

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Myanmar and Belarus to strengthen diplomatic and trade ties

Both countries will further promote friendly relations and cooperation.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing shakes hands with Mr Uladzimir Baravikou, Hanoi-based Belarusian Ambassador to Myanmar during the latter's courtesy call on the former yesterday.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Mr Uladzimir Baravikou, Hanoi-based Belarusian Ambassador to Myanmar, at the SAC Chairman's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They frankly discussed further pro-

motion of friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries, enhancement of diplomatic relations and trade, increased cooperation in various sectors including education, agriculture, livestock breeding, pharmaceuticals, industries and tourism sectors, sending of students on excursion tours, sending

of scholarship students to study science and technology, and further cooperation in defence measures.

SAC Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe and officials were also present on the occasion. — MNA/TTA

Article

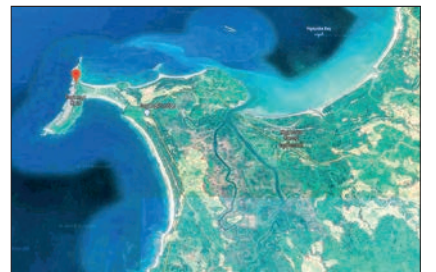
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NATIONAL

National Prosperity: Building a Peaceful and Stable Future for All

NATIONAL prosperity involves creating a peaceful and stable country where citizens can live, learn, and work with confidence under the rule of law.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the Union government meeting 4/2024 on 22 April 2024)

Myanmar's Thingyan Festival recognized as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture successfully campaigned for the Myanmar Traditional Ata Thingyan Festival, also known as the Myanmar Traditional New Year Water Festival, to be included in UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. A nom-

ination file was submitted to the UNESCO Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage on 24 March 2023.

The nomination was officially approved on 5 December 2024, during the 19th Session of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee, held in Asunción, Paraguay, from 2 to

7 December. This achievement marks the Thingyan Festival as the first cultural element from Myanmar to be recognized on this prestigious global list.

This recognition was made possible through collaborative efforts involving the Myanmar Cultural Heritage Preservation Association, ethnic

literature and cultural associations from various states and regions, civil society organizations, and active public participation.

The inclusion of Thingyan in UNESCO's Representative List brings multiple benefits. It enhances global recognition of the festival, ensures the pres-

ervation and transmission of this cultural heritage to future generations, fosters public appreciation for celebrating Thingyan in its traditional form, and provides Myanmar with valuable experience to nominate other cultural elements for similar recognition.

— MNA/TMT



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 4 December 2024)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the north Bay and over the east central Bay of Bengal, partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 5 December 2024: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region and (southern and eastern)Shan State. Degree of certainty is 60%. Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

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

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 December 2024: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 December 2024: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 December 2024: A few cloud. — DMH

Gawringyi Island welcomes 12,000 domestic visitors in Nov

GAWRINGYI Island, located in Nanthapu village, Ngaputaw Township, Ayeyawady Region, attracted 12,000 domestic visitors in November, according to the Myanmar Hoteliers Association (Ayeyawady Region).

Since early 2015, Gawringyi Island has been a popular tourist destination for both domestic and international travellers. However, it remains relatively difficult to

access, limiting visits mainly to those with private vehicles.

“Although the number of visitors is not as high as it was around 2020, interest in the island has revived this year. Unlike other beaches in Ayeyawady Region that attract visitors year-round, Gawringyi Island sees a noticeable increase in tourists during the dry season,” said an official from the Myanmar Hoteliers Association (Ayeyawady Re-


gion).

Most visitors to Gawringyi Island come from Yangon Region and the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, with some also travelling from other townships in Ayeyawady Region.

Currently, the island and its surrounding areas offer accommodation through one hotel, five bungalows, and six guest houses, catering to the needs of tourists. — ASH/MKKS



This Google Map locates Gawringyi Island.

အမျိုးသမီးများအပေါ် အကြမ်းဖက်မှုပျောက်ရေး(၁၆)ရက်တာ လှုပ်ရှားမှု
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“အမျိုးသမီးများအပေါ်အကြမ်းဖက်မှု ရပ်တန့်ဖို့ အားလုံးပေါင်းစု ကြိုးပမ်းလို့
ဘေဂျင်းကြေညာစာတမ်းနှင့် လုပ်ငန်းစီမံချက် နှစ်(၃၀)ပြည့်ဆီ အရောက်လှမ်းဖို့”

“ Towards 30 years of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action:
UNITE to End Violence Against Women”

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)

DPM MoCT Union Minister receives Russian State Duma Deputy Chairman



STATE Administration Council Member, Deputy Prime Minister, and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo received a delegation led by Mr Sholban Kara-Ool, Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, at the ministry yesterday.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on sector-specific cooperation, direct flights between Myanmar and

Russia, boosting tourism, and strategies to enhance investment and trade.

After the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation exchanged gifts.

Deputy ministers, the permanent secretary and departmental heads, the ambassador of the Russian Federation and other officials were also present on the occasion. — MNA/TS

State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo discusses with Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Mr Sholban Kara-Ool on the transport sector in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Year-long events planned for 75th China-Myanmar diplomatic ties

THE diamond jubilee of China-Myanmar diplomatic relations will be commemorated in 2025 with a year-long series of events as part of the diamond jubilee celebrations, according to an announcement made during the China-Myanmar Media Tea Party on 2 December at the Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region.

Minister-Counsellor Dr Zheng Zhihong of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar told Myanmar media in his remarks at the event that the Chinese embassy in Myanmar will carry out a series of commemorative activities in 2025, marking the 75th anniversary of the establishment of China-Myanmar diplomatic relations.

"The upcoming year, 2025, is a unique occasion as it marks the diamond jubilee of diplomatic relations

between Myanmar and the People's Republic of China. I would like to inform you that throughout 2025, we will be carrying out programmes to commemorate this milestone. These activities will benefit the education, social, economic, rural development, cultural, and media sectors, which will contribute to the peace and development of Myanmar. We plan to carry out these activities in both Myanmar and China," said Dr Zheng Zhihong.

The diplomatic relations between China and Myanmar were established when Myanmar recognized the establishment of the People's Republic of China on 8 June 1950. In June 1954, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar was opened in Yangon, and in December 1954, the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to China was opened in Beijing, China. — ASH/TH

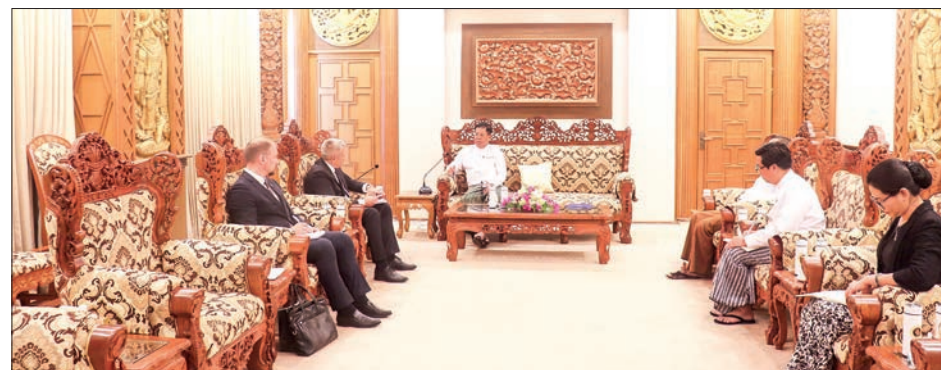
DPM MoFA Union Minister receives Belarusian Ambassador

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Than Swe received Mr Uladzimir Baravikou, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Both sides cordially exchanged views

on further consolidation of the existing ties of friendship between Myanmar and Belarus including commemorating the 25th Anniversary of diplomatic relations, expansion of bilateral cooperation in various sectors including trade, economic, social, cultural and tourism sectors, and the enhancement of cooperation through regional and international organizations.

— MNA



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe discusses with Belarusian Ambassador Mr Uladzimir Baravikou on bilateral relations and cooperation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

NATIONAL

MoTC team receives victory flag for 5th National Sports Festival participation



A flag handover ceremony for the Ministry of Transport and Communications sports team, which will participate in the Fifth National Sports Festival, took place yesterday afternoon at the Ministry's conference hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

human resources". He urged athletes to prioritize their individual health and injury prevention. The victory flag was then handed over to the sports team.

During the event, the Union minister emphasized that "the sports development can enhance the physical and mental capabilities of the nation's people and directly contribute to the development of

The ministry will compete in several sports, including men's football, men's futsal, men's and women's volleyball, men's Sepak Takraw, golf, and men's and women's athletics. A total of 103 athletes from the ministry will participate in the competition. — MNA/KZL

SAC Member DPM Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo presents the victory flag to the ministry's contingent yesterday.

MIFER Union Minister receives State Duma Deputy Chairman

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw received Mr Sholban Kara-Ool, Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, and his delegation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The two parties openly discussed matters related to bilateral cooperation in trading, investment, tourism, transport, energy and power generation, agricultural sector and other promising opportunities. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw receives Russian State Duma Deputy Chair Mr Sholban Kara-Ool yesterday.

DPM MoPF Union Minister meets contingent for National Sports Festival



DPM Union Minister U Win Shein delivers the speech during the meeting with athletes of the Ministry of Planning and Finance in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein met sports teams representing the ministry for the Fifth National Sports Festival yesterday afternoon at Office 34 in Nay Pyi Taw.

secondary; participation matters most." He highlighted the ministry's history of remarkable achievements in national-level sports competitions and urged athletes to strive for excellence, uphold the ministry's reputation, and contribute outstanding athletes to the nation. He also expressed hopes for their success in winning medals.

The Deputy Prime Minister encouraged participants to embrace the sportsmanship spirit of "winning or losing is

Following his address, team leaders briefed their training progress and readiness for the competition.

The Ministry of Planning and Finance will compete in six sports categories: football, futsal, golf, volleyball, Sepak Takraw, and athletics, with 115 athletes representing the ministry in the 2024 Fifth National Sports Festival. — MNA/KZL



NATIONAL

5th National Sports Festival: Group match fixtures in full swing

THE group stage fixtures of the Fifth National Sports Festival kicked off at the designated stadiums in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday.

Team contests for Sepak Takraw, basketball, futsal, volleyball, and football unfolded with remarkable performances.

In Inter-State and Region men's Sepak Takraw doubles, Bago defeated Mandalay 2-0, while Magway won 2-1 against Ayeyawady. Kayin, Yangon, and Shan claimed straight wins against Chin, Shan, and Mon, respectively. The Nay Pyi Taw team outplayed Rakhine 2-0, and Kachin edged out Kayah 2-1. Bago and Mandalay secured victories in further rounds. Kayin dominated Yangon 2-0, and Shan triumphed over Chin 2-0. Other matches saw Nay Pyi Taw outplay Mon and Taninthayi secure a 2-0 victory against Rakhine.

In Inter-State and Region women's Sepak Takraw doubles, Kayin defeated Nay Pyi Taw 2-0, while Magway and Yangon secured victories against Mandalay and Sagaing, respec-

tively. Rakhine, Mandalay, and Mon also demonstrated dominance in their games. Sagaing triumphed over Taninthayi 3-0, and Mon edged out Ayeyawady 2-1.

Inter-State and Region Basketball matches for players under 23 saw Mandalay outscoring

Nay Pyi Taw 83-30, and Sagaing defeating Taninthayi 79-32. Shan outperformed Kayah 70-34, and Kachin secured a decisive 75-26 win against Magway.

Inter-State and Region Futsal competitions at Wunna Theikdi showcased thrilling matches. Rakhine men's team

beat Kayin 4-2, while Magway dominated Mon 2-0. Shan registered a 5-1 victory over Sagaing, and Mandalay overwhelmed Kayah 6-0. Kachin had a commanding 10-1 win against Chin, and Yangon secured a 2-0 victory over Bago. The women's futsal matches were equally intense,

with Yangon defeating Kachin 1-0 and Nay Pyi Taw beating Bago 5-1.

In the Inter-State and Region volleyball event for players under 20, the Kayah men's team edged out Magway 3-2, while Nay Pyi Taw overcame Yangon with the same scoreline. Mandalay swept Mon 3-0. The women's matches saw Yangon dominating Ayeyawady and Sagaing beating Kayin in a close 3-2 contest.

In the Inter-State and Region football event for players under 21, Yangon triumphed over Magway 4-1, while Mon and Chin ended in a goalless draw. For women under 25, Bago and Rakhine concluded their match in a 2-2 draw, while Mandalay narrowly defeated Yangon 1-0.

The inter-ministry football matches highlighted the prowess of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, which defeated the Ministry of Energy 2-0. The Ministry of Defence demonstrated exceptional form with a 5-0 win against the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs. — MNA/KZL



Volleyball players from Mandalay and Mon compete during the Inter-State and Region volleyball tourney yesterday.



Basketball players of Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw in action.



Women volleyball players of Ayeyawady and Yangon in action.



Sepak Takraw women's (left photo) and men's (right photo) teams in action during the Inter-State and Region tourney yesterday.



Women's futsal players of Yangon & Kachin in action yesterday.



Footballers from Yangon & Magway (left photo) and Information Ministry & Electric Power Ministry (right photo) in action their yesterday's respective matches.



NATIONAL

China-Myanmar Media Tea Party highlights bilateral cooperation, future plans

THE China-Myanmar media tea party took place on 2 December at the Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region.

Media representatives from both countries engaged in extensive discussions on several significant topics. These included the visit of the State Administration Council (SAC) Chairman to China, the economic ties between the two nations, the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) economic cooperation meeting, people-to-people exchanges, and Chinese President Xi Jinping's participation in international forums such as BRICS, APEC, and G20.

The discussions also covered plans for celebrating the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Myanmar in 2025. The Chinese



This photo captures the China-Myanmar Media Tea Party being held in Yangon on 2 December 2024.

Embassy in Myanmar outlined its plans for commemorative activities to mark this milestone. Other topics included China's efforts to support peace and sta-

bility in northern Shan State and the reopening of trade posts along the Myanmar-China border.

During the event, Minis-

ter-Counsellor Dr Zheng Zhihong provided an overview of China's economic situation and ongoing reforms. He highlighted President Xi Jinping's participa-

tion in recent multilateral summits, where China reaffirmed its commitment to openness and regional collaboration. Dr Zheng emphasized the importance of enhancing political trust and strategic cooperation between China and Myanmar to benefit their people.

Dr Zheng also stressed the media's pivotal role in reporting on China-Myanmar relations and fostering mutual understanding. He expressed hope that such efforts would create a favourable environment for stronger ties between the two countries.

The event was attended by Dr Zheng Zhihong, officials from the Chinese Embassy, and over 20 journalists from China and Myanmar, including chief editors, editors, and reporters. — ASH/TMT

New 200K Kaiser butterfly stamp on sale from 6 Dec

ACCORDING to the Myanma Post, the new Kaiser butterfly postage stamp (K200) will be launched at 9:30 am on 6 December and sold simultaneously at all post offices in regions and states, including Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office.

A new K200 postage stamp for the Kaiser butterfly, which is a species recorded to be found in Myanmar and recommended by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, will be issued and sold by Myanma Post, on 6 December 2024 (6th waxing day of Nattaw, 1386 Myanmar Era) (Friday), starting at 9:30 am, at Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, Yangon General Post Office, Mandalay General Post Office and other region and state post offices simultaneously. As a special programme for postage stamps purchased on 6 December (Friday) at Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay post offices, the First Day Covers



A sample of the new Kaiser butterfly postage stamp.

will be stamped with a date stamp.

The stamps have been distributed to post offices in regions and states. Those who want to buy First Day Covers can contact U Nyi Nyi Lwin, officer-in-charge (Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office), 09 450000 226, U Aung Soe, officer-in-charge (Yangon Post Office); 09 424000458, and U Tin Maung Myint, officer-in-charge (Mandalay Post Office), 09 424000515. — MT/ZN

New drama series set to premiere on Mahar Application in Dec

THE new drama series 'Hnyoh', an original production by the Mahar Application, has completed filming and is scheduled to air in HD quality on the platform this month.

Nya Hmway Pann wrote the story, with scripts developed by Nya Hmway Pann, Mudra, and the Star Script teams. Director Aung Chan Luu oversaw the production of the Mahar Application.

Speaking about the series, Aung Chan Luu said, "This is a collaborative creation between Mahar and myself. I hope movie enthusiasts will enjoy it when it premieres. 'Hnyoh' is a drama series that will captivate viewers with its themes of sadness, grief, and enchantment".

The series will air at 7 pm on the Mahar Application throughout December in HD quality. It features a cast, including Kyaw Htet Aung, Htun Ko



This photo showcases the cast of the 'Hnyoh' dramatic series.

Ko, Banya Phone Pyae, Min Arkar, Zin Zin Zaw Myint, Htet Htet Htun, Khin Thazin, Daung Wai, Ye Yint Sithu Aung, Aung Lwin Moe, Myat Thurein Kyaw, and Aye Thida. — ASH/TKO

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News and Periodicals Enterprise



Over 7,000 fertilizer registrations actively processed

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has been scrutinizing applications to issue fertilizer registration under the approval of the Fertilizer Technical Body and 7,116 registrations are actively executed at present.

The Fertilizer Committee held its 43rd meeting on 2 December at the meeting hall of the ministry. Deputy Minister Dr Tin Htut for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, committee members and experts attended the meeting. The meeting focused on steering fertilizer registration, import and distribution.

The deputy minister addressed as chair of the committee that the committee has been assuring fertilizer production and import permit processes in line with the Fertilizer Law, bylaws and regulations to ensure quality fertilizer for growers.

He also welcomed suggestions to facilitate fertilizer access to growers in time for the growing season and ensure the right price, efficiency and quality of the fertilizer.

Afterwards, the secretary of the committee discussed registration matters and committee members reviewed them. At the meeting, 300 applications were evaluated. A total of 11,996 registrations have been granted so far as of the 42nd meeting. Yet, there is voluntary cancellation according to individuals' consent and revocation for expiration of validity. Thus, only 7,116 registrations are active for now. — NN/KK

MRF sells 38,000+ sacks of rice at fair prices in Nov

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) sold 8,717 rice sacks (108-pound) and 30,292 small 10-kilogramme sacks in November according to monthly reference prices set by the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce. Last month's sales figures were 34,728 rice sacks (108-pound) and 43,992 small 10-kilogramme sacks.

The distribution includes door-to-door delivery in Yangon and Mandalay cities, sales at supermarkets, 78 civil servant households in Yangon, 44 in Nay Pyi Taw, factories and 58 retail shops.

The ministry determined reasonable market prices by considering the following factors; fair profit for the farmers, millers and distributors, reasonable prices for consumers, last year's market price, global market prices and other commodity prices. There are separate reference prices for mod-



File photo shows the rice and paddy whole sale depot of the Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders' Association.

ern trade with consumer packaging at mini-marts and supermarkets.

If individuals have difficulty buying rice, they are urged to contact the Myanmar Rice Federation. The buyers can complain about overpricing to the Consumer Affairs Department and MRF.

MRF warned that overpricing,

sales with inaccurate measurement and quality and non-compliance with directives are subjected to fines, taxation and prosecution under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law. Thus, rice millers, rice shops, traders and merchants are encouraged to strictly adhere to the rules. — NN/KK

CBM injects over one million yuan into financial market on 3 Dec

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over 1.43 million yuan on 3 December and US\$38 million, 1.48 million yuan and 107.46 million Thai baht on 2 December.

CBM sold over \$59 million, over 280 million baht and 8.78 million yuan in November. CBM sold 16.54 million baht and announced the sale of 10 million yuan to

importers on 29 November.

CBM injected over \$91 million, over 9.8 million yuan and over 610 million baht into the financial market in October 2024.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and the currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been joining hands with law enforce-

ment agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

Oil palm cultivation exceeds 395,000 acres in Oct in Taninthayi

OIL palm cultivation has reached a total of 395,772 acres as of October 2024 in Taninthayi Region. As oil palm is a perennial crop, it is of vital importance to select the high-yielding seed for commercial farming for 30 years, said Daw Ingyin Khaing, head of the Agriculture Department in Myeik District.

There are six raw oil factories in the region, with one in Dawei Township, one in Myeik, two in Bokpyin and two in Kawthoung respectively.

Well-managed oil palm plantation is thriving after five years of plantation. Then, it will cover capital investment for the next three years. The business will flourish 20 more years as well. At present, hybrid oil palm seedlings that produce large amounts of oil can be locally produced.

A plan is underway to establish a palm



Aerial photo shows an oil palm plantation in Taninthayi Region.

oil refinery plant in the region that is fit for health. Only raw oil factories can be found, and 39 companies and 40 private farm

owners are executing oil palm cultivation in the region.

Perennial plant research and technol-

ogy development session, Perennial Crop Division of the Agriculture Department opened oil palm seed germination and hybrid production course on 2 December at the department in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region.

Daw Ingyin Khaing, head of the Agriculture Department in Myeik District gave a remark that "oil palm plantation can be cultivated only in Taninthayi Region (mostly in Myeik and Kawthoung areas) that can be found 10 degrees north and south of the equator.

"Hybrid seed production is crucial for this long-term business. Earlier, the seeds were imported from foreign markets. Now, hybrid seeds are locally produced. Therefore, this hybrid production method has played a pivotal role in this", she added. — Myint Oo/KK

OPINION

Thoroughly control measles to build a safe society

ACCORDING to the World Health Organization, measles affected more than 10.3 million people in 2023, representing a 20 per cent increase compared to 8.65 million cases in 2022. The rise in outbreaks is attributed to gaps in vaccination coverage, particularly in underdeveloped countries and those facing armed conflicts, as noted in a WHO press release on 14 November.

Measles is a common viral infection among children under five. It is highly contagious and can lead to severe complications. Last year, half of all measles infections were reported in African countries. While measles can be treated with two doses of the vaccine, global vaccination coverage has not yet reached all populations.

The world was already grappling with a measles crisis before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout history, medical scientists have saved millions of lives through their innovations and research. Despite total unaffordability against disasters and diseases, global people must defy the spreading of diseases as much as they can. Now, concerted efforts must be made to vaccinate people, especially children, against measles and other communicable diseases, in order to build a safer and healthier society.

among individuals aged 18 to 20, with 15 outbreaks reported. Currently, the government is running a regular vaccination campaign as part of its efforts to mitigate measles outbreaks and address public health challenges in Southeast Asia by 2030.

The world was already grappling with a measles crisis before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout history, medical scientists have saved millions of lives through their innovations and research. Despite total unaffordability against disasters and diseases, global people must defy the spreading of diseases as much as they can. Now, concerted efforts must be made to vaccinate people, especially children, against measles and other communicable diseases, in order to build a safer and healthier society.

Regardless of age, individuals who miss opportunities for adequate measles vaccination can be infected by the disease. Measles is primarily spread through coughing and sneezing. Medical experts also warn that the infection can be transmitted through contact with nasal and throat fluids from infected individuals, as well as through close contact with them.

According to WHO records, measles vaccination saved more than 60 million lives worldwide from 2000 to 2023. Despite the availability of safe and affordable vaccines, the number of unvaccinated children is rising due to reduced vaccine coverage globally. Tragically, measles claimed approximately 128,000 lives of people in 2021, 136,000 lives in 2022, and 107,500 in 2023. The majority of these fatalities were children under five who had not received the vaccination yet due to various reasons such as instability, armed conflicts, financial problems, outbreaks of disasters and poverty.

According to data compiled by the Department of Public Health in Myanmar, measles emerged as a pandemic in the country in 2011 and 2022. In 2013, the disease was particularly prevalent

ILLEGAL trade is defined by the World Trade Organization as the “production, purchase, shipment, transfer, possession, or distribution of goods that are classified as illegal according to international laws, as well as any activities aimed at encouraging such actions”.

When examining cases of illegal trade, two main methods emerge. The first method involves bypassing checkpoints or crossings at border trade routes, mixing them with legitimate imported goods, hiding them in storage, blending them with goods that are officially allowed to be transported, or hiding goods in passenger vehicles for concealment.

The second method involves transporting more goods than the authorized amount in domestic cargo ships, ports, and airports, mixing taxed and untaxed goods, undervaluing goods, and smuggling them in passenger luggage at international airports. Additionally, illegal goods are smuggled using e-commerce routes, where express delivery services are used to transport prohibited items in small packages.

These various methods of illegal trade lead to the entry of counterfeit medicines, fake branded goods, and substandard food products into the market. If consumers use these products, they could face fatal consequences, health risks, and long-

term diseases. Furthermore, the government loses significant tax revenue, which is detrimental to the state. Comparing trade volumes between neighbouring countries (e.g., Myanmar and Thailand), it is clear that illegal trade is prevalent as there is a considerable disparity in the trade statistics.

To prevent the loss of tax revenue due to illegal trade, the government reformed the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee to combat illegal trade in December 2021. Under the committee’s guidance, special task forces to tackle illegal trade have been established in regions and states, opening inspection stations along trade routes and carrying out effective inspections. Additionally, efforts have been made to educate traders, businessmen and transport associations to prevent involvement in illegal trade.

If illegal trade is not effectively controlled, it could harm the nation’s economic development and threaten public health, security, and social stability. To mitigate these harmful effects, it is crucial for the public to be aware of the severe consequences of illegal trade.

Therefore, the author would like to present the following key consequences of illegal trade to the public:

The first point is the impact on public health. The circulation of counterfeit medicines, substandard food products, and

Consequences of Illegal Trade

By Phoe Aung



Illegal trade is defined by the World Trade Organization as the “production, purchase, shipment, transfer, possession, or distribution of goods that are classified as illegal according to international laws, as well as any activities aimed at encouraging such actions”. **ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY**

cosmetic items has led to a rising incidence of cancer and skin diseases in Myanmar, as reported in health articles and seen on social media pages. Additionally, the use of poor-quality electrical appliances and other consumer goods can cause significant

harm to the public, resulting in widespread injuries and losses.

The second point is the impact on the country’s natural resources. Illegal extraction of natural resources such as minerals, timber, and other raw materials by unscrupulous individ-

uals, along with the smuggling and illegal transport of these resources, results in significant losses not only to the government but also to the people. The unregulated exploitation of natural resources leads to environmental degradation, con-

tributing to climate change and other natural disasters, which ultimately harm the public and cause widespread losses.

The third point is the loss of tax revenue that the government is entitled to. Revenue from taxes on trade is essential for funding the country’s development and infrastructure projects. However, if illegal trade increases, the tax revenue will be significantly reduced, impacting not only the government’s finances but also other sectors that rely on these funds. Additionally, managing foreign currency expenditures becomes more difficult, and this can destabilize the currency market, leading to broader economic instability.

The fourth point is the impact on domestic production caused by illegal trade. While the government has been supporting and promoting the development of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the country, illegal foreign goods make it difficult for these businesses to compete in the market, threatening their long-term survival. Moreover, some agricultural products that are illegally smuggled in from foreign countries have harmed

the interests of domestic farmers, leading to significant losses for the local agricultural sector.

The fifth point is the grave danger posed to the public by drug trafficking and the illegal production and distribution of narcotics. Those involved in such illicit activities, driven by selfish greed, do so without regard for human life. In border regions, where territorial stability is often weak, illegal armed groups are known to collaborate in the production and trafficking of narcotics. Such activities have been frequently reported in national news. The widespread availability of drugs has severely disrupted the potential for young people to pursue education, good health, and personal development, thus hindering their ability to fulfil their full potential. This problem also poses a significant threat to the future growth and development of youth and the nation. If the drug market expands further within Myanmar, it could have disastrous consequences for the entire population, undermining public health, social stability, and economic progress.

The final point is the threat to national security caused by illicit activities. At this moment, the State Administration Council is making significant efforts to ensure the nation’s security and stability. However, the illegal trafficking of weapons, explosives, communication devices, and other dangerous materials

to unauthorized armed groups is a severe threat to national security. Reports of these groups damaging public infrastructure — such as bridges, schools, and government buildings are frequent, leading to substantial harm to both the state and its citizens.

The aforementioned harmful effects of illicit trade pose significant barriers to national stability, the rule of law, and the progress of modern development initiatives. Therefore, it is crucial to inform the public about the severe consequences of illegal trade. The Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee on Combatting Illicit Trade has provided phone numbers and email addresses through national newspapers, Voice of Myanmar, and FM Radio, enabling citizens to report any illegal trade activities.

These reports can also be made to regional and state-specific anti-illegal trade task forces via phone, mail, email, or in person, with full confidentiality. The public should view the fight against illegal trade as a national responsibility and a patriotic duty. By actively participating and cooperating, citizens can contribute to the protection of the nation’s economic security and the country’s development. Together, we can work towards eliminating illegal trade, fostering the well-being and progress of the nation for future generations.

Brain stimulation can help injured people walk: study

Electrical brain stimulation helps spinal cord injury patients regain mobility, including climbing stairs.

SCIENTISTS said Monday that electrically stimulating a particular region in the brain could help people with injured spinal cords walk more easily, with one patient describing how the technique allowed him to conquer his fear of stairs.

The new technique is intended for people with spinal cord injuries where the connection between their brain and spinal cord has not been totally severed, and who still have some movement in

their legs.

Wolfgang Jaeger, one of two patients who took part in an early trial, said that it immediately made a “big difference” to his mobility.

“Now when I see a staircase with just a few steps, I know I can handle it on my own,” the 54-year-old said in a video released alongside a new study in the journal *Nature Medicine*.

The research was conducted by a Swiss team that has pio-

neered several recent advances, including using electrical stimulation of the spinal cord to let several paralysed patients walk again.

This time around, the researchers wanted to figure out which region of the brain was most responsible for people re-covering from spinal cord injuries.

‘I feel the urge to walk’
Using 3D imaging tech-

niques to map out the brain activity of mice with these injuries, the team created what they called a “brain-wide atlas”.

They were surprised to find that the brain region they were looking for was in the lateral hypothalamus, which is otherwise known as a regulator for arousal, feeding and motivation.

A particular group of neurons in this region “appears to be involved in the recovery of walking after spinal cord injury,”



The experimental technique hopes to help people with incomplete spinal cord injuries who still have some movement. **PHOTO: AFP**

neuroscientist Gregoire Courtine at Switzerland’s Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne told AFP.

Next, the team sought to amplify the signal from these neurons using a procedure called deep brain stimulation, which is commonly used to treat movement problems in people with Parkinson’s disease.

It involves a surgeon implanting electrodes in the brain region, which are connected to a device implanted in the patient’s chest. When switched on, the device sends electrical pulses up to the brain.

First, the team tested their theory on rats and mice, finding that it “immediately” improved walking, the study said.

The first human participant

of the 2022 Swiss trial was a woman who, like Jaeger, has an incomplete spinal cord injury.

Neurosurgeon Jocelyne Bloch told AFP that when the women’s device was turned on for the first time, she said: “I feel my legs.”

When they turned up the electrical current, the women said, “I feel the urge to walk,” according to Bloch.

The patients could turn on their device whenever they needed, and also went through months of rehab and strength training.

The woman’s goal was to walk independently without a walker, while Jaeger’s was to climb stairs by himself.

“Both of them reached their goal,” Bloch said.

SOURCE: Xinhua

NATIONAL



Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin receives Russian State Duma Deputy Chair Mr Sholban Kara-Ool yesterday.

MoRAC Union Minister receives State Duma Deputy Chairman

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin received Mr Sholban Kara-Ool, Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, and his delegation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Both sides exchanged views on the enhancement of cooperation in the religious and cultural sectors, plans to sign an MoU on the construction of the Russian Orthodox Church, Myanmar-Russia flights, the exchange of traditional culture and conservation. — MNA/KTZH

Russian State Duma Deputy Chair delivers lecture at Naypyitaw State Academy

STATE Duma Deputy Chair Mr Sholban Kara-Ool conducted a lecture titled "Russia and Friendly Countries in a Multipolar World" yesterday afternoon at Naypyitaw State Academy (NSA) for students.

The Russian ambassador and delegation, NSA Pro-Rectors Dr Nu Nu Lwin and Dr Soe Soe Aung, professors, departmental heads, faculty members, and students attended the event.

In his lecture, the Deputy Chair discussed key topics, including protecting national sovereignty, preserving cultural heritage, promoting national interests, and enhancing Myanmar-Russia cooperation in economic and trade sectors. He emphasized human resources development through postgraduate and language programmes in Russian universities. Furthermore, he highlighted opportuni-



Russian State Duma Deputy Chair Mr Sholban Kara-Ool speaks on a topic "Russia and Friendly Countries in a Multipolar World" yesterday at Naypyitaw State Academy.

ties for Russian students to study at Myanmar universities under mutual exchange programmes. The session concluded with an interactive questions-and-answers session where Mr Ka-

ra-Ool addressed participants' enquiries.

Later, the Deputy Chair met Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) Chair U Khin Yi at the party headquar-

ters in Nay Pyi Taw.

In the evening, the USDP chairman hosted a dinner in honour of the Russian delegation at the Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar, China to strengthen pragmatic cooperation in health sector



Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win and Minister of China's National Health Commission Mr Lei Haicho discuss cooperation in the health sector on 3 December 2024 in China.

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win attended the bilateral meeting with the Chinese delegation led by Minister of China's National Health Commission Mr Lei Haicho on 3 December in China.

During the meeting, the two parties openly discussed the special emphasis the Heads

of the two countries put on the traditional medicine sector; the donation of medicines, medical supplies and vaccines by China during the COVID-19 pandemic, cooperation of Myanmar CDC and China CDC, sending of Myanmar doctors, dentists, nurses and technicians to China for capacity building training aiming at promoting human

resources in health sector, and active participation of health sector in coming 75th anniversary of the establishment of Myanmar-China diplomatic relationships.

In the evening, the Myanmar delegation joined the dinner event hosted by the Chinese Health Minister. — MNA/KTZH

UCSB Chair receives State Duma Deputy Chairman, Belarusian Ambassador

UNION Civil Service Board (UCSB) Chairman U Aung Thaw, who is also the Myanmar-Russia Friendship Association Chairman, received the Russian delegation led by Mr Sholban Kara-Ool, Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

They openly discussed ongoing bilateral relations between the two countries, the participation of Russian observers in the forthcoming elections, the deployment of Russian interpreters in sharing international practices for holding elections and further mutual support between Myanmar and Russia.

The UCSB chairman also re-

ceived Mr Uladzimir Baravikou, Ambassador of Belarus to Myanmar, yesterday morning. The chairman and Belarusian ambassador planted a Ceylon ironwood tree in the UCSB office compound marking the 25th anniversary of the establishment of Myanmar-Belarus diplomatic relations.

The two parties discussed the holding of commemorative events marking the 25th anniversary of the establishment of Myanmar-Belarus diplomatic ties, promotion of bilateral relations through exchange trips of high-ranking representatives, strengthening cooperation in the trade, economy, culture and education sectors and enhancement of bilateral friendship. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Union Energy Minister receives State Duma Deputy Chairman

UNION Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin received the Russian delegation led by Mr Sholban Kara-Ool, Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on cooperation with Russian companies in promoting oil production rate using modern technologies in prolonged oil fields of Myanmar, investment in oil and gas exploration industry at inland and offshore blocks, potential of LNG distribution using the strategic location of Myanmar

and LNG connection using completed pipeline network, import of crude oil and petroleum products, investment of Russian companies in establishment of refineries and fertilizer factories in Myanmar and upgrading of the existing factories, effective cooperation in the energy sector and human resource development initiatives. – MNA/KTZH

Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin and Russian State Duma Deputy Chair Mr Sholban Kara-Ool discuss cooperation in the energy sector in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Small-Scale Industries Department receives LMC 2 projects



Attendees of the launching ceremony of the projects implemented under the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Special Fund (2024) pose for documentary group photo yesterday.

THE launching ceremony of the two projects implemented under the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Special Fund (2024) was held at Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe, Deputy Minister U Myint Soe, Second Secretary of Chinese Embassy in Myanmar Mr Zhang Zhonghua, invitees and departmental officials.

The Union minister said at the ceremony that the Small-Scale Industries Department received two projects funded by the LMC Special Fund “promo-

tion of raw crops based small-scale manufacturing” and “Promoting small-scale industries and upgrading digital skills of micro and small-scale enterprises for sustainable development of digital economy”, and these two projects will be implemented from September 2024 to August 2026.

These projects can bring benefits like producing quality and safe value-added food products, promoting the capacity of small-scale enterprises, widening the food safety knowledge of entrepreneurs and the public, promoting the socioeconomic status of rural people and supporting the MSMEs of the country.

The ministry received 15 projects with LMC Special Fund whereas nine projects were completed and the remaining projects are still in progress.

Under the “promotion of raw crops based small scale manufacturing” project, the Chinese experts will be invited to conduct ToT at the department, and the demonstrators of the department will open food production courses, MSME Business Plan Training and Food Safety Training for small scale entrepreneurs in rural and urban areas, conduct M&E and arrange a study tour to expand the knowledge of food manufacturing industry. — MNA/KTZH

K1,000-meal at KharU Restaurant attracts attention

A couple called Ko Tun Khin and KharU who are popular on social media opened a restaurant which sells K1,000-meal (rice + dishes) in Dala Township this month.

It was opened on 1 December and the K1,000 meal includes rice, a dish of meat, a dish of fried vegetables, a dish of soup and vegetables and fish paste.

“We would like to announce that the K1,000-meal KharU restaurant is now open near Dala Clock Tower and Dala Bridge. Our KharU team welcome our

fans and we heartily and warmly welcome customers to our restaurant,” Thwe Khaing Phyto also known as KharU wrote on her Facebook page.

Many people gave positive comments. “Amid all kinds of commodity prices rocketing, selling a meal which includes rice and dishes at K1,000 is not for commercial purpose but it is pure love and kindness. I appreciate as well as delighted for considering our people,” said a comment. – MT/ZS



This photo showcases the K1,000-meal KharU restaurant in Dala Township.

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NATIONAL

Triple cropping implemented in all irrigated farmlands in Bago Region

THE triple cropping system is being implemented in all irrigated farmlands in Bago Region under the guidance of the Head of the State.

In the 2024 summer paddy season, 39 dams supplied water to 425,700 acres of summer paddy fields in Bago Region in full, and are in standby mode to distribute water this summer. Triple crops like monsoon paddy, winter crops and summer paddy were cultivated in the region starting in 2023, and 19,860 acres of summer paddy were planted in Bago district among six districts, and the cultivation expanded to 26,325 acres in 2024.

In the region, the winter crops are being planted after the monsoon paddy, and the summer paddy 90-day species is grown between 1 February and March, and the water is fully provided from 1 February to the end of April. There are 39 dams in the region – eight in the Bago district, five in the Nyaunglebin district, eight in the Toungoo district, three in the Nattalin district, eight in the Thayawady district and seven in Pyay district. Moreover, irrigation water is also distributed from 66



Photos show Mazin dam and some boats rowing in Mazin dam. PHOTO: KANU

dams, diversion weirs and sluice gates including 13 diversion weirs and 14 sluice gates.

“We expanded the paddy cultivation in Bago Region year by

year under the guidance of the Head of the State starting from 2023. The triple cropping is being implemented in irrigated areas the instructions of the regional

chief minister. Currently, the winter crops are being cultivated and the third crop-summer paddy will be in the first week of February. We will fully provide irrigation

water. We also work with the Water User Association to maintain the water and all the farmers are also satisfied with our actions as they get water fully. The department is also happy when we see the green field after supplying irrigation water,” said an official of Bago District Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department.

The water from Kotukwe, Salu, Shwelaung, Mazin, Alini, Shwepyi 3, Wahkatoke and Zalahtaw dams is distributed to summer paddy fields in Bago District. The irrigation system supports the livestock and breeding sector including summer paddy to develop the socioeconomic status of farmers. The Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department lets water flow into distributors via diversion weirs to supply water to implement triple cropping.

The dams in the Bago Region supply water to farmlands and prevent floods in the rainy season. Now, the dam water purification system is also conducted to supply clean drinking water to locals. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

Counter-argument to false information

Allegation of drone attacks on two villages in Kalewa

SUBVERSIVE media outlets circulated false reports claiming that security forces conducted drone attacks on Mahtugyi and Mahtulay villages in Kalewa Township, Sagaing Region, resulting in three civilian deaths and four injuries.

An official from the security forces clarified the situation, stating that these allegations are baseless. According to the official, PDF terrorists were observed moving in groups near Mahtugyi village. Acting on a tip-off from a conscientious local who opposes terrorist activities, security forces conducted necessary measures. The operation successfully caused terrorists to retreat. There were no drone attacks on either village.

The official further noted that the spread of such misinformation appears to be an attempt by malicious media to create distrust between the local population and security forces, whose primary duty is to ensure territorial security. — MNA/TKO



The screenshot of Myaelatt Athan validates misinformation.

2-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K1.517B

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

On 2 December, the combined on-duty teams under the Customs Department impounded industrial materials (worth about K903 million) without official documents from 20 containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, industrial materials (worth about K235 million) without official documents from six containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port, and industrial materials (valued at K5 million) without official documents from luggage at the Yangon International Airport. The action was conducted per Customs procedures.

Additionally, on 3 December, the combined teams conducted inspections and seized smuggled consumer goods and foodstuffs (worth K10.953 million) that were piled up in the Sinphyu market in Muse Township, five unregistered vehicles (worth approximately K31 million) in Shwebo Township, three



Confiscated illegal industrial materials at Asia World Port, Yangon.

unregistered vehicles (estimated value of K39 million) at the Kantalu combined checkpoint, and an unregistered vehicle (estimated value of K60 million) at the Yadanabon bridge combined checkpoint in Sagaing Township. The action was taken under the Export-Import Law and Customs procedures.

The combined on-duty teams nabbed a Sulong bus (estimated value of K40 million) carrying foodstuffs (worth K38.4 million) without official documents at Milepost-39 on Yangon-Mandalay expressway, a Mitsubishi Fuso tractor head with

a trailer (worth approximately K53 million) carrying industrial materials (worth about K10 million) without official documents at the Myitnge checkpoint, and an Isuzu Giga tractor head with a trailer (worth approximately K76 million) carrying industrial materials (worth K11.38 million) near a Max petrol station in Paleik Township. The action was done following Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 29 arrests on 2 and 3 December, seizing illegal goods worth approximately K1.517 billion. — MNA/MKKS

With 12% market share, Delhi has become EV Capital of India

To boost EV adoption, the government has renewed its EV policy, offering road tax exemptions for electric vehicles.

DELHI Chief Minister Atishi Marlena has declared that the national capital has emerged as the Electric Vehicle (EV) capital of India.

Highlighting the city's progress in promoting clean and green mobility, she revealed that Delhi boasts the highest number of registered EVs in the country.

"Delhi has become the EV capital of the country.

Currently, 12 per cent of all vehicles registered in Delhi are electric. To encourage the adoption of EVs, we have recently renewed our EV policy, which includes exemptions on road tax for electric vehicles," said CM Atishi.

She further stated that the development of EV charging infrastructure is being expedited across the city to facilitate the growth of EV usage and

make it more convenient for residents to transition to sustainable transportation.

"The development of charging infrastructure is also progressing in Delhi to promote EV sales," she added.

This progress underscores the city's environmental goals to reduce vehicular pollution and transition towards cleaner energy solutions. — ANI



Delhi has become the EV capital of the country. PHOTO: ANI

Nvidia to support AI development in Thailand: govt

US chip giant Nvidia said Tuesday it would work with the Thai government to develop "world-class AI infrastructure" in the kingdom.

CEO and founder of the leading semiconductor design business Jensen Huang met Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra while on a visit to Bangkok, and the two agreed to deepen cooperation on artificial intelligence.

"Nvidia is ready to work with the Thai government to develop world-class AI infrastructure and to share best practices and technical expertise to support Thailand's AI projects," a statement released by the Thai government said.

It added the company had agreed to support over 50 tech startups and invest in AI training at universities. — AFP



Nvidia surpassed Apple in November to become the highest-valued company in the world. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Huawei sets up training centre for network professionals in Bangladesh

CHINA'S telecommunication giant Huawei recently set up a training centre here to enhance the skills of network professionals who work on Base Transceiver Stations (BTS).

This initiative highlights Huawei's commitment to strengthening the local BTS engineers

and workers and ensuring global Environment, Health, and Safety (EHS) standards of Huawei in Bangladesh.

The training centre will focus on empowering local BTS professionals, and channel partners by providing hands-on training and practical

knowledge on installing and commissioning BTS equipment, the company said in a statement received here on Wednesday. As part of its efforts, Huawei said it has recently organized a drill for subcontractors and BTS professionals to provide training on how to ensure EHS while installing

and commissioning BTS equipment in the training centre. "We have a commitment to empowering our partner telecommunication professionals by training them on the latest technologies," Pan Junfeng, president of Huawei South Asia and CEO of Huawei Bangladesh said. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UVAUS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UVAUS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-12-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (922N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (922N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-12-2024** 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:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



The mission is a collaboration between ISRO and NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), with Proba-3 being a technology demonstration mission by the European Space Agency (ESA). **PHOTO: ANI**

ISRO ready to launch PROBA-3 mission satellites from Sriharikota

This mission will showcase new technologies for precise satellite positioning.

THE Indian Space Research Organization is all set to launch the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)-C59/Proba-3 mission from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday.

The launch is scheduled from the first launch pad of the SDSC-SHAR at 4:08 pm Wednesday and will be carrying a payload of around 550 kilograms in a highly elliptical orbit.

The PSLV-C59 is a joint initiative between ISRO and

NewSpace India Limited (NSIL).

Proba-3 is a technology demonstration mission of European Space Agency (ESA). Proba-3 is ESA's and the world's first precision formation-flying mission. A pair of satellites will fly together, maintaining a fixed configuration as if they were a single large rigid structure in space, to prove innovative formation flying and rendezvous technologies.

As per the ESA, the mission will demonstrate forma-

tion flying in the context of a large-scale science experiment. The two satellites will together form an approximately 150-metre long solar coronagraph to study the Sun's faint corona closer to the solar rim than has ever before been achieved. Beside its scientific interest, the experiment will be a perfect instrument to measure the achievement of the precise positioning of the two spacecraft. It will be enabled using a wide variety of new technologies. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Spain's Canary Islands break migrant record in 2024

THE number of migrants arriving in Spain's Canary Islands by boat from West Africa hit a new annual record in 2024 for the second year in a row, official data showed on Tuesday.

With controls tightening in the Mediterranean, the Canaries route has become a favourite for people fleeing poverty and conflict in Africa, mostly on overcrowded, barely seaworthy vessels and without sufficient drinking water.

A total of 41,425 migrants entered the seven islands located in the Atlantic off the northwestern coast of Africa between 1 January and 30 November, Interior Ministry data showed. With one month of 2024 still to go, that is already more than the previous record of 39,910 migrants who arrived in the archipelago of 2.2 million people during all of 2023, a level that smashed the old mark set in 2006. — AFP

Syrian army launches counteroffensive against rebels

SYRIAN government forces launched a counterattack against Islamist-led rebels around the key city of Hama on Wednesday after suffering a string of staggering losses, a war monitor said.

Hama is strategically located in central Syria and for the army, it is key to safeguarding the capital and seat of power Damascus.

The fighting around Hama follows a lightning offensive by the Islamist-led rebels who in a matter of days seized swathes of territory from President Bashar al-Assad's control. Key in the rebels' successes since the start of the offensive last week has been the takeover of Aleppo, Syria's second city, which in more than a decade of war had never fallen from government hands. — AFP

South Africa launches historic G20 presidency with commitment to global inclusivity, sustainability

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa officially launched the country's G20 presidency on Tuesday, declaring the country's commitment to fostering a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable world.

Speaking at the official launch of South Africa's G20 presidency in Cape Town, the country's legislative capital, Ramaphosa highlighted South Africa's assumption of the presidency on 1 December, a historic milestone as the first African nation to lead this influential group of the world's largest economies.

"South Africa's G20 presidency takes place at a moment in which the world is facing severe challenges, including climate change crisis, inequality and poverty, subdued outlook for global economic growth, and geopolitical instability," he said. "Working together with G20 members and building



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa speaks during the official launch of South Africa's G20 presidency in Cape Town, South Africa, on 3 December 2024. **PHOTO: XABISO MKHABELA/XINHUA**

partnerships across society, South Africa will seek to harness global will and capabilities to confront these challenges."

Specifically, the country will lead the group to seek inclusive economic growth, achieve global justice, eradi-

cate poverty and hunger, and combat climate change for a sustainable future, he said, adding that reflecting this ambition, South Africa has adopted the theme "Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability" for its presidency. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Myanmar, Netherlands boxers in 3MA Amateur-6 competition

THE 3MA Amateur-6 competition is scheduled to take place on 22 December at 1 pm at the ANS Boxing Gym in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region, featuring 15 matches.

The event will include five boxing matches in weight categories such as 54-57 kilograms (Shine Nge versus Zaw Zaw Naing), 84-87 kilograms (Cin Za Lian versus Wai Hyan Pyaesone), 50-53 kilograms (Dwel San versus Chit Lin Naing), 57-60 kilograms (Salaing versus Boxer Shine), and 63-67 kilograms (Ye Min Htet versus Sai Lein Pha).

In kickboxing, there will be six matches, including a notable bout in the 75-78 kilogrammes category between Agga (Myanmar) and Roy (Netherlands). Other matches include Lar Kapaw vs Hein Htut Kyaw (52-55 kilogrammes), Thet Htar San versus May Zon Hlaing (49-52 kilogrammes), Moke Lone versus Nga Ye (67-70 kilogrammes), Khant Htoo Naing versus Tama Kyar (62-65 kilogrammes), and Star versus Htet Pyae Aung (49-52 kilogrammes).

For MMA, four matches will take place, with high-

lights like Kyaw Wai Yan versus Rain Lay (60-63 kilogrammes), Aung Hein Swan versus Min Hla Min Kaung (64-67 kilogrammes), Sar Lawla versus Naw Naw (62-65 kilogrammes), and Kyar Lay versus Lwin Phyto Thant (50-53 kilogrammes).

Athletes representing various townships across Myanmar will participate in the event, which will be broadcast live on SkyNet. Entry fees have been set at K20,000. — Arkar Linn/KZL

Scheduled fights for boxers.



Sumo association to show off sport in London next October



Wakamotoharu (L) defeats Takakeisho on Day 3 of the New Year Grand Sumo Tournament at Tokyo's Ryogoku Kokugikan on 16 January 2024. PHOTO: KYODO

LONDON will witness elite sumo wrestlers in action as well as the ancient sport's pageantry, the Japan Sumo Association said Tuesday in announcing its first tour to the city in 34 years.

Speaking to a press conference at London's Royal Albert Hall, the venue for the association's 1991 visit, JSA president Hakkaku said next year's event will take place from 15 to 19 October, and will include matches between top-level wrestlers as well the sport's ring-entering ceremony.

The overseas tour will be the JSA's 14th and its first since a 2005 visit to Las Vegas. Five other sumo events abroad have been staged since 2006, but these were not run by the association. — Kyodo

Djokovic to play in Brisbane International ahead of 2025 Australian Open

NOVAK Djokovic will open his 2025 season at the Brisbane International in the lead-up to the Australian Open.

Organizers of the Brisbane International on Wednesday announced that Djokovic will headline the 2025 tournament alongside women's world No 1 Aryna Sabalenka.

It will mark the first time that Djokovic plays in the tournament since 2009,

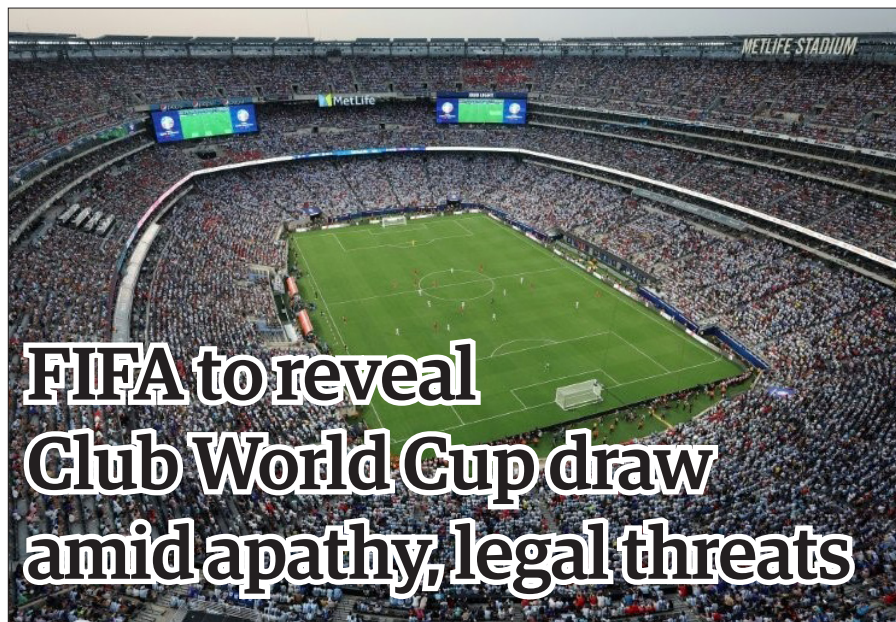
and if he wins the tournament, that will be his 100th tour title.

He will be joined in the men's draw by fellow top-20 players like Grigor Dimitrov, Holger Rune and Frances Tiafoe, as well as local hopes Nick Kyrgios, Alexei Popyrin and Jordan Thompson.

On the women's side, Sabalenka, the reigning Australian Open champion, is one of 11 top-20 ranked players in the

draw, which also features China's Yuan Yue, Wang Xinyu and Wang Yafan.

"We are thrilled to have Novak headlining the Brisbane International 2025 along with world No 1 Aryna Sabalenka," tournament director Cam Pearson said in a statement. "This is by far the strongest field the tournament has seen with 15 of the top-20 men and women players confirmed," he added. — Xinhua



The MetLife Stadium in New Jersey will host the final of next year's FIFA Club World Cup. PHOTO: AFP

THE draw for the expanded FIFA Club World Cup takes place in Miami on Thursday, offering a first glimpse into the fine detail of a tournament that has

been viewed with indifference or even outright hostility across parts of the football world.

Thirty-two star-studded club teams

will battle it out in gleaming state-of-the-art arenas in what is effectively a curtain-raiser for the 2026 World Cup taking place a year later in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

In theory, the new-look competition ought to be an enticing prospect that sells itself: a month-long football festival, the first large-scale club tournament to feature teams from all corners of the globe.

Yet for many, FIFA president Gianni Infantino's passion project is a tournament too far, an unwelcome addition to an already crowded global calendar that exhausted players say has pushed them close to breaking point.

The loudest antipathy towards the tournament, and FIFA, has come from Europe. In October, an umbrella grouping of top European leagues, together with the players' union, FIFPro, filed a legal complaint to the European Commission accusing FIFA of abusing its position over its handling of the international fixture calendar. — AFP



South Korean lawmakers watch screens showing a news broadcast of President Yoon Suk Yeol's speech on lifting martial law, at the main conference hall of the National Assembly in Seoul, early on 4 December 2024. PHOTO: YONHAP/AFP

S Korea's opposition parties submit motion to impeach president

The motion, backed by 191 lawmakers from the Democratic Party and five smaller opposition parties, is set to be reported to the plenary session on Thursday, with a vote expected between Friday and Saturday.

SOUTH Korea's opposition parties on Wednesday submitted a motion to impeach President Yoon Suk-yeol who declared an emergency martial law Tuesday night and lifted it early Wednesday after the National Assembly voted against the martial law.

A total of 191 lawmakers from the main liberal opposition Democratic Party and five other minor opposition parties proposed the motion to oust Yoon

from office.

The opposition parties planned to report the motion to the plenary session on Thursday and vote on it between Friday and Saturday, according to multiple media outlets.

By law, the 300-member unicameral parliament is required to cast a secret vote on the impeachment motion within 72 hours after the motion is suggested to the plenary session.

The constitution stipulates that the impeachment motion must be initiated by a majority of lawmakers and approved by at least two-thirds of National Assembly legislators.

If the motion is passed through the parliament with the vote in favour of the impeachment from over 200 lawmakers, the constitutional court will deliberate it for up to 180 days, during which Yoon will be suspended. — Xinhua

ASSET RECOVERY CAPABILITY

Sri Lanka to introduce bills on preventing financial crimes

Sri Lankan Justice Minister Harshana Nanayakkara told Parliament on Wednesday that three crucial bills aimed at recovering stolen assets, deterring financial crimes, and safeguarding the rights of creditors and debtors will be introduced to Parliament next year.

The bills, which include the Proceeds of Crime Bill, the Rescue, Rehabilitation & Insolvency Bill, and amendments to the Audit Act, are set to be presented early next quarter, the minister said.

These three legislations, he said, will enhance the country's ability to trace and recover stolen assets, while also reinforcing measures to prevent financial crimes.

Additionally, the proposed amendments to the Audit Act aim to boost creditor confidence and provide better protection for debtors' rights, ensuring a fairer and more transparent financial system.

"These legislations are integral to reinforcing the integrity of our financial systems, supporting economic stability, and ensuring that both creditors and debtors are treated fairly," Minister Nanayakkara said.

He said the government is taking significant steps toward strengthening Sri Lanka's legal and economic frameworks in the coming year. — Xinhua

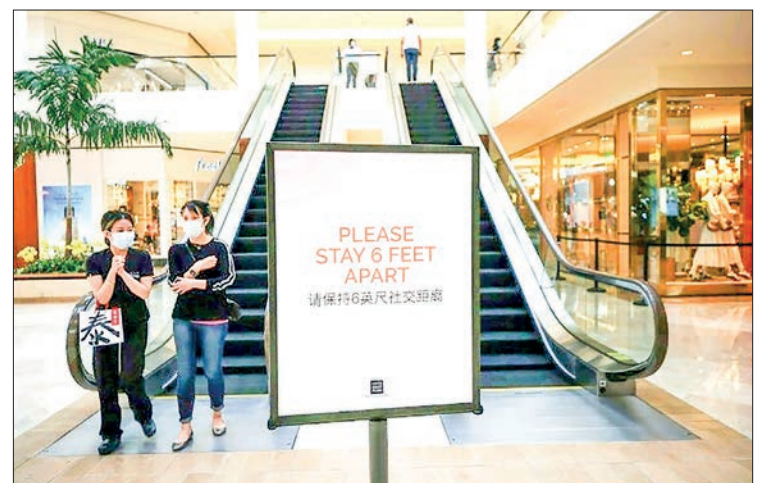
US Congress admits over \$250B in COVID-19 aid stolen by fraudsters

MORE than \$250 billion were stolen in the United States as a result of fraudulent schemes in government aid payments during the coronavirus pandemic, according to a report by US congressmen following a two-year investigation.

"Fraudsters cost the American taxpayer more than \$191 billion dollars by taking advantage of the federal government's unemployment system and exploiting individuals' personally identifiable information," the report, published by the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, says.

In addition, at least \$64 billion in US government money was stolen by fraudsters and criminals who took advantage of the so-called "Paycheck Protection Programme," which provided Americans with financial assistance in the form of loans that could be forgiven if the funds were used to compensate for the difficulties caused by the pandemic.

Another \$200 million was "lost" due to insufficient control over support for small businesses. — SPUTNIK



Shoppers walk near a sign about social distancing at a mall in Costa Mesa, California, in August 2020. PHOTO: AFP/FILE