

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## ASEAN plans to assist Myanmar in peacefully solving current issues

### SAC implements a five-point roadmap to ensure peace, stability and development of the nation.

**S**ENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing and Mr Alounkeo Kittikhoun, special envoy of the alternate chairman of the ASEAN on Myanmar, exchanged views on the issues of Myanmar's cooperation in ASEAN.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Mr Alounkeo Kittikhoun, special envoy of the alternate chairman of the ASEAN on Myanmar and ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Kao Kim Hourn at the Credentials Hall of the Office of SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They discussed the best cooperation of Myanmar in ASEAN, the conditions of Myanmar's participation in ASEAN meetings, the provision of humanitarian aid by ASEAN to Myanmar, and the best collaboration of Myanmar to distribute

the aid to people in need.

Both sides frankly exchanged views on the efforts of Myanmar to firmly implement the multiparty democratic system the people aspire to, preparations for holding a free and fair multiparty democratic general election, and requirements for all to know the actual conditions of Myanmar.

After the meeting, the Senior General presented marble replicas of Maravijaya Buddha Image to the special envoy of the alternate chairman of the ASEAN on Myanmar; the ASEAN Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the AHA Centre.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Ministers U Than Swe, U Ko Ko Hlaing, Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Dr Soe Win and officials.

The special envoy of the alternate



SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing warmly shakes hands with Mr Alounkeo Kittikhoun, special envoy of the alternate chairman of the ASEAN on Myanmar, during yesterday's meeting.

chairman of the ASEAN on Myanmar; former Minister in the Prime Minister's Office of Laos, was accompanied by ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Kao Kim Hourn,

AHA Centre Executive Director Mr Lee Yam Ming, Lao Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Heuangseong Khamdalavong and officials. — MNA/TTA



Cooperative Accounting Vocational Education School (Mandalay).

## First-year vocational courses in cooperative accounting to start in 5 regions

THE Department of Cooperatives has announced that first-year vocational courses for cooperative accounting will commence in five regions on 17 June.

These courses will be available in Magway, Mandalay, Taunggyi, Mawlamyine, and Patheingyi, with a duration of three years leading to the Certificate in Business Accounting upon successful completion.

Upon completing the three-year course, individuals who meet specific qualifications will have the opportunity to further their studies at cooperative colleges.

Those interested in applying for the course must obtain application forms from the cooperative accounting schools in the relevant regions and submit them by 16 June at the latest. — TWA/TKO

### NATIONAL

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Illegal trade harms both consumers and businesses

### BUSINESS

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Myanmar ships over 20 MT of honey to Japan, South Korea in April

# NATIONAL

Myanmar Gazette

## Duty Assignment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned U Aung Kyaw Moe from the Union Minister's Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the duties of Permanent Secretary/Director-General of the same organization.

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

## Appointment of Ethiopian Ambassador to Myanmar agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Daba Debele Hunde as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Tokyo.

Mr Daba Debele Hunde was born in 1971. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Development Administration from Ethiopian Civil Service University, Addis Ababa, in 2006 and a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership from Azusa Pacific University, California, United States of America, in 2009.

He served as Head of Oromia Regional State Food Security Office in Addis Ababa from 2005 to 2006, as Head of Oromia Regional State Public Mobilization and Social

Affairs Bureau in Addis Ababa from 2006 to 2007, as Mayor of Burayu City, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia from 2007 to 2008, as the Head of Capacity Building Bureau of the Addis Ababa City Administration Office from 2008 to 2011, as Head of Oromia Regional State Education Bureau in Addis Ababa from 2012 to 2016, as Vice President of Oromia Regional State in Addis Ababa from 2016 to 2018, and as Head of Oromia Regional State Agriculture and Natural Resources Bureau in Addis Ababa from 2018 to 2021. He also served as Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Republic of Rwanda from 2022 to 2023 and is currently serving as Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Japan. He is married. — MNA

## Commander-in-Chief (Air) receives Air Vice-Marshal of Indian Air Force



Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung receives Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Intelligence) of the Indian Air Force Air Vice-Marshal Ichettira Iyappa Kuttappa VM VSM in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF (Air) General Tun Aung received a delegation led by Air Vice-Marshal Ichettira Iyappa Kuttappa VM VSM, Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Intelligence) of the Indian Air Force, who attended the sixth Myanmar-India bilateral air force dialogue held from 14 to 16 May, yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

They discussed cooper-

ation between the two air forces of the two countries, the sending of trainees, further development of the relationship between the two air forces and technological matters.

After the meeting, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and Air Vice-Marshal Ichettira Iyappa Kuttappa VM VSM exchanged souvenirs. They

also had the documentary group photo taken together with the attendees.

Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung, Tatmadaw (Air) senior officers, Air Vice-Marshal Ichettira Iyappa Kuttappa VM VSM, Col Jaswinder Singh Gill, Indian military attaché to Myanmar, and senior officers of the Indian Air Force attended the meeting. — MNA/TS

## MMPO collecting donations for members' children supply programme

U Aye Kyu Lay, Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO), announced that donations are being collected for a programme to provide school uniforms and stationeries to the children of MMPO members.

MMPO members with school-age children must submit necessary documents, including copies of their membership card, household registration, and school endorsements, to apply

for assistance.

"This programme has been a long-standing tradition. Since 13<sup>th</sup> May, members of the film industry have been generously donating cash for this cause almost daily," said U Aye Kyu Lay.

So far, actress May Panchi has donated K200,000, the Mingaladon Cinemas Group K1 million, the Aungthiri film producer K100,000, and the Bago Region Video Group K200,000. — TWA/MKKS



Well-wishers donate cash for the plan to provide school uniforms and stationeries.

## Illegal trade harms both consumers and businesses

Seizures of illegal trade volume approximately amounted to K250.176 billion in 12,430 cases up to April 2024.

**V**ICE-SENIOR General Soe Win highlighted that the International Trade Centre (ITC) showed a trade difference worth US\$6-12 billion per year between Myanmar and its trade partners China, Thailand, India, and Japan, proving illegal trade between them.

Chairman of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win delivered a speech at the coordination meeting 2/2024 of the steering committee at the hall of the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the Vice-Senior General said that after re-constituting the steering committee, seizures of illegal trade volume approximately amounted to K250.176 billion in 12,430 cases up to April 2024.

He recounted that, according to the estimation of the UN, global countries lose incomes in various sectors worth more than US\$2 trillion in illegal trade yearly, comprising US\$30-40 billion worth of agricultural goods in unlawful trade on a yearly basis, adding illegal drugs kills children whereas illegal chemical drugs cause environmental degradation.

He also disclosed that counterfeit commodities trading amounts to some \$509 billion per year, accounting for about three per cent of global trading, according to the OECD and WIPO.

The Vice-Senior General noted that surveys showed that some \$35 billion worth of counterfeit commodities flow into the ASEAN region yearly, comprising \$2.6 billion worth of counterfeit drugs, so the loss of businesses accounted for some US\$6 billion.

With regard to seizures in Myanmar, the Vice-Senior General noted that the Customs Depart-



SAC Vice-Chair DPM Vice-Senior General Soe Win presides over the coordination meeting 2/2024 of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

ment and Mandalay Region stood first for the seizure of smuggled and illegal commodities from February to April 2024, followed by Kachin State, Taninthayi Region. Among them, he continued that unregistered vehicles and illegal commodities were seized as the most enormous volume, followed by intermediate goods and capital goods.

The Vice-Senior General underscored that illegal trade causes a decline in legal export volume and foreign exchange income. Moreover, he continued that the payment of illicit routes causes black markets, causing difficulties in calculating the income and expense of the State and obstacles to adopting the financial and monetary policies. Moreover, it can affect the rule of law process, trigger corruption of service personnel and harm administrative mechanisms, he added.

He instructed officials of one-stop service (OSS) and special task forces to effectively deter and seize illegal import and export goods in accord with the law.

In conclusion, the Vice-Senior General urged the steering committee and special task forces from regions and states to join hands with the government in totally eradicating illegal trade, as illegal trade brings direct loss to consumers as well as businesspeople.

Officials reported on the accomplishment of the meeting 1/2024 of the steering committee and letters to the meeting 2/2024, whereas Deputy Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Aung Naing Thu clarified criteria and supervision process for companies which will import restricted chemical materials.

Vice-Chairman of the Steering Committee Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and steering

committee member Union Minister U Tun Ohn discussed reviews over illegal trade, taking action for seizures of narcotic drugs, restricted chemicals, vehicles, fuel oil, foodstuffs, medicines and cosmetics under the law, comparison between export and import

commodities, commodity flows, e-lock system and illegal online sales of goods.

Then, decisions drafted in the meeting were read. The Vice-Senior General coordinated all discussions. — MNA/TTA

### Salient points from the speech made by the Vice-Senior General at the meeting 2/2024 of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

- International Trade Centre (ITC) showed a trade difference worth US\$6-12 billion per year between Myanmar and its trade partners China, Thailand, India, and Japan, proving illegal trade between them.
- Surveys showed that some \$35 billion worth of counterfeit commodities flow into the ASEAN region yearly, comprising \$2.6 billion worth of imitated drugs, so the loss of businesses accounted for some US\$6 billion.
- Illegal trade can affect the rule of law process, trigger corruption of service personnel and harm administrative mechanisms.

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# NATIONAL

## Joint Meeting between Myanmar Delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs and Delegation led by Special Envoy of ASEAN Alternate Chair on Myanmar held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Joint Meeting between the Myanmar delegation led by U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and the Delegation led by Mr Alounkeo Kittikhoun, the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Alternate Chair on Myanmar, was held yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the Joint Meeting, U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for the Ministry of the State Administration Office 2, Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Union Minister for Border Affairs and the Chairman of National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSP-NC), Dr Soe Win, Union Min-



The Joint Meeting between the Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe and the delegation led by the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Alternate Chair on Myanmar Mr Alounkeo Kittikhoun in progress yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

ister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, U Lwin Oo, Deputy Minister for Foreign

Affairs, and concerned senior officials from relevant ministries, Dr Kao Kim Houn, Sec-

retary-General of ASEAN, Mr Lee Yam Ming, Executive Director of ASEAN Coordinating

Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (the AHA Centre), and responsible officials from ASEAN Secretariat were present.

During the Joint Meeting, both sides cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the status of providing humanitarian assistance in Myanmar and further cooperation between Myanmar and ASEAN in the field of humanitarian assistance.

In the evening, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs hosted a working dinner for the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Alternate Chair and the members of the delegation at the Park Royal Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

## Working Committee to address the impact of COVID-19 on national economy meets

THE meeting of the Working Committee to address the impact of COVID-19 on the national economy 2/2024 was held yesterday at Office No 1, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and attended by the members of the Working Committee, deputy ministers for Planning and Finance, for Investment and Foreign Eco-

nomical Relations, for Labour and for Hotels and Tourism, and the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar. Moreover, permanent secretaries and senior officials from the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Ministry of Commerce also attended the said meeting.

The meeting discussed the total reimbursement status of the K70 billion, which includes repayment of the State's revolving fund K50 billion and K20 billion from the 2019-2020

Financial Year General Reserve Fund (GRF) K150 billion. The repayment period for loans to the Film, Music, Theatrical, Press and Media Sector has been extended by one year. The meeting discussed the process of collecting the loan from the COVID-19 fund and the process to be carried out.

Moreover, Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Wah Wah Maung, in the capacity of the secretary of the Working



The meeting 2/2024 of the Working Committee to address the impact of COVID-19 on the national economy in progress at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations yesterday.

Committee, discussed detailed loan repayment monitoring situations in regions and states and collaboration with concerned ministries, Credit Supervision Teams as well as the situation of capital and interest return.

The meeting also discussed the process to be carried out by the committee, overdue loan recovery plans and procedures, and cooperation and collaboration with the departmental concerned. — MIFER

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# NATIONAL

## MoI Union Minister attends MRTV-Xinhua service agreement signing, meets musicians

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn attended the signing ceremony of the Service Provision Agreement between MRTV (Myanmar Radio and Television) and Xinhua News Agency in Yangon yesterday.

The Union minister first made an opening speech. U Ye Naing, Director-General of MRTV and Mr Li Kai, Deputy Director-General of Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau of Xinhua News Agency, signed the Service Provision Agreement.

The Xinhua News Agency, formally called Red China News Agency, was founded in 1931 and got its name in 1935. It is the official state news agency of the People's Republic of China. It operates with 180 bureaus across the world in 2024, employing over 10,000 employees, and the agency offers news services in six languages



Director-General of MRTV U Ye Naing and Deputy Director-General of Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau of Xinhua News Agency Mr Li Kai sign the Service Provision Agreement during a signing ceremony at MRTV, Yangon, yesterday.

in China and eight languages in international countries.

The Union minister then watched the Quiz Time programme of Myanmar International (MI) Channel at the

Studio (A) of MRTV and the practice session of the State Orchestra and provided cash assistance.

He also inspected the filming of a talk show at Studio 1

to mark International Museum Day that will fall on 18 May. He met Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Daw Nu Mra Zan-led group that participates in that programme.

He then checked the preparations to record the Gatha recitation of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Vice-Chairman Presiding Sayadaw of Sasana Vepula of Meiktila Bhaddanta Kovida (Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja), to be broadcast on full moon day of Kason, at the Studio 2.

At noon, he met members of the Myanmar Music Association (Central), musicians and invitees to offer Music Academy Awards. During the meeting, the Union Minister urged the participants to give proper suggestions regarding the successful holding of the Myanmar Music Day event on 27 June and stressed the need to select the winners, award selecting system and other matters.

The Union minister concluded the meeting after hearing the attendees' reports. — MNA/KTZH

## MoIP Union Minister UN Interim Resident Coordinator & Humanitarian Coordinator



Union Minister U Myint Kyiaing meets UN Interim Resident Coordinator for Myanmar and Interim Humanitarian Coordinator Mr Marcoluigi Corsi at the ministry's meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

UNION Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyiaing received UN Interim Resident Coordinator for Myanmar and Interim Humanitarian Coordinator Mr Marcoluigi Corsi and the delegation at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on terrorist

attacks by AA insurgents in northern Rakhine State, temporary relocation of the staff of UN organizations working in the area to Sittway, Unique ID card verification process, verification of some of the UN staff who hold the identification card (NV Card), the condition that they must proceed in line with the procedure to obtain

some kinds of cards and procedures for obtaining authorization for staff and families of United Nations organizations requesting travel and temporary residence.

Deputy Minister U Htay Hlaing and Dr Myo Thant, Permanent Secretary U Win Zaw Aung and officials attended the meeting. — MNA/TS

## Myanmar Navy rescues injured crew member from Chinese cargo ship

A crew member from the Chinese cargo ship MV Chang Hao Hai, which headed to China from Dhamra Port of India, fell from a height at 1 pm on 14 May and sustained severe injuries requiring emergency treatment. The incident occurred about 96 miles northwest of Coco Island within Myanmar's territorial waters, and asked for help via MRCC.

madaw (Navy), serving security measures in Myanmar waters of Hainggyikyun, conducted rescue work following a request and provided initial healthcare services to the victim, Mr Tan Bin, on the vessel. He was taken to Tatmadaw Hospital in Hainggyikyun for medical treatment and to Patheingyi Township for further treatment by ambulance. — MNA/KTZH

The fast attack craft of Tat-



A Tatmadaw (Navy) vessel receives an injured sailor from NV Chang Hao Hai for medical care near Hainggyikyun on 14 May 2024.

# NATIONAL



The photo shows one of the pagodas in Magway Region, where tourists usually visit.

## Magway Region tourism flourishes with 1.7M visitors, generating K1.95B in 2023

ACCORDING to U Aung Than, a member of the Regional Tourism Work Committee of Magway Region, a total of 1.7 million travellers, both domestic and foreign, visited tourist destinations in the region in 2023.

In the same year, a hotel with 28 rooms and a tourism company were opened in Magway Region. Various events and locations such as Kantha Lake, the night market on the Strand Road, the Magway Myathalun Pagoda Festival, the Mann Shwesettaw

Pagoda Festival, and MSME exhibitions were designated as tourist destinations, attracting visitors from across the country.

Hotels and guesthouses accommodated a total of 105,607 visitors, generating revenue of 1,953.02 million kyats.

“Key tourist destinations include the UNESCO-recognized Beikthano old city, the ancient Minhla fort, which played a crucial role in the English-Myanmar war, Kwaychaung fort, Mann Shwesettaw natural tourism

sites, and the Myathalun Pagoda. Additionally, authorities are overseeing the construction project of Daungthay Botanical Garden to attract local and international tourists,” said U Aung Than.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, along with related departments, experts, scholars from the tourism industry, and private business owners, are collaborating to promote the development of the tourism industry in Magway Region. — ASH/TMT

## Low pressure found over Myanmar Delta on 23 May

ACCORDING to the forecasts calculated based on 14 May 2024 (18:30 Myanmar Standard Time) data of the European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) in England, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced on the afternoon of 15 May that only low-pressure levels were found in the Myanmar Delta on 23 May 2024.

Similarly, according to the DMH-WRF Model’s estimates based on the time of 14 May 2024 (06:30 Myanmar Standard Time), atmospheric turbulence

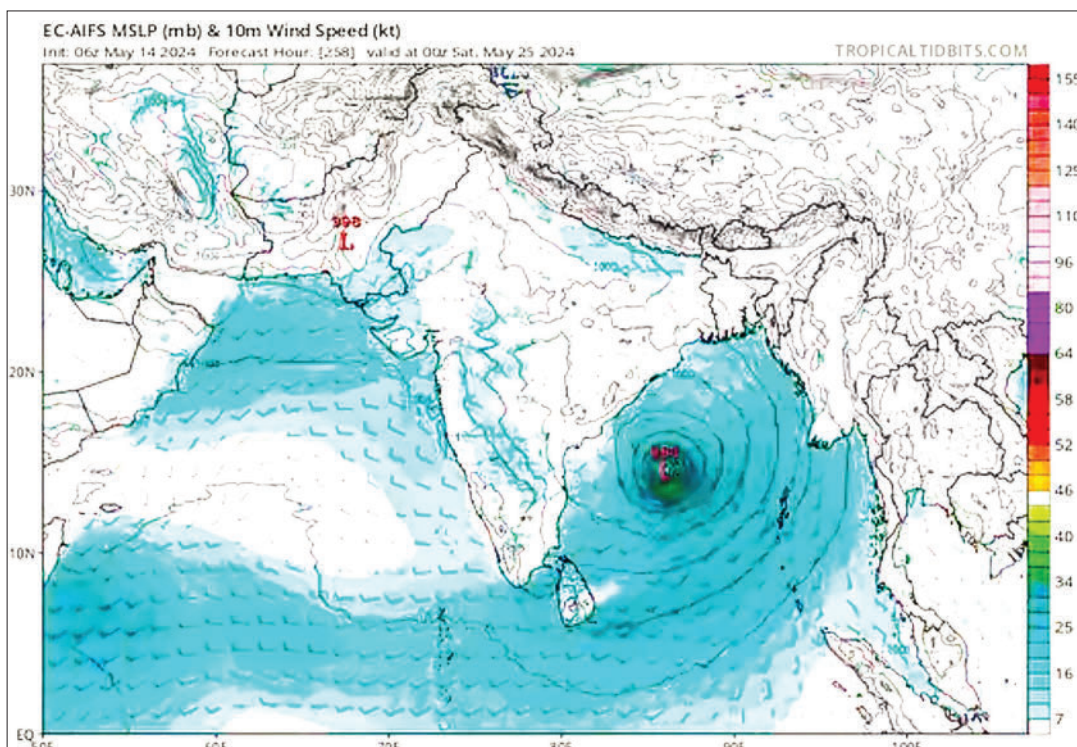
may begin in the southwest of the Bay of Bengal and the related central west of the Bay of Bengal around 23 May 2024. A low-pressure area may start to form on 24 May 2024.

On 25 May 2024, the low-pressure area will move to the northwest, becoming more vigorous, and it may move towards the coast of India and Bangladesh on 27 May 2024.

According to the estimates based on the Global Forecasting Model (GFS) data from the National Hurricane Centre of the United States of America

for 15 May 2024 (00:30 Myanmar Standard Time), a low-pressure system may begin to form in the northern Bay of Bengal on 26 May 2024. It may move to the north and cross the coast of Bangladesh on 27 May 2024.

At this time, the low pressure has not yet started, and the predictions of the mathematical models are all dependent on the time of measurement and the data used. The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology will release the forecasts calculated in a timely manner; according to the statement. — TWA/KZL



The satellite photo of the low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal and the possibility of a low-pressure storm forming and moving.

## Industry leaders urged consideration amid post-COVID cinema operational surge



The Thamada Cinema is seen on 7 May.

THE Ministry of Information reports that the number of operational cinemas has increased to 90 in the post-COVID-19 period.

Prior to the COVID-19 period, there were 182 cinemas. Following the outbreak, only 36 cinemas were in operation. Currently, there are 90 cinemas functioning. However, despite being sold to private owners with the agreement that they would exclusively show films, several of these cinemas have yet to reopen.

Union Minister of Information U Maung Maung Ohn, in a meeting with cinema proprietors and film producers in Yangon, urged the consider-

ation of all parties’ interests. He highlighted the importance of film producers being able to showcase their films in cinemas to recoup their investments.

Furthermore, the Minister stressed that cinema owners should not exert pressure on producers regarding the types of films to be shown. Producers, on their part, should focus on creating films that genuinely attract audiences.

Loans have been provided, and the loan repayment period has been extended to assist cinema owners and producers in recovering from the economic impact of COVID-19. — TWA/MKKS

# Myanmar ships over 20 MT of honey to Japan, South Korea in April

MYANMAR conveyed 20.6 metric tons of honey valued at US\$0.031 million to Japan and South Korea in April of the current financial year 2024-2025, according to the Apiculture Division under the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

Myanmar's honey export to Japan reached 20.1 tonnes worth \$30,150, while 0.5 tonnes worth \$750 were exported to South Korea.

Myanmar primarily exports honey to China, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, the US and Singapore. Myanmar delivered over 2,200 metric tons of honey to foreign trade partners in the FY 2023-2024 (April-March), the Apiculture Division's data showed.

Sagaing and Mandalay regions are the leading producers of Myanmar's honey. Myanmar's



A beekeeper checks a honeycomb frame from a beehive box (L) and honeycomb (R) at an apiary.

beekeeping businesses are also found in the Yangon, Bago, and Magway regions, as well as the Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, and Shan states. Myanmar produces sesame honey, jujube honey, niger honey, sunflower honey, lychee honey and flower honey.

Myanmar's honey production is estimated at over 4,000 metric tonnes annually. Sixty per cent went to foreign markets, while the remaining was designated for domestic consumption.

Honey is utilized as a traditional medicine in the country.

Myanmar's honey fetched \$2,500-\$3,000 per tonne in the external market.

There are some state-owned beekeeping stations with 6,200 beehives in 31 townships and over 950 private beekeeping businesses operating with nearly

200,000 beehives.

Moreover, two million acres of crops yearly contribute to bee pollination every year. The beekeeping businesses near the crop fields contribute to the successful yield of the crop as well as quality bee production. — NN/EM

## FDA warns 42 unregistered hazardous cosmetics for safety risks

THE Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a warning against 42 unregistered cosmetics after identifying hazardous substances and chemicals that are harmful to health.

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Health, the FDA has been supervising the market systematically to ensure the quality of cosmetics that are considered safe for use. According to the Post-Marketing Alert System (PMAS) Report, the 42 cosmetics made in the regional countries were found unregistered and containing toxic substances and prohibited chemicals that are unsafe for use.

Those prohibited chemicals can cause skin irritation, swelling, rash, numbness, muscle cramps, fatigue, headaches, dizziness and depression. Long-term exposure to those substances can also result in kidney failure and other chronic diseases.

Thus, cosmetics importing companies, distributors, wholesalers and retailers should not ethically distribute unregistered cosmetics that are declared unsafe for use. The relevant authorities will take legal action against them under Section 3, Chapter 3 (D) of the Public Health Law for non-compliance. — NN/EM

## Authorized money changers must sell foreign currencies at regulated prices: CBM

MONEY changers are obliged to sell foreign currencies according to the set rates of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM). Failing to do so is liable to legal action, according to the CBM's notification released on 14 May.

In addition to debit cards and credit cards for international transactions, CBM lets authorized money changers sell foreign currencies at the Yangon International Airport (YIA) or the designated counters of the authorized dealers (private banks) in an attempt to facilitate petty cash exchanges and curb illegal transactions in the foreign exchange market. Those working abroad, going abroad for medical treatment and studying abroad starting from 31 May 2023 and those making a pilgrimage and attending workshops or meetings according to invitations of the foreign governmental organizations beginning from 18 August 2023 are entitled to buy US\$300-US\$500 (equivalent amounts of foreign currencies) according to the exchange rate of transacted on the CBM's online trading platforms with an addition of K10 at the respective money exchange

counters.

Authorized banks declare the details of the exchange counters that are available to buy foreign currencies on their official Facebook pages. CBM also officially announced them on its web portal, [www.cbm.gov.mm](http://www.cbm.gov.mm).

If Myanmar citizens want to exchange currencies for more than

petty cash amounts, they can use international debit cards and credit cards.

Moreover, surprise visits are undertaken at money changers to ensure they abide by the directives and regulations stipulated under the Foreign Exchange Management Law. — NN/EM



The photo shows the Yangon Branch of Central Bank of Myanmar.

# OPINION

## Systematically protect forests for reduction of deforestation

**AS** A result of climate change, Southeast Asia suffers the worst effects among other regions, resulting in year after year of severe high temperatures. Dense populations on shores and extreme extraction of timber and natural resources in Southeast Asia trigger sensitivity to climate change.

Currently, Myanmar and neighbouring countries are facing high temperatures due to the impacts of El Nino. Some cities of Myanmar have stood on the world's chart of day temperatures beyond the cities of countries located close to deserts. According to the weather forecast, the monsoon will be late for Myanmar, but it will leave the country early. So, the number of rainy days and rainfall will decline.

In fact, nobody can evade the danger of natural disasters caused by climate change. However, the areas covered by forests can mitigate natural disasters such as floods, overflow of water, landslides, and extreme impacts of weather. So, everybody needs to join the activities of growing various species of trees and protecting forests so as to ensure the thriving of bio-diversity species, including humans and harmonize the climatic conditions of the world for all living beings.

The government will manage the establishment of forest reserves and protected public forests in 30 per cent of the national areas and natural conservation areas in 10 per cent of the country by 2030 as part of efforts to systematically reduce deforestation and protect forests. Thus, all citizens of the nation need to participate in forest conservation and reforestation activities as much as they can. If so, the forest plan will meet the vision on schedule.

In fact, nobody can evade the danger of natural disasters caused by climate change. However, the areas covered by forests can mitigate natural disasters such as floods, overflow of water, landslides, and extreme impacts of weather. So, everybody needs to join the activities of growing various species of trees and protecting forests so as to ensure the thriving of bio-diversity species, including humans and harmonize the climatic conditions of the world for all living beings.

In this regard, it is necessary to reduce the consequence of the global warming process, which is of concern to all international countries. As such, they all need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere remarkably. In fact, the emission of carbon dioxide is one of the factors destroying forests. As such, it is necessary to systematically protect forests in order to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and deforestation.

The thriving of forests plays a crucial role in the interests of the nation and the improvement of the environment. Hence, individuals have to grow trees and nurture these plants to have prosperous thriving in order to contribute to the sustainability of forest resources. As trees can give advantages to society from a young age, everybody needs to strive for complete growth of trees with protection against disasters, danger of animals and humans and other unexpected measures every day.

**T**HE establishment of a Legal Advocacy Centre in Nay Pyi Taw marks a significant milestone in the country's journey toward justice and legal empowerment.

The motto for the Ministry of Legal Affairs (MOLA) is "the legal profession is a noble profession", and the mission is to protect legal rights, to be better functions of MOLA, to participate in the judicial system for promoting public trust and to participate in the justice sector reform.

The State Administration Council (SAC) Chairman and Prime Minister attended and unveiled the signage of the Legal Advocacy Centre of the Ministry of Legal Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 April 2024.

The SAC Chairman stressed the need to accumulate legal knowledge for initiating the peace and stability of the nation, the rule of law and the socioeconomic development

of the people, adding administrative authorities need to be skilful in legal affairs for their management measures and follow the laws. As such, the SAC Chairman said that all arts and science universities teach law subjects to confer BA (Law) degrees on graduates, and other significant universities give training to the students to get LLB degrees. Hence, he urged all legal experts in Myanmar to try hard to become international legal experts.

The opening of this centre provides a vital resource for in-

dividuals who may face legal challenges, ensuring they have access to legal representation, advocacy, and support. By offering guidance and assistance, the centre can empower individuals to navigate the complexities of the legal system and assert their rights with confidence.

By providing legal assistance, advocacy, and education, this centre can empower all communities, promote human rights, and contribute to the overall development of a fair and just society. It's heartening to see efforts being made to

strengthen the rule of law and support fundamental rights in Myanmar.

This Legal Advocacy Centre initiatives to play a crucial role in ensuring that all individuals and communities have the necessary provisions and symbols to navigate the legal system.

This creditable effort reflects a dedication to developing a fair and just society where the rights and dignity of every individual are respected and protected.

This endeavour deserves sincere appreciation for its en-

## Appreciation for the opening of the Legal Advocacy Centre

By Dr Than Lwin Tun



Legal Advocacy Centre, Nay Pyi Taw.

## Learning to Navigate Different Personalities

By Yin Nwe Ko

**O**NE time, at a party, someone said something that made me feel bad. They asked if I was going to have a baby, too. I felt embarrassed and didn't know what to say, so I made an excuse and left the conversation.

Now I feel better, but I still wonder what I should have done. How can we talk to people who are not nice to us? I asked some experts for help. They told me how to deal with different kinds of difficult people without being rude.

### The Complainer

You know someone like this. They always find something to complain about. They don't like the food, the music, or anything else. They're always unhappy. How can you talk to someone like this? "Be understanding," says one expert. Try to understand why they're upset. Help them see the good things in life. Be nice to them, and maybe they'll be nicer too.

### The Contrarian

Sometimes, you say something, and they say the opposite. They like arguing, even when it's not necessary. Monica Guzman, who wrote a book in Seattle, says these people enjoy arguing, but they don't always realize when it's too much. So, they end up winning every time because they keep arguing.

How can you handle this? Ian Leslie, who knows a lot about arguments in London, says sometimes it's best to agree with them, especially if it's not important. But if you really want to stand your ground, ask them about their own experiences instead of arguing. This might help them understand your point better.

### The Chatterbox

Some people never stop talking. They always have a story to share, even if it's not related to what you're saying. Sandy Gerber,

who knows about communication, says these people often talk about themselves a lot.

It can feel like they're trying to be better

than you, but that's not always true. They might be nervous or just really excited. They probably don't even realize they're doing it.

Some people talk a lot because they want to connect with you, but they end up talking too much. You might not notice until you're annoyed because they keep talking about themselves.

Next time, try saying, "Tell me more." Let them talk about something they like. Then, when they're done, you can share your own stories.

### The Tech Addict

It's annoying when someone keeps checking their phone during a conversation. You might feel like they don't care about you. But maybe they're just nervous or have something important on their mind. Instead of getting upset, try to have a better conversation than what's on their phone. Or ask them what's so interesting on their phone. They might apologize and put it away. Or you can suggest leaving your phones in the car so you can talk properly. That way, you won't think they're ignoring you because of your stories.

### The Political Antagonist

This person has very different ideas than you. They like to argue about politics, and they're always ready for a debate. Some families have different political views. Monica Guzman has a tough situation: she's a liberal, but her parents, who are Mexican immigrants, voted for the former president. They argue about politics a lot.

Just like the Contrarian, the Political Antagonist loves to argue. They want to change



PHOTO CREDIT: READER'S DIGEST

### Dealing with Drama Queens

The Drama Queen talks a lot about their problems. They want attention and exaggerate things to get it. It can be tiring to listen to them, but they're scared of losing your attention. They want to know you care about them. Instead of ignoring them, set some boundaries. Let them know when you can talk and when you need a break.

Before you meet the Drama Queen, be clear about what you will and won't do. Maybe you'll talk about her ex for a bit, but not for too long. Or maybe you'll reschedule lunch for when you're feeling better. She might be upset at first, but secretly, she'll like that you're treating her like a regular person.

### Dealing With The Frenemy

The Frenemy is tricky. They're like a friend one day and an enemy the next. It's hard to know what to expect. They act mean because they feel like they're not as good as you. To deal with a Frenemy, don't take their mean comments personally. They're trying to make themselves feel better. If you want to talk about it, ask them if they meant what they said. If you want to fix the friendship, you'll need to have a deeper conversation. Tell them what you want in a friendship and see if they're willing to do the same.

### Dealing With The Oversharer

The Oversharer talks about things that are too personal. They don't have a filter and share too much information. They might ask you about things you don't want to talk about. They do this because they don't have the same boundaries as you. They might not realize what's appropriate to share.



# NATIONAL

## Union MoHT Minister meets Myanmar-China Tourism FAM Trip members in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine and representatives for the Myanmar-China Tourism Promotion Familiarization Trip (FAM Trip) pose for the documentary group photo in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine met the representatives for the Myanmar-China Tourism Promotion Familiarization Trip (FAM Trip) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. At the event, the Union Minister said Nay Pyi Taw is

the administrative capital of Myanmar and a strategic destination for local and foreign travellers. It also offers basic infrastructures to conduct tourism development activities, exhibitions and meetings. The place has 38 tourist attractions, including the world's tallest sitting marble Buddha image and the Maravijaya Buddha image.

She continued that the ministry makes efforts to attract more local/foreign travellers to Nay Pyi Taw under government-private cooperation with FAM Trip and Tour Package by inviting the media personnel, tourism players and companies. 'One Tourist One Tree' programme was included in the trips.

She then called on the representatives to share the actual situation in Myanmar and highlight the place that is actually worth visiting.

Mr David Liu, chairman of the Myanmar-China Culture and Tourism Promotion Society, said thanks for arranging the perfect tours.

The Union minister and deputy minister gave presents to the delegates of the FAM Trip and hosted a dinner event at the Grand Amara Hotel.

The FAM Trip included groups from tourism-related departments, tourism agencies and media personnel. They visited Yangon and Ngwehsaung, and they will visit tourist destinations in Nay Pyi Taw, Bagan, and Mandalay. — MNA/KTZH



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo meets United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim (UN RC/HC ai) Mr Marcoluigi Corsi yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

## MoFA Deputy Minister receives UN Interim Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator

U Lwin Oo, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mr Marcoluigi Corsi, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim (UN RC/HC ai), yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

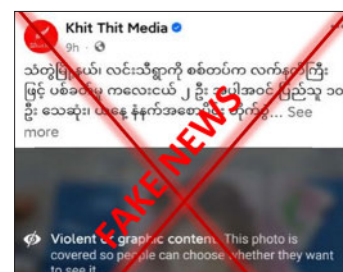
During the meeting, they discussed matters on existing cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and the United Nations agencies. — MNA

## Counter-argument to false information

### False claims: 10 killed as security forces open fire on Linthi Village

SUBVERSIVE media spread false stories that ten people, including two children, were killed due to heavy weapons fired by the security forces in Linthi Village, Thandwe Township, Rakhine State, on 14 May.

The actual incident is that near Shwehle Village, the security forces and AA terrorists clashed on both sides. AA terrorists threatened the people of



The screenshot validates fake news of Khit Thit media.

Thandwe Township to harm the lives and property of the local

people. They wanted to create a lack of peace and stability and to destroy the government mechanisms.

They have purposely fired such heavy weapons and drones into towns and villages where people live, and they have been spreading falsehoods on social media sites to blame Tatmadaw and mislead the people. — MNA/KZL

### Accusations against Magway Region security forces dismissed as false

CERTAIN media outlets with malicious intent have accused security forces of burning down nine houses and shooting cattle dead in Kaimagyi Village, Yesakyo Township, Magway Region, without any armed conflicts.

However, a member of the security forces denied these allegations, stating that they did not take security measures in that village or surrounding areas on that day.

Certain media with subversive intentions have spread one-sided allegations and misinformation in an attempt to mislead the public and undermine law and order. — MNA/NT

### RFA spreads misinformation: Tatmadaw confiscated rice bags provided by WFP in Nyaungshwe

RADIO Free ASIA (RFA) posted a misinformation status on its website, alleging that Tatmadaw confiscated 900 bags of rice provided by WFP for displaced persons taking shelter at Sankar Village of Nyaungshwe Township in Shan State (South) on 5 May and has not delivered the rice bags till 15 May yet, residents were quoted as saying.

In this regard, fake news was reportedly spread through malicious media, confiscating 900 bags of rice provided by WFP for displaced persons taking shelter at Sankar Village of Nyaungshwe Township in Shan State (South). — MNA/TTA

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# NATIONAL

## CRIME NEWS

### Major illegal trade seizures, arrests across regions/states

THE Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized a Nissan Condor van (worth approximately K41 million) travelling from Taunggyi to Yangon at the Kywattatson checkpoint on 13 May. The van was found to be carrying goods valued at K12.04 million, including 300 pairs of sandals from China without official documents. This enforcement was conducted under Customs procedures.

On the same day, the Yangon Region team impounded five vehicles travelling from Myawady and Thamanya to Yangon at the Ywathagyi Dry Port. These vehicles were transporting 14 types of goods valued at K68.588 million, including 17,100 kilogrammes of steel pipe from China not declared in the Import Declaration (ID). Additionally, two unregistered vehicles (estimated value K10.5 million) were seized in Mayangon and Insein townships. This action was carried out under Customs procedures and the Export and Import Law.

During inspections on 14

May, the combined team confiscated illegal teak weighing 12.341 tonnes, illegal hardwood weighing 0.530 tonne, and illegal other timbers weighing 2.316 tonnes in Bago, Pyay, and Thayawady districts. Furthermore, two unregistered vehicles (worth approximately K20 million) were seized at the Yadanabon combined checkpoint and the Kantalu combined checkpoint. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

On the same day, the combined team intercepted two vehicles (worth approximately K115 million) heading to Lashio from Chinshwehwar near Manai village in Lashio township. These vehicles were carrying 3,024 square metres of ceramic tiles worth K42.547 million from China without official documents. This action was taken under Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 24 arrests were made on 13 and 14 May, with an estimated value of K506 million. — MNA/MKKS

### K240M worth of stimulant tablets seized in Waw Township

THE Myanmar Police Force reported the seizure of 160,000 stimulant tablets valued at K240 million in Waw Township.

A joint team, including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force, intercepted a Toyota Probox travelling from Mawlamyine to Yangon near Nyaungkhashay village in Waw Township at 9:15 am on 13 May.

They arrested a passenger named Sai Hla Win (aka) Hla Win, who was found to be in possession of the stimulant tablets.

Legal proceedings have commenced against the offender, and an ongoing investigation is underway to apprehend others involved in the case. — MNA/MKKS



## YRTC addresses issues with YPS devices in YBS buses



YPS device that was disabled on a YBS.

ACCORDING to the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC), commuters are able to file complaints regarding YPS (Yangon Payment Service) devices disabled in Yangon Region Public Transport (YBS) vehicles. Over 3,000 YBS vehicles in Yangon have been outfitted with YPS devices.

Thus, if these devices are tampered with or taken out of service, complaints can be registered.

To enhance YPS services, there are plans to introduce YPS QR Codes, allowing passengers to scan and pay bus fares with their mobile phones, similar to using the YPS Card.

“Most YBS vehicles are equipped with YPS Card devices. With these devices in place, payments can be made using either the YPS card or YPS QR Code. However, there are some vehicles lacking these devices, and others have disabled them. This creates difficulties in fare payment and receiving change. Therefore, it is imperative for the relevant department to conduct inspections on YBS buses,” stated Ko Aung Myo Kyaw, an employee of a technology company, to the Global New Light of Myanmar.

Reports indicate that Yangon boasts around 3,800 buses, yet only 95 bus lines accept payments via YPS cards. An official from YRTC mentioned in a January media briefing that some YBS drivers have been terminated for obstructing YPS devices and covering them with plastic bags. — TWA/TKO

## YGEA denies 5% tax on gold and dollar investments

IT is incorrect news that all those who have been holding gold and dollars would be levied a five per cent tax on a daily basis, Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) chairperson U Myo Myint told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The fake news says people who have been holding gold and dollars would have to pay a five per cent tax on the total value of their possessions on a daily basis at township tax offices and submit a recommendation for gold trading. However, YGEA denied the right to use dollars to get a tax receipt on 13 May.

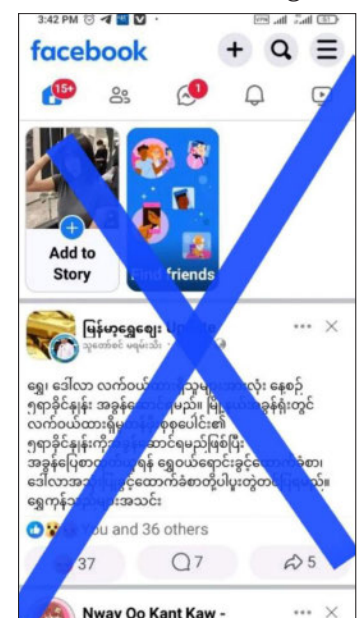
“YGEA made it public that it was just fake news. But legal action may be followed later. Such news disturbs the public. There is only one per cent stamp duty and no other tax for buying gold,” he said.

The spread of the fake news will gradually fade, he added.

“Respective departments have a plan to take action against acts which aim to make the gold price unstable. The law will be coming out soon. The drafting of a bill is underway with the purpose of defining gold trading as an essential service, and it will be coming out soon. When it is enacted, these dishonest acts will be dealt with in accordance with its rules and regulations. The content of the bill is still unknown; the government has worked on it, and it is going to be finalized,” he said.

Authorities have worked to ensure legal action against dishonest behaviours that are intended to speculate the gold market, and they have dealt with complaints, too. An official announcement was made

that action was taken against



A Facebook post that publish the incorrect information.

seven gold shops last month, and respective departments have continued inspections on complaints, said U Myo Myint. — MT/ZS

# ECONOMY

## WORLD/ARTICLE



An aerial drone photo taken on 11 March 2024 shows cruise ship Zuiderdam, operated by Holland America Line, docking at Tianjin International Cruise Home Port in north China's port city of Tianjin.  
**PHOTO: XINHUA**

## China fully allows visa-free entry of foreign tourist groups via cruise ships

*The National Immigration Administration (NIA) has announced that tourist groups, comprised of two foreigners or more, organized or received by Chinese travel agencies, can enter China visa-free through cruise ports in 13 Chinese cities.*

CHINA on Wednesday enforced a policy allowing visa-free entry of foreign tourist groups aboard cruise ships via all cruise ship ports along the country's coastline.

Tourist groups each consisting of two foreigners or more, and organized or received by Chinese travel agencies, can enter China visa

free on board cruise ships via the cruise ports in 13 Chinese cities, including Shanghai, Tianjin, Guangzhou, Sanya, and others, according to the National Immigration Administration (NIA). The tourists can stay in China for no longer than 15 days. While in China, they can visit coastal provinces, municipalities and autonomous

regions as well as Beijing, according to an NIA statement.

Additionally, the NIA announced that seven cruise ports, namely Dalian, Lianyungang, Wenzhou, Zhoushan, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and Beihai, have been designated as visa-free transit ports for nationals from 54 countries. — Xinhua

### NEWS ROUNDUP: ECON

#### Portugal announces location of new Lisbon airport

THE Portuguese government announced on Tuesday that it has decided to construct a new international airport in Alcochete in the Lisbon metropolitan area.

The location was chosen following the recommendation of an independent technical commission, announced Portuguese Prime Minister Luis Montenegro in a statement to the country after an extraordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers on Tuesday afternoon. "The Government has decided to approve the development of the new Lisbon airport with the aim of fully replacing Humberto Delgado Airport at the Alcochete shooting range and naming it Luis de Camoes Airport," announced Montenegro.

He explained that the new Lisbon airport will completely replace the current Humberto Delgado Airport, adding that the single airport is the most suitable solution for the country's strategic interests and that Alcochete provides room for expansion. The Portuguese government estimates that the new airport will have an approximate cost of eight billion euros (8.64 billion US dollars) and will take 10 years to complete. Portugal decided in 1968 to build a new airport, but the location could not be finalized due to various reasons. — Xinhua

#### Poland not to accept migrants under new EU migration pact, says PM

POLISH Prime Minister Donald Tusk said on Tuesday that "Poland will not accept any migrants" under the newly adopted European Union's (EU) pact on migration and asylum.

Tusk told a press conference after a meeting of the Council of Ministers that his government voted against the pact. He said the pact "adopted in this form, as today, gives Poland the opportunity to avoid any negative consequences. Poland will become a beneficiary of the pact." He stressed that Poland, which has taken in hundreds of thousands of migrants, will not be obliged to accept further migrants, and the EU will not impose any migrant quotas on Poland.

The prime minister also said that his country will effectively enforce financial support from the EU in relation to hosting migrants from the bloc's eastern neighbours. — Xinhua

## Learning to Navigate Different Personalities

### FROM PAGE-9

When the Oversharer tells you too much, it might make you uncomfortable. They might not realize what's okay to talk about. They just want to be friends with you and hope you'll share things, too. To handle this, you can share something personal but not too much. If they go too far, you can say, "That's private!" This tells them they crossed a line.

You can also give them a compliment. This changes the topic and reminds them to respect your boundaries. For example, if they ask about something

personal, you can say, "You're so good at talking to people. How do you do it?" Then, smile and nod. I can't redo my baby shower, but next time, I'll learn how to deal with an oversharer or any other difficult person.

Reflecting on past encounters, I recall feeling uneasy at a party when someone asked me a question that left me feeling embarrassed. Unsure of how to respond, I excused myself from the conversation. Although I've moved on from that moment, I still ponder how I could have handled it differently. Seeking advice from experts, I learned

strategies for dealing with various challenging personalities without resorting to rudeness.

Encountering a Complainer, who always finds fault in everything can be challenging. However, experts advise approaching them with understanding and kindness, helping them see the positive aspects of situations. Similarly, engaging with a Contrarian, who enjoys arguing for the sake of it, requires tact. While agreeing with them on unimportant matters can ease tension, steering the conversation toward their personal experiences may foster better

understanding.

The Chatterbox, who incessantly talks about themselves, may unintentionally dominate conversations. Though their behaviour may seem self-centred, it could stem from nervousness or excitement. In such cases, gently redirecting the conversation or setting boundaries can be helpful.

Confronting the Tech Addict, who is always glued to their phone, requires patience and understanding. While their behaviour may seem dismissive, it could be due to anxiety or distraction. Suggesting a phone-free conversation or expressing curi-

osity about their interests may help re-engage them.

Finally, encountering a Political Antagonist who vehemently disagrees with your views can be daunting. However, engaging in respectful dialogue and knowing when to change the subject can help maintain harmony.

In brief, understanding and empathy are key to navigating interactions with challenging personalities. While it may not always be easy, practising patience and kindness can lead to more harmonious relationships.

**Reference: Reader's Digest November 2023**

## Rapidus, US chip firm Esperanto to develop energy-saving AI chips

*The companies highlight the urgent need to mitigate the massive electricity usage associated with AI development and operation, with experts warning that current growth trends could lead to unsustainable power consumption levels.*

JAPAN'S state-backed chip venture Rapidus Corp and US chip designing venture Esperanto Technologies Inc announced Wednesday a collaboration to jointly develop and produce energy-saving chips for artificial intelligence.

The tie-up is aimed at meeting the demand of data centre operators that are grappling with a surge in energy consumption in the wake of the recent generative AI boom worldwide.

A massive amount of



Rapidus Corp President Atsuyoshi Koike (L) shakes hands with Esperanto Technologies Inc CEO Art Swift at a press conference in Tokyo on 15 May 2024. PHOTO: KYODO

electricity used for developing and powering AI is an urgent issue in the industry, with many experts cautioning that its power

consumption will become unsustainable if its growth continues at the current pace, the companies said. — Kyodo

## China unveils plan to galvanize NEV uptake in rural areas

CHINA'S Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, in collaboration with four government bodies, has launched a nationwide campaign to bolster the new energy vehicle (NEV) uptake in China's rural areas.

The initiative will run from May to December 2024 and has been designed to bridge the current NEV consumption gap in rural regions, thereby enhancing residents' level of green, safe travel and contributing to the construction of beautiful villages and rural revitalization.

The NEV rural promotion catalog features an impressive array of 99

models from leading auto manufacturers, encompassing a wide range of NEVs for various sectors, including sedans, SUVs and multipurpose vehicles.

This diverse lineup includes models from state-owned heavyweights like China First Automobile Group to new auto-making powers like Xpeng. The catalog also includes several products from BYD.

A series of activities will be organized over the course of the eight months, including exhibitions, test drives and other consumer experiences, aiming to enrich market offerings and providing a variety of choices for rural consumers. — Xinhua

## German travel giant says takes overtourism 'very seriously'



Tens of thousands of demonstrators marched across Spain's Canary Islands in April to demand changes to the model of mass tourism, which they say is overwhelming the Atlantic archipelago. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

GERMAN travel giant TUI said Wednesday it takes protests against overtourism, like recent demonstrations in the Canary Islands, very seriously, while arguing that its business model was not contributing to the problem.

Tens of thousands of demonstrators marched across Spain's Canary Islands in April to demand

changes to the model of mass tourism, which they say is overwhelming the Atlantic archipelago.

Last year, some 16 million people visited the Canary Islands, more than seven times its population of around 2.2 million.

"We take that very, very seriously," TUI chief Sebastian Ebel told journalists. — AFP

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### MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

AS the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2024 (Full Moon Day of Kasone), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (424N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (424N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-5-2024** 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  
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V T12 APPLE VOY.NO. (2417E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V T12 APPLE VOY.NO. (2417E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-5-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** 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  
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S T12 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA RANCAK VOY.NO. (KRCK0321N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA RANCAK VOY.NO. (KRCK0321N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-5-2024** 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.

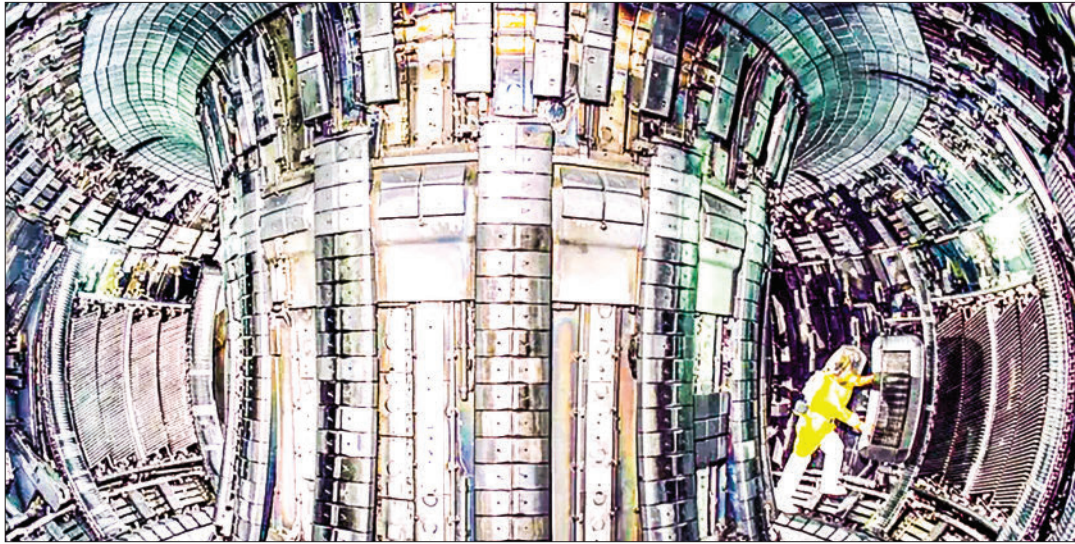
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

# ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD



The Joint European Torus (JET) is the world's largest and most powerful tokamak reactor. JET, located in the United Kingdom, was designed to study the feasibility of nuclear fusion as a potential future energy source. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/UKAEA EUROFUSION**

## EU blocks UK from work on nuclear fusion tests unless London rejoins Euratom: Reports

*The UK departed from the EU atomic agency upon exiting the bloc, prompting London to seek reentry into the world's largest nuclear fusion experiment as a non-member.*

THE European Union has rejected London's attempts to continue collaboration on the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project, as Brussels wants the United Kingdom to rejoin the bloc's Euratom research scheme, the Financial Times reported on Wednesday, citing people familiar with the matter.

The UK left the EU atomic agency when it quit the bloc, so London has applied to rejoin the world's largest nuclear fusion experiment as an outsider, the newspaper reported. "The UK participated in ITER as part of Euratom and it should do so on that basis if it wants to remain involved," an EU official was quoted by the Financial Times as saying.

All EU members have to be part of Euratom's research and training programmes to be involved in the EU's Fusion for Energy joint contribution programme for ITER, the Financial Times reported. Australia, as a non-member state, was granted cooperation permission as it has an agreement with Euratom. — SPUTNIK

## Indonesia volcano belches ash tower three miles into sky

A volcano in eastern Indonesia spewed ash five kilometres (3.1 miles) into the sky on Wednesday in one of its largest eruptions this year.



Mount Ibu spews thick smoke in Gam Ici, North Maluku, on 13 May 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

No damage or casualties were immediately reported but images showed a tower of ash soaring into the sky above Mount Ibu, located on the remote island of Halmahera in North Maluku province.

The huge grey and black ash column was "seen in thick intensity and leaning towards the west", said Indonesia's Centre for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation in a statement.

It called on locals and tourists not to go within five kilometres of Ibu's crater. — AFP

### BRIEFS: WORLD

#### Fire erupts in Istanbul's Spice Bazaar: media

FIREFIGHTERS were battling a fire that erupted in the bustling Spice Bazaar in Türkiye's largest city Istanbul on Wednesday, local media reported.

The fire started in the chimney of a restaurant in the bazaar and later spread to the roof, according to preliminary reports cited by NTV broadcaster. Numerous fire brigade teams have been dispatched to the scene in the Eminonu neighbourhood on the European side of the city. Photos on the NTV website showed fire brigades actively intervening in the fire on the roof, which was shrouded in smoke. Established in the 1660s during the Ottoman era, the Spice Bazaar, also known as the Egyptian Bazaar, remains one of Istanbul's most iconic covered shopping complexes and touristic attractions. — Xinhua

#### Over 14 mln of amphetamine pills seized in northern Laos

Lao police in the northern Bokeo province detained two men and seized over 14 million amphetamine pills from their possession.

The case was detected in Chiangthong village of Pakkha district on Sunday, Lao News Agency reported on Wednesday.

Police investigating the case are trying to determine the source of the drugs and identify relevant individuals. A nationwide crackdown on drug trafficking and deals is underway in Laos, in which police have seized large amounts of drugs, mostly in Bokeo province.

The crackdown was launched under the Lao government's national agenda aimed at stamping out the drug trade in the Southeast Asian country, according to the report. — Xinhua

## EU urges Israel to "immediately" end military operation in Rafah

THE European Union (EU) on Wednesday urged Israel to end its military operation in Rafah "immediately", stressing that continued military operation would "inevitably put a heavy strain" on its relationship with Israel.

"The European Union is calling on Israel to refrain from further exacerbating the already dire humanitarian situation in Gaza and reopen the crossing point of Rafah," Josep Borrell, EU's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, said in a statement.

"Should Israel continue its military operation in Rafah, it would inevitably put a heavy strain on the EU's relationship with Israel," Borrell noted.

Israel's military operation is further disrupting the distribution of humanitarian aid in Gaza and is leading to more internal displacement, exposure to famine and human suffering, he said, adding that more than a million civilians are sheltering in and around Rafah and have been told to evacuate to unsafe areas.

While the EU recognizes Israel's right to defend itself, it must do so in line with the International Humanitarian Law and ensure the safety of civilians, the statement stressed, adding that under the International Humanitarian Law, Israel must allow and facilitate unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for civilians. — Xinhua

# SPORTS

## Myanmar, Saudi Arabia football federations sign MoU for football development cooperation

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) and the Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding-MoU for cooperation in football development on the evening of 15 May at the Bangkok Marriott Marquis Queen's Park Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand.

At the ceremony, U Zaw Zaw, president of the Myanmar Football Federation, and Yasser Al Misaal, president of the Saudi Arabian Football Federation, signed the agreement.

The meeting discussed national team camp training, exchange of training methods and football tactics, and planning matches between youth national

teams and women's and futsal national teams and clubs by balancing the football calendar, football league management and player development techniques plus the development of Myanmar football through cooperation such as launching football courses.

After signing the MoU, AFC Senior Vice-President U Zaw Zaw continued to attend the executive meeting of the Asian Football Confederation. The Myanmar Football Federation delegation will attend the 34<sup>th</sup> Asian Football Confederation Congress to be held on 16 May in Bangkok, Thailand, and the 74<sup>th</sup> FIFA Congress to be held on 17 May. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar Football Federation President U Zaw Zaw (second from right) is seen during the MoU signing event with Saudi Arabia for Myanmar's football development. **PHOTO: MFF**



BMX freestyle cycling is a discipline of cycling that involves performing tricks, jumps, and stunts on a BMX (Bicycle Motocross) bike in various terrain settings, such as skateparks, streets, or dirt tracks. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/OLYMPICS**

## Olympic Qualifier Series more than sport event: IOC official

The event, spanning 16 to 19 May in Shanghai and 20 to 23 June in Budapest, will feature BMX freestyle cycling, breaking, skateboarding, and sport climbing, with over 150 quota places for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games up for grabs.

THE Olympic Qualifier Series (OQS) is more than a sport event, and it is about celebrating what these sports stand for and dispose their lifestyle, said an International Olympic Committee (IOC) official on Wednesday.

Pierre Fratter-Bardy, IOC Olympic Games Strategy & Development Associate Director, told a press conference one day prior to the start of the OQS in Shanghai: "It's about sport, music, art, and fashion".

Running from 16 to 19 May in Shanghai and Budapest from 20 to 23 June, the inaugural OQS will host 464 athletes in BMX freestyle cycling, breaking, skateboarding, and sport climbing, with over 150 quota places up for grabs at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. "Shanghai is a worldwide sports hub with tremendous experience in hosting major events. Formula One, tennis and many international federations and world championships," Fratter-Bardy noted. "We had full confidence in Shanghai from day one to be able to deliver such a new event". — Xinhua

## Haaland tells Man City to 'relax' ahead of title race finale

ERLING Haaland has urged his Manchester City teammates to "relax" after they closed in on making English football history with a 2-0 win away to Tottenham Hotspur.

Tuesday's triumph in north London saw City, courtesy of two goals from Haaland, win their game in hand as they returned to the top of the table as they moved two points clear of Arsenal.

Victory at home to West Ham on Sunday's final day of the season will now assure City of a fourth successive Premier League title -- an unprecedented feat in the top tier of English football.

"Yeah, fantastic

mentality", Haaland told City+. "Focus on game by game and now relax. We came here to try to win and we won.

Haaland opened the scoring six minutes into the second half when he tapped in from Kevin De Bruyne's pass before doubling City's lead from the penalty spot after Jeremy Doku was brought down by Pedro Porro.

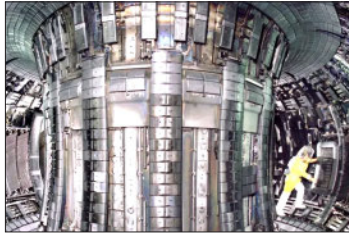
Spurs, however, had a chance to equalize but City reserve goalkeeper Stefan Ortega, who came on after Ederson was injured in a challenge with Cristian Romero, stood up well to deny Son Heung-min when one-on-one with the South Korean. — AFP



On target: Manchester City's Erling Haaland scores his second goal, from the penalty spot, in a 2-0 win over Tottenham Hotspur. **PHOTO: AFP**

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# WORLD

## Putin says open to dialogue on Ukraine crisis

*This understanding is reflected in "China's Position on the Political Settlement of the Ukraine Crisis", a 12-point proposal issued by China in February 2023.*

**R**EGARDING China's efforts towards the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis, Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed positive views on China's position.

In a written interview with Xinhua on the eve of his two-day state visit to China, which starts on Thursday, he said that China clearly understands the roots of the Ukraine crisis and its global geopolitical impact, as reflected in the "China's Position on the Political Settlement of the Ukraine Crisis", a 12-point proposition issued by China in February 2023. The concepts and suggestions indicated in the document demonstrate the sincere desire



This photo taken on 27 February 2022 shows smoke rising in the sky in Kyiv, Ukraine. **PHOTO: LU JINBO/XINHUA/FILE**

of China to stabilize the situation, he added. Putin emphasized that the four principles for the peaceful resolution of the Ukraine crisis recently proposed by Chi-

nese President Xi Jinping seamlessly fit in the above-mentioned document.

"The steps build on the idea that we need to forego the 'Cold War mentality' and

ensure indivisible security and respect for international law and the UN Charter in their entirety and interrelation," he said. — Xinhua

## Singapore's Lawrence Wong sworn in as new prime minister



Singapore's new Prime Minister Lawrence Wong is sworn during a ceremony at the Istana in Singapore on 15 May 2024. **PHOTO: EDGAR SU/POOL/AFP**

SINGAPORE on Wednesday swore in Lawrence Wong as its new prime minister Wednesday, replacing Lee Hsien Loong following two decades in office, with the new leader warning that the trade-dependent city-state

faced a riskier, more conflict-ridden world.

Wong, formerly deputy prime minister, became only the second person outside of the Lee family to helm the affluent nation as he was inaugurated at the Istana gov-

ernment office shortly after 8 pm (1200 GMT).

"We will lead in our own way. We will continue to think boldly and think far," the 51-year-old said in his maiden speech, adding that "the best chapters of our Singapore story lie ahead".

Members of Wong's cabinet were also sworn in, including his predecessor Lee, 72, who was appointed to the advisory role of senior minister.

Wong also said Singaporeans "face a world of conflict and rivalry", with geopolitical tensions, protectionism and nationalism possibly stretching for years.

"We must brace ourselves to these realities and adapt to a messier, riskier and more violent world," said Wong. — AFP

### TARGETED SALT REDUCTION POLICIES

## Cardiovascular diseases kill 10,000 Europeans a day: WHO

CARDIOVASCULAR disease is responsible for 40 per cent of deaths in Europe, the WHO said on Wednesday, urging Europeans to cut their salt intake.

That amounts to 10,000 deaths a day, or four million a year.

"Implementing targeted policies to reduce salt intake by 25 per cent could save an estimated 900,000 lives from cardiovascular diseases by 2030," Hans Kluge, the director of the Europe branch of the World Health Organization said in a statement.

In Europe, one in three adults between the ages of 30 and 79 suffer from hypertension, often due to salt consumption.

Fifty-one of the 53 countries in the WHO's European region have an average daily salt intake above the WHO's recommended maximum of five grams, or one teaspoon, largely due to processed foods and snacks.

"High salt intake raises blood pressure, which is a leading risk factor for cardiovascular diseases such as heart attacks and strokes," the WHO said.

Europe has the highest blood pressure prevalence in the world, it said. According to the WHO Europe report, men in the region are almost 2.5 times more likely to die from cardiovascular diseases than women. — AFP