The newspaper alleges after Coote booked the player during the match, he messaged the individual back to say: "I hope you backed as discussed." Coote, currently suspended following separate allegations about his conduct, said in a statement: "I strongly refute these false and defamatory allegations.

"Whatever issues I may have had in my personal life they have never affected my decision-making on the field. — AFP

## Defeat at Liverpool could end Man City title hopes, says Gundogan

ILKAY Gundogan admits defeat at Premier League leaders Liverpool on Sunday could end Manchester City's Premier League title challenge as they scramble to end their poor run of form.

City squandered a 3-0 lead against Feyenoord in the Champions League on Tuesday -- following five consecutive defeats in all competitions.

For the first time in what was the 942<sup>nd</sup> game of his managerial career, manager Pep Guardiola saw his side fail to win a match after leading by three goals.

City have won the past four Premier League titles but are already eight points behind Arne Slot's Liverpool fol-

lowing three straight defeats in the English top flight. Guardiola conceded City's title defence would realistically be over should they lose at Anfield after last week's 4-0 humbling by Tottenham.

Germany international Gundogan agreed with his manager's assessment following the Feyenoord defeat.

"To stay in the title race, probably yes, (it's a game City can't afford to lose), because 11 points would be a huge gap," said the midfielder veteran.

"Anfield is always tough, no matter the situation. We've struggled in recent years going there and we know Liverpool are a great team full of confidence right now. — AFP

Israel, Hezbollah agree on ceasefire in Lebanon; Netanyahu warns against any violation  
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# WORLD

## Seed industry hopes innovation can sow success

**A**GRICULTURE can find solutions to counter the negative impacts of climate change on crops, but only if the sector is allowed to innovate, the International Seed Federation's chief told AFP.

"Farmers must constantly adapt" as climate change "brings new diseases to the fields" and challenges the agriculture industry through water shortages, ISF secretary-general Michael Keller told AFP during a recent meeting of the federation in Geneva. Meanwhile "the world is permanently losing arable land" due to climate change, which causes excessive rainfall in some regions and desertification in others, he explained, while also pointing to the increasing use of concrete.

Facing the climate crisis and food insecurity, Keller stresses the need to "increase yields" through innovation and by utilizing all available tools, including new breeding techniques (NBTs). These techniques, such as CRISPR-Cas9, allow precise genetic edits to plants, differing from GMOs by not introducing external elements. NBTs spark debate: some argue they are crucial for addressing climate challenges, while others fear environmental risks and advocate for strict regulation.

Meanwhile, biodiversity and genetic resource access remain key issues. At COP16, a fund was established to share profits from digital genetic sequencing, though concerns about transparency and benefit-sharing persist, especially for communities in developing countries. — AFP

*Techniques like CRISPR-Cas9, which precisely edit plant genetics without introducing foreign elements, are seen as key to improving crops.*



Michael Keller, ISF Secretary-General, emphasizes that agriculture must innovate to combat these challenges, with a focus on increasing crop yields **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ XINHUA/FILE**

## WHO South-East Asia Region adopts 'Colombo Call to Action' to address growing diabetes burden

TO address the growing burden of diabetes, health experts and officials adopted the 'Colombo Call to Action' to strengthen diabetes prevention and control measures in the World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Region.

The Call to Action underlines catalytic actions and collective commitments from member countries to accelerate efforts to unite, integrate, innovate, treat, track, and educate – the key pillars of WHO's Global Diabetes Compact which aims to reduce the risk of diabetes and ensure that those diagnosed with the disease have access to quality treatment and care. The Compact also supports the prevention of type 2 diabetes from obesity, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity, the press release noted.

Every year, more than 4,82,000 dia-

betes-related deaths occur in the region. Diabetes and its complications such as blindness, kidney failure, heart attack, stroke, and lower limb amputation result

in immense hardships and economic loss to people with diabetes, their families, health systems and national economies. — ANI



Health experts and officials adopted the "Colombo Call to Action" to strengthen diabetes prevention and control in the WHO South-East Asia Region. **PHOTO: ANI**

### HISTORICAL COMPARISON

#### S Korea's capital city logs record November snowfall

SOUTH Korea's capital city logged a record November snowfall, with more than 16 centimetres of snow blanketing Seoul, the weather service said Wednesday.

The snow starting to fall in Seoul at 7 am local time (2200 GMT) on Tuesday stood at 16.5 centimetres, marking the largest November snowfall since modern weather observations began in October 1907, according to the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA).

It topped the previous November high of 12.4 centimetres tallied on 28 November 1972. It was expected to rain or snow across the country until Thursday morning. — Xinhua