

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets co-passengers on newly launched DEMU train in the Yangon Circular Railway yesterday.

Salient points from the speeches delivered by the Senior General in launching the DEMU train on the Yangon Circular Railway

1. As battery electric trains will be run in the country in the future, preparations must be made to build locomotives and carriages locally through technological research.
2. Transformation of EMU into BEMU system must be prioritized as well as diesel locomotives into BELs to save the cost of fuel for diesel locomotives.
3. It is necessary to calculate traffic safety in using BELs facilitated with signal apparatuses which are speedier than diesel locomotives.

Yangon Circular Railway successfully uses DEMU trains

Battery electric trains will be run in the future with preparations to locally build locomotives and carriages through technological research findings.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing stressed the need to prioritize the transformation of EMU into BEMU system as well as diesel locomotives into battery electric locomotives BELs at first to save the cost of fuel for diesel locomotives.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered

a speech at the ceremony to launch the operation of the new Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) along the Yangon Circular Railway, at Yangon Railway Station in Mingala Taungnyunt Township of Yangon Region yesterday morning.

As electric trains will be run in the country in the future, preparations must be made to build locomotives and

carriages locally through technological research findings.

The Yangon circular railway is being improved with the running of DEMU trains successfully.

Electric trains will be run in the future with preparations to locally build locomotives and carriages through technological research findings.

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A Glimpse of Artificial Intelligence in the Research Field

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Discussions underway to implement smoke-free activities in tourist destinations

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No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise seeks bids for 960,000 visses of long-staple cotton

NATIONAL

Students under training to have correct thinking and outlooks

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

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

Sitagu Chancellor attends 3rd Convocation of Lumbini Buddhist University



Sitagu Sayadaw addresses the 3rd Convocation of Lumbini Buddhist University and the 20th University Day Ceremony on 29 November 2024 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

long service and achievements in disseminating the Buddha's teachings. The Sitagu Sayadaw expressed profound joy and heartfelt congratulations for Daw Dhammawati's remarkable accomplishments as a devoted daughter of the Buddha. He wishes may Buddha Dhamma be long last in this world, as long as the sun and moon are last.

Dhammawati, also known as Thamee Chit in Myanmar, is a renowned Nepalese Buddhist nun aged 91. Despite challenges, she travelled to Myanmar in her youth to study Buddhist literature and teachings. Her lifelong dedication to Buddhist propagation earned her the Sasanadhaja Dhammacariya title in 1962 and the Aggamaha Ganthavacaka Pandita title in 1992, both conferred by the Myanmar government.

Lumbini Buddhist University (LBU) was established by the Government of Nepal on 17 June 2004 by the Parliament Act. Now celebrating its 20th anniversary, the university was founded to promote the study and practice of Buddha's teachings. Its goal is to create an environment where people can live with peace, harmony, and compassion in their daily lives. — MNA

THE Most Venerable State Ovadacariya Sangha Raja of Shwegyin Nikaya Buddhist Order, the Chancellor of the Sitagu International Buddhist Academies, Abhidhaja Maharathaguru Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara, attended the third Convocation of Lumbini Buddhist University (LBU) and the 20th University Day Ceremony as a special guest of the Right Hon'ble Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on 29 November 2024. The ceremony was held at the Convocation Hall in the Lumbini Buddhist University.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Nepal's Prime Minister and Chairperson of

LBU, KP Sharma Oli; Hon'ble Bidya Bhattarai, Minister for Education, Science, and Technology; officials from the Nepalese government; U Myo Myint Maung, Myanmar Ambassador to Nepal; district authorities of Lumbini; representatives from the Lumbini Development Trust; monks and nuns from monasteries representing Myanmar, China, Nepal, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, and other countries; as well as local dignitaries, graduating monks, nuns, students, and distinguished guests. In total, approximately 5,000 participants attended the ceremony.

The programme commenced with an opening address

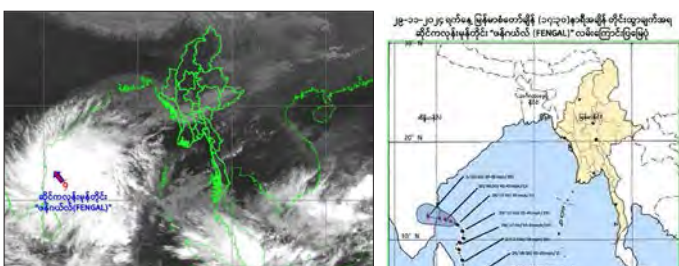
by the Prime Minister, followed by remarks from Hon'ble Bidya Bhattarai. The Venerable Sitagu Sayadaw, in his address, expressed gratitude and honour at being part of the event. The Right Hon'ble Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli congratulated the graduating students, including the esteemed Nepalese nun, Dhammawati, who was conferred an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Literature for her lifelong contributions to Buddhism.

The Sitagu Sayadaw stated that the day is a significant and noble day for Buddhist nuns. He highlighted that Daw Dhammawati, a highly respected nun in her 90s, has been awarded an

honorary Doctor of Literature (DLitt) degree at the Lumbini Garden, where the Buddha was born. This special day recognizes her contributions to Buddhism. The Myanmar government previously honoured Daw Dhammawati with the title of "Sasanadhaja Dhammacariya" for her efforts in spreading and strengthening Buddhism. Known for her deep knowledge of Buddhist Literature, she is a highly skilled preacher of the Buddha's teachings. Her dedication, practice, and commitment to promoting Buddhism are widely acknowledged and respected. This honorary degree reflects recognition of her life-

Cyclonic Storm "FENGAL" News, No 14, 2024

29 November 2024 19:00 MST Today



Cyclonic Storm "FENGAL"

According to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the Deep Depression over Southwest Bay of Bengal has moved north-northwestwards and has intensified into a Cyclonic Storm "FENGAL". It is centred at about 680 nautical miles west-southwest of Coco Island (Myanmar), 160 nautical miles southeast of Chennai and 150 nautical miles east-southeast of Puducherry (India). The centre pressure of Deep Depression is 998 hPa and maximum wind speed near the centre is 40 miles per hour.

It does not intend to move towards Myanmar

coasts at the present stage and therefore the Cyclonic Storm "FENGAL" is coded as yellow stage.

Forecast

It is likely to move west-northwestwards and may cross North Tamil Nadu near Puducherry (India) around 30 November 2024.

Due to the Cyclonic Storm "FENGAL", rain are likely to be isolated to scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, and Ayeyawady Regions and Shan, Chin, Rakhine, and Kayah States from tonight to 30 November 2024. — DMH

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

Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo reported on the progress of the Yangon Circular Railway and arrangements for running new DEMU trains along the circular railway.

The SAC member Union Minister presented a gift to mark the launching of the new DEMU trains to the Senior General.

The Senior General, Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, council member Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo, Council Member General Maung Maung Aye and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein sprinkled scented water on the locomotive.

The Senior General cordially conversed with passenger people when the train started its trip. He took the new train and presented gifts to the passenger people.

Preliminary engineering tasks were undertaken for improvement projects of the Yangon Circular railway from 2015 to 2016. The construction period was set in 2017. The project uses air-conditioned DEMU carriages imported from Spain to provide better services to the people along the Yangon circular railway. The modern rail transport service is facilitated by automatic lighting and signal systems. So, trains can be operated with the speed from 40 kilometres per hour to 60 kilometres per hour. Myanmar Railways will operate 20 RBE trains and 15 DEMU trains

Yangon Circular Railway ...



SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sprays scented water on DEMU locomotive for Yangon Circular Railway launch.

along the route to give speedy transport services to the people on a daily basis.

At Locomotive Factory (Insein) of MR, SAC member Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo reported to the Senior General on plans to run electric trains along the Yangon circular railway, and supply of electricity, civil engineering works, signal and communication process, arrangements for availability of Electric Multiple Unit carriages, the transformation of Rail Bus Engine-RBEs into Battery

Electric Multiple Unit (BEMU), improvement of EMU system to BEMU system, import of EMU and electric locomotives for running electric trains along Yangon-Mandalay section, and preparations to transform diesel locomotives into battery electric locomotives.

In his response, the Senior General stressed the need to make preparations to run electric trains in railway sections without fail.

In building batter electric train networks, the Senior Gener-

al underlined transforming RBE carriages into Battery Electric Multiple Units to be used in the city's circular railway and diesel locomotives into battery electric locomotives (BELs) for long trips.

He noted that thanks to the advancement of technologies, the electric train network can be built into the existing train system at affordable costs in a short time.

As such, he stressed the need to prioritize the transformation of EMU into BEMU system as well as diesel locomotives into

BELs at first in order to save the cost of fuel for diesel locomotives.

The Senior General highlighted that it is necessary to calculate traffic safety in using BELs facilitated with signal apparatuses which are speedier than diesel locomotives.

Railways must be fenced with proper drainage systems for prevention of possible traffic problems while carriages, rail tracts and overpasses must be upgraded, he added.

The Senior General had lunch together with the staff of the Locomotive Factory (Insein).

The government is conducting a series of research to run electric trains to ensure smooth transport of commodities and passengers. In the past, MR used RBE locomotives on short trips and diesel locomotives on long trips. Electric lines must be installed for running electric trains along the railways. It needs to take a long time to prepare for the projects with a large sum of costs. As battery technology improves, BEMU locomotives and BELs can be used in the future as part of reducing environmental impacts and saving natural resources. Hence, BEMUs and BELs can soon be seen on the railways for providing rail transport to the people.

Currently, more than 3,800 miles of railways have been built in total together with 962 railway stations across the nation. — MNA/TTA

DPM MoFA Union Minister gives interview with Russian ITAR-TASS

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Than Swe was interviewed by Mr Igor Brovarnik, Bureau Chief in Thailand of the Russian News Agency ITAR-TASS, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the interview, the Depu-

ty Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs explained the evolution of Myanmar's foreign policy, Myanmar-Russia bilateral relations and cooperation, collaboration opportunities with BRICS member states, Myanmar's geopolitical vision in the modern world, exertion of all possible means to mitigate effects of unilateral sanctions imposed by

western countries, Myanmar's tourism sector, Myanmar's effort for national reconciliation and challenges faced by Myanmar. — MNA

Russian ITAR-TASS News Agency Bureau Chief in Thailand Mr Igor Brovarnik interviews Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe.



NATIONAL

Hlinethaya Township to establish green zones within three-mile radius

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underlined that Hlinethaya Township must be standardized under the systematic town plan.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday afternoon inspected the progress in urban development undertakings in Hlinethaya Township and Yangon Western Technological University in Yangon Region.

The Senior General inspected the maintenance of drains between the Aung Zeya Bridge and the Meekhwet Market in Hlinethaya Township and gave guidance on the proper flow of water in the drains and systematic cultivation of shade trees along both sides of the road.

At Bayintnaung Park, Mayor U Bo Htay reported to the Senior General on the construction of the multipurpose buildings, funfair places, car parks, playgrounds, swimming pools and public recreation areas in the park.

The Region Chief Minister and the Mayor presented reports on the accomplishment of the guidance on the development of urban areas given by the Senior General on his inspection tour of Hlinethaya Township, hosting festivities in the park with public participation, beautification process in the township and drainage process in Yangon Western Technological University for prevention of flooding.

A good social environment must be shaped in Hlinethaya Township aligned with residents.

Rector Dr Kyi Soe.

The Senior General stressed the need to calculate the construction of extended lecture halls and other supporting buildings to meet the



State Administration Council Chair Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is pictured during his inspection tours on urban development achievements in Hlinethaya Township yesterday.

In his speech, the Senior General said that Hlinethaya Township must be standardized under the systematic town plan. It is necessary to create a social environment aligned with the people. Officials need to fulfill the needs of healthcare, sanitation and water supply for

the people. Emphasis must be placed on the proper flow of water in the town. Green zones must be created in a three-mile radius area of Hlinethaya.

The Senior General viewed the layout plan of the township and gave guidance on the urban development process to officials.

At Yangon West University, the Senior General heard reports on the learning of students at the university, the appointment of administration and academic staff, and implementation of the guidance of the Senior General on his inspection tour of the university presented by

university characteristics and consider building all structures of the university an adequate distance among them.

The Senior General viewed round the progress of a three-storey lecture building of the university and left necessary guidance. —MNA/TTA

Second-day paper reading session, plenary session of centenary Myanmar Economics Education continue

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw and Union Auditor-General Dr Khin Nang Oo attended the second-day paper reading session and plenary session of

the 100th anniversary of Myanmar Economics Education at MICC II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The event included three Parallel Sessions with different topics such as

Agriculture Production and Food Security, The Role of MSMEs in National Development and Sectoral Growth: Investment, Trade and Services.

During the Plenary Session, officials

discussed the policy-related conclusions and recommendations from the papers. The points from the Plenary Session will be submitted to the government. — MNA/KTZH

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
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NATIONAL

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing stressed the need to manufacture tyres for agricultural machinery as Myanmar prioritizes agricultural tasks.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday afternoon inspected the Tyre Factory (Ywama) of Myanmar Economic Corporation in Insein Township, Yangon Region.

He viewed round production of tyres and tubes and inspected the quality of tyres at the motorcycle tyre and tube workshop of the factory.

At the meeting hall, the Senior General heard reports on the implementation of the tasks of the factory in accord with the guidance of the Senior General on his inspection tour of the factory, arrangements to raise production of motorcycle tyres to meet the local demand, manufacturing of tyres for three-wheeler motorcycles, and seeking market shares at home and abroad presented by Chairman of MEC General Nyo Saw and Factory Manager U Kyaw Kyaw Soe.

In his response to the reports, the Senior General underlined to manufacturing of quality tyres to meet domestic demands as there are some five million motorbikes in Myanmar.

He noted that it is necessary to seek market shares



SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing looks into tyre products during his inspection tours at the Tyre Factory (Ywama) yesterday.

Fair pricing urged for locally produced tyres

It is necessary to strive for increased production of rubber products and advanced rubber products locally.

and accomplishment of the guidance of the Senior General on his inspection tour of the farm in May 2022.

In his guidance, the Senior General said that the undertaking of the agriculture and livestock farms in Yangon Region aims to provide plentiful meat, fish and vegetables to some eight million population of the region at fair prices. It needs to sell these products to Tatmadaw members and State service personnel at reduced prices at street prices as well as to people at fair prices. In particular, it must contribute to the welfare of low-income people from factories. The military command and Yangon Region government need to coordinate the sale of agriculture and livestock products for public consumption at fair prices. Emphasis must be placed on the sale of essential basic foodstuffs at reduced prices. It needs to expand the breeding of broilers, layers and layer ducks. If input costs and production charges decline, prices of agricultural and livestock foodstuffs can be lesser. So, the military command, regional government, MEC and Myanmar Economic Holding Public Co Ltd have to coordinate sales of products to have success.

The Senior General visited the farm and fulfilled the needs reported by those in charge of the sections. — MNA/TTA



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views the No 1 Agriculture and Livestock Farm of the Yangon Command.

for products of MES as well as those of other domestic businesses. Locally produced tyres must be sold at fair prices to

people.

The Senior General called for emphasizing on seeking further shares of internal and

external markets. Staff and employees must be encouraged with welfare and deserved awards for their work perfor-

mances. Moreover, it is necessary to manufacture tyres for agricultural machinery as Myanmar prioritizes agricultural tasks.

Tyre Factory (Ywama) manufactures Tri Star brand tyres and exports them to foreign countries. Tyres from the factory are the favourite of users in foreign markets due to their high quality.

According to the research, Tri Star brand tyres are of higher quality than imported ones. People can purchase Tri Star brand tyres at fair prices.

At the No 1 Agriculture and Livestock Farm of the Yangon Command in Insein Township, the Senior General heard reports on the progress of the farm, sale of meat, fish, vegetables, eggs and milk produced by the farm to Tatmadaw members, families, war veterans and MPF members at fair prices,

NATIONAL

SAC Vice-Chair Deputy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends dinner for Centenary Myanmar Economics Education

A dinner in honour of the 100th Anniversary of Myanmar Economics Education took place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday with the attendance of Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

Also present at the event were, Daw Than Than Nwe, the wife of Vice-Senior General, council members and their wives, Union level officers, Union Ministers and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior military officers, deputy ministers, ceremony organizing committee and sub-committee members, economics and business associations members, members of UMFCCI and



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win joins the honorary dinner for 100 years of Myanmar Economics Education.

brother associations, and other invitees.

At the event, the Vice-Senior General made a speech.

Then, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw presented gifts marking the 100th anniversary of Myanmar economics education to the Vice-Senior General. He also presented gifts to the Rectors of the University of Economics of Yangon, Monywa and Meiktila and the principal of National Management Degree College.

Then, the Vice-Senior General and his wife enjoyed the dinner together with the attendees.

During the dinner, artistes from MRTV and the Department of Fine Arts, alumni of universities of economics and staff of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations entertained the guests with songs and dances.

After the dinner, the Vice-Senior General gave the flower bouquet and cash awards to performers and greeted attendees. — MNA/KTZH

MoIP's volleyball team members encouraged

UNION Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing met the men's volleyball team representing the ministry in the upcoming Fifth National Sports Festival yesterday at the ministry's conference hall.

During the meeting, team manager U Min Hein, Director-General of the Electronic Registration Department, presented a report on the team's formation, training sessions, and arrangements for the athletes' health, accommodation, and meals. He also provided updates on the readiness of the team for the competition.

The Union minister encouraged the athletes, emphasizing the importance of their efforts in becoming national-level athletes. He urged them to train diligently and compete with commitment to bring honour to the ministry.

Following his speech, the Union minister provided financial support to the team and assured them of additional resources as needed. The Ministry of Immigration and Population will participate in the men's volleyball competition at the Fifth National Sports Festival. — MNA/KZL



Union Minister U Myint Kyaing meets members of the MoIP men's volleyball team yesterday.



Performers from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture rehearse for the Fifth National Sports Festival.

MoRAC's rehearsals for performances at National Sports Festival reviewed

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin, accompanied by deputy ministers, the permanent secretary, and senior officials, visited the Transit Centre (Ywataw) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. The visit focused on observing and supporting rehearsals by a 350-member team for the opening and closing ceremonies of the Fifth National Sports Festival. Participants included personnel from the Fine Arts Department, students from the National Universities of Arts and Culture (Yangon and Mandalay), and the cultural troupe from Kayin State.

The Union minister praised the dedication of dance instructors, artistes, and

Kayin State cultural performers, expressing his delight at witnessing their enthusiastic rehearsals. He highlighted the honour of performing at a national-level event, noting that it provides invaluable experience and fosters camaraderie. He encouraged participants to deliver their performances joyfully and provided refreshments to boost their morale.

Following this, the Union minister met athletes representing the ministry in sports such as futsal (men's), volleyball (men's and women's), Sepak Takraw, and athletics. He motivated them, offered refreshments, and observed a volleyball practice session of the Ministry of Energy's team. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Training of MoST's sports teams reviewed

UNION Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, accompanied by Deputy Minister Dr Aung Zeya and other officials, visited the football training sessions of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Energy teams yesterday evening. The training took place at the Nay Pyi Taw State Polytechnic University football ground.

The Union minister observed the training and encouraged the players, coaches, and officials, fostering a warm and supportive atmosphere. He provided cash awards and en-

ergy-boosting food supplies to the teams. Addressing the players, he urged them to train and compete with full sportsmanship to bring honour to the ministry. He also emphasized the importance of striving to become national-level athletes, maintaining good health, and adopting proper dietary habits.

The Ministry of Science and Technology will participate in the Fifth National Sports Festival with 85 athletes competing in five events: men's football, men's volleyball, men's Sepak Takraw, men's futsal, and men's golf. — MNA/KZL



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw provides sportswear to athletes.

MoC's athletes for National Sports Festival encouraged



Union Minister U Tun Ohn presents sportswear to athletes from the Ministry of Commerce.

UNION Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn inspected athletes who will participate in the Fifth National Sports Festival 2024 and encouraged athletes from the men's and women's volleyball team, futsal team, Sepak Takraw team, and athletic team.

The Union minister first

watched and encouraged the trial competition of futsal between MoC and MoSYA at Wunna Theikdi Stadium, Sepak Takraw between MoC and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area's team at the Pyinmana Paunglong Stadium.

Afterwards, the Union minister attended a meeting

with athletes representing the ministry and urged the athletes to have a team spirit and full of sporting spirit, bring honour to the ministry, become athletes who can make the country proud and try hard to get worthy medals for the ministry, and provided what they needed. — MNA/TS

Athlete accommodation, facilities for National Sports Festival inspected

AS the Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the Fifth National Sports Festival, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan visited the Transit Centre (Ywataw) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. The visit aimed to inspect the living conditions of athletes from various states and regions, administrative offices for sports committees, and meal preparation and dining arrangements.

During his inspection, the Union minister met participating teams and urged the athletes to prioritize their health and to train diligently to become record-setting athletes who can bring honour to the nation. He emphasized selecting athletes who meet high standards and providing them with consistent training opportunities. Athletes were encour-



Union Minister U Min Thein Zan meets athletes at the Transit Centre (Ywataw) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

aged to exert maximum effort without holding back and to consume only nutritious, hygienic, and fresh meals provided by the dining facilities while avoiding outside food. He also advised addressing any needs or issues promptly.

The Union minister inspected the accommodation provided for athletes, the op-

eration of administrative offices by sports committees, meal preparation in dining areas, and the availability of refreshments and essential items in canteens. He instructed those in charge to ensure that food sold to the athletes was reasonably priced as well as nutritious, clean, and fresh.

— MNA/KZL

Ethnic Affairs Ministry sports team receives flag for victory

THE Ethnic Affairs Ministry's sports team, set to compete in the 2024 Fifth National Sports Festival, received their victory flag during a ceremony held yesterday.

At the event, the Union minister highlighted that the festival will take place in Nay Pyi Taw from 9 to 20 December 2024. The competition will feature 23 sports events for regions and states, six for ministries, and four for para-sports. He encouraged the ministry's athletes to strive for gold medals and other accolades, aiming to enhance the ministry's reputation through their efforts.

Following his speech, the deputy minister addressed the attendees with motivational remarks. The Union minister then handed over the victory flag to the team leader, the deputy permanent secretary.

The team leader led athletes in reciting four sports resolutions and presented an update on the team's training preparations. — MNA/KZL



Union Minister Jeng Phang Naw Taung hands over the flag of victory.

OPINION

Raise self-control in applying social media

TECHNOLOGICAL advancements bring both benefits and drawbacks. Information technology drives the growth of social media, significantly influencing youth globally. This highlights how social media has become an integral part of daily life for many.

Games and cartoons on mobile phones dominate children's daily activities, making it hard for them to resist these distractions. Teenagers are increasingly addicted to social media and mobile phones. While social media offers access to educational content bringing various topics of general knowledge, most teens fail to focus on learning from it, instead prioritizing entertainment.

Some teenagers fall victim to cyberbullying, with social media often used as a tool by unscrupulous individuals to target

vulnerable groups. Teenagers, especially students, face bullying both at school and online but hesitate to report it due to fear of retaliation. This silence allows the problem to persist, negatively impacting their learning, health, and overall happiness. Cyberbullying takes various forms and poses significant risks to the well-being of young people, highlighting the need for greater awareness and support systems to address this growing issue.

According to some surveys, more than 80 per cent of people from developed countries are using the internet as usual. At the same time, number of netizens in developing countries is on the rise rapidly. The majority of people use the internet through mobile phones. Statista issued a press release on 1 March 2024, saying that more than five billion of the population worldwide apply to the internet, accounting for some 66 per cent of the total population. Among them, five billion

of the global population apply social media. It shows smartphones affect the daily life of the people.

Health experts warn that excessive mobile phone use can harm children's eyes, leading to disorders and eye diseases. This may also negatively impact their intelligence quotient and physical development. To prevent such issues, parents, guardians, and teachers should guide children on responsible use of mobile phones and the internet, minimizing risks to their eyes and nervous systems to avoid disadvantages from daily moves.

Social media has greatly advanced information technology, especially in developing countries, benefiting global communities. However, internet and mobile phone users should be mindful of potential drawbacks. Using these tools systematically and responsibly can enhance their daily life. On the other hand, careless or undisciplined use can lead to negative consequences for the users as well as relevant societies.

A Glimpse of Artificial Intelligence in the Research Field

By Dr Than Lwin Tun



ARTIFICIAL Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming the research field, offering new tools and methodologies to accelerate discovery, enhance analysis, and broaden the scope of exploration across various disciplines. AI has been a popular topic in recent years, with many professionals expecting that it will transform various industries and change the mode we are aware of our breaths.

The following are some key glimpses of AI's impact on research: -

Data Analysis and Pattern Recognition

AI, particularly machine learning (ML), enables researchers to process and analyze massive datasets quickly and with greater precision. In fields like genomics, physics, and climate science, AI

AI analyzes clinical trial data and genetic sequences to identify biomarkers or predict treatment responses. **ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE/PEXELS**

algorithms can detect patterns in large data sets that may be too complex for humans to recognize. For example: -

Medical Research: AI analyzes clinical trial data and genetic sequences to identify biomarkers or predict treatment responses.

Natural Language Processing (NLP)

NLP allows AI to process and interpret vast amounts of written material, such as academic papers, research articles, or patents. Researchers use AI tools to:

Automate Literature Reviews: AI can extract relevant findings and summarize research trends across thousands of papers.

Text Mining: Extract useful insights from unstructured data (e.g., lab notes, books, or online publications) to assist in hypothesis generation or experimental design.

Predictive Modeling

AI can predict outcomes based on past data, which is crucial in many fields like chemistry, biology, and physics.

Drug Discovery: AI-driven models predict how molecules will interact, helping to discover new drugs more efficiently.

Weather Forecasting: AI models process data from various sensors to forecast weather patterns with improved accuracy.

Automating Experimental Design

AI-driven robots and systems can automate routine laboratory tasks, such as sample preparation, data collection, or even complex experimental processes. This automation enhances the speed and accuracy of experiments and allows researchers to focus on hypothesis generation and high-level analysis.

Personalized Research Assistance

AI-powered tools can provide tailored research suggestions, identify gaps in existing knowledge, and recommend new approaches to a problem. For instance:

Citation Recommendation: AI helps researchers by suggest-

ing relevant papers, authors, and datasets based on their specific research.

Experimental Design: AI tools assist in designing experiments that are statistically optimized to generate meaningful results with minimal resources.

Multidisciplinary Collaboration

AI facilitates collaboration across disciplines by breaking down traditional boundaries. For example, AI models designed for one field, such as physics, may be adapted for use in areas like neuroscience or social sciences. This fosters interdisciplinary research by applying machine learning techniques to new domains.

Ethics and AI in Research

The integration of AI into research also raises ethical questions, especially regarding data privacy, algorithmic bias, and the transparency of AI models. Researchers are increasingly focusing on developing fair, transparent, and accountable AI systems that can enhance scientific rigour and

societal benefit while addressing these concerns.

Enhanced Simulation and Modelling

In fields like physics, engineering, and climate science, AI can create complex simulations that model real-world scenarios more accurately and faster than traditional methods. AI tools assist in:

Simulating Particle Interactions: In high-energy physics, AI helps simulate subatomic particle collisions, supporting research at facilities.

Climate Modeling: AI models are used to predict climate change impacts and assess environmental policies by simulating diverse scenarios over time.

Moreover, AI is increasingly becoming an essential tool in the research field. By automating tasks, analyzing vast data sets, and offering predictive insights, AI not only accelerates discovery but also creates new opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation across various fields.

Which Performance Objectives Should Be Defined in Education?

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

INSTRUCTIONAL design technology also includes correction and revision of instruction based on the results of empirical testing. Hence, it is essential that the desired outcomes of the designed instruction be stated clearly and unambiguously. These outcomes are often referred to, in various ways, as behavioural objectives, learning objectives or performance objectives. Before the start of any instruction, what learners will have been able to do after the instruction, what they could or did not do before the instruction, and how they can be different after the instruction should be brought into question.

Here, precision in the definition of objectives meets the need for communication of in-

structional purposes and evaluation. Thus, objective definitions ensure that what is evaluated and what is communicated as an intended learning outcome have a common meaning. An objective is described precisely when it communicates to another person what would have to be done to observe that a stated lesson purpose has been accomplished. For the objectives written to specify outcomes, the five-component objective states the situation in which performance is done, the type of learned capability, the specific action the learner takes in employing the capability, and the tools, constraints or special conditions associated with the performance.

Obviously enough, what the learner does is highly depend-

ent on the situation. An objective must specify the features of this situation for certain. It may sometimes be desirable to involve a description of environmental conditions under which the behaviour is performed on the job. Some of the problems with the use of behavioural objectives arise from ambiguity about what type of learning outcome the demonstrated behaviour represents. But this ambiguity can be reduced within the objective by including an indicator of the type of learned capability being shown as Discriminate, Identify, Classify, Demonstrate, Generate, Adopt, State, Execute, and Choose. Also, the object component indicates the content of the learner's performance. And the action verbs such as Match,

Write, Speak, Discuss, Point, Select, and Draw describe how the performance is to be completed. These learned capability verbs and action verbs work together but are not in the same use to do a task when it comes to sequencing the objective. In some situations, the performance will require the use of special tools, certain constraints or other particular situations that may imply other prerequisite skills which must be learned before the target skill can be evaluated adequately.

On deciding what type of learning outcome the instruction aims to produce, objectives would be written for each of the above-mentioned nine types of learning, beginning with the five subordinate kinds of intellectual skills. Firstly, discrimination

performance always consists of being able to see, hear or feel the same or different stimuli. Secondly, concrete concepts require that the learner be able to identify one or more instances of a class of items. Thirdly, a defined concept classifies objects or events, expressing the relationships among the attributes and functions of the concept. Fourthly, a rule is an internal capability that governs one's behaviour and enables one to demonstrate a relationship among concepts in a class of situations. The inferred capability is that of demonstrating an appropriate response to a class of stimulus situations possessing establishing relationships. Fifthly, a problem is one in which the learner selects and uses rules to find a solu-

tion in a novel situation. What the learner acquires during the process of problem solving is a new higher-order rule which is also a synthesis of rules and concepts. This higher-order rule may then be used by the learner so as to solve other problems of the same type.

Through cognitive strategies, internally directed control processes regulate and moderate other learning processes. Again, it is important to differentiate between the product of a cognitive strategy and the statement of the strategy itself as an outcome of instruction. In general, learners apply existing strategies that have worked in the past. Verbal information refers to facts and figures that can

be verbalized orally. Individuals can learn extremely long verbal chains and recall them verbatim without having any comprehension of what words mean. An essential characteristic of verbal information learning is that it consists of propositions that are semantically meaningful. However, some behaviours could do with their expression in coordinated, precise muscular movements. When an attitude is given as the desired learning outcome, it is a choice of personal action that the learner is expected to exhibit.

In brief, teaching-learning objectives are the life of an education system. Any teaching-learning process without objectives looks like a dead

thing, that is, it will be in vain whatever amount of energy and effort is consumed by anyone. Out of educational objectives that are established so often, these performance objectives or behavioural objectives are the most fundamental, I believe. Psychologically in education, the learning process should come into a behavioural change of the learner. In other words, a learner's past behaviour must have changed to a greater or lesser degree while and after the teaching task is carried out. So, as many appropriate performance objectives as possible need to be set in a lesson plan before the whole teaching-learning activity. If not, this teaching-learning activity will go to no effect automatically.

NATIONAL

Myanmar hosts 7th CLMV and 6th ACMECS Tourism Ministers and Senior Officials Meetings

MYANMAR is hosting the seventh CLMV and sixth ACMECS Meetings of Tourism Ministers and Senior Tourism Officials from 27 to 29 November at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon.

Yesterday, the seventh CLMV Tourism Ministers' Meeting continued, with Dr Thet Thet Khine, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, serving as the rotating host and chair of the meeting, which was attended by tourism ministers and senior officials from member countries.

The meeting discussed and approved measures to facilitate regional tourism, simplify entry procedures, connect regional tourist destinations, expand direct flights from distant tourist markets, collaborate to



The seventh CLMV and sixth ACMECS Tourism Ministers and Senior Officials Meetings in progress yesterday in Yangon, chaired by Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine.

revive regional tourism after the COVID-19 pandemic, organize familiarization tours for the media and private sectors to CLMV countries, establish a CLMV tourism website or information database, conduct joint tourism promotion activities such as organizing

international tourism events and co-exhibitions, and implement cost-effective joint digital marketing and promotion campaigns through social media platforms.

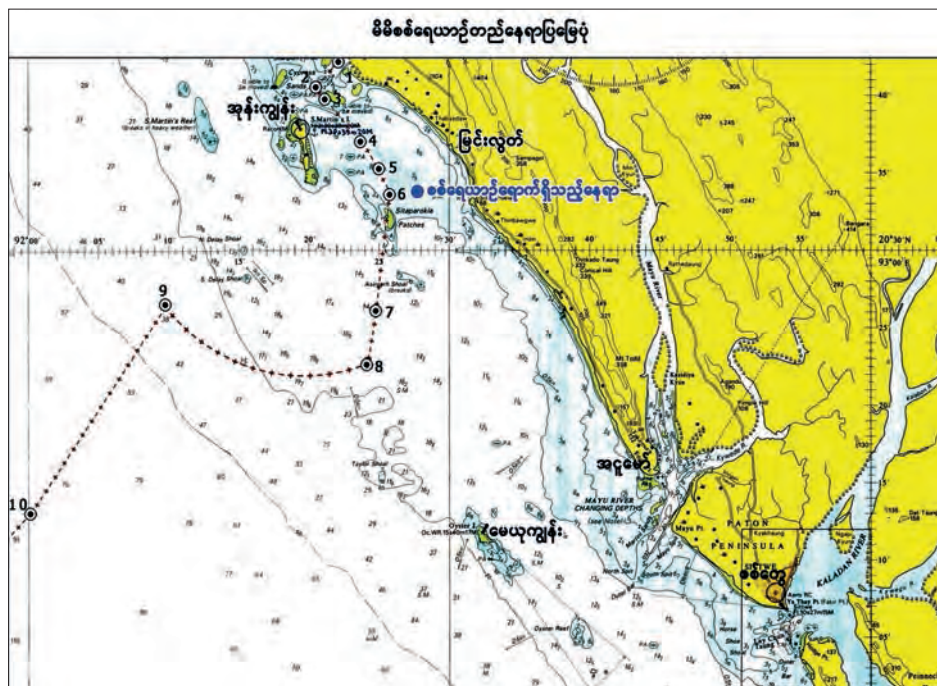
In addition, matters to be carried out under the CLMV Tourism Cooperation Action

Plan 2023-2025 were discussed and approved. These include the facilitation of regional tourism and visa liberalization by member countries, the holding of regional tourism exhibitions and the participation of member countries, the status of cooperation with partner organiza-

tions, private entrepreneurs in the hotel and tourism industry, and local communities. Plans to continue cooperation for the further development of regional tourism, the extension of the CLMV Tourism Cooperation Action Plan to 2025-2026, and the status of Vietnam's alternate chairmanship of the eighth CLMV Tourism Ministers' Meeting were also addressed.

After the meeting, the Union minister held a press conference on the seventh CLMV Tourism Ministers' Meeting, where she explained the progress made in regional tourism development, ongoing work, and the joint press release, and answered questions from the local and international media based in Yangon. — MNA/TKO

Bangladeshi media reports fisherman injured by Myanmar Navy bullet



The location map of the Naval vessel's position.

THE Bangladeshi daily Dhaka Tribune (<http://www.Dhakatribune.com/Bangladesh/nation/366495/Bangladeshi-fisherman-injured-by-myanmar-navy>) covered the news stating one Bangladeshi fisherman was injured by gunfire from the Myanmar Navy while he was fishing in the Bay of Bengal near Saint Martin's Island on 27 November.

According to the investigation, there was no vessel of Tatmadaw (Navy) in that area on 27 November, which was reported in the media of Bangladesh, and only one vessel left Sittway after transporting

drinking water and rations at 1:45 pm, stationed about five miles from southwest of Myin Luk village at North latitude 20° 43.1' and East longitude 92° 26.7'.

Although the lower-level border guards of the two countries can negotiate regarding these cases, the media seems to attempt to destroy the friendship of the two countries and their people. Therefore, the government of Myanmar conducts border area relationships so as not to cause destructive actions in the bilateral relations between the two countries. — MNA/KTZH

People's Military Service Training 5 concludes

GRADUATION ceremonies for the fifth batch of the People's Military Service Training Programme, designed to prepare Myanmar's citizens for national defence and security, were held yesterday at military training depots across the relevant military headquarters.

In line with Myanmar's People's Military Service Law, effective 10 February 2024, this programme aims to cultivate a robust and disciplined force of citizens ready to uphold the Union's sovereignty, unity, and security.

During the ceremonies, with the national flag held high, graduates took an oath of loyalty to Myanmar. Officials awarded top-performing trainees with distinctions in categories such as Model Trainee, Best Training Code of Conduct, Best Marksmanship, Best Mine Handling, and Leadership in Unit Strategy.

Senior officials, including the Nay

Pyi Taw Council chairman, chief ministers from regions and states, commanders, and other senior personnel, attended the event. Officials delivered congratulatory speeches to graduates.

The fifth training batch, which started on 9 September 2024, provided a comprehensive curriculum covering both theoretical and practical aspects of military science. During the training period, participants engaged in various arenas, including combat strategy, tactical deployment, and physical drills. Practical training included small arms handling, unit-based assault manoeuvres, mine handling, and battlefield engineering. Leadership and field administration modules were also incorporated to ensure that trainees are well-rounded in both military operations and organizational management. — MNA/TKO



The People's Military Service Training 5 holds the graduation parade yesterday.

NATIONAL

Literati Day, Nawaday Literary Award presentation held in Pyay

THE Pyay Township Writers' Association hosted the 1386 ME Writers' Day ceremony and the Nawaday Literary Award presentation yesterday at BEHS 1 Pyay.

The event was attended by Dr Yin Wai Lwin (Yin Wai Lwin - Pyay), Chair of the Pyay Township Writers' Association, association members, special invitees, and participating students. The chair delivered the opening speech, followed

by the reading of the 1386 ME Literati Day message from the Myanmar Writers' Association (Central) by U Zaw Lwin Oo (Yi Zaw Maung - Pyay), the association's secretary.

Writer Aung (Dhatu) then presented a biography of Toun-goo-era poet Pyay Nawaday-gyi. The ceremony included a tribute to four doyen literati from the township, led by the chair and members of the association.



Literati Day and Nawaday Literary Awarding event in progress yesterday in Pyay.

Awards were presented to Pyay Township Writers' Association members Kanaung Nang Nwe Oo, who won the 2023 Child literature First Prize and the 30th Pakokku Literary Third

Prize, and Marn Thit Nyein (Archaeology), who won the 30th Pakokku Literary First Prize.

Additionally, awards were given to students who

excelled in the Nawaday Literary Award-winning poetry competition for high school students as part of the Literati Day celebrations. — Maung Shwe Win (Pyay)/KZL

Discussions underway to implement smoke-free activities in tourist destinations

A plan to implement smoke-free activities in tourist destinations frequented by domestic and international travellers is under discussion, according to the Chairman of the Public Health Foundation.

Discussions are underway with ministries and organizations related to tourist destinations and involved in implementing these activities.

"The aim is to create smoke-free areas in tourist destinations frequented by domestic and foreign travellers. Additionally, we will establish other smoke-free areas in places related to tourist destinations, such as universities, basic education schools, airports, ports, and passenger vehicles.



This image showcases a poster promoting a smoke-free area.

The more smoke-free areas we establish, the better we can prevent diseases caused by smoking," said Chairman Dr Than Sein of the Public Health Foundation.

The Public Health Foundation has also established smoke-free areas at approximately 120 pagodas in the Bagan ancient cultural area

in Mandalay Region as part of its efforts to establish smoke-free zones nationwide.

Among the smoke-free areas in Myanmar, the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone, together with Saensuk Municipality in Thailand, won the bronze medal for the ASEAN Smoke-Free Award in August 2023. — ASH/MKKS

New TV series about traditional Myanmar weaving industry begins shooting

ACCORDING to actor Thar Nyi, a ceremony to mark the start of filming for a TV series based on the Myanmar traditional weaving industry took place at the Kyaikkasan Pagoda in Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region, on 26 November.

Even created the storyline, with Hay Marn Hein writing the script and Pyae Phyo Naing

(PPN), Yee Mon Htet, and Nyo Htwe directing the series for Bonanza Production.

"It has an interesting story based on the Myanmar traditional weaving industry. I will be playing a member of a fortune-telling family," said actor Thar Nyi.

The cast includes Aung Yay Chan, Nae Thit Aye Aung, Thar Nyi, Min Thu, Lin La Pyae Htet, Lin Zar Ni Zaw, Academy Khin Moh Moh Aye, Thar Thar, Daw Lone Tin, and others. The series will be broadcast as a creation of Channel Plus free channel in 2025. — ASH/TRKM

Press show for new Myanmar TV series held

A press show of Myanmar's new television series 'Nwe', which is scheduled to air on 18 December, was held at the Rangoon Cineplex in the Kanthaya Shopping Centre, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region, on 27 November, according to actress Ya Min May Oo, who plays the lead role in the series.

Dream Walkerz Production created the storyline and script, with director Aung Myat and co-director Kaung Thaw directing the series for Dream Walkerz Production.

"It is a new series of marriage dramas created by Canal Plus. I play the character Myat, a woman who enjoys a

happy marriage at 24, but faces sadness due to unexpectedly challenging situations in her married life. I tried my best. I welcome comments on my performance and hope everyone enjoys it," actress Ya Min May Oo said.

The 40-episode TV series, with each episode lasting 26 minutes, features Ya Min May Oo, May Toe Khaing, Aung Ye Hteik, Ti Saw, Khaing Hnin Wai, Ye Naung Cho, Thondaray Oo, Angela K, Sin Ma, Saung, and many other cast members. The series will be broadcast at 7:30 pm every weekday on Canal Plus, Zat Lenn Channel, and the Canal Plus App. — ASH/TKO



This image showcases artistes and participants at the press show.

NATIONAL

Myanmar imports over 432,000 tonnes of fuel oil in Oct

OVER 432,000 tonnes of diesel and Octane worth US\$337.63 million were imported in October. The Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods.

Additionally, the illegal import of 454 tonnes of fuel oil was seized under the existing laws.

The central committee stated that the relevant departments will carry out prevention measures for fire outbreaks caused by oil and gas. The Central Bank of Myanmar also injects US dollars into the fuel oil sector.

Under the Supervisory

Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil, the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department has been issuing daily reference wholesale prices to ensure price stability for energy consumers. Reference wholesale prices set for Yangon on 29 November were K3,015 per litre of Octane 92, K3,180 for Octane 95, K2,655 for diesel and K3,290 for premium diesel.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations to see whether they are overcharging. Authorities are taking action against

those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging rather than the set reference rate.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. Domestic fuel prices are highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss experienced by the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at



As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. Pump machine at petrol station.

a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar's. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies and the

prices are about 60 per cent lower than those of Myanmar. Every country lays down different policy patterns to fix oil prices, the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil stated. — NN/KK



Farm workers pick cotton wool on the plantation.

No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise seeks bids for 960,000 visses of long-staple cotton

NO 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise under the Ministry of Industry invited a tender to purchase 960,000 visses of long-staple cotton in Kyat.

The tender proposal stated to buy 800,000 visses of A-grade long-staple cotton and 160,000 visses of C-grade cotton, No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprises advertised on state-run newspapers.

A tender closing date is 9 December. Individuals can enquire about details through the contact numbers of the production department of No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprises located at office No 37 in Nay Pyi Taw through contact numbers : 067 3408138, 067 3408439, and 067 3408492. — NN/KK

CBM sells 4.97M baht on 28 Nov

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold 4.97 million baht on 28 November and 3.21 million baht on 27 November.

It injected over 1.79 million yuan on 26 November after sales of 17.8 million baht and US\$25,000 on 22 November into the financial market.

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 as well.

CBM announced on 16 November to sell \$35 million to fuel oil importers on 16 November.

CBM injected US\$400,000 into the financial market on 14 November. It sold 14.5 million 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 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 and 100.8 million baht on 4 Novem-

ber.

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

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

Yangon Region targets market access, value-added production for bamboo industries

ACCORDING to Yangon Region's northern district Small Industries Department, bamboo-based traditional domestic businesses in Yangon Region are being supported for market access and production of value-added products.

"In the Kawhmu villages of the northern district, bamboo hat weaving is a traditional household business in

almost every village. It has markets in the western Bago Region in addition to Yangon Region. There are about eight designs of bamboo products for summer and cold seasons. Our department supports necessary technology, financial assistance and market access. We are working with plans to upgrade cottage industries to micro, small and

medium enterprises," said department assistant director U Ye Zaw Tun.

As the northern district of Yangon Region is an area that produces a lot of bamboo, almost all villages in the area live on making bamboo hats and the department is working to improve the production of value-added products.—ASH/ZN

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Father of PlayStation says 'everyone told us we would fail'

THE PlayStation, one of the most successful gaming consoles of all time, was initially met with scepticism. Three decades ago, its creator, Ken Kutaragi, faced immense challenges

convincing both game developers and Sony executives that his console would succeed.

"Everyone told us we would fail," Kutaragi told AFP in a rare interview.

With revolutionary

3D graphics and grown-up titles like "Tomb Raider" and "Metal Gear Solid", the device first hit shelves on 3 December, 1994.

Despite the doubts, Kutaragi was determined.

At the time, the gaming industry was dominated by two-dimensional games like Super Mario Bros, and CGI was a rarity, even in Hollywood.

Executives at Sony feared the PlayStation would tarnish their reputation as producers of high-end electronics, and Japanese game developers were reluctant to embrace the idea of 3D real-time gaming, a seemingly impossible feat at the time.

Undeterred, Kutaragi pushed forward with his vision of a console capable of groundbreaking 3D graphics and sophisticated games like Tomb Raider and Metal Gear Solid.

The PlayStation, launched on 3 December, 1994, revolutionized the industry. It eventually became a household name, with the PlayStation 2, the top-selling console of all time, selling over 160 million units. — AFP

Ken Kutaragi overcame skepticism to create PlayStation, revolutionizing gaming with 3D graphics and iconic titles.



Sony used its music industry experience to develop a new distribution model for gaming consoles. **PHOTO: AFP**



Black Friday opens a long commerce-centred weekend in the United States. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

'Black Friday' deals target inflation-weary US consumers

THE annual Black Friday shopping day has always been about finding the best deals, but this year retailers are preparing for a US consumer more zealously fixated than ever on getting value for their money.

Inflation has stabilized after dramatic price spikes during the COVID-19 pandemic years, but consumers are still feeling the pinch — meaning bargain-hunting strategies such as grabbing early giveaways and waiting for last-minute steals are in vogue.

Compared with other years, holiday shoppers in 2024 are "even more preoccupied and very focused around value and discounts", said Vivek Pandya, leading insights analyst at Adobe Digital Insights.

"We do see stronger price sensitivity on the part of the consumer and they are very responsive to deals and event-tie deals," he said.

Consumers throughout 2024 have responded to special discount occasions such as Memorial Day and Amazon's "Prime Day".

Black Friday, the unofficial kickoff of the US holiday gift season, comes the day after Thanksgiving and opens a long commerce-centred weekend that also includes "Small Business Saturday" and "Cyber Monday".

In recent years, as inflation has grown as a concern, major chains like department store Target have been pulling ahead "Black Friday" promotions to October or even earlier. — AFP

Canada watchdog sues Google over 'anti-competitive' ad tech

CANADA'S competition watchdog announced Thursday it was taking Google to court, accusing the company of "anti-competitive behaviour" in online advertising.

Ads are typically bought and sold through automated auctions and managed by businesses using ad tech — a system that also decides which online advertisements people see when they visit websites.

A Competition Bureau investigation found that Google is the largest provider of these tools in Canada. Commissioner Matthew Boswell said in a statement it "has abused



Google's advertising practices are also subject to investigations or proceedings in Britain, the EU and the United States. **PHOTO: AFP**

its dominant position... by engaging in conduct that locks market participants into using its own ad tech tools". The watchdog ac-

cused Google of giving its own tools preferential access to ad inventory, at times selling ads at a loss to block rivals, and dictating

terms for the use of others' ad tech tools.

Boswell said he would ask a tribunal to level the playing field by forcing Google to sell two of its ad tech tools and pay an unspecified penalty.

Google spokesman Dan Taylor said the company is prepared to fight the allegations that he said "ignore the intense competition (in this sector) where ad buyers and sellers have plenty of choice".

France's competition watchdog fined Google 220 million euros in June 2021 for favouring its own services in the online advertising sector. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC CHANGMING VOY.NO. (2414S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHANGMING VOY.NO. (2414S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-11-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Israel PM again warns Iran after top diplomat talks of revising nuclear doctrine

IRAN will hold nuclear talks with Britain, France, and Germany on Friday, just days after a UN censure over its lack of cooperation and ahead of US President-elect Donald Trump's return to office.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday that Israel would do "everything" to stop Iran acquiring a nuclear weapon after Iran's top diplomat warned it could end its ban on developing one if Western sanctions are reimposed.

The renewed war of words between the Middle East foes came as Iran prepares to hold key nuclear talks with European governments on Friday which have been overshadowed by their joining with Washington to have Tehran censured by the UN atomic watchdog.

"I will do everything to prevent it from becoming a nuclear (power), I will use all the resources that can be

Iran to hold nuclear talks with Britain, France, Germany after UN censure and ahead of Trump's return.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly vowed to stop Iran acquiring a nuclear weapon, by military means if necessary. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

used," Netanyahu told Israeli broadcaster Channel 14 in an interview.

Israel is the region's sole, if undeclared, nuclear-armed state. It has long made preventing any rival from matching it its top defence priority.

Netanyahu said Tuesday that the ceasefire that went into effect in Lebanon the following day would allow Israel to focus on Iran. He did not elaborate on what action he envisaged.

Iran launched two missile barrages at Israel over the past year in retaliation for the killing of leaders from Hamas and Hezbollah, as well as an Iranian general.

Israel responded both times with limited attacks on Iran, most recently bombing several military sites on 26 October. — AFP

Google buys 27-mln-euro land in Finland for data centre expansion

GOOGLE has acquired a 27-million-euro (28.5 million US dollars) land parcel in Finland to expand its data centre operations, the Finnish government announced on Thursday.

Metsähallitus, Finland's state forest property administrator, has been authorized to sell approximately 1,400 hectares of land near Kajaani, a northeastern town that serves

as a key hub for data centre activities. The government noted in its press release that land transactions of this size are rare in Finland.

Google has been operating data centres in Finland since 2011, with its campus in Hamina currently employing around 400 full-time staff, according to the release.

In Finland, Google built its

first data centre in Hamina, a city located approximately 145 kilometres east of the country's capital Helsinki, in 2009. In May this year, the US tech giant announced a new one billion-euro investment to expand its Hamina campus, which is expected to create more jobs in the next two years, according to local media reports. (1 euro = US \$1.06) — Xinhua



The picture shows the exterior of Google's data centre in Hamina, located approximately 145 kilometres east of the country's capital Helsinki. **PHOTO: GOOGLE/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Germany offers to deploy Patriot air defence systems to Poland

JAPAN, Britain and Italy are considering inviting Saudi Arabia to join their next-generation fighter jet development project with its financial support, a British government source said Friday.

The trilateral project was announced in December 2022 with the aim of deploying the first jet by 2035. — Kyodo

At least 15 dead, 113 missing, after Uganda landslides

LANDSLIDES in several villages in eastern Uganda have killed 15 people and left more than 100 unaccounted for, police said on Thursday.

The East African country has been deluged by heavy rains in the past few days, with the government issuing a national disaster alert after reports of flooding and landslides.

Landslides late on Wednesday hit the village of Masugu in the eastern Bulambuli district, about five hours from the capital, Kampala.

Images on local media showed huge swathes of fallen earth covering the land.

"A total of 15 bodies have been retrieved," the Ugandan police said in a statement posted on X, adding that a further 15 people had been admitted to a local hospital.

"Unfortunately, 113 people are still missing, but efforts are underway to locate them," it said.

The statement said five villages — Masugu, Namachele, Natola, Namagugu, and Tagalu — had been impacted.

District commissioner Faheera Mpalanyi said that six bodies, including that of a baby, had been recovered so far from Masugu village. — AFP

SPORTS

Barcelona looks to celebrate 125th birthday with win at home to Las Palmas

FC Barcelona aims to celebrate the club's 125th anniversary this weekend with a win at home to Las Palmas that will keep it on the top of La Liga. Coach Hansi Flick welcomes back Lamine Yamal after an ankle injury that has sidelined him since the eve of the last international break. Ferran Torres is also back in the squad and central defender Inigo Martinez took part in Friday's training session after ending Tuesday's 3-0 win over Brest with a slight muscle problem.

That midweek Champions League win ended a worrying run of results for Barca, which lost 1-0 away to Real Sociedad three weeks ago and then drew 2-2 away to Celta Vigo when it conceded two late goals after being reduced to 10 men following Marc Casado's 82nd-minute red card.

Casado is suspended for Saturday and Flick will have to decide whether to recall Frenkie de Jong to his starting line-up after the Dutch midfielder was booed by a section of the fans when he came on as a second half substitute on Tuesday. — Xinhua



Argentina stays atop latest FIFA men's world rankings

Martinez scored a spectacular volley in the second half, assisted by Lionel Messi, to give Argentina a 1-0 win over Peru in their South American World Cup qualifying match on 19 November. **PHOTO: AFP**

The top five FIFA rankings remained unchanged: Argentina, France, Spain, England, Brazil. Portugal and Netherlands moved up.

THE top five teams — Argentina, France, Spain, England and Brazil — remained in their positions in the latest FIFA men's world rankings on Thursday after 192 matches had been

played in the latest international window.

Teams from Asia, Oceania and South America were in action in the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifications,

while teams from Europe, Africa and North America played in continental tournaments during that period.

Portugal (sixth) and the Netherlands (seventh) moved one spot up each at the expense of Belgium, which fell to eighth, while Italy remained ninth.

Germany returned to the top 10, while Colombia dropped two spots down to 12th. Niger had the biggest move by ranks, up nine spots to 122nd. — Xinhua

Swiatek given one-month ban for doping offence

FIVE-TIME Grand Slam champion Iga Swiatek accepted a one-month suspension after testing positive for a prohibited substance, the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) announced on Thursday.

The banned substance was detected in a sample collected from Swiatek on 12 August, ahead of the Cincinnati tournament. The out-of-competition test showed trace amounts of trimetazidine (TMZ). The Polish world No 2 was provisionally banned from 12 September, missing the tournaments in Seoul, Beijing, and Wuhan, although she did not disclose the actual reason at the time. The ITIA said it accepted that the positive test was caused by the contamination of a regulated non-prescription medication (melatonin), manufactured and sold in Poland that the player had been taking for jet lag and sleep issues and decided that the violation was not intentional.

Consequently, Swiatek was given a one-month suspension,



Iga Swiatek has been hit with a one-month ban. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

and she formally admitted to the Anti-Doping Rule Violation and accepted the sanction on 27 November. Provisionally suspended from 12 September to 4 October, Swiatek has eight days of her suspension remaining. Additionally, she will forfeit her prize money from the Cincinnati Open.

The Women's Tennis Association (WTA) voiced support for the ITIA's decision on Thursday and stressed the importance of athletes ensuring the safety of their medications to uphold the principles of clean sport. — Xinhua

Arsenal must be near-perfect to catch Liverpool, says Arteta

MIKEL Arteta says Arsenal will need to be almost perfect if they are to catch runaway Premier League leaders Liverpool but feels momentum is building again after a poor run.

Arsenal, runners-up to Manchester City over the past two seasons, were expected to challenge again this year but instead Liverpool have raced eight points clear of second-placed City.

The Gunners go into Saturday's match against West Ham on a high after hammering Sporting Lisbon 5-1 in the Champions League in midweek.

Last weekend they beat Nottingham Forest 3-0 at home to end a four-match winless run in the league that cost them vital ground.

Victory at the London Stadium on Saturday would likely lift Arsenal to second in the table ahead of the Sunday matches, which includes a pivotal clash between Liverpool and City.



Arsenal will climb to second in the Premier League table if they beat West Ham. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Arteta was asked at his pre-match press conference on Friday whether his team would have to be almost flawless to stand any chance of catching Liverpool, who have won 10 of their 12 games.

"If they continue that way, that's for sure, with the numbers they're producing and the amount of games they're winning," said the Arsenal manager. — AFP



Putin warns of retaliation if nuclear weapons transferred to Ukraine

Russia will use all available means of destruction if Ukraine acquires nuclear weapons, Putin warns.

RUSSIA will use all means of destruction at its disposal if Ukraine gets nuclear weapons, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at his press conference following the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) summit in Kazakhstan.

“In this case, we will take and use all, I want to emphasize, exactly all means of defeat available to Russia. Everything, we will not allow this,” Putin pointed out, commenting on possible future Russian actions in case Ukraine has nuclear weapons.

The president also noted that Russia will not allow Ukraine to obtain nuclear weapons.

“What do you think, at the level of common sense? If the country with which we are essentially fighting now



In this handout video grab released by the Russian Defence Ministry, servicemen of the Russian Southern Military District participate in military drills on the use of non-strategic nuclear weapons, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

becomes a nuclear power, what should we do? In this case, we will take and use all, I want to emphasize this, exactly all the means of defeat available to Russia - everything. We will not allow this. We will watch their every move,”

Putin told reporters when asked about Russia’s reaction to the possible transfer of nuclear weapons to Kyiv.

Russia will not allow Kyiv to obtain nuclear weapons, President Vladimir Putin stated.

Russia will respond to acts of aggression, there will be a different tool for each target in Ukraine, Russian troops will not shoot at sparrows from a cannon, President Putin emphasized. — SPUTNIK

WHO wants bird flu surveillance stepped up

The WHO is calling for more vigilance to prevent potential human-to-human transmission.

THE World Health Organization on Thursday urged countries to step up surveillance for bird flu after the first case was detected in a child in the United States.

A small but growing number of H5N1 avian influenza infections have been detected in humans around the world in recent years, WHO epidemic and pandemic preparedness and prevention director Maria Van Kerkhove told a press conference.

“What we really need globally, in the US and abroad, is much stronger surveillance in animals: in wild birds, in poultry, in animals that are known to be susceptible to infection, which includes swine, which include dairy cattle, to better understand the circulation in these animals,” she said. — AFP



Photo taken on 10 January 2023 shows that shelves of a grocery store are bare of eggs in Westminster, Colorado, the United States. Egg shortages and skyrocketing prices at grocery stores continue to impact American consumers as a result of the historic avian flu that is spreading rapidly among wild birds and has triggered the killing of millions of poultry. **PHOTO: PETER MERTZ/XINHUA/FILE**

Israel conducts first strike on Lebanon since ceasefire

ISRAEL said it conducted an air strike on a Hezbollah weapons facility on Thursday, the first since a ceasefire in the war in Lebanon took effect.

The truce, which came into force on Wednesday, seeks to end a war that has killed thousands in Lebanon and sparked mass displacements in both Lebanon and Israel.

The war began with Hezbollah firing into Israel in support of its Palestinian ally Hamas and its unprecedented 7 October attack on Israel.

Israel shifted its focus from Gaza to Lebanon in September to secure its northern border from Hezbollah attacks, dealing the Iran-backed Shiite Muslim movement a series of heavy blows.

Lebanon deployed troops and tanks on Thursday across the country’s south, where Hezbollah has long held sway, where only the army and UN peacekeepers are to maintain a presence under the terms of the ceasefire.

“A short while ago, terrorist activity was identified in a facility used by Hezbollah to store mid-range rockets in southern Lebanon,” the Israeli military said, adding that “the threat was thwarted” by its air force.

Nazih Eid, mayor of Baysariyeh in south Lebanon, told AFP a strike had hit an area of his town. — AFP