

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers speech at the awarding winners in the National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement, National Literature Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Contest to mark the Diamond Jubilee National Literature Awarding for 2023 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Salient points in the speech delivered by the Senior General at the literary-awarding ceremony for 2023

- * The State Administration Council is shaping a peaceful and prosperous future of the State and citizens with the strength of literati.
- * Well-versed human resources are crucial in developing the Union based on democracy and federalism and restoring durable peace in shaping a future democratic nation.
- * Youths are urged to read good literature of literati in order to enhance their capacity to build themselves as a reliable strength of the future nation.
- * Knowledge and guidance from the literature will contribute a great deal to emergence of a prosperous society.

Literature contributes to emergence of a prosperous society

Fake news, hate speech and unaccredited information without ethics hinder peace and stability and development momentum of the State, disintegrating national solidarity and disturbing a goal of peace all the people aspire to.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underscored that youths have to read good literature of literati in order to enhance their capacity to build themselves as a reliable strength of the future nation. A ceremony to award winners in the

National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement, National Literature Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Contest to mark the Diamond Jubilee National Literature Awarding for 2023 took place at Myanmar International Convention

Centre I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, attended by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla.

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Tatmadaw (Navy) patrol vessel rescues stranded fishing boat near Pyapon River

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.)

Union Health Minister to join World Conference on Traditional Medicine

AT the invitation of Minister of Health Mr Lei Haicho of the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China, a Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win departed from Yangon for the PRC yesterday to attend the 2024 World Conference on Traditional Medicine held on 3-4 December in Beijing, the PRC. — MNA/KZL

Deputy Health Minister leaves for Russia

A Myanmar health delegation led by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun departed from Yangon for the Russian Federation by air on 30 November 2024 to attend the 2024 International Forum on Development of Healthcare Activities held from 2 to 6 December in Moscow, the Russian Federation. — MNA/KZL

Deputy Commerce Minister leaves for India

DEPUTY Minister for Commerce U Min Min departed from Yangon for the Republic of India by air yesterday afternoon to attend the 29th Partnership Summit jointly organized by the government and private sector on 2-3 December at Bharat Madapam in New Delhi, India. — MNA/KZL

Sitagu Sayadaw's visit to Nepal highlights peace, religious heritage, and humanitarian contributions



Chancellor of the Sitagu International Buddhist Academies Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nyanissara participates in the International Seminar on Exploring Gautam Buddha's Teachings on Peacekeeping and Sustainable Development at Lumbini Buddhist University in Nepal on 30 November 2024.

DR Ashin Nyanissara, widely known as Sitagu Sayadaw and Chancellor of the Sitagu International Buddhist Academies, visited Nepal as a special guest of the Nepalese Prime Minister. During his stay, he toured significant religious sites and participated in events promoting peace and sustainable development.

On 30 November, Sitagu Sayadaw visited the Maedaw Maya Monastery

in Lumbini Gardens. He also toured the Myanmar Golden Monastery, constructed with contributions from the Myanmar government and citizens, and the Lokamanicula Pagoda — a 72-foot replica of the Shwedagon Pagoda built in May 1995 as Myanmar's first religious structure in Nepal. The Sayadaw discussed ongoing maintenance, sustainability of the monastery's religious

buildings, repairs to the Ashoka Pillars, and improving accommodation facilities for pilgrims.

Accompanied by Myanmar's Ambassador to Nepal and officials, the Sayadaw also visited the Thousands of Buddha Temple at the monks' and laypeople's invitation. Welcomed by the temple's abbot and disciples, he delivered a Vipassana sermon to laypersons.

The venerable Sayadaw participated in the International Seminar on Exploring Gautam Buddha's Teachings on Peacekeeping and Sustainable Development at Lumbini Buddhist University. In his address, he emphasized the critical role of peace for both global harmony and individual well-being.

On 1 December, the venerable Sayadaw and Nun Daw Dhammawady, an honorary Doctor of Literature, were offered alms by staff of the Myanmar Embassy to Nepal at Dhamma Kirti Vihar Monastery before departing for Myanmar. During his visit, Sitagu Sayadaw donated 100 sets of robes to monks residing at the World Peace Temple in Kathmandu.

This visit underscored Sitagu Sayadaw's commitment to promoting peace, sustaining religious heritage, and supporting Buddhist communities worldwide. — MNA/TKO

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 1 December 2024)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 2 December 2024: Rain will be scattered in Chin State and isolated in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady regions and Shan State. Degree of certainty is 80%. Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-7 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 DECEMBER 2024: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 December 2024: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 December 2024: Partly cloudy. — DMH

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

(Issued at 14:45 hour MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.9 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (4) miles west-northwest of Kyangin), latitude 18.35°N, longitude 95.19°E, depth 50 kilometres, about 90 miles southwest of Toungoo seismological observatory was recorded at 14 hour 27 min 44 sec MST on 1 December 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

The Senior General and his wife pressed the button to unveil the Diamond Jubilee National Literature Award exhibition.

The Senior General, his wife and attendees viewed round biographies of winners, photos, award winning books, other books and booklets and other literary booths.

The Senior General and attendees watched a video clip on song honouring the diamond jubilee literary award ceremony and a documentary to uplift prestige of the State and national.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that a total of 15 out of 1,050 entries from 19 genres were selected for the national literary awards whereas 30 entries out of 284 submitted manuscripts were awarded in 13 genres for the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Contest for 2023.

He continued to say that six doyen literati were honoured as the National Lifetime Award winners for Literary Achievement for their excellent performance in the literary arena.

He highlighted that fake news, hate speech and unaccredited information without ethics hinder peace and stability and development momentum of the State, disintegrating national solidarity and disturbing a goal of peace all the people aspire to.

He disclosed that the State Administration Council is shaping a peaceful and prosperous future of the State and citizens with the strength of literati.

Currently, the Senior General noted that the government is implementing the project of Sarso Beikman building in order to benefit literary scholars and literary arena in cooperation with the Indian government.

He noted that well-versed human resources are crucial in developing the Union based on democracy and federalism and restoring durable peace in shaping a future democratic nation.

Hence, he urged youths to read good literature of literati in order to enhance

Literature contributes to emergence of a prosperous society



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement to literati Sayagyi Dr Min Tin Mon (Paragu Min Nanda).

their capacity to build themselves as a reliable strength of the future nation.

The Senior General expressed his belief that knowledge and guidance from the literature will contribute a great deal to emergence of a prosperous society.

He stressed that as doyen literati to hand down fine traditions of Myanmar's literary strength and paying respects to monk literati and doyen literati in the Myanmar's history, they have to hand down the fine traditions to new generation literary scholars in order to follow literary ethics and serve interests of the nationality and religion.

He emphasized that those new generations have to uplift prestige and

integrity of the State and disseminate powerful literature to readers.

The Senior General and his wife presented medals, cash award and gifts to National Lifetime Award winners for Literary Achievement for 2023 Dr Min Tin Mon (Paragu Min Nanda), Dr Toe Hla, U Nyunt Swe (Maung Swe Thet), U Than Swe (Maung Than Swe-Dawei), Dr Kyaw Win (Professor of History Department-Retired), and U Nyunt Tin (Maung Nyein Thu-Gyobingauk) respectively.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn presented gifts to mark the diamond jubilee celebration to the Senior General and his wife.

Council Joint Secretary General

Ye Win Oo, Council members General Mya Tun Oo, Admiral Tin Aung San, General Maung Maung Aye, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, General Nyo Saw, Union Ministers U Win Shein and U Maung Maung Ohn awarded winners in the national literature award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Contest respectively.

National Lifetime Award winner for Literary Achievement Sayagyi U Kyaw Win (Professor of History Department-Retired) spoke words of appreciation.

After the ceremony, the Senior General and his wife had lunch together with the winners, artistes and literati.

— MNA/TTA

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NATIONAL

Dinner hosted in honour of literary award winners to mark 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) National Literary Award ceremony 2023



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing joins the dinner in honour of 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) National Literary Award ceremony at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I in Nay Pyi Taw.

Literary scholars and winners in the literary contests are seen at the dinner in honour of 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) National Literary Award ceremony at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I in Nay Pyi Taw.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the dinner in honour of the winner in the 2023 National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Man-

uscript Award Contest in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) National Literary Award ceremony at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

Also present at the winner were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of the Senior Gen-

eral, Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo and his wife, council members and their wives, union ministers, union-level dignitaries and their wives, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers and

officials.

The Senior General and his wife had dinner together with those attendees.

The Senior General and his wife presented the flower basket and cash awards to artistes who performed songs at the dinner. — MNA/TTA



Mr Sholban Kara-Ool, Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation being welcomed on his arrival at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

A delegation led by Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation arrives in Myanmar

A delegation led by Mr Sholban Kara-Ool, Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation arrived in Yangon yesterday. U Khin Maung Soe, central executive committee member of Union Solidarity Development Party (USDP)

and Chairman of Yangon Region USDP, Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Iskander Azizov, U Zaw Phyo Win, Director General of Strategic Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs

of Myanmar and officials from relevant authorities of Myanmar welcomed the delegation at Yangon International Airport.

The delegation also paid visit to Sitagu International Buddhist Academy in Yangon and Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday evening. — MNA

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NATIONAL

Roundtable literary discussion marks diamond jubilee of National Literary Awards

A roundtable literary discussion on 'Developing the Youth Sector through Literature', to mark the 75th anniversary (diamond jubilee) of the National Literary Awards, was held yesterday at Ruby Hall, Myanmar International Convention Centre I, Nay Pyi Taw.

The event was attended by award-winning literary scholars, the Director General and officials of the Printing and Publishing Department under the Ministry of Information, students from the University for the Development of National Races (Sagaing) and the Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon), as well as students from institutes and technical schools, and literature enthusiasts.

During the event, writer Ma

Hnin Phway discussed the steps needed to improve the youth sector, emphasizing the importance of youth reading and studying literature to become educated and develop their knowledge. She also highlighted the need to apply the knowledge and understanding gained from literature for the development of the country. Writer Professor Ko Ko Aung spoke about outstanding and world-renowned scientists who have systematically studied literature since childhood, and how science can be harnessed to help develop the country.

Next, author Dr Tin Phone Kyaw discussed the relationship between today's AI technology and reading, the benefits of AI that can be gained through literature, the challenges regarding the usefulness of AI, interesting insights into AI, and the job op-



A roundtable literary discussion on 'Developing the Youth Sector through Literature', to mark the 75th anniversary (diamond jubilee) of the National Literary Awards, in progress at MICC I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

portunities available to young people through studying various subjects on widely used social platforms. Author Palaw Soe Nanthar spoke about the steps needed to improve the personality of young people through literature, the academic subjects essential for the advancing technological era, the ethics and leadership qualities future leaders should possess, the ways to enhance physical and mental health in young people as well as challenges, and the skills necessary for them to become well-rounded

and versatile individuals.

Afterwards, writer Dr Maung Thin (Maung Thin-Thapayay) gave a detailed summary of the speeches and discussions by the literary scholars. The attendees asked questions about the development of literature and the youth sector, and the scholars provided thorough clarifications and answers.

Then, the Director General of the Printing and Publishing Department presented honoraria to the distinguished literary scholars who participated in the

discussions.

The ceremony to honour the winners of the National Literary Awards was first held in 1948, and this year marks the diamond jubilee. In addition to the ceremony for presenting the National Lifetime Awards for Literary Achievement, the National Literary Awards, and the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award for 2023, a literary discussion dedicated to the development of the youth sector through literature was held to inspire and energize the youth. — MNA/TH

Flags to ensure victory presented to ministerial sports teams

THE ceremony to present flags to ensure success to the ministry-level sports teams to participate in the fifth National Sports Festival was held this afternoon at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

During the event, Union Minister U Min Naung emphasized the importance of rigorous training, strong determination, and adhering to the motto, "The best is first". He presented flags to ensure success to the team leaders and distributed nutritional supplements to the athletes.

The ministerial sports teams will compete in six sports events at the festival: football, volleyball, Sepak Takraw, futsal, athletics, and



Union Minister U Min Naung hands over the flag to ensure victory to ensure an official yesterday.

golf. A total of 119 athletes will represent the ministry in the national sports festival. — MNA/KZL

Website and mobile application launched for fifth National Sports Festival

THE fifth National Sports Festival, scheduled to be held in Nay Pyi Taw from 2 to 20 December 2024, will feature six sports at the ministry level, 23 sports at the state and regional level, and four para-sports. The event will be conducted under five key objectives, showcasing grandeur and inclusivity.

To provide real-time updates on competition fixtures, results, historical backgrounds of the festival and sports, and other related information, the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs has launched the festival's official website, <https://www.thefifthnationalsports.gov.mm/>, and a mobile application starting 1 December 2024.

This initiative aims to ensure public access to timely and comprehensive updates about the festival. — MNA/KZL

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NATIONAL

29 migratory bird species take shelter at Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary

THIS early winter, 29 migratory bird species start taking shelter at Moeyungyi Lake, the Ramsar Site, in Bago Region, according to the warden of Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary.

The lake covering 25,600 acres is home to over 2,000 migratory birds including black-headed ibis, northern pintail, garganey, Eurasian coot, red-wattled lapwing, grey heron, ruddy shelduck, Pacific golden plover, purple swamphen, sandpiper, river tern and lesser whistling duck. There are 29 migratory bird species this month, whereas 112 species last year.

Starting from last week of November, 2,068 birds of 29 migratory bird species from the northern pole of the world are taking shelter at Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary, which 5,192 birds of 19 resident bird species, 6,727 birds of terrestrial bird species and 13,987 birds of typical bird species are also residing.

“In early winter, the water level of Moeyungyi Lake is high, and although the migratory birds are not taking shelter in full, we can see many birds in the vicinity area of the lake. Especially, we can see endangered species like black-headed ibis. The entry of migratory birds to Moeyungyi



Migratory birds take hibernation at Moeyungyi Lake. **PHOTOS: KANU**

Lake is a sign of the abundance of food in the lake. The birds eat the snails in the fields and so it supports environmental conservation and nature-based tourism. It is also a recreational site for

bird lovers and tourists. We also make efforts to conserve the ecosystem of the lake,” said an official of the sanctuary.

The lake recorded migrating of Shearwater bird species last

year.

Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary is home to 120 mammals, 28 amphibians and reptile species, 33 types of insects, 59 migratory birds, 77 domestic birds, 44 fish species and 74 aquatic plants. Myanmar has 1,136 bird species.

There are about 18,000 bird species in the world, and only about 3,000 species migrate depending on the seasons. Birds can be categorized into four groups based on their migration patterns—permanent residents, domestic migratory birds, migratory birds and winter visitor birds.

The migratory birds from the north pole of the country fly to Moeyungyi Lake through Asia-Australian, middle Asian and West Asia-East Africa flyways among nine flyways. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH



Illegal trade crackdown leads to seizure of goods worth K1B+ in two days

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

On 29 November, the combined teams under the management of the Customs Department seized consumer goods without official documents (estimated value of K442 million) from 16 containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint and consumer goods (estimated value of K15.3 million) at Ywathagyi Dry Port from Isuzu Giga Truck (estimate value of K54 million). The action was taken according to the Customs procedures.

Similarly, a squad under the management of the Ayeyawady Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force impounded two unregistered motorcycles (estimated value of K 750,000) in Einme Township and the action was taken under the Export-Import Law.

The combined on-duty teams

under the Taninthayi Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force confiscated 2,300 pieces of mangrove logs (estimated value of K2.7 million) at Kalwin village in Myeik Township. The action was taken according to the Forest Law.

The combined team under the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force made

inspections at No 3 Highway of Mingaladon Township and seized consumer goods and industrial materials (estimated value of K68.73 million) without official documents, two Mitsubishi Fuso trucks (estimated value of K150 million) and industrial materials (estimated value of K97.89 million) without official documents from one vessel at Thakayta jetty.

The action was taken in accordance with the Customs procedures.

Moreover, the combined team in Nay Pyi Taw also seized one unregistered Honda Insight (estimated value of K19 million), one unregistered Daihatsu Hijet (estimated value of K12 million) and one unregistered Loujia motorcycle (estimated value of K800,000) in Dekkhinathiri, Lewe and Pinyinmana townships, respectively. The action was taken under the Export-Import Law.

Furthermore, on 29 and 30 November, the combined team under the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force confiscated one unregistered Toyota Ipsum and one Toyota Crown (estimated value of K28.5 million), one unregistered Toyota Kluger and one unregistered Nissan X-Trail (estimated value of K25 million) and one unregistered CZI 125 motobike (estimated value of K400,000), one

unregistered Honda Fit (estimated value of K15 million) and one unregistered Mitsubishi Minicab (estimated value of K4 million) were also seized in Sagaing, Shwebo, Ayadaw and Monywa townships and the action was taken according to the Export-Import Law.

Additionally, on 29 and 30 November, the combined team under the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted 4.718 tonnes of illegal teak and other illegal timbers (worth K2.25 million) in Toungoo and Thayawady districts and fourteen unregistered vehicles (estimated value of K68 million) in Bago District on 30 November. The action was taken under the Forest Law and Export-Import Law respectively.

Therefore, 18 cases were arrested on 29 and 30 November, leading to the seizure of illegal items worth approximately K 1.007 billion. — MNA/ TRKM



Timber logs seized in Toungoo on 29 November.

Pawsan rice exported in minimal quantity to save for domestic consumption

ACCORDING to U Ye Min Aung, President of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF), Pawsan rice varieties, which are the most consumed domestically, are being exported in minimal quantities to ensure that domestic consumption levels are not impacted.

It is reported that currently, only one or two containers of Pawsan rice per month are being exported to foreign countries such as the United States and Japan to protect domestic consumption levels.

“When we look at domestic consumption patterns, Pawsan rice varieties are highly popular among consumers due to their superior quality and premium price. Although this group of rice is comparable to India’s Basmati rice in terms of quality and national branding, its export volume remains minimal. Most



Stockpiling of rice bags for export purpose.

of the demand for Pawsan rice abroad comes from Myanmar expatriates living in countries like the United States and Singapore. However, logistical chal-

lenges make large-scale exports difficult. For instance, in Vietnam and Thailand, their top-quality rice varieties are not heavily consumed domestically, which

allows them to export in significant quantities. In contrast, in Myanmar, rice varieties such as Htunpu, Ngasein, and Kayin Ma Hteiksaung, which have low-

er domestic consumption, are exported in larger quantities. These varieties are often used as raw materials for basic rice products in importer countries,” U Ye Min Aung stated.

He also noted that Pawsan rice, as a high-quality variety, holds significant potential in international markets. It is a variety that Myanmar should consider exporting in larger quantities over the long term to establish a strong presence in foreign markets.

In Myanmar, approximately 17.5 million acres of monsoon and summer paddy are cultivated annually, producing between 13-14 million metric tonnes of rice. After calculating domestic consumption and food security requirements, an average of about three million metric tonnes of surplus rice is exported each year. — ASH/TMT

Sales of white mustard on the rise

ACCORDING to merchants, sales of white mustard (*Sinapis alba*) from hilly regions are in good condition at Thiri Marlar Green Grocery wholesale centre in Aungmyaythazan District of Mandalay.

Five to six trucks carry the hilly region-produced white mustard to the Thiri Marlar wholesale centre daily. Currently, a bag containing 22-27 visses of white mustard fetches K25,000, said a Mandalay’s wholesale centre owner.

“Currently, the white mustard from hilly regions enters the market. The transactions are quick as soon as the products arrive on the market. Very few farmers plant it depending on the weather. There are about five to six trucks on the market daily. There is no white



A customer buys some vegetable at a vegetable whole sale centre in Mandalay. PHOTO: MAUNG AYE CHAN

mustard from other regions. Sales of all types of green groceries to the market are good for buyers and sellers. Therefore, the farmers can make profits,” the owner said.

The Mandalay market receives white mustard dai-

ly, and transactions of other crops like cucumbers, tomatoes, cauliflowers, chilli, snow peas, chayote, eggplant, kidney bean and cabbage are robust at high prices. Truck entry to the market is as usual. — Maung Aye Chan/KTZH

Onion price falls again due to recent influx of supply

ONION price is falling again due to the recent influx of goods, according to onion market.

Since the price of onions has dropped a lot compared to last week, there are sales in reduced prices in retail and wholesale markets.

“The price of onions has been falling for about a week, and the prices are being reduced in both wholesale and retail markets. There are many trucks coming in now. The price has dropped much compared to a week ago. It has dropped to about K 1000 - K1500 a viss,” said an official at the Phyto Thakhin onion and garlic warehouse in Danyingon wholesale market, Shwepyitha Township.

The fluctuation of onion prices in the coming months will depend on the arrival of trucks at the Bayintnaung wholesale market, and if the number is less than 15, the price may be good.

“How much the price falls depends on the number of cars arriving at Bayintnaung market. If it is over 20, the price will fall more. Today, 14 trucks arrived. If it is less than 15, the price will bounce back in coming Monday or Tuesday,” he said.

Some farmers and traders were able to sell summer onions at the high price, but some traders still have a lot of onion stocks in their possession. — Thit Taw/ZN



Onions are seen at a vendor.

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OPINION

Protect the rights of patients with HIV/AIDS

PEOPLE must avoid discrimination against AIDS patients in all sectors. At the same time, they should offer effective treatment, encouragement, and support to help these patients reintegrate into society and prevent depression in their daily lives.

Patients with HIV and additional diseases, like tuberculosis, should maintain a disciplined lifestyle to prevent spreading infections. By practising healthy habits, both these patients and society try hard to reduce the risk of transmitting or contracting further diseases.

World AIDS Day, observed in various countries worldwide on 1 December annually, brings global attention to supporting those living with HIV, combatting the spread of the virus, and raising public awareness. It emphasizes educating youth and students on HIV prevention, its impact, and ways to address related challenges. The day unites people worldwide to show solidarity with those affected by HIV and to honour the memory of lives lost to AIDS.

This year, the World Health Organization (WHO) will join partners and communities to observe World AIDS Day under the theme "Take the Rights Path: My Health, My Right!" WHO calls on global leaders and citizens to advocate for the right to health by addressing the inequalities that hinder progress toward ending AIDS. The United Nations highlights that substantial progress in the HIV response is closely tied to advancements in protecting human rights. Conversely, the progress achieved through the HIV

response has significantly contributed to realizing the right to health and strengthening health systems.

In 2011, approximately 40,000 HIV-positive patients were able to receive ART treatment in Myanmar. According to the latest data, by the end of September 2024, over 215,000 patients received treatment, a fivefold increase compared to 2011. The peak of new HIV infections occurred in 2000, with nearly 30,000 new cases, but this number has since decreased by about one-third, to just over 10,400 cases in 2023.

Everyone must respect the rights of people living with HIV, ensuring they receive the healthcare and support needed for healthy, fulfilling lives in society. At the same time, individuals with HIV should focus on building their physical and mental strength to resist the challenges of AIDS, striving to live a long, healthy life. Supporting these efforts benefits individuals and the broader community, fostering well-being, dignity, and happiness for all. Both healthy people and those living with HIV, indeed, must be responsible citizens in their society.

THE integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into modern warfare has revolutionized military strategies, introducing unprecedented capabilities while presenting profound legal and ethical challenges. From autonomous drones to AI-driven cyber defence systems, these advancements have outpaced existing international legal frameworks, creating a pressing need to address gaps and ambiguities in laws governing AI in conflict. This article explores the use of AI in military operations, focusing on its application in the Middle East and Ukraine, and examines the challenges it presents under international law.

Evolving Legal Frameworks: Old Principles Meet New Technologies

The rules governing warfare, such as the Geneva Conventions and the Hague Conventions, are grounded in principles like proportionality, distinction, and necessity. However, these frameworks were crafted in an era when AI was not a consideration, leaving significant gaps in addressing its unique challenges.

The emergence of autonomous weapons systems (AWS) poses one of the most significant tests for international law. These systems operate with minimal human intervention, blurring lines of accountability and complicating the enforcement of principles like distinction and proportionality. AI's ability to independently analyze vast data sets and execute operations challenges the traditional understanding of state and individual accountability under international humanitarian law (IHL).

Innovations and Implications

AI's military applications are prominently displayed in the Middle East and Ukraine, regions marked by complex and dynamic conflicts.

In the Middle East, autonomous drones and AI-powered targeting systems are central to military operations. For instance, Israel employs cutting-edge AI programs such as "Daddy's Home", "Gospel", and "Lavender". These systems integrate machine learning to enhance target identification,

FROM CODE TO COMBAT: AI WARFARE AND LEGAL DILEMMAS

By Daw Hla Myet Chell (International Law)



Expanding the CCW to include AI provisions ensures military AI systems comply with IHL and prevents violations of human rights. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXELS**

surveillance, and missile defence, with "Lavender" playing a crucial role in the Iron Dome's precision defence capabilities.

"Daddy's Home"

"Daddy's Home" is a high-precision targeting system that utilizes advanced machine learning algorithms to assist in identifying and prioritizing military targets. By analyzing vast datasets from multiple intelligence sources, including satellite imagery, drone feeds, and human intelligence, "Daddy's Home" offers real-time insights to decision-makers. It is designed to minimize civilian casualties and ensure compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL). The system is particularly effective in urban warfare settings, where distinguishing between combatants and civilians is critical. However, critics have raised concerns about the system's reliance on data accuracy, as errors in input data could lead to unintended consequences.

"Gospel"

The "Gospel" program focuses on real-time surveillance and intelligence gathering. Using sophisticated AI algorithms, it processes video and sensor data from drones, satellites, and ground-based sensors. "Gospel" excels in pattern recognition, enabling it to detect unusual movements, potential threats, or hidden combatants that may escape human observation. This capability allows military commanders to act on intelligence with speed and precision. However, the autonomy of such systems raises ethical and legal questions, particularly regarding their use in environments where accurate differentiation between civilian and military targets is essential.

"Lavender"

The "Lavender" project integrates AI with Israel's renowned Iron Dome missile defence system, adding an extra layer of predictive analytics to existing capabilities. "Lavender" enhances the system's ability

to evaluate threats by considering multiple factors such as the trajectory, size, and payload of incoming projectiles. This rapid analysis enables the Iron Dome to prioritize which missiles to intercept, ensuring optimal resource use. In addition to missile defence, "Lavender" is applied in offensive operations, leveraging AI to determine the most effective strike points. The speed and accuracy of this system are unparalleled, but it also faces scrutiny for the potential lack of human oversight in critical decisions.

These programs showcase Israel's commitment to leveraging AI for military advantage while adhering to the principles of precision and proportionality as mandated by international law. Nevertheless, they raise broader concerns about transparency, accountability, and the ethical implications of AI-driven warfare.

While these technologies aim to minimize civilian casualties, their autonomous nature raises questions about compliance with IHL principles, especially in distinguishing between combatants and civilians. Similarly, in Ukraine, AI systems are employed to counter cyber threats, improve surveillance, and enhance missile defence capabilities. Ukraine's innovative use of AI to predict and respond to Russian military strategies showcases its potential for real-time decision-making. However, such systems, if not properly regulated, risk violating IHL's prohibition of indiscriminate force, particularly when algorithms lack contextual judgment.

Who is Liable?

Determining responsibility for AI-driven military actions is a critical legal and ethical challenge. Under current IHL, states are accountable for their armed forces' conduct. However, when lethal decision-making is dele-

gated to machines, it becomes difficult to attribute blame for unlawful acts, such as targeting errors or civilian casualties.

The lack of clear accountability mechanisms undermines the very foundation of IHL, necessitating urgent legal reforms. Proposals such as the concept of "meaningful human control" over AWS emphasize the need for human oversight in all AI-driven military actions to ensure ethical and legal compliance.

Bridging the Gap: Proposals for Regulation

To address the challenges posed by AI in warfare, international law must evolve to balance technological innovation with ethical accountability. Possible approaches include:

- **Updating Existing Treaties:** Expanding the scope of treaties like the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) to include specific provisions on AI technologies.
 - **New Legal Instruments:** Crafting treaties that regulate autonomous decision-making, mandate human oversight, and limit the deployment of AWS in sensitive conflict zones.
 - **Regulation of Private Sector Involvement:** Establishing guidelines for private companies developing military AI technologies to ensure compliance with IHL principles.
- Efforts by organizations like the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross to address these issues demonstrate global recognition of the urgency of regulating AI in warfare.

A Call for Action

AI's integration into military operations offers both unparalleled advantages and complex challenges. While its potential to enhance precision and reduce human casualties is undeniable,

its autonomous nature raises ethical and legal concerns that current frameworks are ill-equipped to address.

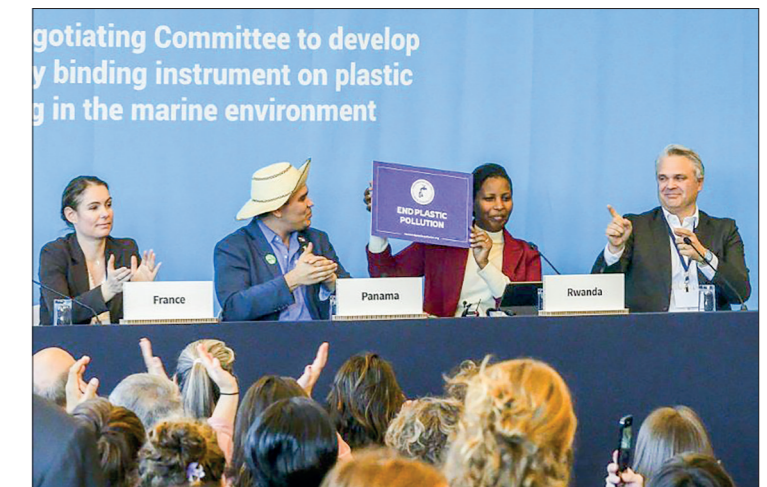
For AI to be used responsibly in warfare, the international community must urgently establish comprehensive legal standards that uphold the principles of accountability, proportionality, and distinction. Only through proactive regulation can the global community ensure that AI serves as a tool for enhancing security rather than exacerbating the horrors of war.

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Calls for extension as plastic treaty negotiations falter

With time running out, some delegates are calling for an extension of the talks to find common ground.



Dozens of countries say they want an ambitious treaty that would set targets to limit plastic production. **PHOTO: AFP**

DELEGATES seeking the world's first deal to curb plastic pollution began openly advocating for an extension of talks on Sunday, accusing a handful of nations of obstructing an ambitious agreement.

Nearly 200 nations are in South Korea's Busan for negotiations that are supposed to result in a landmark accord after two years of discussions.

But a week of talks has failed to resolve deep divisions between "high-ambition" countries seeking a globally binding agreement to limit production and phase out harmful chemicals, and "like-minded" nations who want to focus on waste.

A new draft text, released Sunday afternoon after multiple delays, still includes a wide range of options, making clear the ongoing level of disagreement.

German delegate Sebastian Unger told AFP he was "disappointed about lack of progress."

The "text should be preserved to continue negotiations and bring (the) process forward at (a) future meeting."

The prospect of an "INC 5.2" meeting to follow the INC5 talks in Busan was also raised by Senegal's Cheikh Sylla.

"If you ask me... we stop, we adapt the paper as it is and we try to do another session," he told AFP.

That would offer time "to bring the positions closer together, and at this session 5.2, we can reach an agreement that is balanced".

The calls reflect a sense that there is simply too little time left to overcome the opposition from mainly oil-producing nations such as Saudi Arabia and Russia, who have repeatedly refused to comment when approached by AFP.

At recent international talks, a French minister accused a like-minded group of "continuing obstruction" in the negotiations, while Rwanda's Juliet Kabera highlighted that a "small number" of countries remained unsupportive of essential actions to combat plastic pollution. Kabera stressed that Rwanda could not accept a "toothless" treaty, pointing to the limited time left to reach an agreement. Portuguese delegate Maria Joao Teixeira suggested that another round of talks might be necessary for a meaningful deal, emphasizing the need for a strong treaty.

SOURCE: AFP

NATIONAL

Myanmar-Indonesia SME product exhibition highlights innovation and collaboration

A product exhibition to support the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Myanmar and Indonesia opened on 1 December at the Mingalar Hall of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon. The event featured 19 booths representing 21 companies from both nations.

The exhibition displayed a wide range of products, including consumer goods, leather items, pharmaceuticals, textiles, food products, Myanmar handicrafts, gemstone jewellery, wooden laser-carved paintings, modern furniture, and tea certified with a Collective Mark for authentic Myanmar tea. The event aimed to promote the creativity and quality of SMEs from the two countries.

Participating organizations

included UMFCCI-affiliated groups such as the Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Network, Myanmar Tea Growers, Producers, and Exporters Association, Bamar Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association, and Myanmar Edible Oil Millers Association. These groups showcased and sold their products, highlighting the diverse entrepreneurial spirit of Myanmar.

A panel discussion on SME product promotion was also held, featuring contributions from UMFCCI Vice President U Ye Min Aung and Indonesian business experts. The session provided valuable insights into enhancing market access and fostering collaboration between SMEs in both nations.

The exhibition runs daily from 1 to 3 December, offering



The Indonesian economist visits SME products show at UMFCCI office in Yangon yesterday.

opportunities for businesses to network, expand their reach,

and celebrate the innovation and craftsmanship of SMEs in

Myanmar and Indonesia. — Myo Min Thura/TMT

Tatmadaw (Navy) patrol vessel rescues stranded fishing boat near Pyapon River



Tatmadaw members perform healthcare for rescued crew member.

ON 29 November, at approximately 8:15 pm, a fast patrol vessel under the command of the Tatmadaw (Navy), operating within an operation area,

received a report about a fishing boat that had run aground and was taking on water. The incident occurred around 25 miles southwest of the mouth

of the Pyapon River.

Upon reaching the location, the crew found that the 'Mya Myo Lwin (9)', a fishing trawler carrying 19 crew members on a journey from Pyapon to Yangon, had been caught in a sudden storm. This caused the vessel to take on water and partially sink.

A search and rescue operation was swiftly launched, and the fishermen were rescued. They were transferred to the naval vessel, where they received medical treatment, clothing, and food. At 8:10 pm on 30 November, both the rescued crew members returned to their boat owner. — MNA/TRKM

Japan EM solution to revitalize flood-hit farmlands in Myanmar

EFFORTS are underway to distribute Japanese technology-based EM (Effective Microorganisms) solutions free to flood-affected regions in Myanmar to restore damaged farmlands. According to the Myanmar Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association, this initiative aims to rehabilitate agricultural lands in flood-hit areas while supporting sanitation in affected villages.

The Japan EM solution, a type of micro-organic technology developed under the guidance of Professor Dr Higa from the EM Research Organization (EMRO), has been donated to Myanmar through this association. These

solutions will initially be distributed to Hopong, Pindaya, and Inlay in southern Shan State, where agricultural lands were submerged and damaged.

This project also targets areas worst affected by flooding, such as Tatkon and Yamethin. Activities to rehabilitate farmlands will commence soon as part of a comprehensive restoration plan.

EMRO-Japan has donated the solutions, while the Myanmar Fruit and Vegetable Producers Association, in collaboration with the MFVP Organic Committee, Organic.com.mm, and Team Circular & Farm, will manage and support distribution efforts. — ASH/KZL



Japanese technology-based EM solution being donated to flood-affected arable lands.

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and The Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.



News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Registered rice storage facilities' number reaches 3,500 and enforcement measures to continue

THERE are more than 3,500 registered rice storage facilities and the registration process will continue to be carried out effectively, according to U Ye Min Aung, president of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The Ministry of Commerce announced that all rice warehouses storing 50 tonnes (5,000 baskets) or more must be registered in the Myanmar Rice Online (MyRO) system on 4 November, 2023. In November 2024, more than 3,500 warehouses from all regions and states, including Ayeyawady, were registered, he said.

"MRF proposed this online storage facility registration system in coordination with the Government to prevent stockpiling and speculation. The implementation has started with the Government's approval. Today, there are more than 3,500 storage facilities in the registration system in all regions and states, including Ayeyawady," he explained.

In order to control the situation of stockpiling for speculation, this process of online registration for rice storage facilities will be carried out effectively.

"We will continue to carry out this process effectively. Only then, we will be able to control the situation of stockpiling and speculations. Online registration data include monthly data of goods inwards, outwards, and the balance in each storage facility, and respective organizations and the ministry such as the Consumer Affairs Department is supervising to make spot checking and inspections as necessary. Therefore, regarding rice, there is a balanced cooperation between the government and the private sector," he added.

— MT/ZN



A rice storage facility is seen.

Almost 3M acres of paddy to grow in summer



Farmers are seen working in a summer paddy field.

ALMOST three million acres of summer paddy will be cultivated during this year's summer cultivation season, according to U Ye Min Aung, president of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The MRF is working to achieve the government's goals of promoting domestic production for the development of the rice sector, aiming to cultivate up to three million acres of irrigated and summer

paddy this season.

"There was a slight decrease in rice production due to the cyclone last season, but this did not affect the country's rice consumption, exports, or self-sufficiency. We are working with relevant ministries to address this shortfall. Depending on water availability, we expect to cultivate between 2.7 million and 2.8 million acres of summer paddy," said U Ye Min Aung.

Summer paddy is primarily cultivated in Yangon, Bago, Sagaing, and Ayeyawady regions, as well as Shan State, depending on water availability. Annually, between 13 million and 14 million tonnes of rice are produced from about 17.5 million acres of monsoon and summer paddy. Around three million tonnes are exported each year to meet both domestic consumption and self-sufficiency goals. — ASH/MKKS

'Drama Queens' TV series starts shooting

THE ceremony to mark the start of filming for a new television series titled 'Drama Queens' took place at the Eaindawya Pagoda in Dagon Township, Yangon Region, on 29 November, according to director May Barani.

Khin Thazin not only created the storyline for the series but also co-wrote the script with Phyo Thinzar Kyaw, while May Barani and her assistant Galon directed the series for Shwe Nadi Shwe Yee Film Production.

"I liked the plot when Ma Khin Thazin showed it to me, as it is a mix of drama and fun.



This photo captures the shooting launch of the 'Drama Queens' TV series.

Actors can show off their talents this series. My cast and I have all devoted ourselves to the project," said director May Barani.

Sai Si Tom Kham, Henry, Sett Go Han, May Mie Ko

Ko, Khin Thazin, Wai Yan Myo Thant, Sai Phone Min Thant, and Paing Khant participated in the 20-episode series, which will be filmed in Yangon, Bagan, and other townships. — ASH/TRKM

Japan to recruit around 1,000 Myanmar workers

UP to 290 Japanese companies will recruit about 1,000 Myanmar workers, according to a statement released by Myanmar Embassy in Japan.

The embassy has carried out timely verifications of demand letters received from the Ministry of Labour via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it said.

It verifies whether labour supervisory company and factories or companies which offered jobs in Japan are officially established or not, and re-submits its findings and remarks to the Ministry of Labour through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The statement stipulates information about 292 demand letters submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after verification until 29 September 2024. According to it, more than 290 Japan companies will provide jobs for up to 270 Myanmar male workers and up to 700 Myanmar female workers, totalling about 1,000.

In a statement on 15 November, the embassy said more than 340 Japan companies would employ more than 330 Myanmar male workers and more than 700 Myanmar female workers. — MT/ZS

ECONOMY WORLD

China's manufacturing sector posts faster expansion in November amid policy support

China's manufacturing sector expanded in November, driven by government policies, with the PMI rising to 50.3, indicating growth.



An aerial drone photo taken on 28 August 2024 shows an interior view of the digital factory at a manufacturing enterprise in Yinchuan, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

PHOTO: YANG ZHISEN/XINHUA

CHINA'S manufacturing sector registered accelerated expansion in November thanks to government policy support, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed on Saturday.

The purchasing managers' index (PMI) for China's manufacturing sector came in at 50.3

in November, up from 50.1 in October, according to the NBS.

A reading above 50 indicates expansion, while a reading below 50 reflects contraction.

China's manufacturing sector saw accelerated expansion in November as a series of incremental policies and ex-

isting policies gradually took effect, according to NBS statistician Zhao Qinghe.

Both supply and demand in the manufacturing sector saw recovery in November, with the sub-indices for production and new orders rising to 52.4 and 50.8, respectively, Zhao said. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka records highest deflation since 1961

SRI Lanka's consumer prices fell by 2.1 per cent in November, the highest deflation rate recorded by the economically fragile island nation since 1961, official data showed Saturday.

An unprecedented financial crash in 2022 brought months of consumer goods shortages, with inflation peaking at nearly 70 per cent that year.

Since then, a \$2.9 billion bailout loan from the International Monetary Fund, tax hikes and other austerity measures have slowly made headway in repairing the island's economy.

"Headline inflation will



The Colombo Port City development is billed as the 'gateway to Asia'. PHOTO: AFP

remain negative in the next few months, deeper than previously projected, mainly due to larger downward adjustments

in energy prices and reduction in volatile food prices," Sri Lanka's central bank said in a statement. — AFP

US wine merchants urge exclusions from blanket tariffs

AS President-elect Donald Trump vows sweeping tariffs on even America's close partners once in office, US wine merchants and restaurateurs are watching with trepidation — and pushing for exclusions they say will protect small businesses.

"A lot of our concern is that he could flip the switch on EU tariffs. They were suspended, but not eliminated," said chef DeWayne Schaaf, owner of Celebrations Restaurant in Missouri.

On the campaign trail, Trump threatened blanket tariffs of at least 10 per cent on all imports, but the shadow of even higher levies from US-Europe

disputes during his first term hangs over businesses.

Either scenario would likely thin their profits and force them to raise prices.

In 2019, Trump imposed a 25 per cent tariff on popular European food, drinks and other products as Washington and Brussels clashed over European Union subsidies to aircraft maker Airbus.

"We were absolutely shocked," US Wine Trade Alliance president Ben Aneff told AFP.

The tariffs were suspended after President Joe Biden and the EU in 2021 reached a five-year truce. — AFP



Donald Trump, set to take office in January, campaigned on a platform of tariffs and import duties. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

S Korea's export grows for 14th month in November

SOUTH Korea's export grew for the 14th straight month due to strong demand for locally-made semiconductors, government data showed Sunday.

Export, which accounts for about half of the export-driven economy, rose 1.4 per cent over the year to 56.35 billion US dollars in November, continuing to expand since October last year, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

Import slipped 2.4 per cent to 50.74 billion dollars last month, sending the trade surplus to 5.61 billion dollars. The trade balance stayed in black

for the 18th consecutive month since June last year.

Of the country's 15 major export items, five products saw an expansion in outbound shipment.

Semiconductor export jumped 30.8 per cent from a year earlier to 12.45 billion dollars in November, maintaining an upward trend for the 13th successive month.

The double-digit growth was attributed to demand for high-end chips such as DDR5 and high bandwidth memory products used in generative artificial intelligence chipsets. — Xinhua

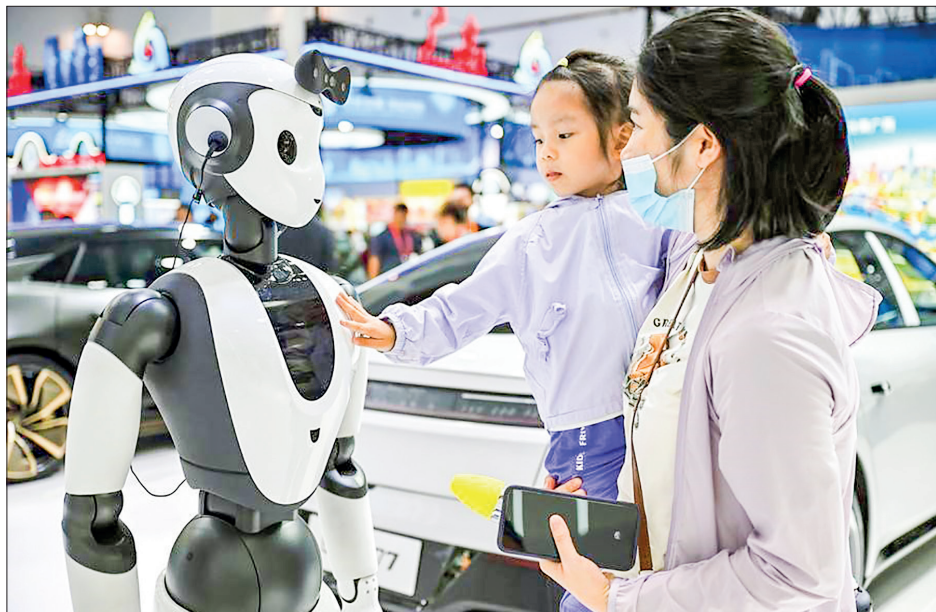
Generative AI product user base in China reaches 230 mln

This indicates a significant and widespread adoption of generative AI technologies across various industries in the country.

THE user base of generative artificial intelligence (AI) products in China had reached 230 million by June 2024, highlighting the country's widespread adoption of generative AI-driven upgrades across various industries, a report released Saturday stated.

China has built a relatively comprehensive AI industry ecosystem, with over 4,500 related companies in the sector, according to a report on the development of generative AI released by the China Internet Network Information Centre (CNNIC). The country's

generative AI industry is thriving, with the value of the core sector nearing 600 billion yuan (about US\$ 2.84 billion). The industry ecosystem spans key areas across both the upstream and downstream — including chips, algorithms, data, platforms and applications.



A girl interacts with an artificial intelligence (AI) robot at the fourth China International Consumer Products Expo (CICPE) in Haikou, capital city of south China's Hainan Province, 15 April 2024. PHOTO: GUO CHENG/XINHUA

As of July 2024, more than 190 generative AI models had been registered and live online, offer-

ing users a diverse range of options and tailored experiences, said the report. China issued a set of provi-

sional management rules for generative AI services in July 2023 — the first of its kind globally. — Xinhua

Indian PC market sees mixed trends in 3Q24

THE desktop category experienced an 8.1 per cent year-on-year (YoY) decline, while the notebook and workstation categories recorded modest growth, rising by 2.8 per cent YoY and 2.4 per cent YoY, respectively. The premium notebook segment, priced above US\$1,000, saw significant growth of 7.6 per cent YoY, driven by online festival sales.

The consumer segment, however, registered a 2.9 per cent YoY decline despite aggressive discounts offered by vendors across e-commerce platforms.

In contrast to the overstocking observed during the same period in 2023, demand in the third

quarter of 2024 (3Q24) was more organic. Vendors refrained from overstocking, leading to the marginal decline, according to the report.

The commercial and enterprise segments showed positive growth, with YoY increases of 4.4 per cent and 9.6 per cent,

respectively.

"The e-tail sales, which typically commence in the second week of October, started in late September this year, driving a surge in PC shipments," said Bharath Shenoy, Research Manager, IDC India and South Asia.

"Brands leveraged



The commercial and enterprise segments saw positive growth, with increases of 4.4 per cent and 9.6 per cent YoY, respectively. PHOTO: UNSPLASH

e-tail sales by offering steep discounts, cash-backs, and bundled accessories. Many extended similar pricing to their brand stores and offline channels, such as Larger Format Retail stores (LFRs), resulting in the second-biggest consumer quarter in history. These strategies enabled vendors to penetrate various market tiers, ultimately boosting consumer PC sales," he added.

According to IDC data, HP Inc led the market with a 29 per cent share in 3Q24, dominating both the commercial and consumer segments with shares of 34.3 per cent and 24.8 per cent, respectively. — ANI

Shanghai welcomes first batch of visa-free passengers from Japan

THE eastern Chinese metropolis of Shanghai welcomed its first group of 26 Japanese nationals, arriving under a new visa-free policy, on Saturday, Shanghai Customs said Sunday.

The passengers, traveling on flight JL891 from Tokyo, arrived at Shanghai Pudong International Airport and completed customs formalities within 30 minutes, according to the customs. Starting from 30 November 2024, and running through 31 December 2025, ordinary passport holders from nine countries — Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Malta, Estonia, Latvia and Japan — are eligible for visa-free entry into China on a trial basis. — Xinhua

Ethiopian Airlines resumes flights to Liberia's capital

ETHIOPIA'S national flag carrier, Ethiopian Airlines, announced on Saturday the resumption of passenger flights to Monrovia, the capital of Liberia, effective 30 November.

The inaugural flight was celebrated in the presence of several high-ranking officials from both

Liberia and Ethiopia, along with executives from Ethiopian Airlines, according to a statement released by the airline.

"The resumption of services to Monrovia brings significant benefits, as it not only expands travel options for passengers but also plays

a vital role in promoting economic integration between Ethiopia and Liberia," the statement said.

The airline said that the new route aims to facilitate trade, tourism and cultural exchange, contributing to the socioeconomic development of both nations. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (442N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (442N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-12-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Putin signs law on Federal budget for 2025-2027

The key priorities for Russia's federal budget over the next three years include fulfilling social obligations, strengthening security and defence, achieving technological sovereignty, and developing national infrastructure.



The MAZ 271 airport shuttle bus is on display at the 2024 National Aviation Infrastructure Show (NAIS) at the Crocus Expo International Exhibition Center in Krasnogorsk, outside Moscow, Russia. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/SPUTNIK**

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin signed a law approving Russia's federal budget for 2025 and the planning period 2026-2027, the corresponding document is published on the legal acts portal.

Budget revenues in 2025 will amount to 40.296 trillion rubles (\$379 billion), expenses - 41.469 trillion rubles. It is planned to increase budget revenues in 2026 to 41.841 trillion rubles, and to 43.154 trillion in 2027; expenses to 44.022 trillion and 45.915 trillion rubles, respectively.

The budget deficit in 2025 will amount to 0.5 per cent of GDP, 0.9 per cent of GDP in 2026, and 1.1 per cent of GDP in 2027. The main source of financing the budget deficit will be domestic government borrowing.

The National Welfare Fund is planned to be 11.055 trillion rubles at the beginning of 2025, 12.883 trillion in 2026, and 14.927

trillion in 2027, i.e. it will grow from 5.2 per cent of GDP to 6 per cent of GDP.

The upper limit of Russia's domestic public debt at the beginning will be 29.386 trillion rubles of 2026, and \$61.1 billion (or 55.5 billion euros) for external debt; 34.046 trillion rubles and \$59.2 billion (or 53.4 billion euros) at the beginning of 2027, and 39.005 trillion rubles and \$56.5 billion (or 50.9 billion euros) at the beginning of 2028. Expenditures on servicing the national debt will amount to 3.182 trillion rubles in 2025, 3.475 trillion rubles in 2026, and 3.594 trillion rubles in 2027.

The key priorities of the federal budget in this three-year period are the fulfillment of all social obligations by the state to citizens, ensuring the security and defence of the country, achieving technological sovereignty and developing infrastructure. — SPUTNIK

NEWS IN BRIEF

HIV infection rate down 27 per cent over past decade in Russia

HIV infection rate in Russia has dropped by 27 per cent over the last decade due to a notable increase in testing efforts, local media reported Sunday, citing the country's health authorities.

"In the past 10 years, the Russian Federation has seen a 27.1 per cent decrease in HIV infection rates. The risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV has been virtually eliminated in the country," said the Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Well-Being, also known as Rospotrebnadzor.

"Thanks to systematic measures, more than 99 per cent of children born to HIV-positive mothers do not contract the virus," said the agency. — Xinhua

Millions of Americans facing frigid temperatures, snow

A blast of Arctic air was set to unleash bone-chilling temperatures on Friday into the weekend across much of the central and eastern United States, said various weather reports.

The core of the Arctic air will be concentrated in the northern Plains and upper Midwest of the country into early next week, with highs in the single digits, 10s and 20s, according to AccuWeather. The US National Weather Service warned the region, some of which has already begun to experience heavy, lake-effect snow, to brace for "dangerously cold wind chills."

Over the long holiday weekend, the cold air will push south and east, plunging temperatures to near freezing from central Texas to northern Florida and up to New York, according to a USA Today report. — Xinhua

Israel warns citizens in SE Asia of potential terror plots

ISRAEL'S National Security Council (NSC) warned on Saturday about heightened threats against Israeli citizens in Southeast Asia, especially in Thailand.

"Further to threats identified in the past few weeks against Israelis by terrorist organizations in Thailand, for which the NSC issued a clarification on 24 November 2024, all security organizations relevant to the Southeast Asia arena, and especially Thailand, assess that current intelligence indicates that the terrorists responsible for the murder of Rabbi Zvi Kogan in Dubai on 21 November have been planning further terrorist activity," the NSC said in a statement.

Given the increased threat, the NSC issued a seven-point guideline, recommending all Israelis currently in Southeast Asia follow it.

On 24 November, the NSC raised the travel warning for Thailand to Level 2, meaning travellers are recommended to

"take increased precautionary measures" without avoiding or leaving the country altogether, citing a continuing threat to Israelis in the Southeast Asian country in a follow-up to an alert it first issued some two weeks ago.

The alerts came as Thai police reportedly warned of a terror plot at a party on the vacation island of Koh Phangan on 15 November, where there were believed to be many Is-

raeli visitors.

On 24 November, the UAE intelligence and security authorities found the body of Zvi Kogan, a former Israeli soldier who was a rabbi and emissary of the Jewish religious movement Chabad in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), three days after Kogan went missing.

The Israeli Prime Minister's Office said Kogan was killed in a "heinous antisemitic terror incident." — Xinhua



The alerts came as Thai police reportedly warned of a terror plot at a party on the vacation island of Koh Phangan on 15 November, where there were believed to be many Israeli visitors. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SPORTS

Myanmar to compete in 3rd round of 2027 AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers

THE Myanmar national football team will compete in the third round of the 2027 AFC Asian Cup qualifiers. Currently placed in Pot 3 for the group draw, the team is gearing up for the next stage of the tournament.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) will conduct the group stage draw on 9 December in Malaysia. A total of 24 teams will participate, divided into four pots:

The group stage draw for the third round of the 2027 AFC Asian Cup qualifiers will categorise the 24 participating teams into four pots based on seeding. Pot 1 includes Syria, Thailand,

Lebanon, Tajikistan, Vietnam, and India. Pot 2 features Malaysia, Turkmenistan, the Philippines, Afghanistan, Hong Kong, and Yemen. Teams in Pot 3 are Singapore, Maldives, Chinese Taipei, Myanmar, Nepal, and Bhutan. Lastly, Pot 4 comprises Brunei, Bangladesh, Laos, Timor-Leste, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

This stage of the qualifiers is distinct from the combined first and second rounds, which were held alongside the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers. The teams that have already secured spots in the 2027 Asian Cup final tournament include



Players of Myanmar national football team formed this year. PHOTO: THAW GYI

host Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, China, Oman, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Iraq, Indonesia, Jordan, UAE, Bahrain, Australia, and Palestine. Six additional teams will advance from this third round.

Myanmar's journey began with a dominant performance in

the first round, defeating Macau with an aggregate score of 5-0. However, in the second round, the team faced strong competition in a group with Japan, North Korea, and Syria, finishing at the bottom and missing out on the third round of World Cup qualifiers. This placed them in the third round of the

Asian Cup qualifiers instead.

The third round matches will take place from March 2025 to March 2026, following a home-and-away format. Myanmar aims to make the most of this opportunity and secure a place in the prestigious continental tournament. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

10-man Botafogo clinches first Copa Libertadores crown

BOTAFOGO overcame an early red card to secure their first Copa Libertadores title on Saturday with a 3-1 victory over Atletico Mineiro in a gripping all-Brazilian final.

Botafogo was reduced to 10 men in the first minute at Estadio Monumental in Buenos Aires when Gregore da Silva was sent off for a dangerous challenge on Fausto Vera.

Atletico sought to capitalize on their numerical advantage by dominating possession and peppering Botafogo's goal. But they struggled to find a way past goalkeeper John Furtado, who showed sharp reflexes to twice keep out dangerous attempts from former Porto and Brazil international forward Hulk.

Botafogo broke the deadlock against the run of play when Marlon Freitas' long-range attempt was blocked and fell into the path of Luiz Henrique, who fired home from the left side of the six-yard box.



Players of Botafogo celebrate winning the final between Atletico Mineiro and Botafogo at the Copa Libertadores 2024 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 30 November 2024. PHOTO: LUCIANO GONZALEZ/XINHUA

The Rio de Janeiro outfit doubled the lead on the stroke of halftime through Alex Telles.

The former Manchester United full-back showed nerves of steel to convert from the penalty spot after Henrique was tripped by goalkeeper Everson.

Eduardo Vargas, who was thrown on at halftime, reduced the deficit two minutes after the restart as he headed home after

Hulk's delivery from a corner.

Hulk posed a constant threat to Botafogo's defense and forced another fine save from John with a low attempt from 20 yards.

Atletico continued to attack relentlessly and Vargas shot over from point-blank range after Mariano Ferreira lifted a perfectly weighted pass over Botafogo's defence. — Xinhua

Saka on song as Arsenal moves second in Premier League

ARSENAL moved to second in the Premier League table on Saturday after a magnificent first half performance saw it to a 5-2 win away to West Ham United.

Bukayo Saka inspired his side to the win with assists for Gabriel Magalhaes after just 10 minutes and Leandro Trossard in the 27th minute.

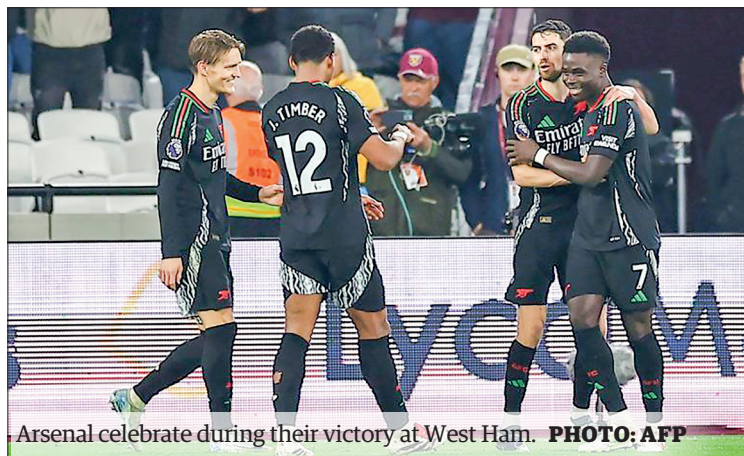
Martin Odegaard made it 3-0 from the penalty spot on 34 minutes and Kai Havertz added a fourth two minutes later.

Aaron Wan-Bissaka and Emerson gave West Ham brief

hope with two goals in two minutes, but Saka's penalty deep into injury time ended any doubts about the result.

Chris Wood's 49th minute penalty saw Nottingham Forest to a narrow 1-0 win at home to Ipswich, who paid a heavy price for Sammie Szmodics' foul on Jota Silva at the start of the second half.

Daniel Munoz's 94th minute header gave injury-hit Crystal Palace a 1-1 draw at home to Newcastle after the home side missed enough first half chances to seal the game. — Xinhua



Arsenal celebrate during their victory at West Ham. PHOTO: AFP



Vietnam's top legislature approves investment of north-south high-speed railway

Vietnam's 15th National Assembly approved a \$67 billion investment for the north-south high-speed railway, spanning 1,541 km from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City, with a multi-phase funding plan through 2035.

Vietnam's 15th National Assembly on Saturday passed a resolution on the investment policy for the north-south high-speed railway project with a total investment of 1.7 quadrillion Vietnamese dong (about US\$67 billion).

The project spans three medium-term budget cycles, requiring approximately 538 billion dong (21.22 million dollars) for preparatory work (2021-2025), 841.7 trillion dong (33.2 million dollars) for 2026-2030, and 871.3 trillion dong (34.3 million dollars) for 2031-2035, Vietnam News Agency reported.

The project, with a total length of 1,541 km, will start at Ngoc Hoi station in capital Hanoi, pass through 20 provinces and cities, and terminate at Thu Thiem station in Ho Chi Minh City.

Chairman of the National Assembly's Economic Committee Vu Hong Thanh said after 18 years of preparation and referencing global high-speed rail models, the project is considered feasible for Vietnam's current context.

— Xinhua



Aerial photo taken on 1 December 2021 shows the train running on the Cat Linh-Ha Dong metro line in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam. PHOTO: CHINA RAILWAY SIXTH GROUP CO., LTD./HANDOUT VIA XINHUA/FILE

Japan eyes next-gen solar power equivalent to 20 nuclear reactors

THE Japanese government is planning to generate some 20 gigawatts of electricity, equivalent to the output of 20 nuclear reactors, through thin and

bendable perovskite solar cells in fiscal 2040.

The industry ministry plans to designate next-generation solar cells as the key to expanding

renewables to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 when it reveals a draft of the country's revised energy plan in December, according to industry ministry officials.

Since Japan has the second largest share after Chile in the global production of iodine, the primary material for producing perovskite solar cells, it can build an independent supply chain for a stable supply that should help improve its economic security.

Solar panels have quickly spread throughout Japan after the 2011 nuclear disaster triggered by a devastating earthquake and tsunami, accounting for nearly 10 per cent of the country's power generation in the fiscal year through April 2024.

— Kyodo



Photorealistic image of the planned solar panels and sheep pasture in Shiranuka, Hokkaido. PHOTO: MACHIOKOSHI ENERGY CO./KYODO

SWITZERLAND REJECTS NATO

Switzerland's parliament will never agree to NATO membership: Swiss senator

THE population and parliament of Switzerland will never agree to join NATO in the current state of affairs in the world, Swiss senator from the largest party in the country's parliament, the Democratic Union of the Center, Mauro Poggia, told Sputnik.

"The parliament will never agree to Switzerland joining NATO, just like the population in the current situation in the world. If the war came closer to Swiss territory, everything could be different," he said.

Switzerland was forced to join the EU sanctions against Russia because otherwise it would have also become a target of sanctions by European countries, Swiss senator Mauro Poggia said.

"Switzerland was forced to join the EU sanctions against Russia because Moscow would have used Switzerland as a platform to circumvent the sanctions, and Europe would have been forced to impose sanctions against Switzerland," he said. — SPUTNIK