

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Dredging of eight ancient lakes to preserve heritage in Bagan ancient cultural zone

The Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development is responsible for dredging and maintaining ancient lakes in the Bagan ancient cultural zone, with eight lakes re-dredged to preserve this cultural heritage, according to the ministry.

Currently, four ancient lakes are undergoing maintenance, with all renovation and maintenance processes expected to be completed by October

this year.

These large lakes are ancient water storage venues that were dug and used by ancient kings and people over 900 years ago. It is known that efforts are being made to conserve these ancient lakes, including the emerald lake, by maintaining the inflow channels to allow water to enter, preventing seepage within the lakes, ensuring a continuous water supply, strengthening these ancient lakes, and



An already dredged ancient lake in Bagan stores water.

conserving the water channels connecting one lake to another.

In the excavation, restoration, and conservation of ancient lakes, a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was conducted in line with the guidelines and regulations required for World Heritage sites. This process adhered to the recommendations of Dr Massimo Sarti, an expert

in ancient water management from the University of Marche in Italy, to ensure that the preservation of cultural heritage, environmental heritage, and soil integrity remained undisturbed.

Moreover, it is understood that efforts are being made to conserve the authenticity and integrity of the original lake, avoid damage to archaeological

evidence, and protect its historical and archaeological value.

Soil inspections are conducted to ensure the soil can retain water, followed by test pit excavations to prevent soil damage. Based on the findings from these actions, maintenance is carried out using small machinery or manpower as needed. — ASH/TTA

6 investments allowed in Magway Region this FY H1 creating 537 workplaces

IN the first half of the 2024-2025 financial year, six investment projects were approved in the Magway Region, expected to create jobs for 537 residents.

The total investment amount for these six projects is reported to exceed K20 billion plus approximately \$10 million. These projects are expected to create employment opportunities for 537 local workers and primarily focus on manufacturing industries.

An officer from the Magway Region Government stated, "In the first six months of the 2024-2025 financial year, the Magway Region Investment Committee approved six new investment projects. Among these, two projects of Myanmar citizens have a combined investment value exceeding K20 billion, while the remaining four



Officials are observing manufacturing process of the investment projects in Magway Industrial Zone.

domestic projects total close to K10 billion. These six projects are expected to create job opportunities for 537 workers".

During this period, there has also been an

increase in investment in existing projects, along with a rise in the workforce. The Magway Region Investment Committee continues to approve new investments

of Myanmar citizens and foreign investment projects in accordance with legal frameworks and regulations, aiming to create new job opportunities in the region. — ASH/TMT

Article The Impact of Systematic Training

By Min Zan

PAGE 8-9

NATIONAL

PAGE 4



MR expands convenient, affordable travel on Bago-Yangon route with DEMU trains

NATIONAL

PAGE 7



Brick price slightly falls, sale expects to increase next months

NATIONAL



Citizens yet to be counted in Nationwide Census to be reassessed



- The 2024 Nationwide Census activities were conducted from 1 to 15 October.
- The people who have not completed census processes due to various reasons can contact the relevant ward and village census committees and township census committees to collect census data again.
- Individuals can also contact 067 431062, 067 431359, 067 431067, 067 431339. — Central Census Commission

Six Peace Principles Key to Ongoing Peacemaking Efforts

THE Six Peace Principles are not only aligned with the essence of the NCA but also stem from the “Knowledge” gained through continuous peace efforts over successive periods, and they represent the “reality” that must be pursued to strengthen ongoing peacemaking efforts.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the 79th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day parade on 27 March 2024)

Izana Art Gallery hosts ‘ON E[ART]H’ exhibition featuring 22 emerging artists

ARTIST Kaung Kyaw Khaing shared that the Izana Art Gallery in Pazundaung Township is hosting a group exhibition titled “ON E[ART]H”, showcasing artistic works by 22 emerging artists from 27 to 31 October.

This exhibition is part of the monthly Open Call for Art-

ists programme, now in its fifth edition, at Izana Gallery. Each month, the programme invites artists, particularly young talents, to submit their work, and a selection committee curates the best entries for exhibition.

The exhibition places no restrictions on the subject matter, medium, style, or size


of the artworks, encouraging a wide range of creative expression.

“A total of 22 young artists are participating, making this a valuable opportunity for new artists to connect with collectors and buyers,” noted artist Kaung Kyaw Khaing. — ASH/TRKM

PRESENTED BY IZANA GALLERY

ON E[ART]H


Collective Art Exhibition



27 - 31 OCTOBER 2024
www.izanagallery.com

No 120 | Ground Floor | 32nd Street (Middle),
Pazundaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar
0975047377, 09456319019, 0942619103
izanagallery.art@gmail.com

EXHIBITING ARTISTS



1. 4THU
2. ARMEDEO ARGYLE
3. DAYMOND
4. DEONE LAY
5. EI EI HTWE
6. HEIN HTET AUNG
7. HOTTOP
8. HTET MYAT KYAW
9. HTIN AUNG THWIN
10. KIRA KOE
11. KM KYWE
12. MG TINT
13. MIN SU AUNG
14. MIN THIT TE
15. MJ
16. MYINT MYAT KYAW
17. NYAR NA LU
18. SAW HNIN YEE PHYU
19. SAW JUNE LWIN
20. SAW THAZIN PHYU
21. WET PAINT DREAMS
22. YAË THUU

List of artists' names and some painting of 'ON E[ART]H' group art exhibition.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 27 October 2024)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal and a few cloud elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

SPECIAL FEACTURES: According to the observations at 17:30 hours MST today, the Tropical Storm “TRAMI” over Vietnam coast has moved west-southwestwards and reached interior of Vietnam, it is forecast likely to return southeastwards.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 28 October 2024: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, fairly widespread in Kayin and Mon states, isolated in upper Sagaing, Bago and Yangon regions and Kachin, (southern and eastern)Shan and Kayah states. Degree of certainty is 100%. Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in upper Sagaing, Bago and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Eastern Shan, Kayin and Mon states. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 5-8 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Fairly widespread to widespread rain or thundershowers with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region and Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 October 2024: A few cloud.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 October 2024: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers with sunny periods. Degree of certainty is 60%.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 October 2024: A few cloud.

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

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

MoI UM supports student rehearsals for the Fifth National Sports Festival 2024

The upcoming Fifth National Sports Festival 2024, while a local event, will be celebrated on a grand scale, with both the opening and closing ceremonies featuring over 1,200 participants from various sectors, said Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, who also chairs the Working Committee on Organizing the Opening and Closing Events. He made these remarks while meeting with students engaged in entertainment rehearsals for the ceremonies at No 11 Basic Education High School in Wunna Theikdi Ward, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

The Union minister also expressed confidence that students would engage enthusiastically and showcase their best performances. He also noted the Prime Minister's ongoing support for the youth sector and education, emphasizing the government's aim for the development of

well-rounded, multi-talented youth who can be relied upon.

The Union minister was accompanied by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Daw Nu Mra Zan, Vice-Chair of the committee, Permanent Secretary U Win Kyaw Aung, and departmental heads.

Additionally, they observed and supported the rehearsals of the students at No 2 Basic Education High School in Mingalar Ward, Pyinmana Township, and the Union minister presented cash awards to the students and dance instructors from the Department of Fine Arts.

The opening and closing ceremonies of the Fifth National Sports Festival will be grandly celebrated at the national level, featuring performances by students, the presentation of state and regional flags, and the national sports festival flag being carried into the arena via a Free Fall squad. The event will also



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn meets students who are under training to perform dance entertainments at the opening and closing events of the National Sports Festival.

include technical exhibitions, fireworks displays, and various entertainment programmes.

The festival aims to enhance the country's sports standards, facilitate successful participation in the XXXIII SEA Games

and other international sports competitions, and develop skilled athletes as well as promising young talents. It seeks to foster camaraderie among states and regions, government ministries, and to increase public interest in

sports activities. To achieve this, six different sports events will be organized at the ministry level, alongside 23 sports events at the state and regional levels, from 9 to 20 December, in a vibrant and festive manner. — MNA/THT

Deputy Minister inspects development of hotels and tourism in Ngwehsaung Beach

DEPUTY Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Phyo Zaw Soe and Ayeyawady Region Economic Affairs Minister U Tin Aye visited the viewpoint at Thalakkwa Forest Reserve and the Ngwehsaung Beach elephant camp in Pathein on 26 October.

During the visit, they emphasized the need to enhance tourist safety and improve facilities at



Meeting on tourism sector development in Ayeyawady Region in progress in Pathein on 26 October.

the viewpoint to make it more appealing to visitors. They discussed plans to inte-

grate these enhancements into tourism promotion programmes.



At the Yamona Oo Hotel in the Ngwehsaung Beach area, they met with the Ngwehsaung Beach management body, departmental officials, and hotel operators. The focus of the meeting was on developing the tourism industry, promoting tourism strategies, and attracting more visitors to Ngwehsaung Beach. They also encouraged the introduc-

tion of nightlife activities, including night bazaars, sports competitions on the beach, entertainment programmes, and regular cultural festivals to draw in tourists.

Following this, they viewed round the current status of tourist attractions along the beach and assessed the services provided to tourists at the night bazaar. — MNA/TMT

NATIONAL

Industry Union Minister inspects industries in Yangon Region

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than visited a research centre in Insein Township yesterday morning and met with officials to discuss ways to develop Myanmar's pharmaceutical sector, improve the production capabilities of pharmaceutical factories, and support MSMEs.

He emphasized the importance of ensuring that food products meet established standards to safeguard public health, and instructed officials to enhance the skills and capacity of staff, follow good laboratory practices, and increase research efforts to develop new drugs for the public.

Then, the Union minister inspected the former laboratory and stressed that training courses be conducted for staff



Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than looks into the production processes at the Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein), Yangon on 27 October 2024.

to ensure the resumption of service operations as quickly as possible. He emphasized the

importance of prioritizing safety measures and minimizing environmental impact within the

laboratory, and discussed the need to pursue international accreditation.

Later, he visited the Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein) and inspected the production processes to ensure the timely delivery of medicines ordered by the Ministry of Health.

Moreover, the day before yesterday afternoon, the Union Minister visited the Enamel Ware Factory in Hline Township, and met with officials to discuss increasing the production of market-oriented products, continuously conducting research to improve the quality of products, promoting the development of private industries, producing goods needed by the public, and increasing import substitution. It is reported that he viewed round the production process of various types of shoes made of rubber. — MNA/TRKM

MR expands convenient, affordable travel on Bago-Yangon route with DEMU trains



Passengers board a DEMU (Diesel Electric Multiple Unit) train on the route from Yangon to Bago.

MYANMA Railways provides passenger services across various routes to facilitate convenient and smooth travel for the public.

Using modern DEMU (Diesel Electric Multiple Unit) trains with air-conditioning, the Bago-Yangon-Bago railway of-

fers passengers a comfortable and affordable way to travel efficiently without congestion. This has led to a steady increase in passenger usage on this route.

No 16-down Bago-Yangon DEMU train departs Bago Station at 6:00 am and arrives at Yangon Station at

8:20 am, while the No 15-up Yangon-Bago DEMU departs Yangon at 4:45 pm and arrives back in Bago at 7:05 pm, allowing commuters to travel between Yangon and Bago conveniently for work. Along the route, the train stops at 12 stations namely Puzundaung, Mahlwagon, Thingangyun, Togyangungale, Ywathagyi, Laydauntkan, Dabein, Kawche, Htongyi, Kyauktan, Tawa, and Phaya Thonsu, providing ease of access for local travellers.

To ensure a safe and pleasant experience, Myanmar Railways has also installed steel ladders at station platforms for these DEMU trains, allowing passengers to board and alight conveniently at scheduled stops. — MNA/KZL

Agricultural development initiatives inspected in Taikkyi Township

DEPUTY Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Bo Bo Kyaw conducted a field visit yesterday morning to Taikkyi Township in Yangon Region.

He inspected designated land plots in Yintaikkwin Village-tract and Kyaiksakaing Village-tract, where a total of 330.79 acres of farmlands will be reclaimed. These areas are earmarked for development under the Department of Agricultural Mechanization.

The deputy minister met with local farmers to encourage reclamation of farmlands to boost agricultural growth. They emphasized the benefits of mechanized farming techniques, which support higher yields through effective irrigation and advanced farming practices. The systematic approach is designed to minimize waste and losses, allowing for year-round machinery use and multi-crop production to ensure sustainable productivity.

Additionally, he visited the Tabuhla (Okkan) diversion weir near San Village in Taikkyi Township. Officials highlighted the need to strengthen the dam and sluice gates to ensure safety and durability. Discussions with relevant departments covered topics such as suitable land selection for crop diversification, efficient ploughing methods, having access to quality seeds, planting techniques, and sufficient supply of water for farmlands. — MNA/KZL

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

Health Ministry declares 3 traditional medicines unsafe

THE Ministry of Health issued a notification dated 25 October that three unregistered traditional medications should not be used as they are mixed with Western medicines.

These drugs include Shwehti vigour for male and Sunflower male tonics, which are not

registered, and Pyawsanya male stimulant, which uses a traditional medicine registration number (TMR) of other medications and has no manufacturing licence for traditional medicine. As these unregistered and illegal three medicines cannot guarantee the effect and au-

thenticity, people should not use them, it said.

In addition, the ministry made similar announcements on 23 and 24 October, declaring two and three traditional medicines that should not be used. Herbal medicine distributors are also advised to avoid im-

porting, showcasing and selling unregistered, fake or non-standard traditional medicines that have been declared not suitable to be used by the public. If they do not follow this ethical conduct, action will be taken under sections 31 and 32 under the Traditional Medicine Law, the

ministry said.

The Ministry of Health is systematically carrying out inspection tasks to ensure that traditional medicines of good quality are being distributed so that the public can use them safely for their benefit. — Htun Htun/ZN



Three traditional medicines that are not recommended for use.

Police seize 8.6 kilos of heroin worth K430 million in Kalay, Sagaing Region

THE Myanmar Police Force reported the seizure of 8.6 kilogrammes of heroin, valued at K430 million, in Kalay, Sagaing Region.

Acting on a tip-off, a squad consisting of police from Anti-narcotic Division searched a Toyota Mark II driven by Rodein Lyanna, accompanied by Maung Maung Naing Win (aka) Maung Naing, on No 9 Road in Taungzalat Ward, Kalay Township, at 6:30 pm on 23 October. This search led to the discovery of two kilogrammes of heroin concealed in 200 soap cases.

A further investigation led to the arrest of Myo Ko Oo and Ma Sang Chin Til, along with 6.6 more kilogrammes of heroin and another Mark II vehicle, at Bayintnaung Junction in the same ward at 8:30 pm that evening. The suspects admitted that the

drugs had been trafficked under the direction of Phoe Kyaw (aka) Kyaw Kyaw (aka) Maw Thin and his wife, Ma Khin Moe Nwe (aka) Moe Nwe, from Mandalay Region.

Legal proceedings have been initiated against the suspects, and investigations are continuing to apprehend other individuals involved. Steps are also being taken to confiscate assets and financial gains from drug trafficking under the Anti-Money Laundering Law. — MNA/KZL



Photos show offenders alongside confiscated drugs.

Crackdown on illegal trade to boost legal trade

EFFORTS to combat illegal trade, supervised by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, are being carried out effectively in accordance with the law.

On 26 October, combined teams under the management of the Customs Department seized one kind of automobile spare parts (estimated value of K11.5 million) without official documents and one Hino Profia Truck (estimated value of K50 million) which carried that illegal items at Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. Moreover, they also confiscated a type of industrial materials (estimated value of K 1.99 million) without official documents at Yangon International Airport. Action was taken according to the Customs procedures.

Similarly, a combined team supervised by the Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force made inspections at the Yethaya temporary checkpoint and found one Hino Profia Truck (estimated value of K45 million) carrying two kinds of

industrial materials and one kind of consumer goods (estimated value of K10 million) without proper documentation. Action was taken under the Customs procedures.

Besides, a team under the management of the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force made inspections at the 16th-mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint. There, they seized 24 kinds of industrial materials without official documents (estimated value of over K50 million) from one Mitsubishi Canter Truck and one Toyota Dyna Truck (estimated value of K5.6 million). Two kinds of foodstuffs (estimated value of K19.4 million) and one Nissan diesel Truck (estimated value of K70 million), seven kinds of consumer goods, one kind of business equipment, two kinds of foodstuffs (estimated value of over K38 million) and three Mitsubishi Pajeros, one Toyota Hiace and one Sein Tun MPV Wagon (estimated value of K138 million) were confiscated at Kywetesson checkpoint and Myitnge

checkpoint, respectively. Action was also taken under the Customs Procedures.

Furthermore, a combined team under the supervision of Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force inspected a warehouse in Ward 7 of Bago Township and found 14 kinds of unofficial consumer goods (estimated value of over K2.7 million) and the action was carried out in accordance with the Customs procedures.

Moreover, on 27 October, a combined squad under the management of Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized one unregistered Toyota Crown (estimated value of K25 million) at Yadanabon bridge combined checkpoint in Sagaing and the action was taken according to the Export-Import Law.

Therefore, on 26 and 27 October, there were 31 arrests with the value of illegal goods seized amounting to approximately K543.37 million, reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/ TRKM



Photos show illegal industrial materials and vehicles being confiscated in Mandalay Region.

NATIONAL

MYANMAR has won the “Best Team Leader” award for the first time at the Rescue Extrication Challenge of the MIREC & IFCAA Joint Drill 2024 involving nine countries, according to U Thein Tun Oo, Director of the Myanmar Fire Brigade Headquarters.

The event took place in Malaysia from 22 to 24 October, with participation of rescue teams from Macau, Singapore, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Myanmar, Brunei, Indonesia, Vietnam, and the host Malaysia.

Representing Myanmar, Assistant Director U Kaung Myat Naung from the Myanmar Fire Brigade Headquarters received the “Best Team Leader” award, as confirmed by Director U Thein Tun Oo. He explained that U Kaung Myat Naung earned the award for his effective command at an accident scene, where he made strategic decisions under pressure to minimize harm and ensure timely rescues, contributing to his high score.”

This was Myanmar’s inaugural participation in this type of competition, inspired by the announcement of Malaysia hosting the event last year. A nationwide selection and training process led to the formation of Myanmar’s competitive

Myanmar wins “Best Team Leader” award at Rescue Extrication Challenge in Malaysia



Myanmar participant competing in the rescue skills competition.

team. Prior to the competition, the team was under training using ten old vehicles to simulate real-life scenarios.

Winning the “Best Team Leader” award marks Myanmar’s first interna-

tional success in rescue skills, following a third-place finish by a Myanmar firefighter in an international firefighting and rescue competition held in Singapore in 2023.



Assistant Director U Kaung Myat Naung from Myanmar Fire Brigade Headquarters receiving the Best Team Leader award.

To enhance their preparedness, Myanmar conducted a motor vehicle accident rescue training course from 2 to 18 September 2024 at the Zabuthiri Township Fire Station in Nay Pyi Taw. This course involved specialized rescue team members, the Central Fire Services Training School, local units in Nay Pyi Taw, and fire stations along the Yangon-Mandalay expressway. Outstanding trainees were selected to represent Myanmar in the international competition. — ASH/KZL

Myanmar, Sri Lanka explore technical cooperation in tea, coconut, and tropical medicine



Myanmar Ambassador to Sri Lanka Daw Marlar Than Htaik discussing with the Sri Lankan president on cooperation in tea, coconut, tropical medicine sectors.

MYANMAR and Sri Lanka discussed potential technical cooperation in the tea, coconut, and tropical medicine sectors on 25 October at Sri Lanka’s Presidential Office, as reported by Myanmar’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Myanmar Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Daw Marlar Than

Htaik, held discussions on these topics during her courtesy visit to Sri Lankan President Mr Anura Kumara Dissanayake.

The two parties also explored ways to enhance cooperation in religious and cultural affairs and addressed matters related to consular affairs. — ASH/TMT

Myanmar ambassador to Nepal participates in United Nations Day, cultural events

AMBASSADOR of Myanmar to Nepal, U Myo Myint Maung, attended the United Nations Day celebration in Nepal on 24 October, as reported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Nepalese military organized the event, and the Ambassador attended it at the invitation of General Ashok Raj Sigdel, the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) of the Nepalese Army. During the ceremony, the Nepali Prime Minister, the Chief of the Army Staff and the representative of the UN agency delivered commemorative speeches.

The Nepalese Army is recognized as one of the most active contributors to UN peacekeeping missions, providing a large number of personnel to 52 missions across 41 countries on four continents, with a significant deployment of female peacekeepers.

On 23 October, Ambassador U Myo Myint Maung met with

Mr Sanam Shakya, Senior Vice President of the Federation of Handicraft Associations of Nepal (FHAN), and his team at the Myanmar Embassy. They discussed Myanmar’s participation in FHAN’s upcoming international handicraft exhibition in the first week of December 2024. The Ambassador will liaise with relevant ministries in Myanmar to facilitate this collaboration.

The Ambassador also at-

tended the GLOMUS Festival on 20 October, hosted by the Nepal Music Centre and the GLOMUS Network, which included music and dance performances promoting unity through cultural exchange. The festival was also attended by Nepal’s Minister for Culture, Tourism, and Civil Aviation, as well as foreign mission heads and international musicians in Kathmandu. — ASH/TMT



Myanmar Ambassador to Nepal U Myo Myint Maung attending the United Nations Day Celebration in Nepal.

NATIONAL

Pwintbyu farmers boost monsoon paddy yield this year

FARMERS in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region, have planted 69,999 acres of monsoon paddy during this year's rainy season to enhance food security and increase income, utilizing the Mezali diversion weir. The Township Agriculture Department is actively implementing pest and disease control measures through pesticide spraying to safeguard the crops.

To boost monsoon paddy yields, the department's field staff are actively monitoring crops and providing technical assistance to farmers. This year, local farmers have utilized water from the Mezali diversion weir, cultivating a wide range of rice varieties.

"This year, local farmers in the region have successfully cultivated monsoon paddy using



Thriving paddy plants are seen in paddy field in Pwintbyu Township.
PHOTO: HLAING WIN LAY (PWINTBYU MYAY)

available water sources from the Mezali Weir to increase food security and income. The Town-

ship Agriculture Department is also supporting these efforts by providing us with technical

guidance. The region's favourable agricultural conditions contribute to its consistent ag-

ricultural success. The region's freshwater resources and fertile land contribute to its annual agricultural success. We are actively cultivating monsoon paddy during this year's rainy season," said a local farmer from Ywakhai village, Pwintbyu Township.

Pwintbyu Township in the Magway Region has the most irrigated farmland among all townships in the region and is the leading producer of rice annually. During this year's rainy season, farmers in the township exceeded their planting target, cultivating a total of 69,999 acres of paddy, surpassing the initial target of 69,944 acres, according to the Pwintbyu Township Agriculture Department. — Hlaing Win Lay (Pwintbyu Myay)/TRKM



Workers are loading bricks at a brick trading.

Brick price slightly falls, sale expects to increase next months

BRICK price has slightly fallen this month and it is expected that the sale will increase over next months.

The trade was fine in July and August and despite a slight slow in October, there is likelihood of increase next months.

"Brick price has declined a little this month compared to previous months. All kinds of brick price has fallen. The trade has been still slow. However, it is expected that the trade will be fine again," said an official from Ko Aung Zaw Min brick trading in Taikkyi Township.

In June, there were continuous orders as a result of unfinished building projects and during that period, machine brick price was high due to raw materials shortage, according to construction materials shops.

The number of brick makers and brick traders was large in last summer, making the sale balance in the market. — MT/ZS

Apartment sales rise in North Okkalapa property market which interests people willing to move to Yangon

THERE are more apartment transactions in the property market of North Okkalapa Township, where people willing to live in Yangon are interested, according to information from the real estate market.

During current months, the real estate agents in that township are busy and there are many transactions until almost all apartments for sale are sold out.

"The real estate market in North Okkalapa has received buyers. There were many transactions in August, September and October. The brokers are working with their own clients. Most apartments have been sold and almost none is left to sell. Now, the houses are rented in every township. The market is going to get better," said an agent from North Okkalapa family real estate agency.

In the coming months, the real estate market in North Okkalapa will improve, and there are now a lot of buying and renting in the wards.

"It will be better in Novem-

ber and December. Now there are more house rentals than land sales in North Okkalapa. It is close to the Aung Mingalar Highway Bus terminal and the North Okkalapa Hospital.

There are more people renting in those areas. Wards with good neighbourhoods such as Wazira, Thanda, Nweni and Eaindra have more rents and sales," he said. — Thit Taw/ZN



An apartment advertisement for sale in North Okkalapa Township was seen.

OPINION

Establish important partnerships between Myanmar and India

MYANMAR shares a border with India and serves as a strategic bridge between South Asia and Southeast Asia. Moreover, Myanmar and India share maritime boundaries in the Bay of Bengal. Both countries have much in common, including aspects of religion, culture, literature, economy, and social values.

Myanmar and India have established a significant diplomatic partnership, deeply rooted in the history of both nations since Myanmar's first Independence Day on 4 January 1948. India's Neighbourhood First and Act East policies play a crucial role in shaping its diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific region.

To mark the 60th anniversary of ITEC, the signing of numerous memoranda of understanding between Myanmar and India reflects a commitment to strengthening bilateral relations, mutual respect, and ongoing cooperation, fostering goodwill and shared progress in the years ahead. These achievements will be fruitful results for promoting bilateral relations between Myanmar and India in the future.

and fostering human resources for global development. Since 15 September 1964, this programme has provided capacity-building training to over 200,000 service personnel from more than 160 countries worldwide. For Myanmar, the ITEC programme plays a significant role in enhancing the skills and capabilities of its public servants.

It is observed that the ITEC programme has conducted numerous postgraduate courses and research programmes across various disciplines. Recently, the Indian government offered over 900 scholarships to Myanmar from 1 January 2021 to September 2024. With the acquired skills and knowledge, significant support has been provided in relevant industries for innovation, research activities, increased production, and long-term national development projects, resulting in numerous benefits thanks to the ITEC programme.

To mark the 60th anniversary of ITEC, the signing of numerous memoranda of understanding between Myanmar and India reflects a commitment to strengthening bilateral relations, mutual respect, and ongoing cooperation, fostering goodwill and shared progress in the years ahead. These achievements will be fruitful results for promoting bilateral relations between Myanmar and India in the future.

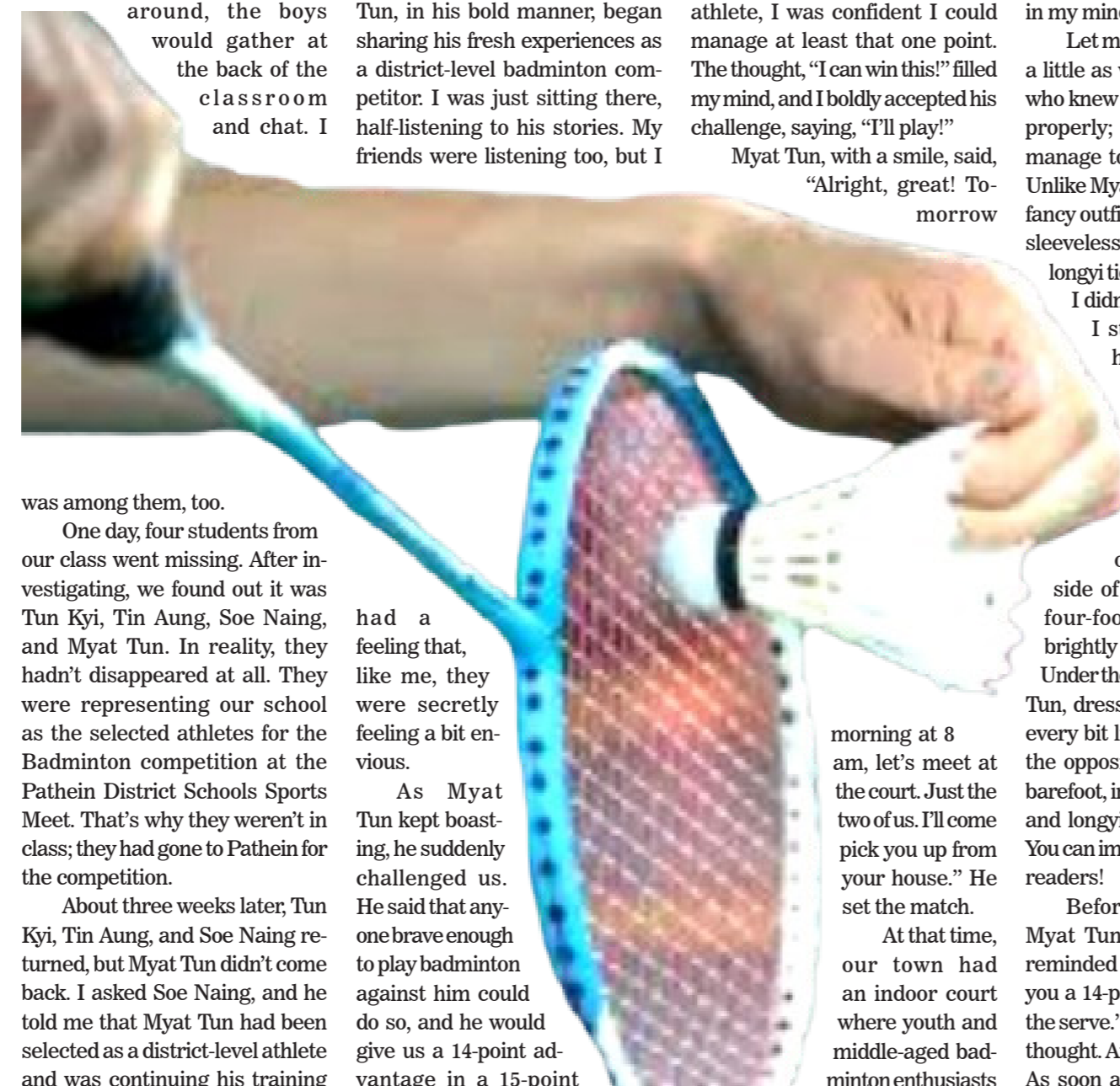
India is a highly advanced country in the fields of medicine, technology, and economy. It has consistently provided support to Myanmar. In 2024, the 60th anniversary celebration of the India Technology and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme was recently held in the capital Nay Pyi Taw.

On the occasion, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the event, stating, "India will continue to be one of Myanmar's most valued trading partners, and the current India-Myanmar Technology and Economic Cooperation Program has laid a strong foundation that enhances trust, friendship, mutual respect, and many other sectors.

The ITEC programme is a long-standing initiative that serves as a symbol of India's commitment to sharing knowledge, building partnerships,

In life, there are often things we believe we are quite skilled at or have mastered, but in reality, our perceptions and judgments can be mistaken. In this context, the Myanmar saying "the teacher doesn't teach improperly, the student doesn't learn properly" carries significant meaning, and we should be mindful of it. There is a vast difference in outcomes between those who follow the methods and systems taught by their teachers and those who work without proper guidance or in a haphazard manner. Here, I will share some personal experiences to illustrate just how important it is to learn and develop skills under the guidance of a good teacher and through proper methods.

This happened during my high school years in 10th grade, 1970. After failing the matriculation examination once, I had to return to school for another year in the same grade. Since it was a class full of repeat students, there wasn't much discipline. There were about forty students in the class, and during the times when the teacher wasn't around, the boys would gather at the back of the classroom and chat. I



was among them, too.

One day, four students from our class went missing. After investigating, we found out it was Tun Kyi, Tin Aung, Soe Naing, and Myat Tun. In reality, they hadn't disappeared at all. They were representing our school as the selected athletes for the Badminton competition at the Patheingyi District Schools Sports Meet. That's why they weren't in class; they had gone to Patheingyi for the competition.

About three weeks later, Tun Kyi, Tin Aung, and Soe Naing returned, but Myat Tun didn't come back. I asked Soe Naing, and he told me that Myat Tun had been selected as a district-level athlete and was continuing his training

The Impact of Systematic Training

By Min Zan

in Patheingyi. He said that if Myat Tun were selected as a permanent Badminton selection for the upcoming Ayeyawady Region Badminton Competition, he would certainly be much higher. So, dear readers, you can imagine how much that amount could buy at the time.

One day, during a time when the teacher couldn't come to class as usual, the students gathered at the back of the room and started chatting. The conversation covered all sorts of topics, and Myat Tun, in his bold manner, began sharing his fresh experiences as a district-level badminton competitor. I was just sitting there, half-listening to his stories. My friends were listening too, but I

had a feeling that, like me, they were secretly feeling a bit envious.

As Myat Tun kept boasting, he suddenly challenged us. He said that anyone brave enough to play badminton against him could do so, and he would give us a 14-point advantage in a 15-point

game. He even suggested that we place a wager on the match! The wager was set at five kyats. For those reading this today, it's worth considering how much five kyats meant around the 1970s compared to today's value. Back then, five kyats held significant value, and its worth in today's terms would certainly be much higher. So, dear readers, you can imagine how much that amount could buy at the time.

All of my friends fell silent, deep in thought. As for me, I began to realize that with a 14-point lead, I only needed to score one point to win. No matter how skilled Myat Tun was, even as a district-level athlete, I was confident I could manage at least that one point. The thought, "I can win this!" filled my mind, and I boldly accepted his challenge, saying, "I'll play!"

Myat Tun, with a smile, said, "Alright, great! Tomorrow

morning at 8 am, let's meet at the court. Just the two of us. I'll come pick you up from your house." He set the match.

At that time, our town had an indoor court where youth and middle-aged badminton enthusiasts

would gather. It was located at the back of the cinema, and they had converted it into a proper indoor badminton court. The club was known as the "Myoma Badminton Club."

On the morning of the match, Myat Tun came to pick me up from my house. His appearance was striking—his skin was fair, and he was dressed entirely in white. He wore a white t-shirt, white shorts, white ankle socks, and white canvas shoes, and he even carried a brand-new white shuttlecock in his hand. On the other hand, he held a brand new Yonex racket. He looked just like a young prince, and that image of him is still vivid in my mind to this day.

Let me describe my situation a little as well. I wasn't someone who knew how to play badminton properly; I just thought I could manage to score that one point. Unlike Myat Tun, I didn't have any fancy outfits. I simply wore an old sleeveless vest and a traditional longyi tied up at the waist. Since I didn't have my own racket, I stopped by Tin Aung's house on the way to the court and borrowed one from him.

When we arrived at the court, Myat Tun unlocked the door and turned on the lights. On each side of the court were three four-foot fluorescent lights, brightly illuminating the space. Under the glow of the lights, Myat Tun, dressed all in white, looked every bit like a young prince. On the opposite side, there I stood, barefoot, in my old sleeveless vest and longyi, ready for the match. You can imagine the contrast, dear readers!

Before the match started, Myat Tun made a request. He reminded me, "Since I'm giving you a 14-point lead, I'll start with the serve." I agreed without much thought. And so, the match began. As soon as it started, Myat Tun

scored one point after another, almost effortlessly. It felt like I was being chased around the court like a dog while he, without breaking a sweat, calmly accumulated points. Meanwhile, I was running from the front to the back of the court, entirely out of breath, while he didn't even seem to perspire.

By the time he reached 10 points, I was still at zero, and I was already exhausted. Myat Tun, however, appeared as composed as ever. I started wondering if scoring even a single point was going to be possible. Was he really this good? And could I even manage to win one point in this game?

Before long, the score reached 14-14. Up until this point, I hadn't even returned a serve that landed on Myat Tun's side of the court. In other words, I hadn't managed to hit the shuttlecock onto his side to make it fall on the ground. At 14-all, it was clear that whoever continuously scored the following two points would win. Whether he scored two consecutive points or I somehow managed to do so, the victor would be decided in the next few moments.

By now, dear readers, you might already have an idea who was going to win. Yes, I lost. In a 15-point match, I couldn't even score a single point. After the game was over, Myat Tun walked over to my side of the court, patted me on the shoulder, and smiled like a true victor. I, on the other hand, reluctantly pulled out the five kyat notes I had tucked in my waistband and handed it to him.

That night, I struggled to sleep well, replaying the events of the day in my mind. Myat Tun and I were the same age, physically similar in appearance, and even shared the same classroom. Yet, in this 15-point badminton match, I couldn't even manage to score a single point against him. I found myself pondering the reasons behind my defeat.

We were both in the same situation: same age, similar bod-

ies, and equal academic standings, as we were both in the tenth grade. So why was it that I failed to score even one point? I continued to question myself, trying to find answers to my thoughts. However, as the night deepened, I still hadn't reached any conclusions. The day's events were etched in my heart, a reminder of the competition and the need to improve.

After a few months, I finally found the answer I had been seeking, and it came from Myat Tun himself.

Here's how it went: during that summer break, Myat Tun's family moved to another city. However, his father stayed behind in our town due to work responsibilities. Unfortunately, Myat Tun's father got married again to a lady in his office, and now he was living with his new wife. Being the eldest in his family, Myat Tun would return to our town about every two months to visit his father for various family affairs. During these visits, he often stayed at my house for about three or four days.

One time, he asked me, "Aren't you going to learn how to play badminton?" He mentioned that he could teach me. I listened intently as he spoke. He had been away from our class for about two months, participating in a selection process in Patheingyi District, where he had been training. One day, the Patheingyi District team travelled to Yangon for further training, coinciding with a time when the Aug San Stadium in Yangon was hosting a workshop with the Chinese Selection Team for national badminton selectors from Myanmar. During that training, they were fortunate enough to receive instruction in badminton techniques and Chinese methods from the national and Chinese coaches. At that moment, China was at the top of the badminton atmosphere across the world.

I have now clearly understood the answer:

I have learned the lesson that there is a significant difference between someone who has been properly taught and trained by a good teacher in a systematic way and someone who knows nothing at all, like a complete novice. No matter how similar in age, appearance, or educational qualifications, I have realized that I can never match someone like Myat Tun, who good teachers have taught in a disciplined manner. That's the answer I've come to understand.

Study finds fall in fruit production in hill states due to Climate Change

A study by Climate Trends indicated a dramatic decline in fruit cultivation in Uttarakhand, with the area under cultivation decreasing by 54 per cent.

CLIMATE change has become a critical issue worldwide, prompting governments to prioritise it in policy-making. Amidst this global concern, farmers in hill states like Uttarakhand are grappling with a significant decline in both the quantity and quality of fruit crops.

At a Consultation Workshop titled 'Climate Resilient Agriculture in India: Opportunities and Challenges', held in Delhi on Tuesday, climate experts and farmers discussed how Uttarakhand, known for its rich agro-climatic conditions, has seen a drop in fruit yields due to rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and extreme weather events.

The event was organised by Climate Trends, a research-based consulting initiative, in collaboration with the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI).

A study by Climate Trends revealed that the area under fruit cultivation in Uttarakhand has decreased by 54 per cent, with total fruit yields dropping by 44 per cent. Fruits such as mango, litchi, and guava have been particularly affected.

Experts highlighted how extreme heat and rainfall events have led to increased cases of sunburn, fruit cracking, and fungal infections. Rising temperatures and shifting weather patterns have worsened pest infestations, disrupted pollinator activity, and accelerated soil degradation.

Bhawana Joshi, Senior Entomologist at the State Apiculture Centre, Department of Horticulture and Food Processing in Uttarakhand, expressed concern over the trend. She noted that apple production, which was thriving a decade ago, has significantly declined.

SOURCE: ANI



Key fruits such as mango, litchi, and guava have been particularly affected by climate change. PHOTO: PIXABAY

SCI/ENVIRON: WORLD

China's AI boom sees new wave of applications

At the 7th World Voice Expo in Hefei, a humanoid robot quickly identified and handed a visitor a coffee bottle, showcasing advancements in AI-powered robotics by iFLYTEK, which supports numerous robotics enterprises and developers across China.



A humanoid robot takes selfies with a visitor at the 7th World Voice Expo in Hefei, east China's Anhui Province, 24 October 2024. **PHOTO: FU TIAN/XINHUA**

"I'm thirsty," a visitor told a towering humanoid robot standing 1.7 metres tall and weighing 65

kilogrammes at the 7th World Voice Expo in Hefei, east China's Anhui Province.

Without hesitation, the black humanoid robot identified the bottle of coffee among the

two other objects on the desk and handed it to the visitor.

"Powered by the large language model, our second-generation humanoid robot is smarter and can perform more delicate tasks such as pouring coffee," said Ji Chao, chief robotics scientist of artificial intelligence (AI) company iFLYTEK.

iFLYTEK's superbrain robotic platform has empowered 450 robotics enterprises and 15,000 developers across the country by opening up the company's large language model, according to Ji.

The 7th World Voice Expo, held over four days, showcases over 200 AI innovations, including humanoid robots and advanced human-machine interaction systems.

Notably, the Hangzhou-based startup Unitree presented its Unitree H1 humanoid robot, capable of moving at 3.3 metres per second, reflecting

the growing market for humanoid robotics with over 100 units sold at \$90,000 each.

China's government has initiated an AI Plus strategy to enhance the digital economy and modernize manufacturing.

The expo introduced an automatic voice-interaction testing system for new energy vehicles (NEVs), enabling real-time interaction tracking and significantly reducing testing times from weeks to just a few days.

Industry leaders, including Chery's chairman, emphasized AI's transformative impact on the automobile sector, with innovations like intelligent cockpits and multilingual vehicles.

Daily necessities are increasingly integrated with AI, exemplified by MiMouse's smart mouse and new keyboard that utilize large language models for tasks like article generation and translation. — Xinhua

Rare Sahara floods bring Morocco's dried-up south back to life

IN Morocco's southeastern desert, a rare downpour has brought lakes and ponds back to life, with locals — and tourists — hailing it as a gift from the heavens.

In Merzouga, an attractive tourist town some 600 kilometres (370 miles) southeast of the capital Rabat, the once-parched golden dunes are now dotted with replenished ponds and lakes.

"We're incredibly happy about the recent rains," said Youssef Ait Chiga, a local tour guide leading a group of German tourists to Yasmina Lake nestled amidst Merzouga's dunes.

Khalid Skandouli, another tour guide, said the rain has drawn even more visitors to the tourist area, now particularly eager to witness this odd transformation. — AFP



A local man poses for a picture at Yasmina Lake, a seasonal lake in the village of Merzouga in the Sahara desert in southeastern Morocco. **PHOTO: AFP**

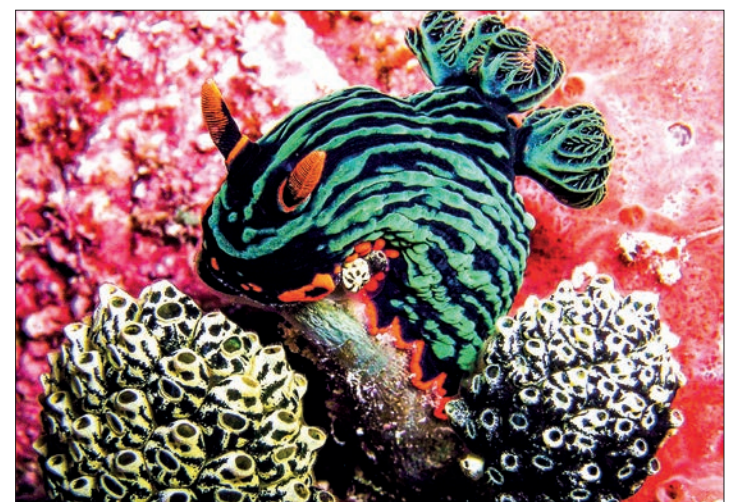
Report details fossil fuel threat to 'Amazon of the seas'

FOSSIL fuel exploration is threatening an ever-expanding swath of the Coral Triangle, one of the most biodiverse marine areas in the world, a report said Saturday.

Issued to coincide with the UN's COP16 summit on biodiversity in Colombia, the report warned expansion in oil, gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the Indo-Pacific region was putting at risk marine species and the communities that rely on them.

Dubbed the "Amazon of the seas" for its species variety, the Coral Triangle covers over 10 million square kilometers (some four million square miles) in waters of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, the Philippines, Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands.

The Coral Triangle, home to three-quarters of the world's



The Coral Triangle, known as the "Amazon of the seas," spans over 10 million square kilometers across several Southeast Asian countries. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

known coral species and six of seven marine turtle species, supports over 120 million people. However, oil and gas activities overlap significantly with marine protected areas, threatening this vital ecosystem.

The report highlights over

100 offshore oil and gas blocks currently producing, with an additional 450 under exploration. If fully developed, approximately 16 per cent of the Coral Triangle could be affected by fossil fuel operations, increasing tanker traffic and the risk of oil spills. — AFP

Cali's love motels adapt to host UN summit delegates

AT the UN's biodiversity summit in Colombia, Ugandan delegate Aggrey Rwetsiba found himself staying in an unconventional motel, Motel Deseos, typically used for short-term trysts.

After his hotel booking fell through, he, like many other delegates, had to secure last-minute accommodations in this establishment, known for its rooms featuring sex swings and stripper poles.

During a tour of his room, Rwetsiba noted its peculiar amenities, including a ceiling mirror and a double-doored cubicle for discreet service. Despite the absence of traditional features like a wardrobe, he remarked that the motel was "more comfortable" than ex-

pected.

The setup was unconventional, with a lone power socket near the bed and private parking yards for each room.

Motel manager Diana Echeverry explained that they adapted quickly to host COP16 delegates, creating a dedicated wing with 40 rooms.

The facility now offers daily rates of 150,000 Colombian pesos (approximately \$35) and breakfast service to accommodate guests. With features like Jacuzzis and "kama sutra" loungers, the motel presents a stark contrast to typical hotel settings, showcasing the unexpected accommodations delegates encountered during the bustling summit. — AFP



The Deseos Motel in Cali is one of several to host delegates to the COP16 biodiversity summit. Private parking bays lead directly to the rooms. PHOTO: AFP

Modern art museum breathes new life into downtown Warsaw

Warsaw's new minimalist modern art museum opens, marking a significant cultural milestone.

WARSAW'S new modern art museum building opened on Friday, a minimalist white concrete structure meant to revitalize an abandoned area of the Polish capital long-defined by an imposing Stalin-era palace.

Warsaw, a city of 1.8 million people, did not until now have a proper site for its modern art museum. Instead, the cultural institution showcased its collections at various temporary locations.

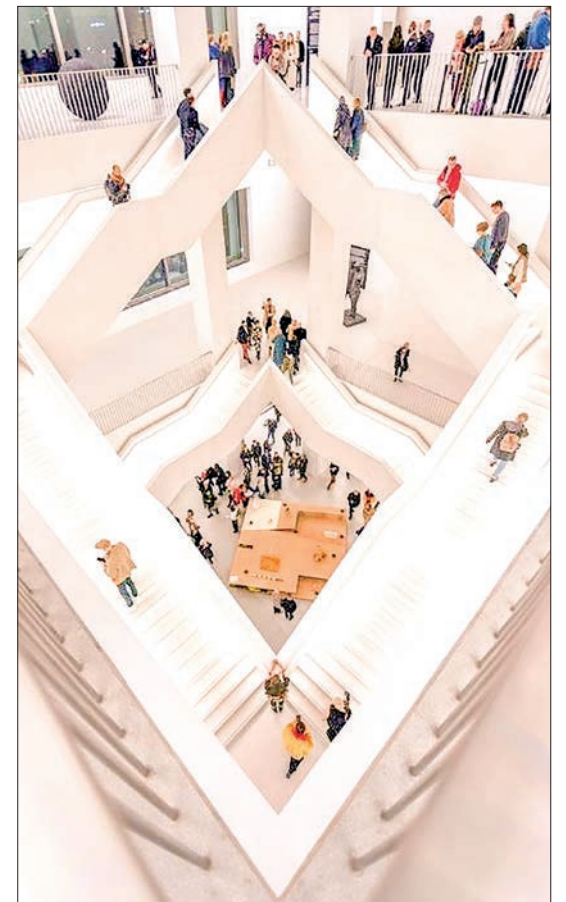
Compared by some to a shoebox, shipping container or bunker, the new museum building designed by US architect Thomas Phifer has been hailed by others as a pearl of minimalism.

Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski hailed the opening of a new museum in Warsaw as a "historical event" for Polish art and the city. He noted that while Warsaw has rapidly evolved, its center had remained unchanged for decades.

The city's landscape was profoundly affected by World War II, with Nazi Germany destroying 90 per cent of its downtown. After the war, communists opted not to rebuild but constructed the Palace of Culture and Science, a towering symbol of Soviet influence.

This area, once a neglected square filled with a market and rundown parking lot, lacked a clear purpose. Architectural historian Anna Cymer emphasized the need for revitalization, stating that the new museum marks a significant step toward creating a vibrant downtown.

Architect Phifer described the site choice as courageous, envisioning the museum as a new cultural hub for art and community en-



The new building of Warsaw Museum of Modern Art is seen over the street with the Soviet era Palace of Culture and Warsaw's downtown skyline in background in the Polish capital of Warsaw on 25 October 2024. PHOTO: WOJTEK RADWANSKI/

agement, transforming the historical legacy into a lively gathering place. — AFP

India launches campaign against non-compliant helmets for road safety

IN an effort to improve road safety and protect consumers from sub-standard helmets, the Indian central government has directed District Collectors (DCs) and District Magistrates (DMs) to launch a nationwide campaign targeting manufacturers and retailers selling non-compliant helmets for two-wheeler riders.

This initiative by the Department of Consumer Affairs addresses growing concerns about the quality of helmets available in the market and

their essential role in protecting lives on the road.

Helmets are critical safety products, and the manufacture of sub-standard or non-ISI helmets severely impacts life safety.

To date, 162 helmet manufacturing licences have been cancelled or have expired. Additionally, 27 search and seizure operations have been conducted to address the misuse of the BIS Standard Mark and violations of quality controls, with cases filed in various courts.

Under the Motor Vehicles Act of 1988, wearing a helmet is mandatory.

Reports have indicated that sub-standard helmets, lacking the required BIS certification, are being sold along roadsides.

"This poses a severe risk to public safety and has been linked to numerous fatalities in road accidents. There is an urgent need to tackle this issue head-on. The Government calls for strict enforcement against manufacturers operating without BIS licenses or



Consumers can verify a helmet manufacturer's BIS licence through the BIS Care App or by visiting the BIS website. PHOTO: AFP

using counterfeit ISI Marks, as well as against retailers selling these non-compliant products to unsuspecting consumers," stated the government.

Consumers can verify a helmet manufacturer's BIS licence through the BIS Care App or by visiting the BIS website. — ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

Festivals, agriculture, elections set to boost India's oil demand

India's oil demand is expected to rise by 3.5-4 per cent in Q4, boosted by festivals and agricultural activities. However, excessive monsoon rains may slightly hinder this growth.

DEMAND for oil products in India through the October-December quarter is expected to get a boost from festivals, agricultural activities, recovering from a few months of subdued consumption because of excessive rains, according to S&P Global Commodity Insights.

According to the commodities information services provider, India's oil demand decreased in September on a yearly basis, due to above normal rainfall, which affected road movement, construction, and mining activities.

"Looking ahead to Q4, we estimate India's oil demand to grow by 3.5-4 per cent year over year. We forecast an annual demand increase of 50,000-55,000 b/d for both gasoline and diesel in Q4, although the northeast monsoon rains may slightly



Heavy monsoon impacted diesel demand, decreasing nearly 2 per cent year-over-year. In contrast, gasoline demand grew by 3 per cent year-over-year, though it declined compared to the previous month. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

impede demand," said Himi Srivastava, South Asia oil analyst at S&P Global Commodity Insights.

The monsoon season, typically running from June to September, was 8 per cent above the long-term average in 2024,

according to state-run weather office India Meteorological Department. The southwest monsoon withdrew in mid-October,

while the northeast monsoon began five days before date.

"This (heavy monsoon) particularly dampened diesel demand, which fell nearly 2 per cent compared to the previous year. However, gasoline demand remained resilient, growing by 3 per cent year over year, although it was down from the previous month," Srivastava said.

Elections in states like Maharashtra and Jharkhand are also expected to boost transportation fuel demand, it said.

Additionally, the marriage season from November to January typically results in increased automobile sales and goods movement, further pushing up fuel demand, added Srivastava.

India meets about 85 per cent of its crude oil demand through imports. — ANI

Scope Ratings upgrades Cyprus' debt ratings at A for first time in 13 yrs

EUROPEAN rating agency Scope Ratings upgraded Cyprus' debt ratings at A- from BBB+ for the first time in a milestone development since the country slipped below that level in mid-2011.

The Germany-based agency said in a statement on Saturday that this rating shift reflects Cyprus' strengthened fiscal outlook, resilient

economic growth and reduced financial sector risks.

Cyprus' downward ratings trend started at the beginning of the 2008 world economic crisis and finally led to a bankruptcy in 2013, as the government at the time failed to react to the crisis signals and international rating agencies downgraded its economy to junk level.

Though the economy recovered and has achieved robust growth rates, the EU island country is still coping with the repercussions of a bailout by the Euro group and the International Monetary Fund, including a high rate of non-performing bank loans and a high debt rate. — Xinhua



Nicosia, the island's financial hub. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

Leftover grapes in Japan used for feed, vinegar to reduce food waste

UNSOLD grapes and leftover solids from wine-making have recently been used as livestock feed and to create other foodstuffs in central Japan amid efforts to reduce food waste.

Reusing grapes and wine pomace from Yamanashi Prefecture benefits farms struggling with the soaring cost of livestock feed in recent years and also ensures grape growers cut costs disposing of waste produce.

Kobayashi Cattle Farm in Kai in the prefecture has been selling "Koshu wine beef," or beef raised with feed mixed with pomace. They have also been turning cattle manure into compost for grape farms.

According to the company, when cattle between the ages of 6 and 16 months are given feed incorporating pomace, which is rich in vitamins and polyphenols, their meat becomes tenderer and less

gamy. The move has also saved the farm an annual 5 million yen (\$33,000) in feed.

"Our products are increasing in value as our efforts toward circular agriculture have gained more recognition," the company's president Hideki Kobayashi, 47, said.

Another company in the prefecture, Asaya Foods, has been using so-called nonstandard grapes to create wine vinegar. Fruit that have split or are not considered to have good coloring are often disposed of by being buried in fields.

The company began producing wine vinegar using such grapes in 1959 under the previous president due to concerns over food waste. It was initially used by major hotels and restaurants until it gained traction among general consumers from around 2020. — Kyodo

China's gateway port to ASEAN sees skyrocketing NEV parts exports

Qinzhou Port has experienced a 70-fold rise in new-energy vehicle parts exports over five years, shipping 11,370 TEU containers in 2023.



An aerial drone photo taken on 24 October 2024 shows a container ship carrying new energy vehicle (NEV) parts at the Qinzhou Port in Qinzhou, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. **PHOTO: ZHANG AILIN/XINHUA**

QINZHOU Port, China's gateway port to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), has seen a 70-fold increase in the export of new-energy vehicle (NEV) parts over the past five years, according to data from the China Railway Nanning Group

Co., Ltd.

As of 22 October 11,370 twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) containers of NEV parts from Liuzhou, an inland city in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, had been shipped from the Qinzhou Port so far this year, the

data shows. Compared with the annual total of 160 TEU containers in 2019, this represents a 70-fold increase over five years.

Exports of automotive parts of Liuzhou's locally-based SAIC-GM-Wuling (SGMW), a joint venture between SAIC Motor,

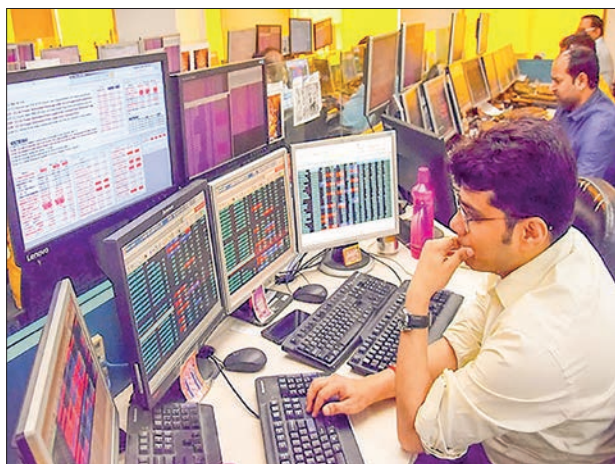
General Motors and Liuzhou Wuling Motors, have expanded from the initial coverage of Southeast Asian countries to more than 40 countries and regions, including those in Central and South America and the Middle East. — Xinhua

Indian stock market decline continues due to FII selling, weak earnings

AFTER the Indian stock markets extended their loss for the fourth consecutive week, dropping over 2.5 per cent, the two primary concerns, the foreign institutional investors (FIIs) selling and weak earnings are expected to continue influencing sentiment into the coming week, as per the market experts.

The investors will be closely monitoring, the quarterly results of key players like Bharti Airtel, Cipla, Dabur, and L&T are set to announce their earnings.

The market watch-



October derivatives expiry may heighten volatility, while upcoming auto sales data will offer additional insights. **PHOTO: ANI**

ers say that the upcoming expiry of October derivatives contracts is

also expected to increase volatility, and with the new month, auto sales

data will provide further cues.

"Despite the lack of alignment with global markets, the US market performance will remain relevant, particularly with continued speculation on rate cuts and the upcoming presidential election. Over the past week, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) declined by over 2.5 per cent, while the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite showed mixed trends, ending flat to marginally lower," said Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd. — ANI

More Japan firms seek to keep new hires by allaying assignment fears

A growing number of major Japanese firms are beginning to cater to the needs of new recruits who are worried about what roles they will be assigned to, for fear of losing talent.

The emerging trend is a pushback against Japan's practice of leaving new graduates in the dark about the place of work, job responsibilities and other details until they join their new company.

"Haizoku gacha," a phrase describing uncertainty surrounding job assignments, has become a buzzword in Japan, as young people liken it to vending machines for capsule toys known as "gacha-pon" or "gacha-gacha" that keep people guessing

what is inside a capsule until they get one.

Japan's job market remains tight, with labor shortages particularly severe in the services sector, resulting in fierce competition for talent and giving job seekers more options.

Around 85 per cent of new university graduates set to start working next year want to know where they will be assigned before accepting a job offer, according to a recent survey by Recruit Co, a staffing company.

The high percentage reflects students' strong concerns about their career development and dislike of uncertainty about the future, according to the survey. — Kyodo



Prospective new hires participate in a meeting in Tokyo on 1 October 2024, where Sompo Japan Insurance Inc. explained about its program aimed at addressing uncertainty over their future job assignments. **PHOTO: KYODO**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (24006E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (24006E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-10-2024** 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
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Thousands turn out for Thai royal barge pageantry



Thousands of well-wishers lined Bangkok's Chao Phraya river Sunday to watch King Maha Vajiralongkorn ride a glittering royal barge procession. **PHOTO: AFP**

Thousands of well-wishers gathered along the Chao Phraya River in Bangkok on Sunday to celebrate King Maha Vajiralongkorn's 72nd birthday

THOUSANDS of well-wishers lined the banks of Bangkok's Chao Phraya River Sunday to watch King Maha Vajiralongkorn ride a glittering royal barge procession to mark his 72nd birthday.

A flotilla of 52 ornately decorated boats, paddled by more than 2,000 oarsmen decked out in scarlet and gold, carried the king and Queen Suthida in formation through the heart of the Thai capital to a Buddhist ceremony at Wat Arun, the city's ancient Temple of Dawn.

The king, officially regarded as semi-divine but who came in for unprecedented criticism in street protests in 2020 and 2021, took his place on a cen-

tury-old royal barge known as the "Golden Swan" to deliver robes to monks in a ceremony marking the end of Buddhist Lent.

Royal barge processions date back hundreds of years, but are held rarely, saved for the most significant occasions — most recently, the king's coronation in 2019.

During the 70-year reign of the previous king, Bhumibol Adulyadej, only 16 barge processions were held.

King Vajiralongkorn turned 72 in July, completing his "sixth cycle" in the 12-year astrological calendar — a milestone regarded by Thais as important and auspicious. — AFP

BRIEF: WORLD

Japan's ruling LDP likely to lose sole majority in lower house election: NHK exit poll

JAPAN'S ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is expected to lose its single-party majority in the House of Representatives in Sunday's general election, public broadcaster NHK said, citing its exit poll.

As of 8 pm local time, when polling stations closed, NHK forecasts showed that it is not clear whether the ruling coalition of LDP and its partner Komeito can secure a majority.

Based on exit polls and other analyses, the ruling coalition is projected to win between 174 and 254 seats, putting the coalition's goal of a simple majority of 233 seats on uncertain ground, NHK said.

For the LDP alone, projected seat numbers range from 153 to 219, making it almost certain that the party will fall short of an outright majority. — Xinhua

Wildfire breaks out near Comisu Peak in central Romania

WILDFIRE breaks out Saturday morning near Comisu Peak between the villages of Vladeni and Fagaras in Brasov County, central Romania, according to local authorities.

According to Brasov's Emergency Situations Inspectorate (ISU), nearly 100 firefighters and forest workers, joined by a firefighting helicopter from the Department for Emergency Situations (DSU), have been mobilized to contain the blaze.

In addition, seven firefighting vehicles with water and foam were dispatched to the affected area.

The fire spread through forest litter and fallen trees over an area of approximately three hectares. — Xinhua

India's economic growth chance for Germany to diversify its trading partners

LAUDING India's economic progress, German Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck said that it presents a great opportunity for Berlin to diversify its trade partners by associating with India and reducing its reliance on China.

Terming India as a "valuable partner" for Germany, Habeck emphasized India's potential as a trading partner due to its growing economy and "deeply rooted democracy".

"India's economy is growing fast. It's good for Indian people. But it's also a chance for Germany to step in. We have the slogan diversification that is brought to our scene. Diversification means that we are searching for new trading partners. India might be the partner of choice due to this growing economy and also due to its deeply rooted democracy.



India could be the preferred partner because of its expanding economy. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

So India is a valuable partner for us," Habeck told reporters on Saturday.

Habeck was in India for the 7th India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations, held on Friday.

Sharing insights from his visit, the German Vice Chancellor mentioned that the German delegation, including

businesses, government officials, and Chancellor Scholz, engaged in intensive discussions, demonstrating Germany's "real commitment" to India.

He stated that both parties discussed geopolitical issues and made agreements in the fields of renewable energy and green hydrogen. — ANI

SPORTS

Myanmar secures victory in final group match of AFC U-17 Qualifiers

IN the final Group I match of the AFC U-17 qualifiers, held on 27 October in Vietnam, Myanmar's U-17 team defeated Kyrgyzstan with a score of 2-1. Despite earlier losses to Yemen and Vietnam that ended their chances of advancing, Myanmar delivered an impressive comeback in their last match.

Kyrgyzstan initially led with a goal from Isakov in the 15th minute. However, Myanmar equalized in the 85th minute when Kyrgyzstan's Khamidov scored an own goal.

Myanmar secured the win in injury time, with Aung Pyae Phyo netting the decisive goal in the 90+2 minute.

Myanmar completed in the group stage with one win and two losses, finishing in third place with three points, which was not enough to advance in the qualifiers. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan teams in action during the match. PHOTO: MFF

Red-hot Yin Ruoning secures LPGA Malaysia title with flawless 65



China's Yin Ruoning kisses the trophy after winning the LPGA Maybank Championship golf tournament at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club. PHOTO: AFP

WORLD number four Yin Ruoning shot a superb final-round 65 to win her second tournament in three weeks at the US LPGA Tour's Maybank Championship in Malaysia on Sunday.

The 22-year-old China number one Yin is in red-hot form on the LPGA Tour's Asian swing, having won her home Buick Shanghai title a fortnight ago and finishing tied 14th at the BMW Championship in South Korea last weekend.

She took her third win of 2024 at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club by finishing on 23-under 265, a stroke clear of Thailand's Jeeno Thitikul.

Yin, Jeeno and South Korea's Ryu Hae-ran all began the final day tied for the lead at 16-under par, but it was Yin who got over the line with a seventh birdie of her round at the final hole to complete a bogey-free card.

Ryu finished a stroke further back third on 21-under par.

"I was pretty nervous," admitted the former world number one Yin. "I really, really appreciated Haeran and Jeeno. They bring the best out of me."

"Just another great day on the course and another great day with my friends."

She attributed her superb late-season form to mental strength and becoming able to handle anxiety.

"I would say I learnt a lot from early this year because I was pretty stressed," said Yin. — AFP

Myanmar rowing team triumphs with two more gold and silver medals at ICF Dragon Boat World Cup

THE Myanmar rowing team secured two more gold medals and one more silver medal at the ICF-hosted Dragon Boat World Cup, which also serves as a qualifier for the 2025 World Sports Championships in Chengdu. Competing against leading international teams, Myanmar performed strongly and added to its medal count yesterday.

In the men's 200-metre 10-oar event, Indonesia won gold, Myanmar took silver, and Thailand claimed bronze. In the 500-metre mixed 10-oar event, Myanmar earned the gold, with Thailand taking silver and Indonesia bronze. Myanmar also won gold in the men's 2,000-metre 10-oar race, with Hong Kong and Russia taking silver and bronze, respectively. The team achieved fourth place in the 2,000-metre mixed 10-oar event.

Overall, Myanmar's Rowing Team competed in eight events, finishing with five gold and two silver medals, and a



The Myanmar rowing team is seen after receiving the gold medal in China.

fourth-place position. The competition featured 18 teams, including participants from China, Europe, Asia, and ASEAN countries. The Myanmar team

will now head to the 2024 ICF Dragon Boat World Cup in Puerto Princesa, the Philippines, departing on 27 October. — MNA/KZL

Mbappe and Real Madrid shaken by Clasico thrashing

DESPITE Barcelona's rapid revival under Hansi Flick, Real Madrid were confident heading into Saturday's La Liga Clasico at the Santiago Bernabeu.

They had every reason to be.

The reigning Spanish and European champions had gone 42 matches unbeaten in the league, one short of the all-time record held by their arch-rivals.

They flexed their muscles in midweek, thrashing Borussia Dortmund 5-2 in the Champions League with a sensational second-half display in which Vinicius Junior — who is tipped to win the Ballon d'Or on Monday — scored a hat-trick.

And this summer Madrid finally signed the player they craved for years, French superstar Kylian Mbappe,

a devastating attacking threat seemingly destined to elevate them to an even higher plane.

President Florentino Perez and Kylian Mbappe dreamed of a Clasico victory, but it ended in disappointment. In his first Clasico, Mbappe faced Barcelona's well-executed offside trap, leading to a shocking 4-0 defeat for Real Madrid. — AFP

Thousands turn out
for Thai royal barge
pageantry

PAGE 14



WORLD

BRICS banknote: 'All big deals began with symbols'

At the BRICS summit in Kazan, Putin received a symbolic banknote representing member cooperation.

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin was presented with a symbolic BRICS banknote at the group's recent summit in Russia's Kazan. Kremlin spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, called the note quasi-money because he stressed it epitomizes BRICS member states' mutual cooperation.

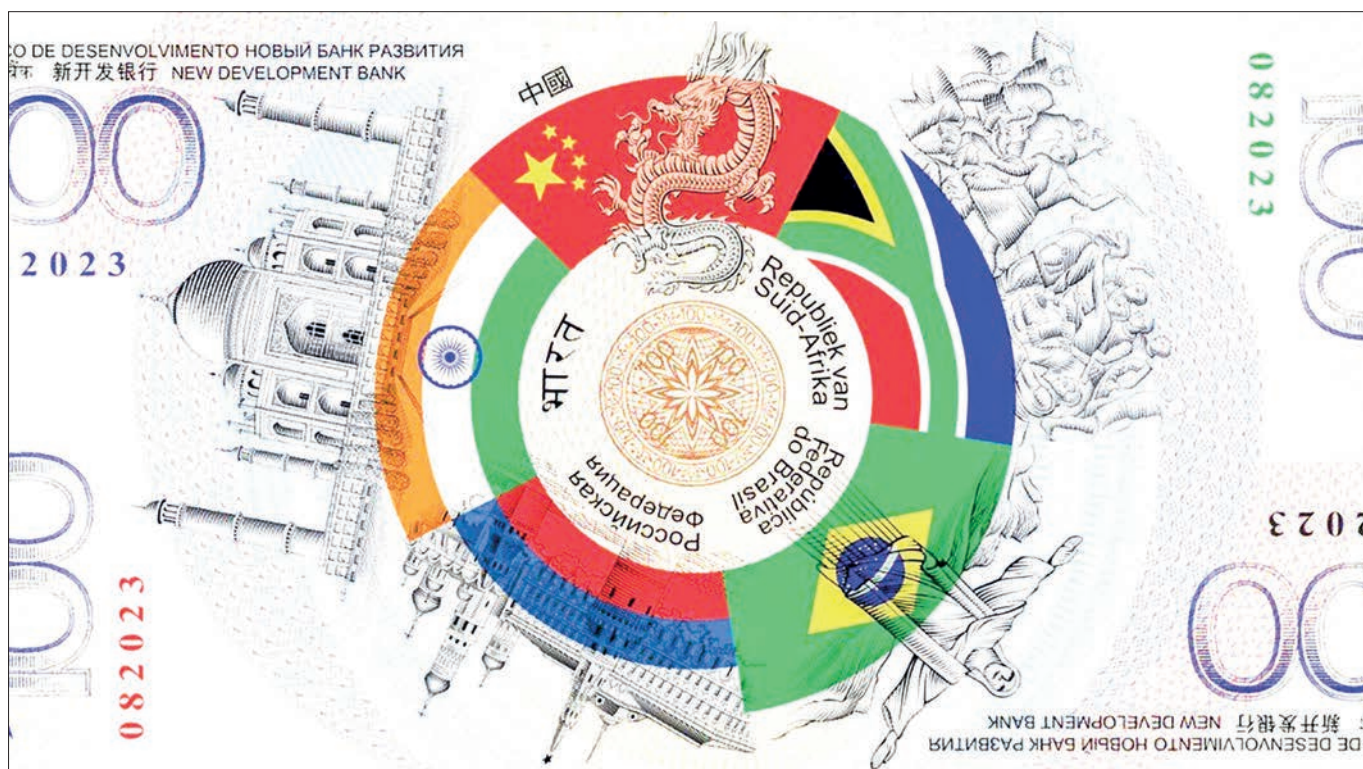
Here's what we know about this unique banknote.

The front side of the bill features the national flags and the most recognizable symbols of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, while its back displays the flags and names of new members, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE, as well as the group's potential partners. All the drawings are handmade.

The printing was initiated by Yevgeny Fyodorov, the founder and owner of

the Kirzhach Typography JSC. The bill was a gift to the BRICS meeting as a sign of "heartfelt support" for the course of global cooperation and multipolarity, as advocated by BRICS members.

The circular flag arrangement on the BRICS banknote symbolizes equality among member states, representing an emerging multipolar world and security against counterfeiting. — SPUTNIK



The handmade note features flags of BRICS countries and signifies a commitment to global multipolarity. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

CALLS FOR COMPENSATION

Commonwealth agrees 'time has come' for talks on legacy of slavery

THE Commonwealth's 56 members agreed the "time has come" for talks about the legacy of the "abhorrent" transatlantic slave trade Saturday, in a landmark summit declaration that raised the prospect of future reparations.

Gathering in Samoa, leaders from Britain and dozens of former colonies held lengthy and occasionally tense talks over one of the most sensitive aspects of their shared and troubled past.

In a joint statement, Commonwealth leaders noted calls for "reparatory justice" for the "abhorrent" transatlantic slave trade and the "enduring effects" of dispossessing Indigenous people, indentureship and colonialism.

"The time has come for a meaningful, truthful and respectful conversation towards forging a common future based on equity," a joint "Samoa Communique" said.

African, Caribbean and Pacific nations want Britain — and other colonial powers — to atone for slavery and other ills of colonisation, and to start talks about compensation. — AFP

US media claim that Israeli strike paralyzed ballistic missile production in Iran

Iran retains significant missile stockpiles despite the damage.

SATURDAY'S Israeli strike paralyzed ballistic missile production in Iran, US-based portal Axios reported citing sources.

Israel's retaliatory strike on Iran has disabled a critical component of Iran's ballistic missile program after Israel struck 12 "planetary mixers" used to produce solid rocket fuel for long-range ballistic missiles, which are the main part of Iran's missile arsenal, the publication said citing three Israeli sources.

According to the portal's sources,

the damaged objects are "highly sophisticated equipment" that Iran does not produce, but allegedly orders abroad, and their restoration "could take at least a year." At the same time, the sources note that Iran still has impressive stockpiles of missiles. A senior US official confirms the portal's sources, saying that the strike paralyzed Iran's missile production capabilities.

In addition, Israeli sources claim that the strike hit four air defense batteries



An Iranian military truck carries missiles during a military parade as part of a ceremony marking the country's annual army day in Tehran on 17 April 2024. PHOTO: ATTA KENARE/AFP/FILE

that were allegedly protecting Tehran, as well as Iran's nuclear and energy infrastructure facilities.

On Saturday night, the Israel De-

fense Forces (IDF) announced they had targeted military sites in Iran in retaliation for attacks on Israel on 1 October. — SPUTNIK