

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Myanmar prepares for geotourism launch at Mt Popa National Geopark

**I**T is under preparation to launch geopark-based tourism in the Mount Popa National Geopark, which will become the first of its kind in Myanmar, according to Ko Tin Ko Min from Maha Giri Community-based Geotourism Services.

The group said the tour package would be sold before the end of July.

“Geo-based tourism has started. But we haven’t got all the data yet. We need to give training inside our group this month. We plan

to sell one package in the second half of this month. It is expected to be in the last week,” he said.

By attracting public interest moderately as a new kind of tourism, geotourism activities will include an excursion to the volcano, as well as a biodiversity study tour and knowledge sharing with guests, he said.

“Some designated areas are quite far. Among them, some easily accessible places are chosen and sharing about them is con-

sidered. We expect more youth and children from private schools to visit. For other people, there is a mountain climbing programme,” he explained.

The Maha Giri group currently provides Mount Popa climbing services, cares for Popa Langur conservation, and expands its services into geotourism. At the same time, it plans to conserve Mwaypway Tettu (Popa cyrtodactylus) and flying geckos, which are rare species in the Popa area. — MT/ZN



An aerial and panoramic view of the Mount Popa National Geopark and surrounding areas of Mount Popa. PHOTO: POPULAR PAOH STARS

## MRF commences home direct delivery service for rice sales



MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) has started selling premium rice (Ayeyawady and Shwebo Pawsan rice varieties) through doorstep delivery service from 1 July.

Consumers can get premium rice at the best price and get good door-to-door packages.

Those who want to purchase the premium rice under that plan can contact 09 400067240, 09 400067250, 09 400067260 and email sales@mrf.com.mm with pre-paid payment. Rice bags will be delivered within three days of payment. — NN/KK

### Article

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By Dr Nanda Hmun

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Rescue and relief efforts underway in flood-affected areas





# NATIONAL

## All-Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Organization and Border and Hilly Region Sasana Nuggaha Association (Central) Statement

1 July 2024

ON 26 June 2024, the United Nations Human Rights Council's report on banks stated that international banks, domestic State-owned banks, and some private banks are involved in Myanmar's human rights violations.

Thus, the Central Bank of Myanmar issued a statement expressing its strong objection to the UNHRC report demanding action against these banks as it harms the interests of the people of Myanmar as well as the relationship between Myanmar and foreign countries.

All-Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Organization and Border and Hilly Region Sasana Nuggaha Association (Central) fully supports the Central Bank of Myanmar's strong objection to the UNHRC statement, which is inconsistent with Myanmar's actual conditions and contains elements that may hamper public interests.

*All-Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Organization and Border and Hilly Region Sasana Nuggaha Association (Central)*



## Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 20:00 hrs MST on 2-7-2024)

### Flood condition of Ayeyawady River

ACCORDING to the (19:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Bhamo has exceeded by about one inch (two centimetres) above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water Level by about one foot during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

#### Advisory

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Bhamo Township, to take precaution measure. — DMH

## Notice to Mariners

1. The South-East Asia Crude Oil Pipeline Company Limited, which is a joint venture with the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, will carry out maintenance work on the waterway to allow large oil tankers to enter and exit the Maday Island oil loading port. The dredging project will be carried out by Hopper Dredger, Reem Island (Call Sign: V70J2) vessel from 15 July to 30 September 2024.
2. The coordinates for dredging with the Trailing Suction Hopper Dredger, Reem Island, are as follows: -

#### (A) Area coordinates to be excavated

Point	Latitude	Longitude
A	19° 26' 43.57" N	93° 33' 15.43" E
B	19° 26' 22.71" N	93° 34' 42.43" E
C	19° 26' 15.48" N	93° 35' 03.12" E
D	19° 26' 27.70" N	93° 35' 06.38" E
E	19° 26' 53.67" N	93° 33' 18.12" E

#### (B) Shelter area coordinates for temporary shelter in case of bad weather

Point	Latitude	Longitude
No 1	19° 25' 21.2040" N	93° 37' 05.7420" E
No 2	19° 23' 45.4641" N	93° 39' 10.7779" E
No 3	19° 23' 43.9506" N	93° 39' 36.6783" E
No 4	19° 23' 43.8978" N	93° 39' 58.6483" E

#### (c) Shelter area coordinate (1) for temporary rest in an emergency situation

Point	Latitude	Longitude
A	19° 25' 08.8180" N	93° 34' 40.8381" E
B	19° 25' 03.1834" N	93° 34' 39.6329" E
C	19° 24' 55.1601" N	93° 35' 09.1561" E
D	19° 25' 07.4005" N	93° 35' 09.0128" E

#### (D) Shelter area coordinate (2) for temporary rest in an emergency situation

Point	Latitude	Longitude
A	19° 24' 58.9947" N	93° 35' 14.7660" E
B	19° 24' 52.8627" N	93° 35' 14.8818" E
C	19° 24' 54.2140" N	93° 35' 31.6016" E
D	19° 24' 59.0975" N	93° 35' 31.4619" E

#### (E) Toss mud area Coordinates

Point	Latitude	Longitude
Centre Point	19° 32' 49.79" N	93° 24' 51.39" E

- 3) Thanks to the Hopper Dredger, Reem Island (Call Sign: V70J2) ship, the dredging project will run for the convenience of large oil tankers entering and leaving the Maday Island oil loading port from 15 July to 30 September 2024. In order not to cause any delay during the operations, a Notice to Mariners has been issued to stop fishing or place fishing equipment and passing and anchoring of large and small ships, cargo boats, fishing boats and motor vessels within 500 metres of the work area mentioned above and within 250 metres of the shelter anchorage area.

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# NATIONAL

## Work coord meeting 1/2024 for border regions, National Races development held

THE work coordination meeting 1/2024 of the committee for the implementation of the development of border regions and National Races took place yesterday at the Ministry of Border Affairs. The meeting was presided over by Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Union Minister for Border Affairs and Chairman of the Implementation Committee on the Development of Border Regions and National Races.

In his opening remarks, the Union minister emphasized the importance of ethnic unity and balanced development across all regions and states. He highlighted that the tranquillity and stability of border areas are crucial for development activities, as peace and development are directly proportional. He stressed the need for the government and the people to work together vig-



Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung presides over the first work coordination meeting of the Implementation Committee on the Development of Border Regions and National Races yesterday.



orously to strengthen policies for the peace and stability of the border areas.

The meeting reviewed the successful implementation of business projects funded by State-approved funds for the

border area development during the 2024-2025 financial year. Plans for projects to be carried out in the 2025-2026 financial year were also clarified and discussed.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun

Tun Naung urged the working subcommittees and regional work committees to actively participate in continuous socioeconomic and infrastructure development. He emphasized the goal of developing ethnic youth in

border areas into well-rounded and excellent human resources.

The chairperson of the working committee coordinated discussions and addressed the presentations and the meeting came to a close. — MNA/TS

## MoLA Union Minister meets Russian Prosecutor-General in Moscow



The Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister Dr Thida Oo poses for the documentary photo together with the Russian Prosecutor-General on 2 July 2024.

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Legal Affairs Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo met Russian Prosecutor-General Mr Igor Krasnov in Moscow yesterday at the invitation of the Russian Prosecutor-General.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on legal cooperation between the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Russian Prosecutor-General Office, holding joint talks, conferences, workshops, exchange of legal experts for sharing experience and learning oppor-

tunities, scholar programmes for young legal officers of the ministry at the universities affiliated with Russian Prosecutor-General Office and further cooperation in 2024-2025.

Moreover, the roundtable discussion under the topic “Structure, Objectives and Organization Activities of the Ministry of Legal Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Prosecutor General’s Office of the Russian Federation” was held.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister said the minis-

try is working on the 2015-2019 Strategic Plan with four objectives under the name ‘Towards Justice’ and the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan with five objectives under the title ‘Legal Services for Justice’. Of these objectives, establishing sustainable cooperation with international organizations and partner countries is included.

She also mentioned the enhancement of bilateral relations between the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Prosecutor-General’s Office via the dialogue exchange on legal systems, legal experiences, workshops and plenary sessions.

Then, the representatives of the Prosecutor-General’s Office discussed regarding with the procedures, initial investigation, finding and filing a case and other matters.

The Ministry of Legal Affairs signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on legal affairs with the Russian Prosecutor-General Office in 2023. — MNA/KTZH

## Myanmar, Japan’s FEC eye 2024 business cooperation

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar’s Ambassador to Japan, U Soe Han, met Mr Ken Matsuzawa, President of the International Friendship Exchange Council (FEC), at the FEC office in Tokyo on 28 June. They discussed plans to strengthen cooperation between the Myanmar embassy and FEC, focusing on initiatives

scheduled for 2024.

Previously, the Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo collaborated with FEC to host several events, including the Myanmar-Japan Business Forum in March 2022, the Business Consultation Meeting in July 2022, and another Myanmar-Japan Business Forum in January 2024. — ASH/TMT



Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Soe Han and FEC President Mr Ken Matsuzawa are engaged in discussions.



# NATIONAL

## MIFER Union Minister receives UNOPS Asia Regional Director

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw received Mr Sanjay Mathur, Asia Regional Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and his delegation at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They cordially discussed

matters relating to the ongoing cooperation programmes and exchanged views on the future cooperation between Myanmar and UNOPS.

Officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and representatives of UNOPS were also present at the meeting. — MIFER



The UNOPS Asia Regional Director calls on Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw yesterday.



UNOPS Asia Regional Director Mr Sanjay Mathur calls on Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win yesterday.

## Union Health Minister receives UNOPS Asia Regional Director

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win received Mr Sanjay Mathur, Asia Regional Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) based in Bangkok and two members

yesterday morning at the Union Minister's office in Nay Pyi Taw.

They frankly exchanged views on the cooperation of the Global Fund to fight TB, HIV, and malaria, the use of

funds, supervision to ensure that funds do not reach irrelevant organizations and people engaged in terrorist activities, and future cooperation. — MNA/KZL

## MoFA Deputy Minister receives Chinese Consul-General

U Lwin Oo, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Chen Chen, Consul-General of the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China in Mandalay, who has completed his tour of duty, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

They cordially discussed matters pertaining to the fur-

ther enhancement of the existing "Pauk-Phaw" relations between Myanmar and China, the maintenance of peace and stability along the Myanmar-China border, the acceleration of Myanmar-China bilateral relations, and the mutually beneficial cooperation in both regional and international arena, especially in ASEAN and United Nations. — MNA



Deputy Minister U Lwin Oo meets Mr Chen Chen, Consul-General of the Chinese Consulate-General in Mandalay, yesterday.

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# NATIONAL

## MNHRC Statement in honour of Myanmar Women's Day Statement No 7/2024

1. The date of establishment of the Myanmar National Committee on Women, 3 July, was designated as "Myanmar Women's Day" by the State. More than half of Myanmar's population are women, and they are valuable human resources for the nation. Women have equal rights as men and are entitled to participate in political, economic, social, civil, and cultural spheres without any discrimination.
2. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) states that women are entitled to equal rights as men. Likewise, the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2008) guarantees women's rights. As Myanmar respects and recognizes women's rights, it acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which is one of the international human rights conventions, in 1997 and has been fulfilling and protecting women's rights.
3. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, in its human rights promotion activities, incorporates the rights of pregnant women, disabled women and girls. Furthermore, the Commission, in accordance with the Commission Law, protects women's rights in handling complaints, conducting inspections of prisons, labour camps, police detention centres, court detention centres, homes for the aged, vocational training centres for women, training schools for the girls, women development centres, and send recommendations to relevant departments.
4. Since the theme of International Women's Day 2024 is "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress", the Commission urges for the enhancement of women's participation in all sectors for the socioeconomic development of the nation while the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission honours and welcomes Myanmar Women's Day, which falls on 3 July.

*Myanmar National Human Rights Commission  
Date: 2 July 2024*



Preparations of the Myanmar Theatrical Association underway.

## Myanmar Theatrical Association to join International Ramayana Festival in Bangkok

THE Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) plans to join the International Ramayana Festival scheduled for 9 to 17 July in Bangkok, said U Nay Win, the association's secretary.

"The Myanmar Ramayana dance troupe is currently rehearsing and preparing accordingly," he added.

The festival will feature more than 20 Ramayana dance troupes from various countries, including Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, Laos, Cambodia, and India. — ASH/TRKM

## Rescue and relief efforts underway in flood-affected areas

THE Ayeyawady River water level has risen due to heavy rainfall, causing floods in the wards and villages of Myitkyina Township.

Regional Tatmadaw members, the Myanmar Police Force, the Fire Brigade and departmental staff evacuated the residents and provided the rescue work. Relevant officers of the

Northern Command inspected rescue processes and provided foodstuffs to flood victims.

Similarly, the water level of the Chindwin River in Sagaing Region increased due to heavy rainfall. The water level reached 1,535 centimetres in Khamti yesterday, and it exceeded 175 centimetres, which is more than 1,360 centimetres of danger lev-



Photos (above & below) depict Tatmadaw, Police Force and Fire Brigade members, and departmental personnel taking rescue and relief measures in Myitkyina Township.



el. Myoma, Pawmaing, Zeephyugon wards, Aung Thaya and Sinthay villages in Khamti faced flooding.

Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigade and departmental staff, evacuated 658 locals of 188 households to safe places and provided them with drinking water, food and healthcare services. — MNA/KTZH



# NATIONAL



The image shows the evacuation of flood victims in Myitkyina on 30 June.

## MSWRR issues warnings on disaster preparedness in advance

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement has issued warnings and advised on disaster preparedness for natural disasters commonly encountered during the rainy season, particularly in July and August each year, which include flash flooding, mountain collapses, landslides, besides regular floods, and river flooding.

The ministry issued the warning aiming to mitigate harm from hydrometeorological disasters and promote cooperation for disaster preparedness, as the country faced 144 floods nationwide in the 2023-2024 financial year, resulting in deaths of people and animals, as well as damage to 279 houses.

In the warning, the ministry advises people to check the struc-

tural integrity of their houses and the potential for disasters in their area, to designate an emergency relocation site and plan evacuation routes and family rendezvous points, to store water-sensitive items in dry, elevated locations, to monitor and record nearby alarming water levels, to gather drinking water ahead of time, and to keep visible signs of dangerous places in case of flooding in areas such as low-lying areas, valleys, and drainages. In addition, people are also advised to prepare emergency and life-saving equipment in advance.

The warning advises people, upon receiving a flood warning, to continuously listen to weather updates from the relevant government department, follow their ad-

vice, and share it with others; to be aware that heavy rain in upstream regions and mountainous areas can lead to flash floods downstream; to prepare emergency supplies including food and important documents; and to keep a contact list with names, ward or village, and phone numbers to use if family members are separated. It also encourages people to promptly inform and organize all family members to move to the designated safe location upon receiving instructions from the government.

The ministry also informs people that they can seek help from the ministry in case of natural disasters by contacting the 24-hour hotline at 067 3404666 or 067 3404777. — TWA/TH

## 40 villages launch smart village digital tech project

ACCORDING to the Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, a smart village project will be developed to enable the use of digital technologies in 40 villages, spending K2,400 million.

These projects will run in

this financial year. If approval is received for the selection and approval of the villages where the project will be implemented, the project will start in the relevant villages.

With the widespread use of modern digital technologies in model villages, the necessary infrastructure construc-

tion work will be carried out to further develop the daily lifestyles of villagers.

The project will cover 40 villages in 40 townships in the rest of the states and regions except Kayah State, Chin State and Sagaing Region, and each village will spend K60 million. — TWA/KZL



Concrete paving works are seen in 2023 in Sanpya Village, Thayetoat Village-Tract, Magway Region.

## Unclaimed 53<sup>rd</sup> Aungbarlay Lottery prizes to boost national revenue



The 64<sup>th</sup> Aungbarlay Lottery opening ceremony is in progress on 1 July.

THE Aungbarlay Lottery Division of the Internal Revenue Department declared that 13,306 prizes from the 53<sup>rd</sup> Aungbarlay Lottery, which commenced on 1 August 2023, remained unclaimed.

These prizes, comprising one prize of K20 million, one prize of K10 million, and three prizes of K5 million, will revert to national revenue unless claimed by 31 July. — TWA/MKKS

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## 1,570+ food companies, factories apply for GACC in 2.5 years

A total of 1,574 Myanmar food processing companies and factories submitted over 3,160 applications to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) over the past two and half years, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

According to GACC Decree 248 and 249, GACC registration is mandatory for food exporters starting from 1 January 2022.

Those individuals executing edible oil, oilseeds, stuffed pastry products, edible bird's nest and related products, edible grains, grains milling industrial products and malt, fresh and dehydrated vegetables, dried beans, plant species, nuts and seeds, dried fruits, unroasted coffee and cocoa bean, special dietary food excluding milk-based formula, functional foods, bee products, aquatic products including farm products, animal products and animal feed and livestock animal businesses need to apply for GACC license in order to place their goods in China's market.

The relevant authorities for the registration with GACC are the Agriculture Department, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the Fisheries Department and the Food and Drug Administration.

Between 1 December 2021 and 28 June 2024, 3,161 applications by 1,574 factories have been forwarded



Consumers are seen shopping for foodstuffs at the supermarket.

to the GACC through the Agriculture Department (3,004 applications), the Fisheries Department (134), the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (14) and the Food and Drug Administration Department (nine).

Exporters can directly access China International Trade Single Window through <https://cifer.singlewindow.cn> by creating accounts for those food groups that are not listed in the 18 groups mentioned above.

As of 28 June 2024, a total of 1,050 applications have been successful in registering with the GACC with the approval of the competent authority.

Regarding the registration of the

importing companies, the Department of Animal and Plant Quarantine under the GACC will check quarantine access for the imported grains (raw coffee beans, cocoa beans, vegetables, spices, edible grains, pulses, oil crops and herbal animal products and plant for their origins.

Companies cannot directly proceed with registration, and they need to carry out this step through competent authorities and departments concerned by sending an email to [dapq@customs.gov.cn](mailto:dapq@customs.gov.cn) or submitting a letter to the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar or the Myanmar Embassy in China. — NN/KK

## 2024 Beauty Trade Show invites Myanmar importers, professionals

MYANMAR'S distributors, buyers, importers and beauty professionals are invited to take part in the 2024 Beauty Trade Show that will be held in Seoul, South Korea, from 1 to 3 October 2024, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

South Korea's SMEs will exhibit their cosmetics at the 2024 Beauty Trade Show. About 150 businesspersons will showcase the cosmetics and daily-use products, although they are not famous brands in South Korea. The trade show will provide an actual marketplace as well as a virtual marketplace in which to explore markets and business opportunities.

The trade show expands its global presence by inviting buyers from China, Japan, ASEAN, North America, and Europe.

The list of Myanmar's business entities that import Korean cosmetics is to be sent the Seoul Business Agency (SBA) through the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul. The SBA will directly contact them and initially conduct a virtual meeting. The SBA will provide two-day hotel accommodation near Dongdaemun Design Plaza (DDP) to those invitees. Businesspeople from Asia will get US\$400 back for air tickets.

Those interested Myanmar businesspeople can submit their lists to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization through the contact number 067 408622 and email [event.td.myantrade@gmail.com](mailto:event.td.myantrade@gmail.com). — NN/KK

## Coffee growers care for plantations in monsoon, aiming for better prices

THIS is the time to provide care to coffee plantations during monsoon season so that their coffee beans will get better prices in the following months, said coffee growers.

Removing weeds and nourishing the soil are necessary for coffee plants during the monsoon season.

"Generally, during monsoon season, we have to take care of coffee plants. Removing weeds and fertilizing the soil need to be done quickly, even when it is raining, and we have to hire external labour to do this. Our business includes from plantation to making finished products, so we are now busy in plantation while the finished product

market is quiet. We need to take care of plants during monsoon season so that coffee beans can get higher prices and the production of beans will grow," said Ma Khine Khine, who runs KK Natural Brewed Coffee and Coffee Beans Trading from PyinOoLwin Township.

This year, packaged coffee has gained high prices, though raw coffee prices have been sluggish.

"PyinOoLwin's coffee market is good when tourist arrival is large. The market is slowing this year. Here, the coffee price doesn't get much higher. But packaged products' price gets high due to rising cost," she added. — Thit Taw/ZS



A coffee plantation in PyinOoLwin.



# OPINION

## Empower women for enhancement of livelihoods

MYANMAR Women's Day is celebrated on 3 July each year, honouring the significant role of women who have advanced alongside men in various fields. In modern Myanmar, women actively participate in political, economic, social, and national defence roles, reflecting a global trend of increasing female empowerment.

Historically, Myanmar society confined women to domestic roles, with many spending their lives managing household chores. These women often believed their duty was solely to serve their families. However, contemporary challenges demand the strength and creativity of women. The government's recognition of women's contributions to nation-building has fostered confidence among women, encouraging them to look beyond traditional roles.

Educated women in Myanmar now serve in diverse sectors, holding significant positions in public service and various organizations. They exhibit exceptional problem-solving skills comparable to those of their male counterparts. Their collaborative efforts have significantly contributed to national development and improved the socioeconomic conditions of the populace. Women's initiatives are reshaping society and transforming their lives.

The early 20<sup>th</sup> century saw a global push for women's rights, leading to the United Nations designating a day to honour women, who make up more than half of the world's population. In Myanmar, this movement resulted in the formation of the Myanmar National Women's Committee

and the establishment of Myanmar Women's Day on 3 July.

Today, organizations like the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation work tirelessly to uplift the socioeconomic status of women and the general population. Throughout history, women have independently championed the interests of their families, communities, and nation, standing shoulder to shoulder with men. Significantly, women can apply their creativity in relevant arenas rather than men.

Women are now at the forefront of national reforms aimed at societal improvement. They hold high-level responsibilities across legislative, administrative, and judicial sectors, as well as in politics, economics, social affairs, arts, defence, and security, showing off their brilliant capacity. Maintaining and building upon these achievements is crucial for the continued progress of the nation.

Currently, authorities implement the national-level project on Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence in Conflict during the third term to help women who face abuse and cooperation work with relevant departments and organizations to conduct education programmes regarding women's rights and gender equality.

All in all, the empowerment and active participation of women in various sectors are vital for the holistic development of Myanmar. Celebrating Myanmar Women's Day underscores the importance of sustaining and advancing the significant contributions of women to society.

### Background

ASEAN region's aspiration and its commitment to lift the quality of life of its people through people-oriented, environmentally friendly geared towards the promotion of not only sustainability but also the resilience of the region. Building a strong foundation of greater understanding and a shared sense of responsibility calls for the advancement of women and their contributions. For the advancement of Women, the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) Work Plan 2021-2025 was already issued with seven thematic views: -

- Gender Data and Statistics
- Gender Mainstreaming
- Gender Responsive Climate and Disaster Resilience
- Gender Approach to Enhancing Safety and Protection of Women and Girls
- Women, Peace and Security: Amplify the meaningful and substantive participation of women in promoting peace and security in ASEAN
- Women's Economic empowerment and the future of work
- Gender-responsive governance and leadership

Through the 2017 'ASEAN Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals', ASEAN Leaders already expressed their commitment to the gender-responsive implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 across the three ASEAN Blueprints and the Sustainable Development Goals; and, envisaging an inclusive ASEAN where all women and girls are able to reach the fullest of their potentials, has identified the following key actions:

(a) enhancing the ASEAN Member States' capacity to strengthen national and sub-national sex-disaggregated production of statistics and gender analyses on all Sustainable Development Goals and

(b) establishing reliable regional and sex-disaggregated databases for key sectors to support ASEAN policies and programmes across the ASEAN Community pillars,

(c) Participatory collection, management, analysis, extensive dissemination of and ensuring public access to high-quality, reliable and timely data that is

# Moving Forward to the Advancement of Women in ASEAN Member States: Strengthening Capacity for Resilient Community in Myanmar

*(To hail the Myanmar Women's Day 2024)*

**Dr Nanda Hmun**  
(CEC Member, MWCDF)

disaggregated by sex, age, and socio-cultural and economic characteristics relevant in national contexts.

### The Role of NSPAW as a Road Map

In Myanmar, the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW) will provide support to improve the situation of women and to fully enjoy their rights in accordance with the features of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2008). Women and girls hold a special place in society, with priority accorded to them across various domains. Recognizing the disparities in physical strength, men often empathize and assist women in tasks requiring physical prowess. Within the household, while the husband traditionally assumes the role of family leader, it is the wife who exercises control over family matters, reflecting the longstanding customs of Myanmar society. Consequently, it is imperative to empower women to manage affairs at different levels, drawing upon their extensive experience within their families.

Moreover, the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022 (NSPAW) was a pivotal framework designed to elevate the status of women in Myanmar across a broad spectrum of areas. Phase II of this strategic plan, spanning from 2023 to 2032, has been crafted to encompass 12 priority areas aligned with the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA). These areas include livelihoods, education, health, violence against women, economics, decision-making, implementation mechanisms, human rights, media, environment, girls' issues, and armed conflict. Myanmar boasts a population of 55.8 million, comprising 26.7 million men and 29.1 million women, according to estimates from 1 October 2022. It is obvious that women and girls

play a pivotal role in enhancing the socioeconomic fabric of the nation.

The Myanmar National Committee on Women (MNCW) has assumed a leadership role in implementing the National Strategic Plan for Advancement of Women (NSPAW). The mission of MNCW includes elevating the capacity of Myanmar women and safeguarding them against violence. In doing so, they can emerge as a dependable force for the state. To achieve these aspirations, relevant ministries and organizations are asked to prioritize gender mainstreaming in conjunction with projects related to the 12 priority areas outlined in the strategic plan. This collaboration among work committees is imperative because comprehensive societal development can only be achieved when women are empowered. The empowerment of women is a linchpin in constructing a prosperous society. As a result, both genders can progressively reduce disputes, contentious issues, conflicts, and friction between them. That will undoubtedly lead to an upsurge in peace and the gradual resolution of problems, from the familial to the national level, contributing to the overall progress of the nation.

In fact, Myanmar recognizes the vital role of women and girls in society. By bolstering the National Strategic Plan, the nation aims to empower women across diverse domains, fostering a more equitable and peaceful society. This commitment to gender equality is not just an investment in women but a step towards a brighter future for all.

### Comprehensive National-Level Review and Implementation of NSPAW

Comprehensive national-level reviews should assess progress made in implementation and identify challenges encour-

tered. They should take stock of achievements, identify gaps and setbacks, and outline strategies for addressing those gaps and challenges.

According to the guidance of MNCW, Myanmar is implementing the Operational Plan of National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women, NS-PAW (2013-2022), in line with the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Four Technical Working Groups (TWG), Violence against Women TWG; Women Participation in Economic and Politics TWG; Women, Peace and Security TWG; and Gender Mainstreaming TWG are formed to implement NSPAW (2013-2022) effectively. The operational plan (2020-2022) has been developed to implement the rest of three years of NSPAW effectively.

ed with the technical support of UN Women.

Based on the NSPAW Review and BPFA +25, the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (2023 - 2032) is currently being developed. The NSPAW (2023-2032) includes indicators and a results framework to address the weaknesses identified in BPFA +25. To strengthen the ownership and responsibilities of the respective departments, the steering committee for developing this strategic plan (2023-2032) is organized with the Deputy Ministers. The working committees are also organized according to the twelve priority areas, and the Directors-General undertaking as the chairs, the Directors from the respective departments as the secretaries and the gender mainstreaming process regarding the respective sectors are included.

connection number, "1566". Case managers who are well-trained by the Department of Social Welfare are addressing the complaints of gender-based violence in accordance with the standard operating procedures on social case management.

Department of Social Welfare organized seven One Stop Women Support Centres (OSWSC) and provided support to a total number of 330 women in One Stop Women Support Centre from 2017 to May 2024. Guidelines were developed and contributed to OSWSCs.

Department of Social Welfare is addressing complaints from the Helpline of States and Regions DSW Offices and Myanmar National Human Rights Commission. It provides support to the survivors of Gender-Based Violence. From April 2017 to May 2024, it can provide financial as-

isting livelihood skills and other necessary community-based vocational training courses at 11 Schools for Home Science and IDP Camps; hygiene kits and dignity kits are provided at the IDP camps for the women.

Myanmar upholds the zero-tolerance policy against any form of sexual violence. A Joint Communiqué of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the United Nations on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence was signed in December 2018. To implement this Joint Communiqué, the National Committee on Prevention and Response to Violence against Women in Conflict, its core group, and its working committee are organized, and a one-year national action plan has been extended and implemented as follows according to the permission of State Administration Council-

- (10-11-2021) to (10-11-2022) – National Action Plan (first year)
- (10-11-2022) to (10-11-2023) – National Action Plan (second year)
- (10-11-2023) to (10-11-2024) – National Action Plan (third year)

During the reporting period of the first year, quarterly reports were submitted to the United Nations General Secretary's Special Representative Office through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, according to the permission of the State Administration Council Office. For the second year and third year, bi-annual reports are to be submitted.

### Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Equality

Since gender mainstreaming and gender equality are becoming the generation of the present, the empowerment of women and girls plays a crucial role. Best practices, experiences, and challenges regarding the national mechanisms for the advancement of women are to be advanced in all three pillars. Since Gender mainstreaming is a cross-cutting issue and with the support of ASEAN, we can have a fuller understanding and more precise picture of Gender Mainstreaming. The following emerging issue is Resilience. Towards climate change, disaster resilience, mass displacement of insecure areas (like in the present) and domestic violence and their impacts are

Those women who need care have been taken care of at Four Vocational Training Centres, pro-

to be aware and try to ease and settle. In this regard, it would enhance the safety and protection of women and girls.

### Towards Resilient Community for Women

It is noted that "Resilience" empowers women to navigate the challenges of balancing work and family life, leading to greater economic independence and security, which also encourages persistence in the face of job rejections or workplace discrimination, enabling women to climb career ladders and break glass ceilings. Since it is the inner strength that enables women to navigate through difficulties, overcome barriers, and emerge stronger, it is not just a personal trait but a societal necessity, influencing families, communities, and workplaces. The importance of Resilience in women can be seen in psychological well-being, economic empowerment, social change, leadership and many others. Resilience is fundamental to women's mental health as women are the ones who face unique stressors, including gender discrimination, societal expectations, and caregiver responsibilities. To foster a positive outlook, they should be aware and have proper training.

### Challenges and Way Forward

Since a culture of regional Resilience characterizes the ASEAN, it is committed to respecting the different cultures, languages, religions and peoples of the ASEAN region. For the spirit of "unity in diversity", ASEAN also emphasizes the common values, fundamental freedoms, gender equality, promotion and protection of human rights, and social justice.

Women empowerment helps improve the standard life of women in rural and cities, preventing crimes against women, reducing domestic violence, bringing lots of social and economic gains, solving societal issues like poverty, unemployment and birth control, and achieving comprehensive growth in every sector of society. It can help in the nation-building process by joining in defense forces, social service, politics, education and corporate levels. Women's empowerment helps women promote education, which leads to employing a large number of

SEE PAGE 11



# NATIONAL

## EPS-TOPIK test for construction, agriculture, livestock, and service sectors starts in late July



Women are studying for the TOPIK test.

FOR those who passed EPS-TOPIK in construction, agriculture and livestock sectors and service sector Group 2, the skills test has been scheduled to begin from 28 July to 1 August, said the Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA-EPS).

It said the venue, date, and time for the skills test will continue to be announced. Further announcements on venue, date, and time for service industry group 1 and manufacturing industry (first batch) will be continued as well.

According to the results of the 16th TOPIK released on 5 June, 513 passed the agriculture and livestock and construction sector, and 3767 passed the service sector Group 1 and Group 2.

Myanmar workers have been sent to the Republic of Korea through POEA under the EPS system. EPS-TOPIK and Skills Test are held for those who want to work in manufacturing, agriculture, livestock, construction and service sectors.

In the 16th TOPIK test, recruitment of Myanmar workers will be extended in the Republic of Korea's service industry, and women who completed basic high school level were also allowed for the first time. There were many women candidates in the service industry. — MT/ZS

### Counter-argument to false information

## Probe reveals true cause of inmate's death, Khit Thit media falsely accused Mandalay Prison

THE subversive Khit Thit media falsely reported on 26 June that Mandalay Prison authorities had killed inmate 'Htet Yan Naing'. A responsible officer from the prison clarified that measures are taken against drug smuggling within the prison, and the authorities regularly inspect the wings of the prison daily.

Upon investigation, it was found that the prisoner, Htet Yan Naing, became depressed after his brother died of a heart attack, which led to hallucinations and insomnia. On 20 June, he punched fellow inmate Aung Thura Lwin twice without any reason and was subsequently sent to the disciplinary office and was put in leg irons with a brace.

Later, Htet Yan Naing, in an abnormal mental state, shouted and struck prison guard Myat Min Thu in the prison clinic.

When staff tried to control the situation, Htet Yan Naing ran to the male prison building No 5, hitting a lamp post, a concrete bench, and a waste tank in his disturbed state. Consequently, the prison doctor had to administer four stitches to the left corner of his head.

According to the prison doctor's report, Htet Yan Naing exhibited signs of mental disorder due to his head injury and was sent to Mandalay General Hospital for further treatment. It was determined that he died from lung and heart disease on 21 June, not from the head injury. The deceased prisoner's family was contacted and informed about the funeral arrangements.

Therefore, it is evident that Khit Thit media intentionally spread false news to mislead the public. — Wai Wai Phyto/TMT

## Nationwide crackdown on illegal trade nets seizures worth about K464 million

UNDER the oversight of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat illicit trade are effectively underway in compliance with the law. On 28 June, a combined team led by the Customs Department conducted inspections at Yangon International Airport, seizing 99 bottles of cosmetics valued at an estimated K900,000 from a passenger and one hand manual hydraulic stacker made in China (estimated value K2 million), which was not mentioned in the import declaration form at the Myanmar Industrial Port (worth approximately K2.9 million). The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On the same day, a combined team managed by Nay Pyi Taw Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized 2.436 tonnes of illegal timbers (worth approximately K835,000) in Lewe Township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 30 June, a combined team managed by the Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized nine kinds of smuggled goods (estimated value of K10.254 million), including 11 rotary hummers of Total brand and beside Kengtung Road near the Malyang checkpoint in Tachilek.

Again, on 30 June, a combined team managed by the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force inspected and seized 0.263 tonne of illegal timbers (estimated value of K231,968) in Taungoo District; 0.427 tonne of unlawful timber and 2.095 tonnes of hardwood (estimated value of K1,800,536) in Bago District; one unregistered Honda Fit (valued at K7 million) near Abyangatchaywin Village in Waw Township; two kinds of goods (estimated value of K13 million), including 300 pieces of 'Glory Deluxe' brand China-made mosquito nets that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a vehicle



Confiscated illegal goods.

travelling from Hpa-an to Yangon, and one Dong Feng tractor head (value estimated at K70,000,000) that carried those goods. The action was taken under the forestry law, import and export law and Customs procedures.

On 1 July, a combined team managed by the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication

Task Force conducted inspections. Authorities seized a Nissan Condor van and an Isuzu Forward van (estimated value of K76 million) carrying two types of goods (estimated value of K52.5 million), including 10,000 kilogrammes of land crab seafood. The two cars were travelling from Myitkyina to Mandalay. In addition, authorities

seized one Nissan Diesel truck, one TT truck produced by the industrial zone, and one Mitsubishi Fuso truck (estimated value K75 million) carrying 11,960 gallons of illegal premium diesel at the Shwegyin checkpoint. The action was taken under the Import and Export Law, the Oil and Petroleum Product Law and Customs procedures.

On 2 July, a combined team managed by the Taninthayi Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections. It seized a boat (valued approximately at K750,000) carrying 5.338 tonnes of illegal timbers (valued approximately at K1 million) in Kyunsu Township, Myeik District. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 19 arrests were made on 28 and 30 June and 1 and 2 July, with an estimated value of K464 million. — MNA/TMT



# ARTICLE/LIFESTYLE WORLD

## Moving Forward to the Advancement of Women in ASEAN Member States: Strengthening Capacity for Resilient Community in Myanmar

### FROM PAGE 9

people. It is actually a social development as a whole. Empowering women to participate in and lead public and private institutions makes these institutions more representative and effective. Increasing women's and girls' education and access to resources improves the health and education of the next generation.

Self-reliance is a country's capacity to plan, finance, and implement solutions to its own development challenges. It also includes a commitment to see these solutions through effectively, inclusively, and with accountability. To be effective, individuals within societies must have equal access to opportunities, resources, benefits, and legal protection. In this regard, the role of Myanmar women and their ability to build community cohesion by playing the role of

first responders and caretakers at home and in their communities is commendable.

This is also to train their Resilience, as past experiences in Myanmar resulted in exposing women to higher risks and greater burdens from the impacts of climate change. Women's empowerment and economic development are closely interrelated. While development itself will bring about women's empowerment, empowering women will bring about changes in decision-making, which will have a direct impact on development.

In 2025, the global community will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 1995, as well as ten years of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable De-

velopment Goals. Leading up to the anniversary, there should be a comprehensive national-level review process led by the government that involves all stakeholders. Reviews should be inclusive and mobilize all branches and levels of government, civil society organizations, the private sector, the entities of the United Nations system and regional and international organizations, academia, the media and other stakeholders. The challenges ahead are waiting for the advancement of women, and they call for collaborative efforts from the institutions and organizations related to Myanmar women.

According to the experiences of ASEAN and other countries and those of USAID which are doing for the advancement of women, here are some recommendations: to reduce disparities between women and men in ac-

cess to, control over, and benefit from economic, social, political, educational, and cultural resources, as well as wealth, opportunities, and services; strive to eliminate GBV, which affects women's abilities to thrive and succeed, and mitigate its harmful effects on individuals and communities so that all people can live healthy and productive lives; to increase the capability of women and girls to exercise their fundamental and legal rights fully, determine their life outcomes, assume leadership roles, and influence decision-making in households, communities, and societies; to support strategies and activities that secure private-property rights and land tenure for women; and, to improve the access of women and girls to education, including opportunities for higher education

Last but not the least, to re-

call the World Bank President, James Wolfensohn, addressing the Fourth UN Conference on Women, who said: -

*"Education for girls has a catalytic effect on every dimension of development: lower child and maternal mortality rates; increased educational attainment by daughters and sons; productivity; and improved environmental management. Together, these can mean faster economic growth and, equally important, wider distribution of the fruits of growth ... More education for girls will also enable more and more women to attain leadership positions at all levels of society, from health clinics in the villages to parliaments in the capitals. This, in turn, will change the way societies will deal with problems and raise the quality of global decision-making."*

## Egyptian taxi driver turns cab into mobile library to encourage reading

ON a street in northern Egypt's coastal governorate of Alexandria, several passers-by were checking a variety of books placed on a taxi. The taxi driver, Mohammed Azzam, has turned his cab into a mobile library three or four days a week to encourage people to read.

"I have loved reading since childhood, that is one of the reasons why I decided to launch a mobile taxi library initiative," 42-year-old Azzam told Xinhua, satisfied to see pedestrians being interested in his books.

Azzam provided people with books during his non-working time, allowing them to read for up to three hours each time.

Putting forward the initiative three years ago, the taxi driver has now become widely known in Alexandria.

He then opened a small library on the street for bookworms, where he also sold books such as school textbooks and stationery to help fund his taxi library initiative.



People read books at a mobile taxi library in Alexandria, Egypt, 29 June 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

The middle-aged man cited the main reason for launching the initiative as people's reluctance to read after the spread of the Internet and social networks.

"People waste their time playing games on mobile phones or surfing social media pages,"

Azzam said, explaining, "People may get some benefit from these behaviours, but there is nothing better than holding and reading a book."

Samia Mohammed, a 22-year-old college student, said she stumbled upon the taxi-

turned-library by chance and then frequented it for reading.

"It was a bit strange for me to see a taxi driver showcasing books on his car for pedestrians," Mohammed said, adding that she greatly admired the idea.

"With no hesitation, I picked

up a psychology book that interested me," the student told Xinhua, adding most of her friends have now become frequent visitors to the unique library.

"We have gotten Azzam's phone number. We will call to know when and where he is going to be stationed," she said, flashing a smile.

Mahmoud Abdo, a high schooler who also visited the mobile library, said such an initiative "will certainly attract more people and encourage them to read."

"People rarely read in current days ... I read my school textbooks only. Through this initiative, I also prefer to read some literature and scientific books now," Abdo told Xinhua.

Azzam said he wishes to promote the initiative by opening more small libraries inside Alexandria and inviting others to join him.

"I also hope that similar initiatives will be launched across the country, mainly in remote areas," Azzam told Xinhua. — Xinhua



# ECONOMY WORLD

## Industry summit eyes strengthening China-Thailand cooperation in tourism

OVER 200 business leaders from the Chinese mainland, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the Macao SAR gathered here from Monday to Tuesday to share their insights on strengthening tourism exchanges and cooperation with Thai partners.

Hosted by the Global Tourism Economy Research Centre (GTERC) and organized by the China Chamber of Tourism and the China Women's Chamber of Commerce, the China-Thailand Cultural Tourism Industry Summit convened on the same day when China and Thailand established diplomatic relations in 1975, serving as a warm-up event to welcome the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Pansy Ho, vice-chairperson of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce and president of the GTERC, noted during her opening speech that tourism has not only helped boost the two respective economies in a mutually beneficial way, but also



A tourist visits the Sanctuary of Truth museum in Pattaya, Chonburi province, Thailand, 6 June 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

brought the people of China and Thailand closer.

Jakkaphon Tangsutthitham, vice minister of the Ministry of

Tourism and Sports of Thailand, highlighted the significant role of the Chinese market in the Thai tourism industry, hailing the

mutual visa exemption agreement as a boost to realizing the ministry's target of attracting eight million Chinese visitors

this year.

Chattan Kunjara Na Ayudhya, deputy governor for international marketing of the Tourism Authority of Thailand, presented the latest data and trends of Chinese travellers to Thailand during the "visa-free era", adding that Thailand aims to remain a top destination for Chinese travellers.

Edison Chen, vice-president of Trip.com Group, shared data and case studies collected by the leading one-stop online travel service provider while exploring the potential for further development of the cultural and tourism industries in both countries.

Other representatives from the cultural and tourism industry focused on leveraging cultural tourism for mutual prosperity and new opportunities for private sector collaboration in cultural tourism development, providing insights on strategies to enhance cultural tourism and humanistic exchanges between China and Thailand. — Xinhua

## Dollar firm in mid-161 yen zone after hitting over 37-yr high

THE US dollar stayed strong in the mid-161 yen zone early Tuesday in Tokyo after hitting a fresh 37-year high overnight, as rising US Treasury yields reinforced prospects that the interest rate gap between the United States and Japan will

remain wide.

At 9 am, the dollar fetched 161.51-52 yen compared with 161.44-54 yen in New York after hitting 161.72 yen, its highest since December 1986, and 161.01-03 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm Monday.

The euro was quoted at \$1.0735-0739 and 173.38-46 yen against \$1.0735-0745 and 173.40-50 yen in New York and \$1.0754-0756 and 173.16-20 yen in Tokyo late Monday afternoon.

Tokyo stocks opened mixed as rises tracking overnight gains on Wall Street were offset by selling after a recent rally.

In the first 15 minutes of trading, the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average fell 133.60 points, or 0.34 per cent, from Monday to 39,497.46. The broader Topix index was up 1.92 points, or 0.07 per cent, at 2,826.20.

On the top-tier Prime Market, decliners were led by pulp and paper, and metal product issues, while insurance and transport equipment issues led gainers. — Kyodo



A financial data screen in Tokyo shows the US dollar rising above 161.70 yen in the early hours of 2 July 2024. PHOTO: KYODO

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### New trade deal to benefit New Zealand's wood, wool

NEW ZEALAND concluded a groundbreaking trade deal with Costa Rica, Iceland, and Switzerland on Tuesday, which removes tariffs on hundreds of products that benefit sustainability and the environment.

The Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS) is the first of kind New Zealand has concluded with these countries outside of the World Trade Organization, and is set to deliver new, high-quality trade opportunities while tackling climate and sustainability challenges, said New Zealand Trade and Agriculture Minister Todd McClay.

The ACCTS opens up commercial opportunities for New Zealand businesses by focusing on trade in sustainable goods and services, McClay said, adding it will see tariffs removed on New Zealand's key exports, including 41 wood products and wool.

It will also remove tariffs on hundreds of other products, including wool fiber, slag wool for insulation, recycled paper along with energy saving goods like LED lamps and rechargeable batteries, he said.

In addition, it supports New Zealand's renewable energy sector by establishing rules to prevent harmful fossil fuel subsidies; and sets guidelines for ecolabelling. "ACCTS will open new markets for New Zealand exporters and grow in benefit over time as more countries join," the minister said. — Xinhua



## Philippines' Cebu Pacific says to buy up to 152 Airbus planes worth \$24 bln

PHILIPPINE carrier Cebu Pacific said Tuesday it will buy up to 152 Airbus planes worth \$24 billion in a deal it described as the "largest aircraft order" in the country's aviation history.



(FILES) A Cebu Pacific Airbus A320 passenger aircraft prepares to land at the Ninoy Aquino International airport as the skyline of the Makati business centre is seen from Taguig City, suburban Manila on 19 August 2023. PHOTO: AFP

"The order is designed to provide Cebu Pacific with maximum flexibility to adapt fleet growth to market conditions, with the ability to switch between the A321neo and A320neo," Cebu Pacific chief executive Michael Szucs said in a statement.

The company said it had signed a binding memorandum of understanding with Airbus that covered "firm orders" for up to 102 A321neo aircraft and purchase rights for 50 A320neo. — AFP

## Boeing to acquire Spirit AeroSystems

BOEING on Monday announced it has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Spirit AeroSystems.

The merger is an all-stock transaction at an equity value of approximately US\$4.7 billion, or 37.25 dollars per share. The total transaction value is approximately \$8.3

billion, including Spirit's last reported net debt, according to Boeing.

"We believe this deal is in the best interest of the flying public, our airline customers, the employees of Spirit and Boeing, our shareholders and the country more broadly," said Boeing President and CEO

Dave Calhoun. "By reintegrating Spirit, we can fully align our commercial production systems, including our Safety and Quality Management Systems, and our workforce to the same priorities, incentives and outcomes - centred on safety and quality." — Xinhua



In this photo taken by a mobile phone, a China-Europe freight train heading for Moscow departs from the logistics hub in Pinggu District of Beijing, capital of China, 1 July 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Beijing launches regular freight-train service to Europe

A cargo train left Beijing for the Russian capital Moscow on Monday, marking the launch of a regular China-Europe freight-train service from the Chinese capital.

The freight train carrying construction materials, household electrical appliances, clothing and other goods departed from the logistics hub

of Pinggu District in the northeast of the city.

Beijing launched the first trial train last March. More preparations and improvements have since been made. Starting from Monday, the service will run at least once a month.

"The products used to be sent to neighbouring Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region or Hebei

Province before heading for Europe," said Geng Zhanfeng, deputy general manager with the north China branch of Sinotrans.

"The launch of this regular freight-train service enables us to send the goods directly from Beijing to Europe, reducing costs and enhancing efficiency," he said. — Xinhua

## European stocks, euro retreat ahead of major elections

EUROPEAN stock markets and the euro retreated Tuesday on concerns about potential economic fallout should the far-right win power in France in weekend elections.

London was also lower and the pound traded mixed heading into a UK general election Thursday.

The dollar firmed as investors weighed the possibility of another Donald Trump presidency after last week's poor

debate performance by incumbent Joe Biden.

"Political concerns continue to weigh on European stocks," noted Joshua Mahony, chief market analyst at Scope Markets.

Candidates in France on Tuesday faced a deadline to register for the runoff round of a high-stakes parliamentary election, as President Emmanuel Macron's centrist camp and a left-wing alliance scrambled to prevent

the far-right from taking power.

On Sunday, French voters go to polls for the decisive final round of the snap election Macron called after his camp received a drubbing in European elections last month.

His gamble appears to have backfired, with the far-right National Rally (RN) of Marine Le Pen scoring a victory in the first round of voting last Sunday.

Ahead of the vote, official data Tuesday showed eurozone inflation cooled in June - but experts said it would be insufficient to convince the European Central Bank to accelerate its rate-cutting cycle despite sluggish economic growth.

Consumer prices have remained stubbornly above the ECB's two-per-cent target, although the return to easing inflation will no doubt be welcomed by officials. — AFP

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (428N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (428N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-7-2024 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

## Biden blasts landmark Supreme Court ruling on Trump immunity

PRESIDENT Joe Biden warned Monday that the US Supreme Court's landmark ruling on presidential immunity sets a "dangerous precedent" that Donald Trump would exploit if elected in November.

The conservative-dominated high court ruled that Trump — and all presidents — enjoy "absolute immunity" from criminal prosecution for "official acts" taken while in office, but can still face criminal penalties for "unofficial acts".

"For all practical purposes today's decision almost certain-

ly means there are no limits to what a president can do. This is a fundamentally new principle, and it's a dangerous precedent," Biden said in a speech at the White House.

Trump is facing criminal charges over his attempts to overturn his 2020 election loss to Biden, but that trial had been put on hold while the Supreme Court considered his immunity claims.

The 6-3 ruling on Monday, split along ideological lines, is set to further delay proceedings in that case, almost certainly to



People gather outside the US Supreme Court in Washington, DC, the United States, on 1 July 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

sometime after voters head to the polls in November.

"The American people must decide if they want to entrust... once again, the presidency to Donald Trump, now knowing he'll be more emboldened to do whatever he pleases, whenever he wants to do it," Biden said.

Conservative Chief Justice John Roberts, in his majority opinion, said a president is "not above the law" but does have "absolute immunity" from criminal prosecution for official acts taken while in office. — AFP

## Flood situation in India's Assam turns grim as death toll reaches 35

THE flood situation in India's northeastern state of Assam turned grim on Tuesday as more than half a million people were rendered homeless after flood water entered their homes, said a state government official.

Major rivers in the state were said to be flowing much above their normal levels. According to media reports, as many as 35 people had died this year alone in the state so far in flood-related incidents. Nearly

19 out of the total 35 districts in the state have been affected by the floods.

Indian Air Force (IAF) choppers were pressed into service to rescue people stuck in the flood-affected areas. In one such rescue operation on Tuesday, a Mi-17 IV helicopter of the IAF rescued 13 marooned survivors from a small island in the flooded river Brahmaputra, north of Dibrugarh in Assam, said the state's Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in a post

on X (Twitter).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to the Assam chief minister on Monday and enquired about the flood situation. "He assured me of full cooperation from the Government of India in this hour of crisis," said Sarma.

A report by The Indian Express newspaper said the floods affected 640,000 people from 1,275 villages across 19 districts in the state as of Monday evening. — Xinhua



People transport their belongings on boats in a flood affected area at Morigaon district in Assam on 1 July 2024 PHOTO: AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### At least 19 dead in drug gang clash in Mexico

AT least 19 people were killed, four of them Guatemalans, in a turf battle between two drug gangs in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas, authorities said Monday.

A cargo truck was found with 16 men shot dead inside, while three others were found dead outside the vehicle, the ministry of public safety said in a statement, after initially giving a death toll of 20.

The events occurred Friday in the municipality of La Concordia, near the border with Guatemala, where violence has been on the rise in recent years.

An initial investigation said the clash was between the Sinaloa cartel, one of the most powerful in Mexico, and another gang identified as the "Chiapas and Guatemala" cartel.

The ministry said in a statement that the two groups were battling over "criminal control of the border area".

The region is key for the trafficking of drugs, arms and migrants towards the United States, according to the non-governmental organization Insight Crime. — AFP

#### Yemen's Houthis claim fresh attacks against 4 cargo ships

YEMEN'S Houthi group on Monday claimed responsibility for launching attacks against four cargo ships belonging to the United States, Britain, and Israel.

"The first operation was carried out by several cruise missiles, targeting the Israeli ship MSC Unific in the Arabian Sea, and the hit was accurate and direct," Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sarea said in a statement aired by Houthi-run al-Masirah TV.

"The second operation was carried out by several ballistic and cruise missiles, targeting the American oil tanker Delonix in the Red Sea for the second time this week," he said, adding the third operation targeted the British ship Anvil Point in the Indian Ocean with several cruise missiles "accurately and directly".

"The fourth operation was carried out by several cruise missiles, targeting the ship Lucky Sailor in the Mediterranean Sea," he said, vowing to launch more such attacks until Israel stops its offensive in the Gaza Strip. — Xinhua



# SPORTS

## Girmay 'opens the door' for Africa with Tour stage win as Carapaz takes lead

ERITREAN Biniam Girmay dedicated his stage three win at the Tour de France on Monday to "the continent of Africa" as Richard Carapaz took the overall race lead in Turin.

"Let me open the door," 24-year-old Girmay posted on social media after earlier pointing out he was the "first Black African to win at the Tour".

"It means a lot personally for me and for the continent of Africa," he added.

Girmay is the third African to win on the Grande Boucle, first raced in 1903, after South Africans Daryl Impey and Rob Hunter.

"Huge congrats to all: Biniam Girmay makes history and wins stage 3 of Tour de France. A great and memorable day indeed for eritreacycling and africacycling," Yemane G Meskel, Eritrea's Minister of Information, posted on X.

Multiple Tour winner Chris Froome was born in Kenya but competed for Britain. — AFP



The pack of riders (peloton) cycles past vineyards in the Piedmont region during the 3<sup>rd</sup> stage of the 111<sup>th</sup> edition of the Tour de France cycling race, 230.5 kilometres between Piacenza and Turin, Italy, on 1 July 2024. PHOTO: AFP



Myawady FC players are seen celebrating their victory during the domestic tournament. PHOTO: MWL

## Drawing lots event for AFC Women's Club Championship on 18 July

THE lot-drawing ceremony of the 2024-2025 AFC Women's Club Championship, supervised by the Asian Football Confederation for the first time, will kick-start on 18 July.

The Asian Football Confederation has increased the number of club competitions and changed its format this season. It will host the first-ever AFC Women's Champions League at a higher level for women's clubs.

The football confederation is making to improve the level

of women's football in the region as over 20 teams will compete in the final and qualifying stages. According to the format, the final stage will be held with a total of 12 teams. Eight teams are allowed to play directly, and the qualifying teams will get the remaining four places. A total of 14 teams will compete in the qualifiers, and four teams will qualify.

Myawady FC won the 2023 Myanmar Women's League title and qualified for the AFC tournament. Team Myanmar face

football clubs from Thailand, Uzbekistan, Iran, India, Jordan, Hong Kong, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, UAE, Singapore, Butan and Saudi Arabia in the qualifiers.

Football clubs from Japan, North Korea, Australia, China, South Korea, Vietnam, the Philippines and Chinese Taipei will have to compete directly from the final stage. The qualifiers, divided into two groups of four teams and two groups of three teams, will run from 25 to 31 August. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Ronaldo's tears turn to celebration in Portugal's shootout victory over Slovenia

CRISTIANO Ronaldo experienced an emotional rollercoaster as Portugal survived Slovenia in a penalty shootout in the Euro 2024 Round of 16 on Monday.

In a dramatic and gripping match, Ronaldo missed a penalty in extra time, shedding tears on the pitch, but redeemed himself by scoring the first penalty in the shootout.

With goalkeeper Diogo Costa's three consecutive saves, Portugal triumphed 3-0 over Slovenia to advance to the quarterfinals.

Portugal will face tournament favorites France in the next round, who narrowly defeated Belgium 1-0 in an earlier match the same day.

Costa, currently playing for

Porto, was undoubtedly the hero of the match as he saved three penalties in a row from Josip Ilcic, Jure Balkovec, and Benjamin Verbic.

Meanwhile, his teammates Ronaldo, Bruno Fernandes, and Bernardo Silva converted their penalties, securing Portugal's 3-0 victory and a spot in the quarterfinals.

"This might be the best match of my career so far. I focused on my tasks on the pitch," the 24-year-old Costa said in a post-match interview. "I trusted my gut during the penalty shootout. Of course, we had analyzed the shooters, but players often change their minds on the field, so I trusted my gut."

In addition to his heroics



Cristiano Ronaldo (C) of Portugal vies with Slovenia's goalkeeper Jan Oblak (R) and Benjamin Sesko during the UEFA Euro 2024 Round of 16 match between Portugal and Slovenia in Frankfurt, Germany on 1 July 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

in the penalty shootout, Costa made a crucial save in the final stages of extra time, denying a

one-on-one opportunity from Slovenia's forward Benjamin Sesko. "Costa is our secret weapon.

He showed his strength today," Portugal coach Roberto Martinez praised Costa.

Before Costa's stellar performance, captain Ronaldo had a chance to score the winning goal, but his penalty was saved by Slovenian goalkeeper Jan Oblak. After missing the penalty, a tearful Ronaldo was comforted by teammates and coaching staff, while Portuguese fans chanted "Viva Ronaldo" to support the 39-year-old veteran.

"This match took me from extreme sorrow to extreme joy. This is football. You can't explain it," Ronaldo said in a post-match interview. "I had the chance to decide the game, but I missed, and Oblak made a fantastic save." — Xinhua



Biden blasts landmark  
Supreme Court ruling  
on Trump immunity

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# WORLD

## Iran, Türkiye warn against regional spillover of escalating Israeli offensive in Gaza

IRAN and Türkiye have warned against the consequences of Israel's prolonged strikes against Gaza and potential attack on Lebanon.

In a phone call on Sunday, Iranian Caretaker Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani and Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan discussed the latest developments in Gaza, Israeli "crimes" against Palestinians, and bilateral ties, according to a statement released by the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Monday.

Bagheri Kani slashed Israel's "brutal crimes" against people in the Gaza Strip and Israel's threats against Lebanon.

He stressed that Lebanon's resistance was completely ready to counter the Israeli threats, noting that any act of aggression by Israelis against Lebanon would be costly for them.

The acting Iranian minister said nine months had passed since the eruption of the conflict in Gaza on 7 October and Israelis were still incapable of returning the situation to what it was before that.

He emphasized that Israelis should know any new mistake by them in Lebanon would lead to the unfolding of a new situation at the regional level against them, and they would not be able to compensate for their strategic mistake even by resorting to "crimes".

Fidan, for his part, praised Iran for its efforts towards resolving the issue of Palestine and condemned the Israeli "crimes" against Gazans, saying it is very important for Ankara and Tehran to continue cooperating on Palestine's issue and maintaining regional security and stability. — Xinhua



A man watches a television screen showing a news broadcast with file footage of a North Korean missile test, at a train station in Seoul on 1 July 2024. North Korea on 1 July launched two ballistic missiles, South Korea's military confirmed — the latest in a series of weapons tests by Pyongyang that have soured relations with Seoul. PHOTO: AFP

## South Korea carries out live-fire drills near North's border first time in 6 years

**S**OUTH Korea carried out live-fire drills near the border with North for the first time in six years following the dissolution of an inter-Korean tension reduction pact which banned such exercises, the South Korean army said on Tuesday.

"The firing drills, the first such exercise to be conducted on land after exercises were normalized following the government's complete suspension of the 19 September Military Agreement, focused on bolstering artillery readiness and response capabilities in

the event of enemy provocations," the army was quoted by Yonhap, as saying.

The drills took place at front-line ranges in the South Korean provinces of Gyeonggi and Gangwon in a three-mile distance from Military Demarcation Line within the Demilitarized Zone between the two Koreas, Yonhap reported, citing the country's military authorities.

The South Korean military reportedly fired 140 rounds using the K9 and K105A1 self-propelled howitzers in the course of the drills.

In early June, North Korea said it had sent 3,500 air balloons carrying 15 tonnes of trash south in response to a hike in cases of South Korean activists sending anti-Pyongyang leaflets into the North. In response, the South Korean government approved a motion to suspend the 2018 inter-Korean military pact, which allows Seoul to resume military exercises near the military demarcation line, propaganda broadcasting towards North Korean territory as well as other actions described as hostile in the pact. — SPUTNIK



Fu Cong, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, introduces the draft resolution on "Enhancing International Cooperation on Capacity-building of Artificial Intelligence" during the UN General Assembly (UNGA) plenary session at the UN headquarters in New York, 1 July 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

## UNGA adopts China-proposed resolution to enhance intl cooperation on AI capacity-building

THE 78<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on Monday unanimously adopted the resolution, proposed by China and co-sponsored by over 140 countries, on strengthening international cooperation in the capacity building of artificial intelligence (AI).

The resolution on "Enhanc-

ing International Cooperation on Capacity-building of Artificial Intelligence" emphasizes that the development of artificial intelligence should adhere to "the principles of being human-centred," promoting beneficial intelligence, and benefiting humanity. It encourages international cooperation and practical actions to help

countries, especially developing countries, strengthen their AI capacity building, enhance their representation and voice in global AI governance, advocate for "an open, fair, and non-discriminatory business environment", and support the United Nations in playing a central role in international cooperation. — Xinhua