

## SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Head of Russian Kalmykia Republic



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Mr Batu Khasikov, Head of the Republic of Kalmykia, in Nay Pyi Taw.

**S**TATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Mr Batu Khasikov, Head of the Republic of Kalmykia of the Russian Federation, at the Credentials Hall of the State Administration Council Chairman's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed matters pertaining to the improving friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and the Russian Federation, enhancing relations with the Republic of Kalmykia, planning the 2025 International Buddhist Forum in Kalmykia, and how Myanmar can contribute to its success, developing tourism through religious and

economic cooperation, mutual educational opportunities, and the agriculture and livestock sectors. Both sides also exchanged frank and friendly views on enhancing cooperation through reciprocal visits.

State Administration Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Union Ministers U Tin Oo Lwin, and U Min Naung,

deputy ministers, Russian Ambassador Mr Iskander Azizov and delegation members were also present on the occasion.

After the meeting, State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Russian Kalmykia Republic Head Mr Batu Khasikov exchanged souvenirs and posed for a documentary photo. — MNA/TS

### OPINION

Conserve mountains worldwide to shape a sustainable future

PAGE 8

### NATIONAL

PAGE 7



5<sup>th</sup> National Sports Festival: ISR U-21 Athletics awarding ceremony held

### NATIONAL

PAGE 12



Ngwetaung Beach welcomes 34,000+ domestic tourists in Nov

# NATIONAL

## Quality Seeds and Techniques: The Backbone of Agriculture

BASICALLY, thriving agriculture requires quality seeds, fertile soil, natural and inorganic fertilizers, an adequate volume of agricultural water, and proper farming techniques.

*(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with the Magway Region government and district-level departmental officials on 24 May 2024 to talk about regional development)*

### Myanmar Gazette

#### Heads of Service Organizations transferred and appointed

1. The State Administration Council has transferred and appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Maung Maung Than Director-General Labour Department Ministry of Labour	Director-General Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department Ministry of Labour
(b) U Tin Ko Ko Director-General Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department Ministry of Labour	Director-General Labour Department Ministry of Labour

2. The State Administration Council has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Htan Shan Cam Deputy Permanent Secretary Union Minister's Office Ministry of Transport and Communications	Director-General Union Minister's Office Ministry of Transport and Communications
(b) Dr Win Htut Deputy Director-General Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation	Director-General Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
(c) Dr Aung Thurein Win Deputy Permanent Secretary Union Minister's Office Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation	Managing-Director No 1 Mining Enterprise Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

## Myanmar delegation honoured for efforts to list Thingyan as UNESCO ICH



Myanmar's delegation leader, Daw Sanda Khin, receives honourable garlands upon returning from UNESCO's 19<sup>th</sup> session in Paraguay.

THE Myanmar delegation, led by Chairperson Daw Sanda Khin of the Myanmar Cultural Heritage Preservation Group, returned to Yangon by air yesterday morning. Their mis-

sion was to secure recognition of Traditional Myanmar New Year Water Festival, Thingyan, in UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list.

Upon their arrival, the

delegation was warmly welcomed by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and his spouse, regional ministers and their spouses, members of women's organizations, the Maternal and Child Welfare Association, officials from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum, artistes, ethnic representatives, students, cultural dance troupes, mothers' groups, and traditional artisans, including those from film, theatre, music, painting, and sculpture.

During the reception, artistes performed Thingyan songs, while attendees, including cultural dance troupes, participated joyfully in honour of the delegation's achievements. — MNA/KZL



## Gold Market Rate as of 10 December 2024

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with a density of 19.25 and above is K5,350,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

# 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)*

## Counter hate speech and misinformation to promote human rights for a peaceful, equal world

**S**ENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing highlighted the need to counter hate speech, misinformation, and fabrications that undermine peace, stability, the rule of law, and the promotion of fair, just, and orderly rights to create human rights as a fundamental force for a peaceful and equal world.

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the ceremony to mark the 76<sup>th</sup> International Human Rights Day at Myanmar International Convention Centre I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his speech, the Senior General pointed out that efforts to disrupt peace and stability in the country are destroying the freedoms and human rights of ethnic people, and that these rights are being violated through armed violence, before urging all ethnic groups to unite and work together to oppose and combat these destructive actions so that they can enjoy equal rights and live in peace and prosperity.

He noted that 10 December 2024 marks the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly, as well as the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Human Rights Day, which commemorates this event.

The Prime Minister also recounted Myanmar's vote in favour of ratifying the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948, shortly after the country gained independence in January of that year, as well as the fact that the Declaration was first drafted in 1946 and was ratified and published two years later, on 10 December 1948.

He also underscored clear signs that Myanmar recognizes and respects the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: the enshrinement of the funda-



State Administration Council Chairman Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views the display at yesterday's event.

mental rights and duties of its citizens in its Constitution, in addition to ratifying the Declaration; the consistent implementation of its important human rights standards; and the embodiment of the principles of justice, freedom, and equality in its national anthem.

He continued to say that the United Nations theme for the 76<sup>th</sup> International Human Rights Day 2024 is 'Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now', and encouraged citizens to create and build a better future by adhering to and practising human rights within a disciplined framework. He emphasized that the world today faces many challenges, including instability and conflict, and that the rule of law is essential to overcoming these

challenges and building a world of peace and justice, where inequalities and discriminatory systems are incompatible with human rights.

The State Administration Council Chairman mentioned that for a country to be stable, peaceful, and developed, it is essential for its ethnic groups to enjoy, respect, and observe human rights, which is why the country is a party to international human rights treaties and actively participates in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, a global mechanism that regularly assesses the human rights situation in all countries.

He also said that the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, established by law in 2014, has set goals

and responsibilities to further promote and protect citizens' human rights and foster a society that respects, protects, and observes these rights.

He reaffirmed the government's efforts to implement the rights, equality, and national unity of the ethnic groups living in the country, and every effort to achieve internal peace, which is the essence of the state, the state's commitment to the successful holding of free and fair multiparty democratic general elections to create a union based on democracy and federalism, as desired by all ethnic groups, as well as to further improve stability, the rule of law, and security necessary for the election.

**SEE PAGE 6**

# NATIONAL

## Freedom of expression essential in democratic society

State Administration Council Chair Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the ceremony affirming the Myanmar Press Council members yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.



The Press Council members are taking affirmation in the presence of State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

**S**ENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing said the country adopts a democratic system correctly and aims to build a Union based on democracy and a federal system, whereas freedom of expression is a must under the law in a democratic society and good governance and development are also essential.

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said so in his speech at the ceremony of the affirmation of the members of the Myanmar Press Council, at the office of the SAC Chairman yesterday morning.

He continued that balanced and harmonious actions are needed for the aforesaid factors. The Constitution states that every citizen has the right to express and publish their convictions and opinions freely if not contrary to the laws, enacted for Union security, the prevalence of law and order, community peace and tranquillity or public order and morality. However, freedom is limited, and the expression should not affect the freedom and rights of others or organizations or the government. Although there is freedom and rights, one should have responsibility, accountability and ethics, on the other hand.

As such, the media sector plays a

key role. Today, the powerful countries in terms of politics and economics are raising the journalists to influence and manipulate the developing countries which are on the way to democracy. They neglect the attitudes and grievances of people and broadcast the news that they want via these journalists. The worst action is that they accelerate the conflicts and unrest in a small and developing country aiming to disintegrate the nation in any possible ways.

The characteristic of democracy, especially, is “accepting the diversities”, and the media personnel should accept and practise the culture understanding the differences in opinion, ideas and workplace and respect the mutual existence.

There is also a gap in knowledge, education and skills of the people of the country due to different pressures before and after regaining independence. Currently, Tatmadaw is serving State duties, and the foreign-backed journalists spread misinformation and hate speech to mislead the public. It can be accepted that journalists are human beings and they might have different opinions and personal subjectivities. However, they should not prioritize their own interests, opinions and attitudes in expressing political and public affairs. Moreover, if they put a

special emphasis only on their beliefs and neglect others’ different opinions and beliefs, they are going to be considered journalists who lack honesty.

Under the Press Law, the major duties of the Press Council are monitoring and upgrading the capacity building of the press, coordinating with the relevant government departments for the facilitation of the import of materials used in the press, arranging to hold workshops and talks relating to the press, coordinating with media organizations for conferring awards to the outstanding persons of the press and drawing up the projects for the development of the press industry.

He then appreciated the efforts of the former Press Council, and encouraged the new council members to serve duties grabbing significant successes.

He also talked about the construction of “Sarso Beikman”, and mentioned national leader Bogyoke Aung San as a journalist for his unique writing skills, and also described journalism as a river for having many channels for expressing literature-based artworks, living style and socioeconomic growth, the emergence of society, history of political, economy and cultural issues.

He also stressed the role of news media for a country that is in an early stage

of transition to democracy, whereas some powerful countries blame on it human rights and democratic norms to mould the country into the one they want. Therefore, the country prioritizes the actual situation and socioeconomic status of the country based on the historical lessons, duties and stipulations of the Constitution instead of the democratic norms that are not suitable for the country, in heading to the main goal of the country.

In such situations, the press personnel under the name of the fourth pillar, are urged to express the right and wrong, good points and weak points honestly and fairly, and should not be the subordinates of any person or organization. They also should respect ethics, uphold the interests of the country and people, work for the news media freely, and also should curb and tackle the propaganda that leads to unrest and protest in the country.

After the speech, the Senior General had a documentary photo taken together with the council members. He then served the council members with tea and cordially greeted them.

At the event, the MPC chairman, vice-chairpersons, and members alongside the secretary and joint secretary took affirmation in the presence of the Senior General. — MNA/KTZH

# NATIONAL

## SAC Vice-Chair Deputy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee's 5<sup>th</sup> meeting

STATE Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win delivered a speech at the work coordination meeting 5/2024 of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, the Vice-Senior General, who is also the committee chairman, said after the 17<sup>th</sup> coordination meeting of the committee, a total of 560 decisions were made and implemented until the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Effective actions should be taken to combat the illegal trade as it causes losses to consumers and local business people. Moreover, illegal trade can cause revenue losses for the country. There is the cost of illegal trade combatting activities. In the local production sector, the imported substandard raw materials can make products of low quality for the local entrepreneurs. Moreover, it can be harmful to the local consumers and substandard products in the international market, and the market share of the country can be affected seriously.

Fake and substandard raw materials imported from foreign countries without any guarantees can affect the local production sector and cause losses. Moreover, illegal trading in various forms can affect the economic growth of the country and receivable revenues like commercial tax, income tax and special commodities tax, and show a decline in the GDP of the State. He also stressed the duties of the steering committee, region and state special task forces to crack down on illegal trade effectively and decisively, and the serious con-



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the fifth coordination meeting of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee yesterday.

sequences of unlawful trade in the economic sector.

Every government in the country drafts policies for political, economic and social affairs. The SAC also set the policies in these fields and the ministries, state and region governments, organizations and entrepreneurs should find their proper ways in their respective regions to overcome the limitations and challenges in implementing the economic policy of the country without any delays.

He continued that Myanmar is an agriculture-based country, and US\$14.641 billion worth of products were exported in the 2023-2024 financial year and the export volume reached US\$9.825 billion until November of 2024-2025 financial year. Therefore, the departments concerned should make efforts for the agriculture, livestock and breeding sectors

this financial year to develop the export sector.

He added that smuggled and illegal commodities worth K379.247 billion were seized in 17,258 cases from January 2022 to November 2024.

Concerning seizures in Myanmar, the Vice-Senior General noted that the Customs Department and Mandalay Region stood first for the seizure of smuggled and illegal commodities in September, October and November 2024, followed by the Kayin State and Kachin State. Among them, he continued that unregistered vehicles and illegal commodities were seized as the most enormous volume, followed by intermediate goods and capital goods.

Although the monthly seizures show an increase in 2024, the record of export and import data of trading partner countries shows huge gaps when compared

with the export and import data of the country.

Therefore, the steering committee and special task forces are needed to accelerate their actions four times than before.

He then highlighted the instruction of the Prime Minister to double the current export volumes and added that illicit trade brings huge hindrances to the MSMEs and local entrepreneurs in their production sectors.

He also pointed out that the people informed 204 illegal trading in September, October and November 2024, of which 79 were false news, four were late news, and 121 were accurate news. A high number of trustworthy news outlets show supportive measures to carry out duties more effectively.

A total of K5 billion worth of illegal goods were seized from 242 cases.

He urged the MSME entrepreneurs to get rights for their products as the country enacts The Trademark Law, the Industrial Design Law, the Patent Law and the Copyright Law. The responsible agencies should facilitate the application processes and take action against those who break the law. Intellectual Property rights are complicated and can cause transnational crimes. According to the findings of CECD and WIPO, the value of international trade in counterfeit goods was estimated at US\$509 billion, the equivalent of three per cent of world trade. He also called for attendees to work together to combat the unlawful trade.

After hearing the reports made by the attendees, the Vice-Senior General coordinated all discussions and reports. — MNA/KTZH

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# NATIONAL

## Counter hate speech and misinformation to promote ...

### FROM PAGE 3

He reassured that the government will continue to implement the five-point roadmap and nine objectives set for the development of a peaceful, modern, developed, and disciplined democratic country while calling on all ethnic groups to work together with the government to create a country of peace, prosperity, socioeconomic development, and high human rights

standards.

After the Prime Minister's speech, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairman U Paw Lwin Sein explained the implementation of the work, and Vice-Chair Dr Nanda Hmun read a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Afterwards, the State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister, and those at-

tending the ceremony watched a video clip commemorating the 76<sup>th</sup> International Human Rights Day.

Next, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission chairman presented the commemorative medal for the 76<sup>th</sup> International Human Rights Day to the State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister, before artistes from the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry

of Religious Affairs and Culture performed a dance to the Human Rights Commission song.

The Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister, and those attending the ceremony observed the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission's human rights promotion and educational activities.

The ceremony was attended by General Ye Win Oo, Joint

Secretary of the State Administration Council, members of the council, Union-level officials and ministers, the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, senior Tatmadaw officers, the commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, officials from the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, representatives of civil society organizations, guests, and students. — MNA/TH

## Kalmykia delegation discusses cooperation with SAC Member, Union Ministers

A delegation led by Mr Batu Khasikov, Head of the Republic of Kalmykia, the Russian Federation, arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning after travelling from Yangon by air. They were welcomed at the airport by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Aye Tun, members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, and other officials.

The delegation later met SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung and Union Ministers U Tin Oo Lwin, U Min Naung, Dr Nyunt Pe, and U Min Thein Zan at the M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. Discussions focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation, including promoting mutual exchanges in religious and cultural matters, collaborating to successfully organize the third International Buddhist Forum in Kalmykia in September 2025, encouraging investment in agriculture and



SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung and Union Ministers U Tin Oo Lwin, U Min Naung, Dr Nyunt Pe, and U Min Thein Zan hold talks with the Kalmykia delegation.

livestock sectors, and sharing agricultural technologies and quality seeds, introducing the Myanmar language as a subject in Russian universities

and facilitating exchanges of scholarships and academic programmes, strengthening ties in education, healthcare, youth affairs, and sports development,

and exploring the possibility of direct air links between Kalmykia and Myanmar to support tourism and hospitality industries.

In the afternoon, the delegation visited Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw, where they offered flowers and water to a sacred Buddha image, made monetary donations, and signed the guestbook. They also visited the White Elephant Lodge, feeding white elephants with nutritional supplements.

In the evening, Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin hosted a dinner in honour of the Kalmykia delegation at the M Gallery Hotel. The event was attended by SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung, Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, deputy ministers, members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Russian Ambassador to Myanmar, and delegation members.

Following the dinner, the delegation visited the Maravijaya Buddha Image, where they paid their respects and toured the Buddha Garden on the premises. — MNA/TMT

## MSWRR Deputy Minister meets ICRC Resident Representative to Myanmar

DEPUTY Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Kyi received Ms Elena Ajmone Sessa, Resident Representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to Myanmar, and her team yesterday afternoon at the ministry's reception hall.

During the meeting, they discussed humanitarian assistance initiatives implemented by the ministry, disaster risk management, education on the risk of landmine, rehabilitation support for landmine victims, and ICRC's prosthetic and orthotic services for people with dis-

abilities caused by landmines. They also explored collaborative efforts between the ministry and ICRC.

Director-General of the Disaster Management Department, other relevant officials, and representatives from the ICRC also joined the meeting. — MNA/KZL



The ICRC Resident Representative to Myanmar calls on Deputy Minister U Soe Kyi.

# NATIONAL

## 5<sup>th</sup> National Sports Festival: ISR U-21 Athletics awarding ceremony held

THE awards ceremony for the U-21 athletics competitions under the Fifth National Sports Festival took place yesterday morning at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw.

Initially, Daw Than Than, a former national athlete and executive of the Myanmar Athletics Federation, presented individual medals and commemorative trophies to winners of the women's long jump event. The first-prize went to Mon State, the second to Taninthayi Region, and the third to Ayeyawady Region. Similarly, Daw Jennifer Tin Lay, another former national athlete and executive, honoured winners of the women's 5,000-metre race, with Taninthayi Region securing first prize, followed by Shan State in second and third prizes.

Next, Kayin State's Minister for Social Affairs U Saw Tun Aung presented awards to the

men's 5,000-metre race winners, with Shan State claiming first prize, Yangon Region second, and Kachin State third. Additionally, Sagaing Region's Minister for Social Affairs U Nyunt Win Aung, awarded the winners of the women's discus throw event. Shan State achieved first prize, while Sagaing Region took second and third prizes.

Deputy Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Htein Lin then presented awards for the men's discus throw competition, where Magway Region earned first and third prizes, with Yangon Region coming in second. Meanwhile, Deputy Minister U Zin Min Htet presented awards for the women's 20-kilometre racewalking event, in which Sagaing Region won first prize, Shan State second, and Ayeyawady Region third. Union Minister U Min Thein Zan later honoured

the winners of the men's 20-kilometre racewalking event, with Shan State taking both first and second prizes, while Taninthayi Region secured third prize.

The competitions continued with prizes awarded across various events. Daw Nu Nu Yi, a former national athlete, presented awards to winners of the women's 400-metre race, with Taninthayi Region winning first, Shan State second, and Rakhine State third. U Khin Maung Kyi, Ayeyawady Region's Minister for Social Affairs, awarded winners of the women's 400-metre relay, where Taninthayi Region took first prize, followed by Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State in second and third prizes.

Further honours were presented by U Thant Zin, a former national athlete, to winners of the men's 400-metre relay, with Taninthayi Region taking first



An award ceremony for winning athletes from athletics competitions in progress in Nay Pyi Taw.

prize, Ayeyawady Region second, and Mandalay Region third. Additionally, Daw Mar Mar Min, a former national athlete, awarded winners of the men's long jump event, with Ayeyawady Region claiming first prize, Magway Region second, and Bago Region third. Daw Than Than also awarded winners of the men's 400-metre race, with Sagaing Region taking both first and second

prizes and Yangon Region coming in third.

The final matches and awards ceremonies for the Fifth National Sports Festival, which includes competitions at the ministerial, inter-state and regional levels, are scheduled to continue on 11 December at designated sports venues and stadiums. — MNA/KZL

## MoFA Deputy Minister receives outgoing and incoming ICRC Resident Representatives

DEPUTY Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw received Ms Elena Ajmone Sessera, Resident Representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) who has completed her assignment in Myanmar, and Mr Arnaud de Baecque, new Resident Representative of ICRC to Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on the activities of ICRC in Myanmar. Senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also present at the meeting. — MNA



ICRC Resident Representatives call on Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Kyaw yesterday.

## ASEAN Project Development Training for Myanmar opened

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) and ASEAN Secretary-General Office jointly launched the ASEAN Project Development Training for Myanmar yesterday.

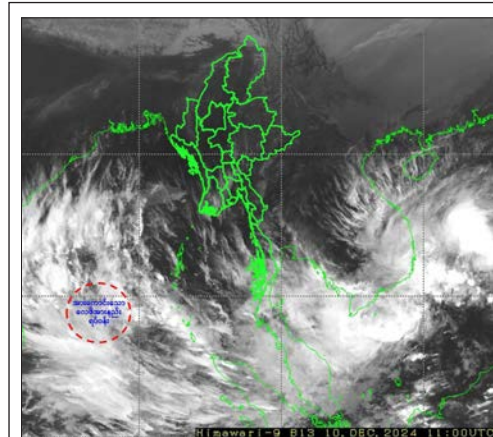
Speaking at the event, Deputy Minister Daw Nu Mra Zan said the training focuses on the result-based management for responsibility and sustainability in drafting projects, and the trainees will have to learn the proposals of the ASEAN cooperation project that is important in solving regional needs. She then highlighted the knowledge and experience

gained in training to develop the projects in Myanmar and expand the ASEAN community. She also urged the trainees to actively participate in the training.

The trainers of the Programme Cooperation and Project Management Division of the ASEAN Secretary-General Office will lead the training that will be conducted from 10 to 12 December. A total of 43 trainees from the workgroups under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, departments and universities under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture joined the training. — MNA/KTZH



Deputy Minister Daw Nu Mra Zan addresses the ASEAN Project Development Training for Myanmar.



## Well Marked Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (19:00) hours MST on 10 December 2024

ACCORDING to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the well marked low-pressure area over South Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to move west-north westwards and may reach over Sri Lanka - Tamil Nadu Coasts, India, during next 24 hrs. — DMH

# OPINION

## Conserve mountains worldwide to shape a sustainable future

**M**OUNTAINS are integral to human society, but unchecked deforestation and tree cutting can render them barren. As a result, these barren mountains contribute to climate change and the global warming process.

As such, it is essential to conserve the hills through greening efforts like reforestation and preventing deforestation. By doing so, these environments can preserve the hills' existence for many years and help retain minerals in the land. Mountains act as natural repositories, storing valuable resources, particularly a variety of

minerals that can be extracted for human use.

That is why people worldwide must actively participate in mountain conservation to maintain favourable weather conditions for society and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters. It is essential to engage youth in raising awareness about the crucial role mountains play in society. Over 311 million rural mountain inhabitants in developing countries live in areas vulnerable to progressive land degradation, with 178 million at risk of food insecurity. Therefore, it is crucial for everyone to take responsibility to contribute to preserving the durability of mountains to improve the natural environment."

the theme for International Mountain Day 2024 is "Mountain solutions for a sustainable future – innovation, adaptation, and youth". These three focus areas have the potential to shape the future of mountain regions in two distinct ways: either positively or negatively.

Over the centuries, mountain communities have developed solutions to adapt to harsh environments, tackle climate change, reduce poverty, and protect or restore biodiversity. However, ecosystems around mountains are facing dramatic changes, resulting in barren landscapes. In response to the pressures of climate change on mountains, adaptation is crucial for building resilience and reducing vulnerability. Adaptation strategies include ecosystem-based approaches to disaster risk reduction and the integration of Indigenous knowledge systems.

That is why people worldwide must actively participate in mountain conservation to maintain favourable weather conditions for society and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters. It is essential to engage youth in raising awareness about the crucial role mountains play in society. Over 311 million rural mountain inhabitants in developing countries live in areas vulnerable to progressive land degradation, with 178 million at risk of food insecurity. Therefore, it is crucial for everyone to take responsibility to contribute to preserving the durability of mountains to improve the natural environment."

**T**HE national-level sporting event was grandly and ceremoniously held at the national stadium on 9 December, where athletes from different regions of the country are currently participating in various sports competitions. In preparation for the games, athletes from each region have been actively training and preparing in their respective sports. The relevant state and regional governments have been providing systematic support, and organizing necessary facilities and resources.

The opening ceremony will be held with grandeur at the national level, and athletes, sports organizations, coaches, and experts have been diligently working to ensure the event's success. The national government has placed great importance on the development of the sports sector, which is evident from the extensive coverage in newspapers, sports programmes, and broadcasts, all showing the government's commitment to enhancing sports in the country.

The national sports competitions were first held in 1992 in Yangon, and the second event was held in 1994, followed by the third event in 1997, also in Yangon. The fourth national sports competition was held in 2015 in the capital, Nay Pyi Taw. This year, in December 2024, the fifth national-level sporting event is being held again in Nay Pyi Taw, with athletes from various regions and states, as well as representatives from government ministries and departments, participating in the event.

The country's administrative council has emphasized the importance of promoting the health and well-being of all citizens through sports. To achieve this, the government has been actively

encouraging the participation of all people in sports, and there are various sports events organized throughout the country in line with the seasons. Additionally, government ministries, departments, universities, and schools regularly organize sports competitions to promote physical fitness and community engagement.

The national sports competition is not just a simple sporting event, but a highly significant national-level event. It is organized with high quality, systematically, and professionally, ensuring that the athletes' participation is not only about sportsmanship but also about fulfilling their national duty. These competitions inspire love for the country, patriotism, and unity, fostering a sense of togetherness and collaboration. The sports events contribute to peace and harmony, providing an opportunity for citizens to come together for a common cause, and creating an environment where mutual respect and cooperation thrive, leading to a peaceful and prosperous nation.

In the past, Myanmar's sports world was recognized across Southeast Asia and the wider Asian region for its remarkable achievements in various sports events. Myanmar's involvement in the Asian Games and other regional sports competitions led to the country gaining recognition and prestige. Athletes from Myanmar proudly represented their nation, carrying the national flag with honour, and participating in competitions where they showcased great skill and determination. Myanmar's athletes have earned significant respect for their hard work and achievements, and their dedication is widely remembered. Even as they faced challenges, their ef-



Traditional Myanmar Chinlone.



Grand opening of the Fifth National Sports Festival in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 December 2024.

# From Nay Pyi Taw to the World

By Min Zan

forts in representing Myanmar in international sports competitions have made a lasting impact.

Renowned athletes from Myanmar and ethnic nationalities have excelled on the international stage, particularly in Southeast Asia (SEA Games) and Asian sports competitions, earning prestigious awards and recognition.

Notable names include Mi Tone Naw, Shin Bway Ghan, Gracikar, Khin Khin Htwe, Ma Khin Pu, May Thu, Jennifer Tin Lay, and Khin Than Nwe, known for their achievements in athletics. Bo Aye Ko, a celebrated champion, and swimmer Tin Maung Ni, a medallist in swimming. Than Than Swe, a sharpshooter, and Mya Aye, an expert in bar sports. Football champions such as Bogyi Ba Hadu, Ko Ko Gyi, Hla Kyi, Ba Pu, and Khin Maung Tun. (Many notable names of our athletes are still left.) These athletes, along with many other exceptional sportsmen and sportswomen, have brought pride to Myanmar

and showcased the high calibre of Myanmar's talent in Southeast Asia and Asian sports arenas.

As I was drafting this piece, I came across the news that Ye Htun Naing, representing Myanmar at the 15<sup>th</sup> World Bodybuilding and Fitness Championship held in the Maldives, achieved an extraordinary feat. Competing in the 75-kilogramme men's bodybuilding category, he outperformed numerous international competitors to claim the first prize and the world champion title. This remarkable achievement filled me with immense pride and joy. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Ye Htun Naing.

The State Administration Council Government has continued Myanmar's tradition of honouring athletes who excel at international competitions by awarding medals of gold, silver, and bronze. Similarly, under previous governments, Myanmar athletes who achieved distinction in international competitions, including the Asian Games and

Southeast Asian (SEA) Games, were recognized and celebrated at the national level for their remarkable contributions. These commendations highlight Myanmar's ongoing commitment to honouring its outstanding athletes, past and present, who have brought glory to the nation through their skill and dedication.

The National-Level Sports Festival, marking its Fifth edition, are currently being held from 9 to 20 December 2024. This grand event brought together ethnic brothers and sisters from various regions and states across the country. Participants gathered in an atmosphere of camaraderie, mutual respect, and warm friendships. With a strong spirit of sportsmanship, the festival is showcasing the skills and abilities of athletes in a wide array of competitive sports, aiming to foster unity and excellence.

The development of sports is a reflection of a nation's progress and the collective spirit of its people. It not only highlights

the ability to excel but also fosters the growth of human resources, contributing to the comprehensive development of a country. Moreover, promoting sports serves to elevate the prestige of the nation and its people on both regional and global stages.

Sports also play a vital role in cultivating patriotism and strengthening national unity. By instilling these values, it contributes to the growth of a strong national spirit. Therefore, the advancement of sports should be prioritized alongside education to shape well-rounded individuals.

From an early age, students must be encouraged to engage actively not only in academics but also in sports. Parents and teachers have a crucial role to play in nurturing this balance, ensuring that young people develop the discipline, teamwork, and resilience that sports can provide. The Fifth National Sports Festival is now underway with great anticipation and success. To ensure active participation and outstanding achievements, athletes from various states and regions across the country are diligently participating in the competition.

As the festival is ongoing, athletes are competing and showcasing their skills and determination. The grand opening ceremony, planned to be held with national-level prestige and grandeur, marked a significant milestone in Myanmar's sports

history. Organizing committees and various teams are currently working tirelessly, making all necessary arrangements to ensure the event's smooth execution and ultimate success.

The opening and closing ceremonies of the inaugural National Sports Festival are well-planned with national-level grandeur and splendour. Students, performers, and officials from various departments participated and contributed to these events to ensure a flawless presentation. Similarly, preparations were also made for the hoisting of the national flag, as well as the flags of states and regions, which will take place at the Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex, the primary venue for the event.

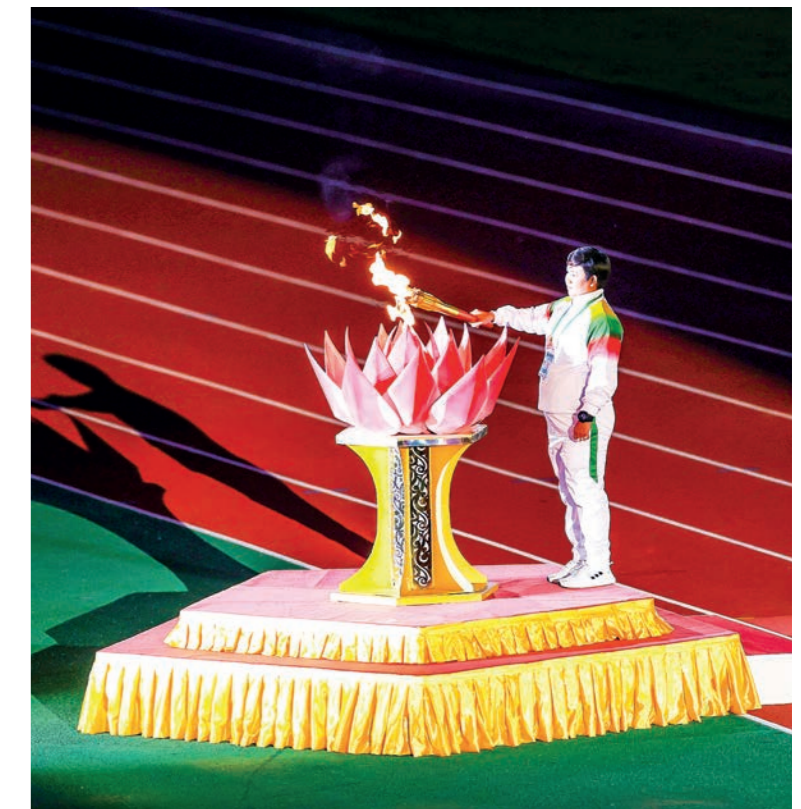
Adding a spectacular touch to the opening ceremony, a team responsible for aerial displays used helicopters to deliver the flags into the stadium from the sky. This team also conducted

progress in the sports arena.

This event serves as a stepping stone for athletes who will represent Myanmar in the upcoming 33<sup>rd</sup> Southeast Asian Games in 2025 and other international competitions. It also provides an excellent platform for identifying and nurturing new generations of athletes from various states and regions, creating pathways for them to thrive on the global stage.

The festival, held at the Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex, showcased a vibrant celebration of sportsmanship, including grand opening and closing ceremonies. Athletes, students, artists, and officials have worked diligently to ensure its success, rehearsing tirelessly to deliver flawless performances. Highlights such as aerial displays with flags hoisted by helicopters added a touch of splendour to the ceremonies.

For sports-loving citizens of Myanmar, this festival is a source



Veteran nationally-selected sportsman ignites game torch.

rigorous training sessions to execute the task with precision and excellence.

The successful conclusion of the inaugural National Sports Festival, organized with national-level prestige, promises to leave a lasting legacy. State and regional departments that participated actively, alongside their athletes who achieved remarkable success, have yet to honour these achievements. This includes awarding recognition and opportunities for further development, supporting outstanding athletes, and fostering their continued pro-

of immense pride and excitement. Spectators eagerly anticipate the opportunity to cheer on their favourite athletes and celebrate Myanmar's sports culture and national unity. The festival stands as a beacon of progress, not only for sports but also for fostering national pride and solidarity.

Through meticulous planning and collective effort, the National Sports Festival promises to be a historic milestone, inspiring generations to pursue excellence and uphold the nation's honour in the world of sports.



# NATIONAL

## 5<sup>th</sup> National Sports Festival competitions intensify in Nay Pyi Taw

THE fifth edition of the National Sports Festival continued with its scheduled competitions yesterday morning at designated sports venues across Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Inter-State and Region Under-21 athletics events took place at Wunna Theikdi Sports Stadium. In the men's 20-kilometre racewalking finals, Naing Lin Tun from Shan State secured first place, followed by Thant Zin Aung from Shan State in second, and Phoe Thauk Kya from Taninthayi Region in third. In the women's category, Swe Thet Oo from Sagaing Region won first place, Thae Nu Aung from Shan State took second, and Aye Chan Aung from Ayeyawady Region claimed third.

In the men's discus throw finals, Htet Kaung Wai from Magway Region secured first place, followed by Htet Lin Oo from Yangon Region in second, and Ye Yint Aung from Magway Region in third. For the women's category, Nan Awm Sain Kham from Shan State won first place, Theint Theint Thu from Sagaing Region

came in second, and Thwel Zin Noe from Sagaing Region took third place.

Mon State's Khine Thazin Oo won the women's long jump finals, followed by Myat Noe Thu from Taninthayi Region and Ei Ei Phyto from Ayeyawady Region. In the women's 400-metre race, Nwe Oo Khaing from Taninthayi Region claimed first, July Moe from Shan State secured second, and Win Win from Rakhine State finished third. In the men's 4x100-metre relay, Taninthayi Region's team took first place, Ayeyawady Region's team came second, and Mandalay Region's team took third. The women's 4x100-metre relay saw Taninthayi Region secure first place, Ayeyawady Region finish second, and Rakhine State claim third.

In the men's 5,000-metre race, Kyaw Min Aung from Shan State claimed first place, followed by Myat Win Hlaing from Yangon Region and Jo Zar Sal from Kachin State in second and third, respectively. In the women's 5,000-metre race, Ei Ei Wine from Taninthayi Region won first place, Hlaing Hlaing Myint from

Shan State took second, and Khine Phoo Wai from Shan State secured third place.

The Inter-State and Region Myanmar Thaing (martial arts) competition was held at Shwekyapin sports complex. In the men's solo bare-hand performance category, Oak Soe Khant from Yangon Region won first place, Chit Ko Ko from Sagaing Region took second, and Htun Htun Min from Shan State came third. In the solo sword performance category, Chit Ko Ko from Sagaing Region won first, followed by Hein Min Htun from Mandalay Region in second and Oak Soe Khant from Yangon Region in third.

In the volleyball quarterfinals, the women's matches saw Shan State defeat Ayeyawady Region 3-0, Kachin State overcome Kayin State 3-0, and Taninthayi Region secure a 3-2 victory over Yangon Region. Additionally, Shan State triumphed over Ayeyawady Region with a clean 3-0 win, while Mandalay Region defeated Sagaing Region 3-0.

Judo contests were held at Wunna Theikdi Sports Stadium C Hall. In

the men's KATA event, Yangon Region claimed first place, Sagaing Region took second, and Kachin and Kayin States shared third place. In the women's KATA event, Kachin State took first place, Mon State secured second, and Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory and Rakhine State tied for third.

The Lethwei semifinals were conducted at Wunna Theikdi Sports Stadium's boxing hall. In the men's 51-kilogramme category, Baung Saung from Kachin State triumphed over Hein Htet Aung from Mandalay Region and Saw Shwe Win from Kayin State defeated Thura from Sagaing Region. In the 57-kilogramme division, Shane Htet Ko Ko from Kachin State won against Min Set Tha Oo from Sagaing Region, while Lamin Ko Ko from Yangon Region bested Gin Shan Maung from Chin State.

Additional matches saw wins for athletes from various regions and states across the men's and women's categories, showcasing exceptional skills and determination. — MNA/KZL



Athletics.



Inter-ministerial football match.



Defence Ministry versus Health Ministry in women's volleyball.



Inter-ministerial golf tourney.



Inter-State & Region Volleyball.



Shan State versus Chin State.



Judo competition.



Inter-State & Region 400-metre race.



Magway Region versus Shan State in ISR men's Sepak Takraw.

# NATIONAL

## Over 2,200 Myanmar intangible cultural heritage items documented

THE traditional Thingyan Festival, which is deeply cherished by all Myanmar people as a New Year celebration, has been successfully inscribed on UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

This inclusion is a significant historic achievement for the people of Myanmar, showcasing the value and pride they place on their cultural heritage. A press conference by the Myanmar Cultural Heritage Preservation Committee was held yesterday afternoon at Yangon's Greenery Park to highlight the efforts made towards this accomplishment. The event also featured voices from those who actively contributed to the inscription process.

**Daw Sanda Khin**  
Chairperson of the Myanmar Cultural Heritage Preservation Committee

Thingyan, the traditional Myanmar New Year festival, has now been officially recognized as an intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO. This marks Myanmar's first intangible cultural heritage acknowledged on the global stage. Every country has a wealth of cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible. In 2003, UNESCO established the Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee to protect and preserve such traditions worldwide. Myanmar signed the UNESCO Convention in 2013, committing to safeguarding its intangible cultural heritage.

To achieve global recognition, cultural elements must first be designated as national heritage. Myanmar has documented over 2,200 intangible cultural heritage items at the national level, and Thingyan was chosen for its outstanding significance to represent the country internationally. This effort was spearheaded by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, with support from Myanmar's ambassador to UNESCO based in France, scholars, civil society groups, and individuals.

The nomination process began in March 2023, when Thingyan was formally submitted to UNESCO. The application highlighted Thingyan's historical roots, authenticity, cultural values, and widespread public participation. It also emphasised its unique characteristics, such as the spirit of generosity, social harmony, and inclusiveness, transcending age, gender, and ethnicity. These attributes, combined with efforts from relevant ministries and experts, ensured Thingyan's successful recognition as a global cultural heritage.

Thingyan's designation as an intangible cultural heritage underscores its importance as a unifying festival that reflects Myanmar's history, culture, and community values. It is a celebration of goodwill, cleansing, and the ushering in of a new year, making it a cherished tradition

that resonates with people from all walks of life.

**Daw Nan Laung Ngin**  
Director, National Museum (Yangon)  
Department of Archaeology and National Museum  
Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture  
Member, Myanmar Cultural Heritage Preservation Committee

Culture encompasses two distinct categories: tangible heritage and intangible heritage. Tangible heritage includes material objects, artefacts, and ancient cities like the Pyu cities, which can be physically touched and observed. On the other hand, intangible heritage represents cultural elements that cannot be physically manifested, often referred to as spiritual or mental heritage. Internationally, it is widely recognized as an intangible cultural heritage.

Scholars emphasize that the presence of tangible heritage alone does not necessarily define a society's importance. Instead, the core measure of a society's civility or cultural depth lies significantly in its intangible heritage. Consequently, public awareness and education about the significance of intangible cultural heritage remain an ongoing priority.

A notable distinction between tangible and intangible cultural heritage lies in their recognition processes. Tangible heritage can be submitted to international bodies like UNESCO by experts or governmental authorities. In contrast, intangible cultural heritage requires collective input and submission by relevant community organizations and stakeholders rather than solely by governments.

For example, the submission of the Thingyan Festival as an intangible cultural heritage was a collaborative effort among various organizations. The festival's recognition underscores the importance of community-driven

initiatives in cultural preservation.

At the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, attended by representatives from 195 countries and over 800 participants, decisions were categorized into three key areas. The priority involves safeguarding rapidly disappearing cultural traditions. For instance, Myanmar submitted the Chin community's traditional flute-playing custom, which is on the brink of extinction. Similarly, widely celebrated traditions like the Thingyan Festival are also protected under these initiatives.

**Dr Lae Lae Aung**  
Director,  
Department of Fine Arts,  
Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture

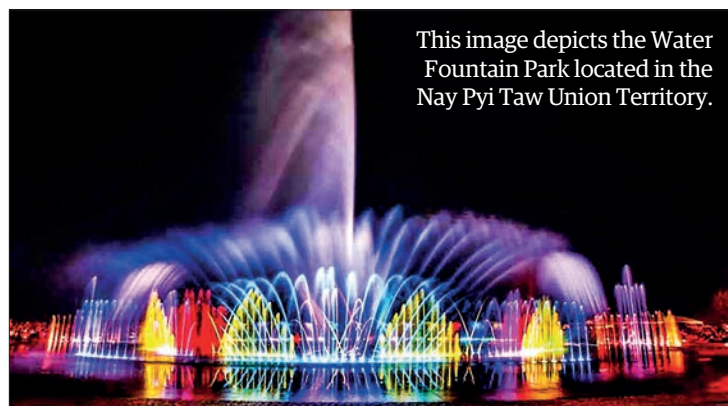
At the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Intangible Cultural Heritage Conference, Myanmar submitted a proposal recognising the Traditional Thingyan Water Festival as part of its cultural heritage. Unlike the global Gregorian calendar, the Myanmar calendar operates uniquely, with the New Year occurring after the Tagu (April) month concludes and the Tabodwe (November) month begins. During this transitional period, the calendar's details are carefully observed.

Myanmar's traditional New Year period coincides with extremely hot weather. From ancient times, people have celebrated Thingyan by sprinkling water to ease the heat and symbolically wash away the impurities of the old year, ensuring they do not carry over into the new one.

Thingyan showcases Myanmar's rich cultural traditions, customs, and vibrant way of life. Beyond water-related festivities, the recognition of Thingyan as an intangible cultural heritage aims to preserve this unique tradition and introduce its significance to the world, fostering appreciation and understanding of Myanmar's cultural values. —Information Team/ KZL



## Nay Pyi Taw's Water Fountain Park upgraded to Royal Garden



This image depicts the Water Fountain Park located in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

THE Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee has announced plans to upgrade the Water Fountain Park, located within the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, into the Royal Garden.

The transformation includes modernizing children's playgrounds, repairing and maintaining suspension bridges, planting rare tree species in the Sky Garden, raising ornamental fish and rare animals, and implementing greening, cleanliness, and beautification initiatives throughout the garden.

The upgraded park will feature 48 recreational activities, such as a roller coaster, a giant water

slide, artificial wave pools, a Ferris wheel, and a mono train, providing visitors with a wide range of entertainment options. Existing attractions, including the three-tiered pond, fountains, fountain projection (water screen projection) and dancing fountains will also be enhanced.

Plans are underway to host seasonal festivals and flower exhibitions in the park. To achieve the vision of a modern facility that meets the standards of the capital city, the garden has been leased to a private company under a long-term contract for development. —ASH/TMT

# NATIONAL

## Ngwetaung Beach welcomes 34,000+ domestic tourists in Nov



This photo shows travellers visiting Ngwetaung Beach during the rainy season.

ACCORDING to Daw Ni Ni Mar, an executive member of the Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Association (Ngwetaung Beach), the Ngwetaung Beach in Ngaputaw Township, Ayeyawady Region, attracted 34,355 domestic visitors in November 2024, thanks to its appeal as a year-round destination for relaxation.

The beach's proximity to the famous Myat Mawtinsun Pagoda makes it a favourite retreat for domestic tourists, particularly those from the Yangon Region and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

“Since January 2024, Ngwetaung Beach has been drawing domestic visitors consistently. Even during the rainy season, people have continued to visit for relaxation,” said Daw Ni Ni Mar.

To enhance the visitor experience, measures have been implemented to ensure a safe and peaceful environment. Services such as bicycle rentals, motorboat rentals, and horse-drawn carriage rides are available, while local vendors provide an array of snacks and souvenirs at reasonable prices. — ASH/MKKS

### Counter-argument to false information

## Security forces in Palaw accused of false claims

SECURITY forces engaged in regional security operations in Palaw Township, Taninthayi Region, were accused by malicious news media of detaining residents and confiscating public property.

These reports, which were found to be false, suggested that troops were involved in unlawful activities. However, a local security official clarified that the forces carried out security operations around the Khandi village-tract in the township and its surrounding areas but did not detain any innocent civilians or seize public property.

The official also stated that the fabricated reports were intended to instil fear into the public and disrupt peace in the region. They were part of a broader misinformation campaign aimed at misleading people about security forces. — MNA/KZL



This screenshot validates misinformation.

## Myanmar film ‘Tein Pachi’ premieres in Yangon

THE premiere of the Myanmar movie ‘Tein Pachi’ (Cloud Painting) was held on 9 December at the Tamadha Cinema in Dagon Township, Yangon. The screenplay is based on a renowned novel by Hamsai (Se-Man), with Aye Thiri Ko adapting it for the script. Directed by Pwint Theingi Zaw (Arun Oo) under Brave Empire Entertainment and Production, the film is a significant new release in Myanmar cinema.

“This novel is one of Hamsai’s most famous works. Naturally, it felt like a big responsibility during production. Fans already love this story

and have high expectations for the film,” said director Pwint Theingi Zaw. “Adapting it exactly to the novel wasn’t easy, but I infused my creativity into it. While there may be differences, I’m both excited and anxious about the audience’s feedback.”

The film will be screened nationwide in major cinemas starting on 13 December. The cast includes Academy Award winners Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi and Melody, alongside Aye Chan Maung, Nay Myo Aung, Nyi Nanda, Hnin Yu, and many other prominent artistes. — ASH/KZL



This photo showcases cast members and fans at the premiere of the film ‘Tein Pachi’.

## 2-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K1.182B

SUPERVISED by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, action is being taken under the law against illicit trading across the nation.

During inspections on 8 and 9 December, the combined on-duty teams impounded two unregistered motorbikes (worth approximately K750,000) in Maubin Township, smuggled consumer goods (valued at K11.93 million) in Tachilek Township and two unregistered vehicles (estimated value of K34.5 million) at the Yadanabon bridge combined checkpoint in Sagaing township. The action was conducted under the Export-Import Law and Customs procedures.

Similarly, the combined teams nabbed 3.568 tonnes of illegal teak (worth K1.659 million) in Taungoo District and an unregistered Toyota Voxy (estimated value of K7 million) in Bago Township, a Nissan Diesel tractor head with a

trailer (estimated value of K76 million) carrying foodstuffs (worth K36.916 million) without official documents at the Myitnge checkpoint, four trucks (worth approximately K118 million) carrying consumer goods and industrial materials (valued at K168.59 million) without official documents at the Yadanabon bridge (Mandalay) checkpoint, a Yutong bus (worth approximately K45 million) carrying consumer goods (worth about K14.78 million) without official documents in Singaing Township, a Hino truck (estimated value of K40 million) carrying consumer goods (worth K10.18 million) without official documents on the Kyaukse Township detour, two buses (estimated value of K140 million) carrying industrial materials and consumer goods (worth K81.487 million) without official documents at the Milepost 366/6 on Yangon-Mandalay expressway and a Chenglong tractor head with a trailer

(worth K56 million) carrying foodstuffs (worth K203.35 million) without official documents in Kume Township on the old Yangon-Mandalay road. The action was carried out per Customs procedures.

Additionally, the combined on-duty teams seized consumer goods and industrial materials (worth K112.337 million) without official documents from six containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, industrial materials (worth K21.67 million) without official documents from two containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port and industrial materials (worth K1.99 million) without import licence at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk). The action was conducted following Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 32 arrests on 8 and 9 December, with an estimated value of K1.182 billion. — MNA/MKKS

# Global goods trade to expand at moderate pace in Q4: WTO

THE World Trade Organization's (WTO) Goods Trade Barometer released on Monday indicates that global goods trade continued to expand at a moderate pace in the fourth quarter of 2024.

The barometer, a composite leading indicator for global merchandise trade, records the latest reading of 102.7. Values above 100

indicate above-trend trade volumes, while values below 100 suggest that goods trade has either fallen below trend or is likely to do so in the near future.

According to the WTO, the latest reading suggests that trade will continue to grow steadily through the fourth quarter. However, the outlook is clouded by rising economic uncertain-

ty, including possible shifts in trade policy.

The barometer's component indices for automotive products (104.0), container shipping (105.8), air freight (102.9), export orders (100.5) and raw materials (100.5) are currently above trend. Only that for electronic components (96.5) is below trend. — Xinhua



A logo of the World Trade Organization (WTO) is seen in Geneva, Switzerland, on 5 April 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

# Japan's Jera, oil giant BP to merge offshore wind operations



Yukio Kani (L), global operations CEO and chair of JERA Co, and Murray Auchincloss, CEO of BP Plc, shake hands after agreeing to integrate their offshore wind operations on 9 December 2024. (PHOTO COURTESY OF JERA) PHOTO: KYODO

JAPANESE energy company Jera Co and British oil major BP plc said Monday they will merge their offshore wind operations at an equally owned joint venture to be set up around September 2025 in London, creating the world's fourth largest offshore wind operator.

The two companies will invest up to a combined \$5.8 billion by the end of 2030 in the venture to be called Jera Nex bp, which will have a potential net generating capacity of 13 gigawatts including that of projects under development, they said.

They aim to enhance competitiveness as inflation has driven up development costs of offshore

wind operations, with some operators opting to exit the market.

BP CEO Murray Auchincloss said in a joint statement that the deal will be the company's "strong vehicle to grow into an electrifying world, while maintaining a capital-light model for our shareholders."

Yukio Kani, global operations CEO and chair of Jera, said the partnership will "realize the potential of offshore wind globally, while positioning this business for long-term success."

The joint venture will initially focus on existing projects in Europe, Australia and Japan, they said. — Kyodo

# Experts call for investing in infrastructure to speed up industrialization in Africa

UNITED Nations (UN) and African Union (AU) experts have called for investing heavily in infrastructure development and strengthening global partnerships to speed up industrialization and economic transformation in Africa.

The appeal came Monday at

AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, during the opening of Africa Industrialization Week 2024 themed "Leveraging Artificial Intelligence, Green Industrialization, and Intellectual Property for Africa's Transformation".

Batanai Clemence Chikwene,

programme manager at the African Trade Policy Centre within the UN Economic Commission for Africa, said Africa needs to invest more in the infrastructure and energy sector to accelerate its advancement toward industrialization. — Xinhua

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (443N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (443N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-12-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## S Korean parliament OKs resolution calling for President Yoon's immediate arrest

SOUTH Korea's National Assembly Tuesday passed a bill to appoint a permanent special counsel to investigate insurrection charges against President Yoon Suk-yeol, as well as a resolution calling for Yoon's immediate arrest over his botched martial law declaration.

The bill, which was finally approved in a 210-63 vote with 14 abstentions, calls for an investigation into the embattled president, former Defence Minister Kim Yong-hyun, Army Chief of Staff Park An-su, who had been named to lead the martial law command, and other officials involved in imposing martial law on 3 December.

Lawmakers of the ruling People Power Party also cast their vote. Earlier, the party decided not to choose whether to vote for or reject the bill.

The list of those subject to the independent counsel investigation also includes Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, Counterintelligence Commander Yeo In-hyung and Choo Kyung-ho, former floor leader of the ruling People Power Party.



South Korea's National Assembly lawmakers vote on a resolution in Seoul, South Korea, 10 December 2024. South Korea's National Assembly passed a resolution Tuesday calling for the immediate arrest of President Yoon Suk-yeol and seven other officials over last week's botched martial law declaration.

**PHOTO: NEWSIS VIA XINHUA**

Unlike a regular special counsel probe, the president cannot exercise the right to veto a bill over a permanent special counsel. The president, however, can delay the appointment of the counsel. The National Assembly also passed a resolution Tuesday calling for the immediate arrest of President Yoon Suk-yeol and

seven other officials over last week's botched martial law declaration. The main opposition Democratic Party of Korea stated in the explanation of the resolution that President Yoon had the intention to subvert the National Assembly or make it unable to perform its duties, and could be listed as the ringleader

of the insurrection, and it is necessary to arrest him promptly.

Meanwhile, the Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials (CIO) Tuesday sought a preliminary arrest warrant for the former defence minister over his role in the short-lived martial law declaration by Yoon. — Xinhua

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Singapore launches initiative to restore 100,000 corals

SINGAPORE on Tuesday launched a project to restore 100,000 corals, starting with the cultivation of coral fragments in six specialized tanks on St John's Island off the southern coast, according to local media reports.

These tanks, capable of holding up to 3,600 coral fragments, or nubbins, will produce up to 10,000 corals annually. Over the next decade and beyond, the matured corals will be transplanted onto degraded reefs and vacant seabeds to establish new reef ecosystems. Initially spearheaded by researchers, the project will soon involve public participation, with members trained to grow and maintain the corals.

Singapore's coral reefs, home to 250 species of hard corals and a wealth of marine life, have suffered significant degradation over the years. — Xinhua

### Brazil's Lula undergoes surgery for brain haemorrhage

BRAZIL'S 79-year-old President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva underwent surgery for a brain haemorrhage related to a recent fall, hospital officials said Tuesday.

"The operation went without complications" on Monday night, and Lula was "doing well, under monitoring" in an intensive care unit, the Syrian-Lebanese Hospital in Sao Paulo said in a statement posted on the president's Instagram account.

The haemorrhage was linked to a fall Lula suffered on 19 October, the hospital said. Lula had hit his head after falling in a bathroom at the presidential residence in the capital Brasilia and received several stitches. He was admitted to the hospital's branch in Brasilia on Monday "to undergo an imaging exam after experiencing a headache", the hospital said. The exam found an intracranial haemorrhage. — AFP

## Iran, IAEA discuss latest situation of bilateral cooperation



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) shakes hands with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director-General Rafael Mariano Grossi before a meeting in Tehran on 14 November 2024.

**PHOTO: AFP**

IRAN and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have expressed their determination to continue bilateral interactions and collaborations, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said early Tuesday in a statement.

In a phone call on Monday night, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi and IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi exchanged views on the latest state of cooperation between the two sides within the framework of the safeguards agreement, said the ministry.

During the phone conver-

sation, Araghchi strongly criticized the "unconstructive" actions by some of the members of the IAEA Board of Governors in late November to pass an anti-Tehran resolution, saying it undermined Grossi's efforts to achieve progress towards resolving the safeguards issues between Iran and the agency.

He emphasized that while Iran did not hesitate to respond decisively to such actions, the country was still ready and determined to cooperate constructively with the agency within the defined technical framework. — Xinhua

# SPORTS

## Team Myanmar departs for match against Philippines

THE Myanmar national football team departed for Manila, the Philippines, on 10 December to compete in their second Group B match of the 2024 ASEAN Cup against the Philippines national team.

The delegation, led by team manager U Tin Myint Aung and head coach U Myo Hlaing Win, includes players such as goalkeepers Zin Nyi Nyi Aung, Pyae Phyo Thu, and San Set Naing; defenders Hein Phyo Win, The Hein Soe, Thiha Htet Aung, Nanda Kyaw, Latt Wai Hpone, Thura Soe, Aung Wunna Soe, and Ye Lint Htet; midfielders Wai Lin Aung, Zaw Win Thein, Myat Kaung Khant, Khaing Ye Win, Maung Maung Lwin, Lwin Moe Aung,

Thiha Zaw, Aung Naing Win, Ooka Naing, and Ye Yint Aung; and forwards Aung Kaung Mann and Yan Kyaw Htwe. The only change from the 23-player squad that faced Indonesia in the first match is the inclusion of goalkeeper San Set Naing, replacing midfielder Aung Hlaing Win.

Myanmar, placed in Group B alongside Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Laos, lost 1-0 to Indonesia in their first group match at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre on 9 December. The upcoming match against the Philippines will take place at Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila on 12 December at 5 pm Myanmar time. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar footballers sing the Myanmar national anthem during an international match. PHOTO: MFF

## Work to do for Barca and Atletico Madrid to assure top-8 finish in Champions League group

FC Barcelona and Atletico Madrid are in different moments of form as they prepare for vital UEFA Champions League ties on Wednesday night.

Barcelona, currently third in the 36-team group, has to play Borussia Dortmund and Benfica away from home before entertaining Atalanta, meaning it still has a lot of work to do to assure the top-eight finish that would see it qualify directly for the round of 16.

Meanwhile, Atletico has an easier calendar ahead of it, but needs to keep winning to climb from its current 15<sup>th</sup> place into the top-eight. Facing last season's finalist Borussia Dortmund, Barcelona coach Hansi Flick must be worried about his side's recent form in La Liga, which has seen it lose two and draw two of its last five games.

Part of the reason for Barca's problems is that a defence that looked solid at the start of the season is now starting to leak due to a packed fixture, with few options to rotate key players given the long-term injuries to Ronald Araujo and Andreas Christensen.

Araujo is on the verge of returning to action and will travel to Germany, although he is unlikely to play on Wednesday. Lamine Yamal, Raphinha and Robert Lewandowski will lead



Atletico Madrid's French forward (7) Antoine Griezmann (2R) attends a training session on the eve of the UEFA Champions League football match against Slovan Bratislava, at the club's training ground in Majadahonda on 10 December 2024. PHOTO: AFP

the Barca attack.

Atletico has what should be a much easier game when it entertains Slovan Bratislava, who travels after five defeats from five games in which it has conceded 18 goals and scored just four. — Xinhua

## Bowen eases pressure on West Ham boss Lopetegui to leave O'Neil in danger

JARROD Bowen eased the pressure on West Ham boss Julen Lopetegui as his superb strike sealed a vital 2-1 win that pushed Wolves manager Gary O'Neil closer to the sack on Monday.

In a showdown dubbed "El Sackico" due to the intense scrutiny surrounding the futures of Lopetegui and O'Neil, it was the Hammers chief who earned some much-needed breathing space thanks to Bowen's moment of magic.

Bowen bagged a priceless winner in the second half at the London Stadium, just moments after Wolves defender Matt Doherty had cancelled out Tomas Soucek's opener.

West Ham's first win in three games lifted them nine points clear of the relegation zone, while second bottom Wolves remain four points adrift of safety after their 10<sup>th</sup> defeat in 15 league matches.

In the aftermath of last week's 3-1 loss at Leicester, Lopetegui was reported to have survived a board meeting about his position.

But the Spaniard, who replaced David Moyes in the close-season, must build on this valuable victory over the team he managed in the 2022-23 season before he can fully relax. — AFP

## Japanese Olympic champions learn big lesson in Germany

WHILE many Japanese athletes have taken a long break after the Paris Olympics, men's wrestling gold medallists Nao Kusaka and Kotaro Kiyooka spent the fall in Germany competing against some of the world's best.

In the Bundesliga team competition, wrestlers train on weekdays and have matches on weekends.

Olympic Greco-Roman 77-kilogram champion Kusaka won all six of his matches in the 80-kg category, while 65-kg freestyle gold medalist Kiyooka went 5-1 in his 66- to 75-kg matches.

"It was an amazing atmosphere and changed the way I look at the world," Kusaka said. "I experienced what other Japanese wrestlers can't experience. I want to lead the way for Japanese wrestling."

Kusaka, 24, and Kiyooka, 23, felt the toughness of Bundesliga wrestlers.

The two also became more aware of their new fame as Olympic champions, as they were asked by many fans to sign autographs. — Kyodo



Supplied photo taken in the fall of 2024 shows Kotaro Kiyooka (L) wrestling in the Bundesliga team competition in Germany. (PHOTO COURTESY OF KIYOOKA) PHOTO: KYODO

S Korean parliament OKs resolution calling for President Yoon's immediate arrest  
PAGE 14



# WORLD

## Xi says China will continue to be biggest engine of world economic growth

**C**HINESE President Xi Jinping said on Tuesday China has full confidence to achieve this year's economic growth target and will continue to play its role as the biggest engine of world economic growth.

Xi made the remarks during a meeting in Beijing with heads of major international economic organizations, who are here to attend the "1+10" dialogue.

The foreign dignitaries included President of the New Development Bank Dilma Rousseff, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva, President of the World Bank Group Ajay Banga, and Director-General of the World Trade Organization Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.

Xi briefed the guests on the third plenary session of the 20<sup>th</sup> Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, especially the important measures recently adopted by China. He said that after more than 40 years of sustained and rapid development, the Chinese economy has ushered in a phase of high-quality development, contributing around 30 per cent to the world economic growth.

China will further opening-up to the outside world, proactively align with high-standard international economic and trade rules, and build a market-oriented, law-based and internationalized business



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with heads of major international economic organizations, who came here for the "1+10" Dialogue, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, 10 December 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

environment to provide more opportunities for and share more development dividends with other countries, he said.

China is willing to maintain dialogue, expand cooperation and manage differences with the US government, and push bilateral relations forward in the direction of steady, healthy and sustainable devel-

opment, Xi said, expressing the hope that the US side will work with China in the same direction.

"Tariff wars, trade wars and sci-tech wars go against the trend of history and the laws of economics, and there will be no winners," he said.

Noting the progress in the Belt and

Road Initiative (BRI) over the past decade, Xi welcomed international economic organizations to continue actively participating in the BRI cooperation and promote the modernization of all countries that features peaceful development, mutually beneficial cooperation and common prosperity. — Xinhua

## Polish Defence Minister refutes possible NATO troops deployment in Ukraine as speculations

POLISH Defence Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz on Tuesday dismissed statements about the potential deploy-

ment of NATO troops to Ukraine, calling such statements "speculations".

"These are all speculations. The

word 'speculations' suits the best, because there are proposals, one after another, sometimes from Finland, sometimes from elsewhere," Kosiniak-Kamysz told Poland's radio.

The minister recalled that the initiative to send NATO troops to Ukraine was first proposed in February by French President Emmanuel Macron. Kosiniak-Kamysz added that the issue regularly appears in media publications, especially after the US presidential election.

He clarified that NATO is not considering such actions as dividing Ukrainian territory into zones of responsibility or intercepting Russian missiles over Ukrainian territory. Earlier in the month, new EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas did not rule out that European countries could send troops to Ukraine to observe a possible ceasefire. — SPUTNIK



Polish soldiers take part in a military parade in Warsaw on Polish Army Day, 15 August 2024, to commemorate the anniversary of the 1920 victory over Soviet Russia at the Battle of Warsaw during the Polish-Soviet War. PHOTO: AFP

## SpaceX test fires Super Heavy booster for 7<sup>th</sup> Starship launch

SpaceX conducted a static fire of its Super Heavy booster on Monday to prepare for an upcoming seventh test flight of its giant Starship rocket.

During the static-fire test, SpaceX ignited 33 Raptor engines for the Super Heavy first-stage booster at the company's Starbase facility in the US state of Texas.

SpaceX has not announced a launch date for Starship's seventh test flight yet. The company completed its sixth test flight of Starship rocket on 19 November.

SpaceX's Starship spacecraft and Super Heavy rocket, collectively referred to as Starship, represent a fully reusable transport system designed to carry both crew and cargo to Earth orbit, the moon, Mars and beyond. — Xinhua