

## DSMA graduates medical officers in 25<sup>th</sup> Intake

Military medical officers must provide better healthcare services for the people with contributions to the daily socioeconomic security.



State Administration Council Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing presents the Best Cadet Award at the DSMA 25<sup>th</sup> Intake passing out parade in Yangon.

**T**he Senior General stressed the need for those cadets to participate in the health sector improvement process of the State in addition to serving the original duties of the medical services corps in relevant assigned areas.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address at the passing out parade of the 25<sup>th</sup> Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy at the DSMA parade ground in Yangon yesterday morning.

Taking the salute of

cadet battalions, the Senior General inspected the graduate cadet company. Cadet companies marched past the Senior General.

The Senior General presented the Best Cadet Award to cadet Kaung Myint Myat Tun, an Excellent Award in Training to cadet Thaw Zin Oo and an Excellent Award in Studies to cadet Aung Ko Ko Lat.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said: Expertise and healthcare services of Tatmadaw medical officers are important for the health and fitness of Tatmadaw members as well as strengthening of the Tatmadaw, contributing to the high defence capacity of the State on the other hand.

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### Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the passing out parade of DSMA 25<sup>th</sup> Intake

1. While providing medical treatment with the use of medical knowledge for patients with compassion and noble spirit, they have to serve military operation and security duties with sacrifice of life to maintain the fine traditions of Tatmadaw.
2. Expertise and healthcare services of Tatmadaw medical officers are important for the health and fitness of Tatmadaw members as well as the strengthening of the Tatmadaw, contributing to the high defence capacity of the State on the other hand.
3. Tatmadaw must participate in providing better healthcare services for the people and contribute to the daily socioeconomic security of the people, in line with the motto: "Nothing is more important than human life".

## Article

Spill-over thoughts on Manle Sayadaw and Ledi Sayadaw's discourses on tea-drinking

By Myint Zan

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YGEA announces necessary documents to seek gold trading licence

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Taninthayi Region welcomes 850,000 visitors in Jan-Nov



# NATIONAL

## Boosting GDP: The Interconnected Growth of Agriculture, Industry, and Services

Agriculture, industry, and service sectors all support the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The agricultural sector, which includes agriculture, livestock, and forest products, is interrelated with the other industries and must be developed. Successfully advancing the agriculture and livestock sectors will help develop the industrial and service sectors, thereby increasing the State's GDP.

*(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Union government meeting 5/2024 on 5 July 2024)*

## DSMA 25<sup>th</sup> Intake graduate cadets commissioned at ceremony



A graduate cadet receives the officer commissioning certificate at the commissioning ceremony for the 25<sup>th</sup> Intake of the Defence Services Medical Academy in Yangon yesterday.

THE commissioning ceremony for the 25<sup>th</sup> Intake of the Defence Services Medical Academy (DSMA) took place yesterday morning at the DSMA convocation hall. The event was attended by Lt-Gen Lin Aung, Military Appointment-General of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief

(Army), senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, DSMA Commandant Brig-Gen Soe Nyunt, and the graduating cadets.

As per the ceremony's agenda, Lt-Gen Lin Aung, senior Tatmadaw officers, and the DSMA commandant

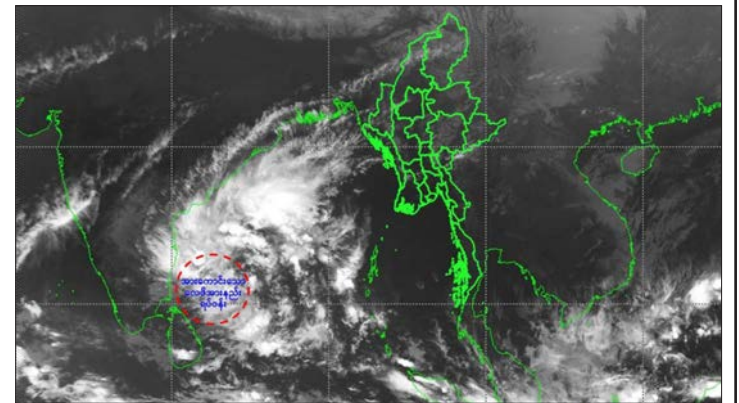
took their places on the stage. Lt-Gen Lin Aung then presented commissioning certificates to each of the graduating cadets.

Following the presentation of certificates, Lt-Gen Lin Aung delivered a speech, before concluding the ceremony. — MNA/TKO

## Well Marked Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (19:00) hours MST on 18 December 2024

ACCORDING to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the Well Marked Low-Pressure Area over Southwest Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to move northwestwards and reach to North Tamil Nadu and South Andhra Pradesh Coasts, India during the next 24 hours. Thereafter, it is likely to move nearly northwards and move along Andhra Pradesh Coast during the 48 hours. — DMH



## Gold Market Rate as of 18 December 2024

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with a density of 19.25 and above is K5,330,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

## DSMA convenes 25<sup>th</sup> convocation

THE convocation of the 25<sup>th</sup> Intake of the Defence Services Medical Academy (DSMA) was held at the DSMA convocation hall in Yangon yesterday.

Commandant Brig-Gen Soe Nyunt, Rector Brig-Gen Khin Aung Tun, and faculty members attended the ceremony. The convocation began with the National Anthem. Subsequently, the rector announced the commencement of the con-

vocation and led the graduates in pledging to abide by the code of conduct.

Following this, the rector presented certificates to the graduate cadets, allowing them to wear academic regalia corresponding to their degrees, and signed the convocation record book. The commandant then delivered the convocation speech and concluded the event.

The honours and aca-

demical awards conferred upon these cadets were determined through an assessment process involving the rector, professors, and department heads of the DSMA, along with rectors, professors, and examiners from medical universities nationwide. DSMA's curriculum is aligned with other medical universities, ensuring the credit and distinction align with the broader medical curriculum. — MNA/KTZH



Rector Brig-Gen Khin Aung Tun presents a degree certificate to a bachelor's degree graduate in Yangon yesterday.



# 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)*

## DSMA Intake 25 graduate officers honoured with dinner

State Administration Council Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the graduation dinner of the 25<sup>th</sup> intake of Defence Services Medical Academy at the assembly hall of the DSMA Convocation Hall in Yangon yesterday evening.

Also present at the dinner were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of the Senior General, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and his wife, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, Union ministers, the Yangon Region chief minister, the

Yangon Command commander and officials.

The Senior General cordially greeted the graduate officers at the dinner and had dinner together with the graduate officers and dignitaries.

The Senior General and party presented cash awards to the DSMA military band which performed music at the dinner.

The Senior General and party together with graduate officers enjoyed the entertainment of the Myawady Entertainment Troupe at the convocation hall. — MNA/TTA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets graduate officers at yesterday's dinner in Yangon.



## DSMA graduates medical officers in 25<sup>th</sup> Intake



The Senior General inspects the cadet companies at the passing out parade of the 25<sup>th</sup> Intake of the Defence Services Medical Academy in Yangon yesterday.

### FROM PAGE 1

He continued that they have to continuously pursue advanced medical knowledge based on medical education given by the DSMA to become qualified medical scientists to be able to keep abreast of international military medical scientists.

The Senior General stressed the need for the cadets to participate in the health sector improvement process of the State in addition to serving the original duties of the medical services corps when they arrive in relevant assigned regions.

He noted that Tatmadaw has to take part in giving better healthcare services for the people and contribute to daily socioeconomic security of the people in accord with the motto: "Nothing is important more than human life".

The Senior General underscored that while providing medical treatment with the use of medical knowledge for patients with compassion and noble spirit, they have to serve military operation and security duties with sacrifice of life to maintain the fine traditions of Tatmadaw.

He pointed out that Myanmar society will recognize Tatmadaw medical officers as good men who are willing to make sacrifices for the many.

As military medical officers have to serve duties similar to infantry Tatmadaw members in defence and security duties of the State as well as military operations, they must try their best to become military leaders who can apply military manoeuvres, he added.

The Senior General left the parade ground after taking a salute of the cadet

companies.

Also present at the parade were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of the Senior General, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zeya Kyaw Htin Htein Win and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Zeya Kyaw Htin Sithu Tun Aung and his wife, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, Union ministers and their wives, the Yangon Region chief minister and his wife, the Yangon Command commander, officials, parents and relatives of graduate cadets.

After the parade, the Senior General met outstanding cadets and their parents at the DSMA parlour.

At the meeting, the Senior General urged those cadets to serve the people with medical expertise and lead the people by applying academic knowledge. They have to pay back gratitude to faculty members of the academy, Tatmadaw and the State as a good soldier as well as a medical doctor. Moreover, the cadets were advised to build up their lives with high capacity to achieve success along their lives, to be good leaders and to take on great responsibilities. — MNA/TTA



# NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
State Administration Council  
**Order 52/2024**

3<sup>rd</sup> Waning of Nattaw 1386 ME  
18 December 2024

**Appointment and Duty Assignment of Deputy Prime  
Minister and Union Minister**

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned Admiral Tin Aung San to the duties of Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for the Office of the Prime Minister under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,  
Aung Lin Dwe  
General  
Secretary

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
State Administration Council  
**Order 53/2024**

3<sup>rd</sup> Waning of Nattaw 1386 ME  
18 December 2024

**Appointment and Duty Assignment of Deputy Prime  
Minister and Union Minister**

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned General Maung Maung Aye to the duties of Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Defence under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,  
Aung Lin Dwe  
General  
Secretary

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
State Administration Council  
**Order 54/2024**

3<sup>rd</sup> Waning of Nattaw 1386 ME  
18 December 2024

**Formation of Industrial Development Commission**

1. To implement the development of the industrial sector in full swing, the State Administration Council has established the Industrial Development Commission with the following persons: -

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| (a) General Mya Tun Oo<br>Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister<br>for Transport and Communications | Chairman      |
| (b) Dr Charlie Than<br>Union Minister for Industry   | Vice-Chairman |
| (c) U Khin Maung Yi<br>Union Minister for Natural Resources<br>and Environmental Conservation          | Member        |
| (d) U Nyan Tun<br>Union Minister for Electric Power  | Member        |
| (e) U Ko Ko Lwin<br>Union Minister for Energy  | Member        |
| (f) Dr Myo Thein Kyaw<br>Union Minister for Science and Technology                                     | Member        |
| (g) U Myo Thant<br>Union Minister for Construction   | Member        |

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| (h) Maj-Gen Toe Yi<br>Deputy Minister for Home Affairs   | Member    |
| (i) Daw Than Than Lin<br>Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance  | Member    |
| (j) Dr Wah Wah Maung<br>Deputy Minister for Investment<br>and Foreign Economic Relations                                 | Member    |
| (k) U Myint Soe<br>Deputy Minister for Cooperatives<br>and Rural Development   | Member    |
| (l) U Win Shein<br>Deputy Minister for Labour  | Member    |
| (m) U Min Min<br>Deputy Minister for Commerce  | Member    |
| (n) Maj-Gen Zaw Naing Oo<br>Director from the Directorate of Military<br>Engineers                                       | Member    |
| (o) U Aye Win<br>President of the Republic of<br>the Union of Myanmar Federation<br>of Chambers of Commerce and Industry | Member    |
| (p) U Yin Maung Nyunt<br>Deputy Minister for Industry  | Secretary |

2. The duties and authorities of the Industrial Development Commission will be announced separately.

By order,  
Aung Lin Dwe  
General  
Secretary

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# NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
State Administration Council  
**Order 55/2024**

3<sup>rd</sup> Waning of Nattaw 1386 ME  
18 December 2024

**Formation of Electricity and Energy Development  
Commission**

1. The State Administration Council has formed the Electricity and Energy Development Commission with the following persons to accelerate the development of the electricity and energy sector: -

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| (a) Admiral Tin Aung San<br>Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister,<br>Office of the Prime Minister | Chairman        |
| (b) U Nyan Tun<br>Union Minister, Ministry of Electric Power  | Vice-Chairman 1 |
| (c) U Ko Ko Lwin<br>Union Minister, Ministry of Energy  | Vice-Chairman 2 |
| (d) Dr Kan Zaw<br>Union Minister, Ministry of Investment<br>and Foreign Economic Relations            | Member          |
| (e) U Min Naung<br>Union Minister, Ministry of Agriculture,<br>Livestock and Irrigation               | Member          |
| (f) U Hla Moe<br>Union Minister, Ministry of<br>Cooperatives and Rural Development                    | Member          |

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| (g) U Khin Maung Yi<br>Union Minister, Ministry of Natural<br>Resources and Environmental Conservation | Member          |
| (h) Dr Charlie Than<br>Union Minister, Ministry of Industry  | Member          |
| (i) U Tun Ohn<br>Union Minister, Ministry of Commerce  | Member          |
| (j) Dr Myo Thein Kyaw<br>Union Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology                            | Member          |
| (k) Maj-Gen Ko Lay<br>Deputy Minister, Ministry of Defence   | Member          |
| (l) Maj-Gen Toe Yi<br>Deputy Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs  | Member          |
| (m) U Min Htut<br>Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning and Finance                                    | Member          |
| (n) Maj-Gen Zaw Naing Oo<br>Director, Directorate of Military Engineers,<br>Ministry of Defence        | Member          |
| (o) U Hla Win Htay<br>Secretary, Myanmar Engineering Council   | Member          |
| (p) U Aye Kyaw<br>Deputy Minister, Ministry of Electric Power  | Secretary       |
| (q) U Thant Sin<br>Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy   | Joint Secretary |

2. The duties and authorities of the Electricity and Energy Development Commission will be announced separately.

By order,  
Aung Lin Dwe  
General  
Secretary

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
State Administration Council  
**Order 56/2024**

3<sup>rd</sup> Waning of Nattaw 1386 ME  
18 December 2024

**Formation of Agriculture and Livestock Development  
Commission**

1. The State Administration Council has established the Agriculture and Livestock Development Commission with the following persons to accelerate the development of the agriculture and livestock sectors: -

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| (a) General Nyo Saw<br>State Administration Council Member   | Chairman      |
| (b) U Min Naung<br>Union Minister<br>Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation                   | Vice-Chairman |
| (c) Dr Kan Zaw<br>Union Minister<br>Ministry of Investment and<br>Foreign Economic Relations             | Member        |
| (d) U Hla Moe<br>Union Minister<br>Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development                        | Member        |
| (e) U Khin Maung Yi<br>Union Minister<br>Ministry of Natural Resources<br>and Environmental Conservation | Member        |
| (f) Dr Charlie Than<br>Union Minister<br>Ministry of Industry  | Member        |
| (g) U Tun Ohn<br>Union Minister<br>Ministry of Commerce  | Member        |

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| (i) Maj-Gen Toe Yi<br>Deputy Minister<br>Ministry of Home Affairs                              | Member          |
| (j) U Min Htut<br>Deputy Minister<br>Ministry of Planning and Finance                          | Member          |
| (k) U Aye Kyaw<br>Deputy Minister<br>Ministry of Electric Power                                | Member          |
| (l) U Thant Sin<br>Deputy Minister<br>Ministry of Energy                                       | Member          |
| (m) U Win Pe<br>Deputy Minister<br>Ministry of Construction                                    | Member          |
| (n) Brig-Gen Tin Soe<br>Director<br>Directorate of Supply and Transport<br>Ministry of Defence | Member          |
| (o) U Aye Win<br>President<br>UMFCCI   | Member          |
| (p) Dr Aung Gyi<br>Deputy Minister<br>Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation        | Secretary       |
| (q) Dr Tin Htut<br>Deputy Minister<br>Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation        | Joint Secretary |

2. The duties and authorities of the Agriculture and Livestock Development Commission will be announced separately.

By order,  
Aung Lin Dwe  
General  
Secretary



# NATIONAL

## Myanmar attends ASEAN COP19 on transboundary haze pollution



Attendees pose for the documentary group photo at the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (COP19) in Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday.

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi attended the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (COP19) in Thailand.

The COP19 aims to implement the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) and encourage the partner countries in addition to ASEAN countries to facilitate faster and effective implementation of the AATHP.

The opening ceremony took place at the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand, and was attended by Environmental Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Perma-

nent Secretaries and Directors-General from ASEAN countries, the ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General and officials of the ASEAN Specialized Meteorological Centre.

During the meeting, Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi appreciated the collective efforts of member states for achieving significant progress in implementing policies and frameworks on transboundary haze pollution control while heading to haze-free ASEAN and highlighted the active cooperation of Myanmar with ASEAN states in transboundary haze pollution control activities.

The meeting also focused on fire hotspots and haze in ASEAN regions, weather fore-

cast in the dry season, mitigation of haze in respective countries, implementation of the Roadmap on ASEAN Cooperation Transboundary Haze Pollution Control with Means of Implementation (Haze-free Roadmap) 2023-2030, ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (2023-2030) and establishment ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (ACC THPC).

Moreover, the meeting also approved the promotion of regional cooperation to control transboundary haze pollution, mitigate fire hotspots, and implement regional policies and frameworks for mitigating fire hotspots and transboundary haze pollution. — MNA/KTZH

## Nationwide illegal crackdown confiscates goods worth K2.01B on 17 Dec

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

During inspections on 17 December, the combined inspection teams impounded two unregistered vehicles (worth approximately K32 million) at the Yadanabon bridge and Kantalu checkpoints in Sagaing Township, and 4.978 tonnes of illegal teak and 0.588 tonne of other timbers (valued at K12.71 million) in Sagaing Township. The action was conducted under the Export-Import Law and the Forest Law.

Similarly, the combined teams nabbed a wooden boat with a 32 HP engine (estimated value of K3 million) fishing illegally in Kyunsu Township, 12.440 tonnes of illegal timbers (worth K1.46 million) in Kyunsu and Myeik Townships, and a Mitsubishi Fuso tractor head with a trailer (worth approximately K73 million) carrying a kind of foodstuffs (worth K3 million) without official documents beyond the Singaing weighbridge. The action was taken under the Myanmar Coastal and Inland Water Transport Service Licence Law and Customs procedures.

Additionally, the combined on-duty teams seized illegal teak weighing 5.030 tonnes and illegal timbers weighing 1.402 tonnes (valued at K2.66 million) in Bago and Pyay districts, and foodstuffs

(valued at K180 million) without official documents from a warehouse in DaikU Township, a Nissan Condor truck (valued at K20 million) carrying industrial materials (worth K12.5 million) at the Yethaya temporary vehicle checkpoint in Kayin State, three unregistered vehicles (worth K30 million) in Kyaikto, Paung and Belin Townships, and two trucks (estimated value of K160 million) carrying consumer goods (worth K22.82 million) without official documents in Kengtung Township. The action was taken under the Forest Law, the Export and Import Law and Customs procedures.

Similarly, the Customs on-duty teams confiscated industrial materials (worth K380.54 million) from 10 containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, industrial materials (worth K228.1 million) without official documents from five containers at the Thilawa Port Terminal, industrial materials (worth K834.41 million) without official documents from 18 containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port, and industrial materials (valued at K14.7 million) without official documents at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk). The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 41 arrests on 17 December, with items worth K2.01 billion. — MNA/MKKS

## DPM MoFA Union Minister heads to Thailand for Ministerial Consultation

AT the invitation of Mr Maris Sangiampongsa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, the Myanmar delegation led by U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, left Mandalay International Airport for Thailand yesterday morning

to participate in the Informal Consultation at Ministerial Level between Bangladesh, China, India, the Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand, to be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 19 December 2024. The Myanmar delegation was seen off by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Mandalay International Airport. — MNA

## Counter-argument to false information

### False reports claim security forces burned villages in Madaya

FALSE and misleading news was spread by malicious media, alleging that security personnel burned and destroyed villages in the western part of Madaya Township, Mandalay Region, on 16 and 17 December. These claims suggest that Mway Pathein, Mway Kuthoseik, Udein, Pathein and Singone villages were set on fire and that public property was

seized by security forces.

According to a security official from Madaya Township, these reports are entirely baseless. Security personnel have been conducting operations in the vicinity of these villages to prevent movements of PDF terrorists. It was confirmed that no villages were set on fire, nor was any public property confiscated by secu-

rity forces.

The circulation of such false and misleading information is part of an attempt by malicious media to distort public perceptions of security operations. These fabricated reports aim to misrepresent the facts on the ground and undermine trust in the actions taken to ensure regional security. — MNA/KZL



## Education degree colleges open admission for PPTT

EDUCATION degree colleges will conduct Pre-service Primary Teacher Training (PPTT) on 24 March 2025 and applications can be submitted to the respective region and state education degree colleges by 16 January 2025.

Trainees must be citizens holding a bachelor's degree specializing in Myanmar, English, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Zoology, Botany, Economics, Geography, History, Archaeology, Oriental Studies, Psychology, Marine Science, Industrial Chemistry, Microbiology, Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Environmental Studies, Geology, Myanmar Studies, Aesthetics, Music, Dramatic Art, Sculpture, Business Science, Sports, Statistics and Commerce. They must be aged under 37 years old on 31 March 2025. For civil servants, those aged under 42 years old are eligible to apply for it with an approval letter from the head of the department.

The applicants must take a written exam covering English and General Knowledge and an interview. They must be fit enough to work as a teacher without a criminal record. They must not attend any other classes during the training period. Women trainees are required not to be pregnant in order to participate in daily physical exercises. They must sign a commitment letter to serve as an assistant primary teacher for at least five years after completion of the training and receive the certificate. Those who violate this will be subjected to one million Kyat fines and compensation of monthly stipends provided. Applications are not allowed to be sent to the Ministry of Education.

Copies of matriculation pass certificate, bachelor's degree, citizenship scrutiny card, two passport-sized photos taken within six months and necessary documents must be provided. The respective colleges will declare the interview date for those who pass written exam in March 2025. — NN/KK

## YGEA announces necessary documents to seek gold trading licence

YANGON Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) notified necessary documents for seeking a gold trading licence, including a bank statement with 25 per cent of the total assets mentioned.

Applicants must fill out the stipulated Form 2 completely, copy of citizenship scrutiny card, resume with signature, bank statement signed by bank manager, declaration of maximum trading volume in (viss, tical, grams, troy ounce) measurement, recommendation letter of the respective township's Department of General Administration, police clearance certificate, recommendation letter of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association or YGEA mentioning that individuals are members of the respective gold associations, ward administrator's recommendation being a resident, tax clearance certificate, business licence granted by the respective municipal office, photo of the shop owners taken in front of the gold shop and photo of the gold products displayed inside the shops.

Those who fail to obtain a licence in line with the directive 055/2024 released on 25 October 2024 by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation will face actions under



Gold ornaments are arranged for sale at the gold outlet in Yangon.

Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law, declared through state-run newspapers on 30 October 2024.

Starting from 6 December, the daily gold reference price for a tical of pure gold (16.329325 grammes) with 19.25 grammes of the density of gold is announced through MRTV, MWD, the MoN-REC website [www.mining.gov.mm](http://www.mining.gov.mm) and the YGEA Facebook page.

Individuals are mandatory to apply

for a licence within three months (18 November 2024-17 February 2025) and failure to do so is subject to legal action under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law.

The Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee sets daily gold reference prices at K5.33 million per tical of pure gold (16.329325 grammes) with 19.25 grammes of the density of gold on 18 December. — NN/KK

## CBM sells over \$150,000, 810,000 baht on 17 Dec



The facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) Yangon Branch.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold \$150,000 and over 810,000 baht on 17 December again after sales of \$28 million, one million baht and over 710,000 yuan on 16 December.

CBM sold 340,000 yuan and 400,000 baht on 13 December, \$28.51 million and 600,000 baht on 12 December and

500,000 yuan again on 11 December. CBM announced on 10 December that it would sell \$35 million and 40 million baht through the foreign exchange trading platform. Then, it sold about 900,000 yuan on 10 December, \$15 million, over one million yuan and 200 million baht on 6 December, over 1.55 million yuan on

5 December after sales of 1.48 million yuan on 4 December and 1.43 million yuan on 3 December.

Furthermore, on 2 December, CBM injected \$38 million, 1.48 million yuan and 107.46 million baht into online foreign exchange trading platforms.

CBM pumped over \$59 million, over 280 million baht and 8.78 million yuan in November and over \$91 million, over 610 million baht and 9.8 million yuan in October into the financial market.

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 with law enforcement 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



# OPINION

## Control TB with proper treatment for patients

**T**UBERCULOSIS, malaria and HIV are three major diseases which threaten human society today. Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by the transmission of the tuberculosis bacteria. It is a disease related to social and economic factors.

The bacteria responsible for TB in humans include *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Mycobacterium bovis*, and *Mycobacterium africanum*. TB is treatable and curable with proper care, but without treatment, it can be deadly. Globally, TB is the second leading infectious cause of death. An untreated tuberculosis (TB) patient can infect 10 to 15 people in a year. Children typically

Myanmar is among the 30 countries with the highest rates of regular TB, drug-resistant TB, and TB-HIV co-infections. As a global public health emergency, TB presents significant challenges, including the impact of wars and food insecurity on its spread. WHO stresses the need for funding to support medication and research efforts to fight TB.

Diagnosis involves testing fluid or tissue samples, often linked to transmission through the mother's birth canal or related pathways. Children under 5 exposed to TB bacteria are at risk of developing meningitis or widespread TB. If a family member is diagnosed with TB, it's crucial to have young children tested to rule out infection. If they test negative, they should receive preventive TB medication as recommended.

Myanmar is among the 30 countries with the highest rates of regular TB, drug-resistant TB, and TB-HIV co-infections. As a global public health emergency, TB presents significant challenges, including the impact of wars and food insecurity on its spread. WHO stresses the need for funding to support medication and research efforts to fight TB.

The fight against tuberculosis requires collective action, not individual efforts. National governments must lead with accountability, urban communities must unite, partner organizations must offer support, and healthcare providers must contribute. Eliminating tuberculosis as a global health emergency depends on the active commitment and participation of everyone, both mentally and physically.

contract TB from an infected family member at home, the primary carrier, as there is no transmission of TB between children.

In 1993, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared tuberculosis (TB) a public health emergency. As of 6 November 2023, the WHO reported 10.6 million TB cases globally, including 1.3 million children, and 1.3 million deaths. The highest prevalence is in Southeast Asia accounting for 35 per cent, Africa 30 per cent, and the Western Pacific region 20 per cent. Common signs of Childhood TB include a cough lasting over two weeks, fever, weight loss, stunted growth, loss of appetite, fatigue, night sweats, and additional symptoms depending on the infection site.

Congenital tuberculosis (TB) is a rare condition that usually appears 2-3 weeks after birth. Symptoms include poor feeding, lack of weight gain, coughing, lethargy, persistent fever, ear discharge, and skin rashes or blood spots.

# Spill-over thoughts on Manle Sayadaw and Ledi Sayadaw's discourses on tea-drinking

**M**ANLE Sayadaw (1842-1921) and Ledi Sayadaw (1 December 1846-27 June 1923) were contemporary Buddhist monk-scholars who made notable contributions to Myanmar literature. In their discourses and writings which have enriched Myanmar literature.

In the 17 and 24 November 2024 issues of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*, I have translated and reproduced the original vernacular two poems (in a sense 'doggerels') written by the two revered monks. The poem by Manle Sayadaw deals with the disadvantages, indeed one could say negative consequences of drinking tea. On the other hand, Ledi Sayadaw listed the benefits of drinking tea and complimented the tea drinkers. The two poems appeared one after the other in the booklet *Selected Burmese Poems for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>-year students at the University of Mandalay* first

published in October 1986.

It is presumable that the poem by Ledi Sayadaw praising the benefits of drinking tea was composed by him after he came across the elder (in age) Manle Sayadaw's poem censuring tea drinkers. In the mid-18<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century when the two poems were supposedly composed there was no postal service, not to say radio or telegrams (perhaps). Facebook, Viber and WhatsApp were much more than a century away in the future. Hence it must have been several weeks or a few months before Ledi Sayadaw came across Manle Sayadaw's poem listing the negative effects of tea drinking. Or — this is only a guess — were there literary symposia during the last two kings of Upper Burma? In the days of King Mindon (8 July 1808-1 October 1878, reigned 1853-78) and King Thibaw (1 January 1859-19 December 1916, reigned 1878-85)



Manle Sayadaw criticized tea drinking for its harmful effects, while Ledi Sayadaw praised it for its positive benefits. **ILLUSTRATION: VISUAL ARTS**

there could be literary symposia in court. The two Sayadaws must have been between the ages of 22 to 44 (Manle Sayadaw) and the ages of 18-39 (Ledi Sayadaw) during the reigns of Mindon and Thibaw. Did either of the two kings

By Myint Zan

matter on the off-chance that it was Ledi Sayadaw who first composed the 'pro-tea-drinking' poem what prompted Ledi Sayadaw to do so.

I am not aware whether there were — or not — other poems or indeed discourses by the two revered monks where they did not see eye to eye on things not only about tea drinking but also on other mundane as well as religious matters.

**The rivalry between two Buddhist monks of the 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries: Shin Maharatha Ratthasara and Shin Maha Silavamsa**

Two Buddhist monks contemporaneously flourished in the mid-15<sup>th</sup> to early-16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Their contributions to Myanmar literature are also very significant.

Indeed, it could be stated that they are landmarks in medieval Burmese literature. They were Shin (Shin is not a 'first name' as such but an honorific denoting, a learned monk) Maha (Maha is also an honorific generally meaning 'great') Ratthasara (1468-1529) (hereafter Ratthasara) and Shin Maha Silavamsa (1453-1518) (hereafter Silavamsa). Silavamsa is 15 years older than Ratthasara.

I have 'wondered' above whether Manle Sayadaw and Ledi Sayadaw were requested by the two last Burmese kings to compose on the topic of drinking tea. But over three centuries earlier in the palace of the then Innwa (Ava) kings there were literary symposiums where the two monks Silavamsa and Ratthasara were (shall we say) enjoined to compose poems, prose and other literary

genres before a live audience. Myanmar language and literature scholars throughout the centuries have debated and expressed their views on the comparative literary contributions, styles and merits of the two medieval monks.

Scholars have stated their views as to whose literary work Silavamsa or Ratthasara were 'better' or 'superior'. One epigram whose origin this writer does not know states to the effect that Silavamsa's literary achievements were like diamonds cutting not merely through baskets (*Taung Go Ma Phaut*) but through the mountains (*Taun Go Phaut Thi*). Hence Silavamsa's literary products were like diamonds (*Sain Kyaut A-thwin Thila Win*). In comparison or indeed in contrast Ratthasara's literary prose and poetry are merely thorn-like tools which pierced baskets but not mountains (*Taun Go Ma Phaut Taung Go Phaut Thi Hsu Hsauk Pamar Ratta Tha*).

From the above statement, it is clear that the writer(s) of the epigram were of the view that Silavamsa was the 'superior' literati. Was Silavamsa superior in all or most of his literary products compared to Ratthasara? In his most recent book titled (in translation) *Myanmar Language: References*

to *Sixty Treatises* (published November 2024) Saya Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) (born 2 January 1942) quoted Bagan Wun Htauk U Tin (1861-1933) who himself referred to Kinwun Mingyi U Kaung (3 February 1822-30 June 1908). Kinwun Mingyi stated that Silavamsa's poetry is good in meaning and is inspiring. Kinwun Mingyi stated though that as to rhyme and cadence Ratthasara was the superior writer (on page 23 of Maung Khin Min's book). Almost certainly there could be a comparative commentary on the literary contributions of the two scholar monks of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century (Manle Sayadaw and Ledi Sayadaw) as there were perhaps more extensive analyses and commentaries of the two monk-poet-literati of the mid-15<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> century. Are there any Master's or doctoral theses in the Myanmar language in the various Departments of Myanmar comparing the literary contributions of Manle Sayadaw and Ledi Sayadaw? If there are any books or treatises comparing the literary flair, styles and contributions of Manle Sayadaw and Ledi Sayadaw in both Myanmar and even in the English language yours truly would appreciate learning from them.

**I**n science subjects, especially biology and chemistry, it is best to teach scientific facts and laws with the help of real things or models. Such teaching is more likely to attract students rather than normal teaching without any instructional media, in other words, oral teaching only. I know from experience that some scientific facts seem to be such supernatural matters in students' minds that they can find it hard to accept that science is always true from the point of view of materialism. When a teacher wants to resolve this difficulty, real things and models related to some subject matter play a huge role in teaching science. Hence, real things and models of science teaching and something else will be described neither briefly nor deeply here.

Sometimes we want to study people and objects from real things and events. However, these real things and events are not always available. Thus, we sometimes rely on models

## Real Things and Models in Instructional Use



In science, using real things or models to teach facts and laws engages students more than oral teaching. **ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY**

instead of real things no matter whether instructional objectives are achieved or not even though

it is better if students arrive at the objectives at the end of any instruction. Of course, real things

are those stimuli presented to students through field trips or by bringing people and things into the school for observation. On the other hand, a model is just a representation of the real thing.

Real things and models usually include real people, actual objects or events, mock-ups and specimens. Many of the real things which teachers and students would like to study are often found in their own community. Such community resources provide any material, agency, museum, activity or individual which the teachers can use and help the students attain specific instructional objectives. Once in a while, it is impractical to bring

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

students into contact with real things. That is, pictures, films and recordings are frequently used as substitutes for real things. One of the substitutes is a model. In general, models are three-dimensional. Although a model may have the same size as the real object it represents, the model is a reduction or enlargement as usual if compared to the original thing—for example, a model of the solar system and that of a plant cell. A mock-up is a special type of model as well as an edited model. In that connection, mock-ups are given to omit details which are not relevant to the objectives of a lesson.

As always, real things in-

cluding models have not only advantages but also limitations. Real things have the potential of increasing realism, providing stimuli which no film or video recording can match. Both real things and models help to reduce the gap between instruction and after-class performance. Often they can be handled, assembled and observed very closely. If learning is increased through the use of several different senses, then real things and models will facilitate the learning. But on the other side, real things are not always readily accessible. They cannot be viewed in their natural setting nor be always useful in their natural states.

Therefore, in conclusion, some ideas for the use of real things and models will be given below: —

- We can use real things if space, time, cost and availability permit. In this case, a model might also be an appropriate substitute.
- The classroom aquarium of-

fers an abundance of opportunities for facilitating the attainment of instructional objectives.

- In the biology lab, specimens of insects can be observed in detail, particularly with a magnifying glass available for student use.
- Stamp collecting stimulates history, geography, foreign currency and communication.
- Museums show a source of instructional material essential that the teacher prepares the students carefully before the trip to a museum as regards what instructional objects are, what information they are to require, and what they are to do with that information when they return to school.
- Students are able to develop and build valuable outdoor displays such as a weather station.
- And an outdoor laboratory will present real things most effectively. Today's emphasis on environmental protection

and preservation makes the teacher more active in seeking out such learning resources for students.

- Real things should be used effectively and efficiently during assessment and evaluation in the way that students have to be asked to identify, name, describe or order real things.
- Usually, real things and models are so expensive that regular students and schools cannot even buy and store them. So, respective teachers and students must be aware of manipulating or using real things and models. Due to students' careless mistakes, real things and models can be broken or even lost. Be careful that real things and models, especially light microscopes, are burgled sometimes. Accordingly, teachers and students all have the responsibility and accountability of preserving the school's real things and models as good citizens.



# NATIONAL

## Winners awarded in Chinlone, Billiards Finals at National Sports Festival

THE final matches and award ceremonies of the Inter-Ministry and Inter-State and Region competitions of the Fifth National Sports Festival 2024 took place at various stadiums and gymnasiums in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Chinlone Final match-

es were held at Wunna Theikdhi Stadium C. State Administration Council Members Daw Dwe Bu and Porel Aung Thein, along with departmental heads, team officials, coaches and athletes attended and supported the event. SAC members presented awards to the winners

from Yangon, Mandalay, and Bago regions for men's events and Mandalay, Yangon and Bago for women's events.

Afterwards, the awarding ceremony for the billiards-snooker event was held at Wunna Theikdhi Billiards Hall. Among the spectators

were State Administration Council Members U Yan Kyaw and U Shwe Kyein, Ayeyawady Region Social Affairs Minister U Khin Maung Kyi and Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin. They presented awards to the winners from Ayeyawady, Magway, Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw

Aung, Rakhine State Social Affairs Minister U Thet Tun and Sagaing Region Social Affairs Minister U Nyunt Win Aung. They presented awards to the winners from Magway, Mandalay, Kayah and Rakhine teams for women's 61-kilogramme event, Yangon, Shan, Mandalay and Sagaing for men's 55-kilogramme event, Sagaing, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Shan for men's 75-kilogramme event.

An awarding ceremony for the U-21 men's football final was then held at the Shwekyapin sports ground. Officials from the Myanmar Football Federation, Nay Pyi Taw Council members and Deputy Minister U Soe Kyi attended the event. They presented awards to the winner Team Nay Pyi Taw, first runners-up Team Mandalay and second runners-up Team Yangon.

An awarding ceremony for the Wushu final was also



State Administration Council Member Daw Dwe Bu awards prizes.



State Administration Council Member Porel Aung Thein presents prizes.



State Administration Council Member U Shwe Kyein hands over prizes.



State Administration Council Member U Yan Kyaw delivers awards.



Union Minister U Myo Thant offers prizes.



Deputy Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung bestows awards.



Mandalay Region Mayor U Kyaw Hsan gives out prizes.

teams for the Billiards Single event, Ayeyawady, Mandalay, Yangon and Kachin teams for the Billiards Double event, Kayin State and Magway Region teams for the Snooker 15 Red Single event, Shan, Yangon, Magway and Kachin teams for the Snooker 15 Red Double event.

An awarding ceremony for the Karate competition was continued at the Wunna Theikdhi Karate Court. Among the spectators were Myanmar Karate Federation Chair U Thant Zin, Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Htay

held at the Shwekyapin sports ground. Among the spectators were Shan State Social Affairs Minister U Min Min Lwin, Chin State Transport Minister U Nay Lin Aung, and Deputy Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung. They presented awards to winners from Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Shan, Kayin and Yangon teams for both men's and women's events of Wushu.

The Fifth National Sports Festival continues today with final events and award-giving ceremonies at designated stadiums and gymnasiums. — MNA/KZL



# NATIONAL

## Athletes vigorously compete in 5<sup>th</sup> National Sports Festival



Photos show sports fans cheering the Inter-Ministry volleyball event between the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs at the Fifth National Sports Festival yesterday.

An Inter-Ministry football match between the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development and the Ministry of Planning and Finance.



Photos show enthusiastic spectators cheering a futsal match between the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

SPORTS events of the Fifth National Sports Festival 2024 continued at relevant sports venues in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday morning.

The Inter-Ministerial men's and women's volleyball third-place matches continued at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex B. In the men's volleyball

event, the Ministry of Defence defeated the Ministry of Planning and Finance (MoPF) with a 3-0 victory and in the women's event, the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs (MoSYA) defeated the Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) 3-1.

During the Inter-Ministerial men's open football semifinals at

Wunna Theikdi Training ground 3, the Ministry of Construction team defeated the MoSYA team 3-0, while MoPF secured a 2-0 victory over the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

Moreover, the quarterfinals of Inter-Ministry men's futsal events continued at Wunna

Theikdi Futsal Complex. The MoTC team defeated the Ministry of Commerce team 8-7 and the MoPF secured a 5-2 victory over the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

In addition, relevant teams competed in the knockout stage of the Inter-Ministry men's Sepak Takraw events at Wunna

Theikdi Sports Complex A.

Moreover, relevant teams and athletes competed in third place and final matches of the Inter-State and Region U 21 men's football matches, the final match of Myanmar Traditional Chinlon event, the final matches of the Inter-State and Region billiards and snooker sports, the Inter-State and Region Karate final matches competitions, at their respective sports complexes. Following the events, Officials presented awards to the winners.

Athletes competed in the Inter-State and Region men's and women's Wushu Tournament at Shwekyapin Sports Complex.

Union-level dignitaries, deputy ministers, regional and state cabinet ministers, departmental personnel, officials from relevant sports federations, staff members, students and sports fans happily enjoyed the sports competitions. — MNA/KZL



The Inter-State and Region football match between Yangon and Ayeyawady.



The Inter-State and Region Billiards match.



The Inter-Ministry Sepak Takraw match.



# NATIONAL



This photo showcases tourist-attracting islands in Taninthayi Region.

## Taninthayi Region welcomes 850,000 visitors in Jan-Nov

FROM January to November 2024, approximately 850,000 domestic and international tourists visited various destinations in the Taninthayi Region, according to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Taninthayi Region).

Among the region's attractions, the Myeik Archipelago, with its over 800 islands, remains the top destination for both local and international visitors. The archipelago cur-

rently boasts 64 licensed hotels, of which 45 are actively operating.

The Taninthayi Region Tourism Business Committee has held 16 coordination meetings to systematically develop the hotel and tourism sectors across the region. These meetings have led to the issuance of 15 pre-construction permits for hotel projects, 14 new hotel business licences, three new guesthouse licences, 25

new tour operation business licences, three new tour guide licences, 55 regional tour guide licences, and the renewal of 38 hotel business licences, eight guesthouse licences, 32 tour operation business licences and 82 regional tour guide licences.

These initiatives aim to foster sustainable growth and further enhance the tourism sector within Taninthayi Region. — ASH/TMT

## MRCS, ICRC provide mobile prosthetic services in Bago Region

IT has been reported that the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are collaborating on a mobile field operation conducted by the Hpa-an Physical Rehabilitation Centre in Nyaunglebin, Kyauktaga and Penwegon Townships in Bago Region in the second week of December.

As part of these activities, prosthetic and orthotic services were provided to 57 individuals requiring minor adjustments in

Nyaunglebin Township. Similar services were offered to 31 individuals in Penwegon and Kyauktaga Townships. Additionally, 13 individuals requiring major repairs or new prosthetics and orthotics were referred to the Hpa-an Physical Rehabilitation Centre.

The mobile field operation involved seven staff members from the Hpa-an Physical Rehabilitation Centre and 13 Red Cross volunteers from Nyaunglebin and Kyauktaga Townships. — ASH/MKKS



This photo reveals the fieldwork of the Hpa-An Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Centre in Bago Region.

## Filming of 'Sankyal Thaw Phoosa' Season 2 begins at Kyaikkasan Pagoda

THE filming ceremony for the second season of the series 'Sankyal Thaw Phoosa' to be produced by Verden Production took place on 17 December at Kyaikkasan Pagoda in Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region.

May Thu Htun wrote the novel and screenplay for the series, with Min Sa Ne serving as the director for Verden Production.

"The first season was well-received, so we're now producing the second season. The plot revolves around my husband having an affair with my friend. To keep the audience engaged in the series, we've added twists and a more mysterious storyline than before, steering away from repetitive narratives. While times have changed, the theme of infidelity remains unchanged. We hope viewers will find it captivating," said actor May Thu Htun.

The second season will star a diverse cast, including Naythit Aye Aung, Nay Shine, May Thu Htun, Chaw Sint Thu, Thiha Hein, Phone Nay Khit, Wathon, Khin Kyawt Shing, and Win Myat Phyo. Filming is scheduled to begin in early January 2025, with locations in Yangon and Mandalay. — ASH/TKO

## 1,600+ industries registered with Small-Scale Industries Dept in Apr-Nov

A total of 1,607 industries have been registered with the Small-Scale Industries Department under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development at the end of November of the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April.

Registered small-scale industries are classified into 13 business types including food, garment,

consumer goods, household goods, printing, mineral, agriculture and equipment-related businesses.

The government supports the small-scale manufacturing sector through various initiatives and relevant laws in each region and state. Laboratories are also set up to ensure food safety and product quality.

Registration can be processed

in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, regions and states. Five licensed-size photos, three copies of the citizenship scrutiny card, ward administrator's recommendation, six samples labelling ingredients, manufacturing date and expiration date to undertake laboratory tests for food, cosmetic and consumer goods and an application form are required. — ASH/KK



Photos depict some registered small-scale industries with artisans and employees diligently working at their workplaces.



# Maruti Suzuki inks pact with Bihar government to automate 5 driving test tracks under CSR

*The automated tracks will accommodate tests for both two-wheelers and light motor vehicles.*



The Automated Driving Test Tracks (ADTTs) will be used for both Two-wheeler (TW) and Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) driving licence tests. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/MARUTI SUZUKI/ANI**

MARUTI Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Transport Department, Government of Bihar, to automate five driving licence test tracks in the State.

According to Maruti Suzuki, these tracks will be located in Bhagalpur,

Darbhanga, Gaya, Purnia, and Saran. The MoA was signed in the presence of Sheela Kumari, Transport Minister of Bihar, and Sanjay Kumar Agarwal (IAS), Secretary, Transport Department, Government of Bihar.

Navin Kumar (IAS), State Transport Commis-

sioner, Government of Bihar, and Tarun Agarwal, Senior Vice-President, Corporate Social Responsibility, Maruti Suzuki, also attended the signing ceremony. The automation of these test tracks is part

of Maruti Suzuki's ongoing commitment to improving road safety through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

The Automated Driving Test Tracks (ADTTs) will be used for both

Two-wheeler (TW) and Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) driving license tests.

The process aims to eliminate human intervention, ensuring a more comprehensive, efficient, and transparent evalua-

tion of licence applicants. With automated systems in place, the tests will be more standardized and aligned with the Central Motor Vehicle Rules (CMVR), with results generated automatically. — ANI

## AI startup Databricks raises \$10 bln as value soars

YOUNG startup Databricks, which specializes

in scaling and building artificial intelligence,

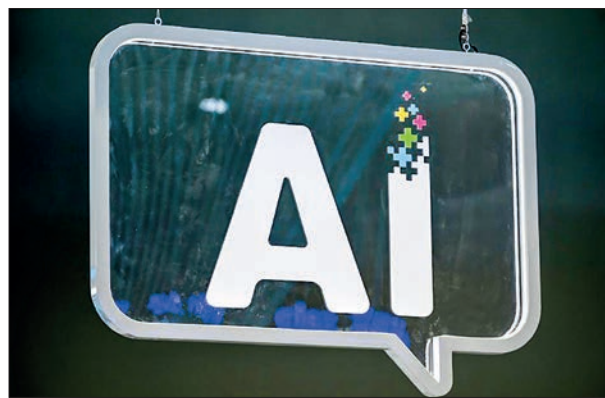
said Tuesday it raised \$10 billion, bringing the company's valuation to \$62 billion.

The blockbuster funding round is yet another signal of the unrelenting appetite from investors for potential AI stars.

Investors listed as taking part in the funding round included tech sector powerhouses Andreessen Horowitz and Thrive Capital.

"This round of financing was heavily oversubscribed, and we

are delighted to welcome some of the world's most renowned investors, who share a deep conviction in our vision," Databricks co-founder and chief executive Ali Ghodsi said in a release. "We are still in the early stages of the AI Era." Founded in 2013 by students at the University of California, Berkeley, Databricks runs a cloud-based platform for companies to take advantage of artificial intelligence, including for data management. — AFP



A blockbuster funding round for San Francisco-based startup Databricks is another sign of hunger by investors for companies poised to cash in on generative artificial intelligence. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Spanish business community welcomes new Stellantis, CATL battery plant

THE Spanish business community has welcomed last week's announcement that multinational auto company Stellantis and Chinese battery producer CATL have teamed up to build a 4.1-billion-euro (US\$ 4.3 billion) battery plant in

northeast Spain.

Stellantis and CATL aim to have the new plant up and running by the end of 2026, and the lithium iron phosphate (LFP) battery plant will be in Zaragoza in the region of Aragon.

"This investment will

consolidate a main sector of the Aragon economy, which is the automotive sector ... the reaction has been very, very positive," Jose Miguel Sanchez, managing director of the Zaragoza Chamber of Commerce, told Xinhua on Monday.

The automotive industry in Aragon already employs 35,000 people, some 4,500 of which correspond to Stellantis' existing Figueruelas plant in Zaragoza. It is estimated that the new plant could create up to 3,000 more jobs. — Xinhua

## Honda-Nissan merger could zero in on EV development

HONDA Motor Co and Nissan Motor Co could strengthen their struggling electric vehicle businesses through a merger, sharing substantial development costs and utilizing common parts for EVs, potentially reshaping the global auto industry.

Japan's No 2 and No 3 carmakers by volume are in talks on a merger under a holding company, sources familiar with the matter said Wednesday.

The talks on the deal, which would create the world's third-largest auto alliance after the Toyota and Volkswagen groups, follow the two automakers' March agreement to conduct a feasibility study on a strategic partnership in EV production and software technologies.

"It is time to accelerate the development of EVs rather than slow it," Jin Tang, senior principal researcher at Mizuho Bank, said. — Kyodo

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB449A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB449A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-12-2024** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A**



# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Kremlin on ringleaders behind General Kirillov's murder: It's clear who did it

*Peskov: Russian services quickly identified the masterminds and organizers of this Kyiv-linked terrorist act.*

THE masterminds and organizers of the blast that killed Lt-Gen Igor Kirillov, the head of the Troops of Radiological, Chemical and Biological Defence of the Russian armed forces, are clear, as Kyiv does not hesitate to use terrorist methods, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Wednesday.

"In this case, our special services, law enforcement agencies, you see, they work efficiently, they work quickly. It is already obvious who the masterminds are, who are the organizers of this terrorist act. It is once again confirmed that the Kyiv regime

does not hesitate to use terrorist methods of work," Peskov told reporters.

The investigation into the death of Kirillov is effective, Peskov said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin expresses his condolences over the death of Lt-Gen Igor Kirillov, Peskov said.

"Naturally, everyone deeply condoles, and the president is expressing condolences in this regard," Peskov told reporters. Kirillov and his aide were killed in a bomb blast in Moscow early on Tuesday, the Russian Investigative Committee said. An official

with Ukraine's security service SBU confirmed to The New York Times that Ukraine was responsible for the killings. Russia has no details about the planned trips of US President-elect Donald Trump's special envoy to Ukraine Keith Kellogg, and there were no contacts with Trump's team on the matter, spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

"No, we do not have the details. We have seen relevant media reports that such trips are being planned. There have not been any contacts with the Trump team in this regard," Peskov told a briefing. — SPUTNIK



Commander of Russia's Radiation, Chemical and Biological Protection Troops, Maj-Gen Igor Kirillov during the briefing on issues of investigating the chemical weapon attacks in Syria. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE**

## Japan foreign visitors top 33 mln in Jan-Nov, break annual record



In November alone, foreign visitors rose 30.6 per cent year-on-year to 3.18 million. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE number of foreign visitors to Japan topped 33 million from January to November, setting a new annual record, driven by a tourism boom and a weak yen, government estimates showed Wednesday.

The total stood at 33,379,900, surpassing the previous full-

year high of 31.88 million set in 2019, according to the Japan National Tourism Organization.

In November alone, foreign visitors rose 30.6 per cent year-on-year to 3.18 million. Each month this year has recorded at least 30 per cent growth compared with the same

period last year.

Addressing issues related to overtourism, such as traffic congestion and disruptions to local residents' lives, will be essential for the government to achieve its goal of attracting 60 million foreign visitors annually by 2030. — Kyodo

### NEWS IN BRIEFS

#### S Korea's presidential security service refuses seizure of computer server

South Korea's presidential security service has blocked a joint investigation unit's attempt to seize a computer server related to impeached President Yoon Suk-yeol's martial law imposition, local media reported on Wednesday.

The presidential security service notified the joint investigation unit on Wednesday that it cannot assist in any operation for the seizure of a computer server as such actions will not be allowed, citing the protection of confidential military information, according to the investigation team made up of the country's police, the defence ministry and the Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials.

The investigation team's setback on Wednesday came after another unsuccessful attempt a day earlier to retrieve the computer server under the custody of the presidential security service. — Xinhua

#### Canada's Trudeau battles to hold on after deputy PM resigns

THE bombshell resignation of Canada's deputy prime minister is spurring new calls for the resignation of Justin Trudeau, whose rock-bottom popularity is plummeting further amid opposition attacks and US President-elect Donald Trump's tariff threats.

Chrystia Freeland, after nearly a decade of being at Trudeau's side, made the surprise announcement on Monday, after disagreeing with the prime minister over Trump's tariff proposals.

The move marked the first open dissent against Trudeau from within his cabinet and has emboldened his critics.

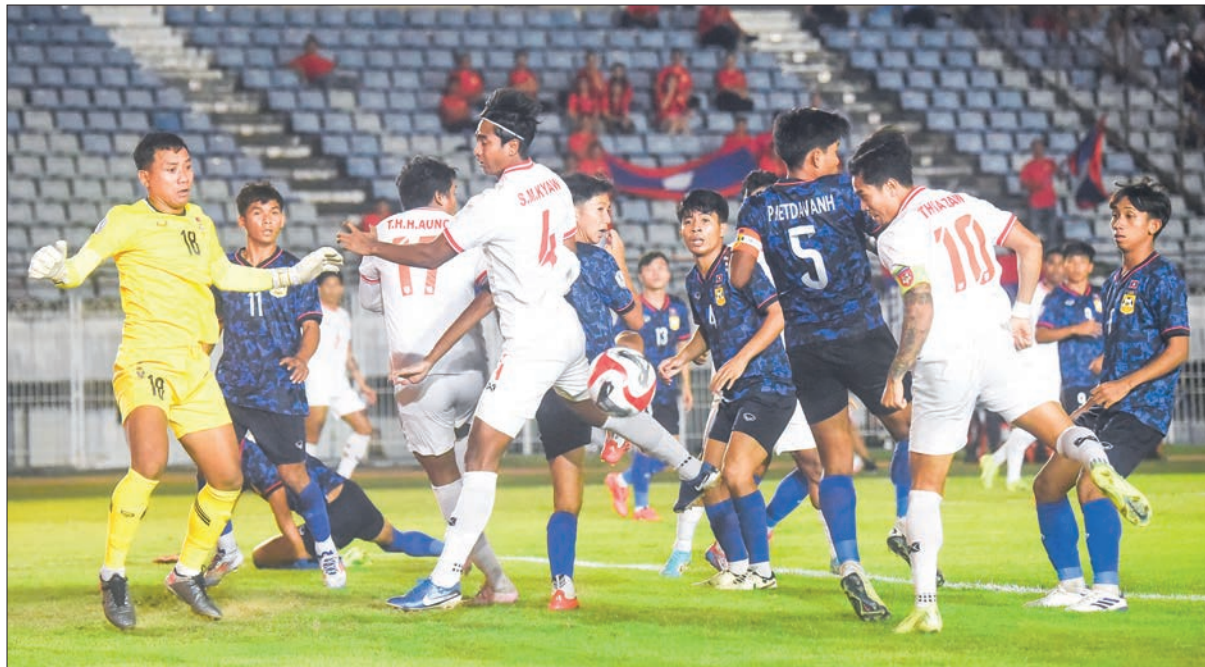
"As a country, we have to project strength and unity, and it's chaos right now up in Ottawa," commented Ontario Premier Doug Ford.

When the news broke, Canada's provincial premiers were meeting about Trump's threat to impose 25 per cent tariffs on Canadian imports. — AFP



# SPORTS

## Win Naing Tun's late goals secure Myanmar's ASEAN Cup victory



Myanmar players (white jerseys) press forward against Laos during their thrilling 3-2 victory in the ASEAN Cup group stage at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre. **PHOTO: THAW GYI**

ON 18 December, Myanmar clinched their first victory in the 2024 ASEAN Cup Group B stage with a 3-2 triumph over Laos at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre. This marked both Myanmar's first win in the tournament and head coach U Myo Hlaing Win's debut international victory.

Myanmar initially led 1-0 through Lwin Moe Aung's header in 32 minutes but conceded two

goals in the second half, falling behind 2-1. However, striker Win Naing Tun's crucial goals in 87 minutes and during stoppage time ensured the dramatic win.

The Myanmar squad, including Zin Nyi Nyi Aung in goal and key players like Heine Phyo Win, Nanda Kyaw, and Si Thu Aung, started with a balanced lineup. After making substitutions in the first 20 minutes to strengthen

their attack, Myanmar created several chances but failed to capitalise in the early stages. Laos managed to equalize and take the lead with goals from Sovanny in 77 minutes and Vamparsath in 81 minutes.

With four points from three matches, Myanmar will play their final group-stage match away against Vietnam on 21 December. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Amorim eager for wantaway Rashford to stay at Manchester United

MANCHESTER United manager Ruben Amorim said he wants to keep Marcus Rashford in his squad after the local hero suggested he could leave Old Trafford for a "new challenge".

The 27-year-old, who was left out of last weekend's derby against Manchester City, came through United's youth ranks and has chalked up 138 goals in 426 appearances for the club since

making his debut in 2016.

However, he has struggled for form over the last 18 months, losing his place in England's squad for the Euros in the summer. — AFP

## Real Madrid's Vinicius Jr wins 2024 The Best FIFA Men's Player award

REAL Madrid Brazilian forward Vinicius Jr succeeded Lionel Messi to win The Best FIFA Men's Player 2024 award, while Spain midfielder Aitana Bonmati won The Best Women's Player for the second consecutive year on Tuesday.

The world football governing body FIFA held The Best FIFA Football Award 2024 ceremony in Doha, Qatar, where other awards were also announced based on the votes from fans, captains and coaches of national teams and the media.

Vinicius Jr had 48 points, while Manchester City's Spanish midfielder Rodri collected 43 points in the second. Real Madrid's English midfielder Jude Bellingham placed third with 37 points.



Vinicius Junior scored in Real Madrid's 2-0 win over Dortmund in the Champions League final at Wembley in June. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Coach praises players, fans after Myanmar's win over Laos



Myanmar head coach U Myo Hlaing Win. **PHOTO: THAW GYI**

MYANMAR head coach U Myo Hlaing Win expressed gratitude to both the players and fans following the team's victory against Laos in the ASEAN Cup group stage on 18 December.

U Myo Hlaing Win stated, "The win against Laos was achieved through the players' hard work and the unwavering support of our fans. I deeply appreciate their efforts and encouragement. Our players have been giving their best, not only in this match but throughout the tournament, maintaining their spirit until the final whistle. The upcoming match against Vietnam, the strongest team in our group, will be an away game, but we will prepare thoroughly and compete at our best, just as we have in previous games."

Appointed as Myanmar's head coach in September, U Myo Hlaing Win is leading the team in his first international competition at the 2024 ASEAN Cup. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Messi was ranked sixth with 25 points, as the first choice of each vote counts five points, the second counts three points and the last counts one point, according to the rule.

"The Brazil and Real Madrid star enjoyed the most spectacular season of his career in 2023-24. He regularly produced match-defining moments for Real Madrid, racking up 24 goals in 39 appearances across all competitions," FIFA announced.

Barcelona's Spanish star Bonmati becomes the sixth player to win this award more than once. Bonmati helped Spain win the UEFA Women's Nations League, and Barcelona claimed the UEFA Women's Champions League title. — Xinhua



Kremlin on ringleaders behind  
General Kirillov's murder:  
It's clear who did it

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# WORLD

## Chancay-Shanghai shipping route boosts trade growth between Latin America, Asia

**T**HE newly inaugurated Chancay-Shanghai direct shipping route not only strengthens trade ties between Peru and China but also promotes shared growth across Latin America, Asia and beyond.

On Wednesday, the air at Shanghai Port was infused with the sweet fragrance of fresh fruit as a vessel from Peru's Chancay Port docked, delivering a bounty of Peruvian agricultural delights, including grapes, avocados and blueberries.

Since the launch of the Chancay Port in November, shipments between the two coastal cities have highlighted a promising future for trade across the Pacific. The direct route is expected to reduce shipping costs by at least 20 per cent, generate US\$4.5 billion in yearly revenues for Peru, and create 8,000 direct jobs.

The operation of the port, a flagship Belt and Road cooperation project between China and Peru, demonstrates the two nation's commitment to free trade amid rising trade protectionism.

Before Chancay Port's opening, Peru's exports to China had to pass through other regions. The new port, able to handle large container ships, cuts shipping times to 23 days. — Xinhua

*The direct route is expected to cut shipping costs by at least 20%, generate \$4.5 billion in annual revenue for Peru, and create 8,000 direct jobs.*



Since the launch of Chancay Port in November, the shipments between the two cities signal a bright future for Pacific trade.  
**PHOTO: CHINA COSCO SHIPPING**

## Iran warns Europe against “misusing” snapback mechanism in nuclear deal

IRAN'S envoy to the United Nations (UN) has warned that if Europe “misuses” the snapback mechanism, it will receive the country's “decisive and proportionate” response, the official news agency IRNA reported early Wednesday. Amir Saeid Iravani,

“*Iravani rejected E3's threat, asserting snapback mechanism isn't a tool for Western nations to threaten Iran.*”

Iran's permanent representative to the UN, made the remarks at a UN Security Council meeting Tuesday on the implementation of Resolution 2231, which endorses a 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers.

The snapback mechanism is a clause in the nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), that would allow the other parties to re-impose all international sanctions should Iran fail to comply with the agreement.

Iravani said Iran “categorically” rejected any threat by the E3 group of France, Germany and Britain of using the snapback mechanism, stressing that the mechanism was not a “tool in the hands” of Western nations for threatening Iran. — Xinhua



Delegation members from the parties to the Iran nuclear deal — Germany, France, Britain, China, Russia and Iran — attend a meeting at the Grand Hotel of Vienna on 19 April 2021. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/APA/AFP/FILE**

### HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

## The inauguration of the WHO Academy in Lyon aims to enhance global health training

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron and WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus officially inaugurated the WHO Academy in Lyon, a landmark initiative aimed at improving global health workforce training and fostering research and innovation.

The Academy, set to train millions of healthcare professionals, is part of a broader effort to strengthen health systems worldwide and address emerging global

health challenges.

President Macron announced the inauguration of the WHO Academy campus in Lyon, fulfilling a commitment made five years ago. The Academy aims to train millions of health professionals worldwide, promote research, and encourage innovation in global health. French Health Minister Genevieve Darrieussecq highlighted its role in enhancing caregiver training through innovative methods. — ANI