

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## PyinOoLwin station urged to enhance security, peace and stability measures



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing (above) hears the report on the progress of development works in PyinOoLwin by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung (below) on 23 September 2024.

Local Tatmadaw units must be at one with and cooperate with residents in undertaking security measures for the regions and residents.

**C**HAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Htein Win, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and officials, on 23 September and yesterday, inspected the arrangements being made for peace and stability in PyinOoLwin Station in the Central Command.

At Nawaday Hall of Defence Services Academy, Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Ko Htaik and the

commander of PyinOoLwin Station reported to the Senior General on measures being taken for security, peace and stability of the region and seizures of arms and munitions from terrorists in carrying out security measures.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General stressed the need to implement systematic measures to ensure local security, peace and stability in PyinOoLwin Station. He underlined that it is necessary to gather comprehensive information on the regions where they serve duties for regional organizational works and control measures in the station.

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# NATIONAL



## Five (5) days remain until the National Census.



### Empowering Agro-Based Industries for Enhanced Value-Added Production

- It is necessary to operate agro-based industries to be able to manufacture value-added products.
- If existing sound foundations and human resources are utilized for the development of agriculture and livestock, production will change.

*(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the State Administration Council meeting 2/2024 on 29 March 2024)*

### Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 1<sup>st</sup> (Tuesday) October 2024 "BANK HOLIDAY", under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

**Central Bank of Myanmar**

COVID-19 report, 23 September 2024		
NEW TESTS	NEW CASES	CASUALTIES
15,705	40	NIL

### National Complaint Mechanism (NCM) to deal with forced labour complaints

THE Myanmar government has been dealing with forced labour complaints in cooperation with ILO and relevant ministries since 2007. Since 2020, forced labour complaints have been settled through the National Complaint Mechanism (NCM), which includes representatives of the National Human Rights Commission, employer organizations, employee organizations, and relevant ministries, including the Ministry of Labour.

Nowadays, it is reported that forced labour victims can safely contact and complain to the Office of the State Administration Council, Region and State governments, the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, the ILO Liaison Office (Yangon) and other organizations or to the Ministry of Labour Office No 51, Nay Pyi Taw, in person or in writing via 067 3430184, 067 3430229, 067 3430274 and [directorgeneral.dol@gmail.com](mailto:directorgeneral.dol@gmail.com), [mloffice51@gmail.com](mailto:mloffice51@gmail.com), and [research.org.dol.mm@gmail.com](mailto:research.org.dol.mm@gmail.com). — MNA

## Giveaways to mark 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hlawga Park

LOCATED in Yangon Region, Hlawga Park, a place where people can explore nature, will organize ticket giveaway programmes for the celebration of its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Unlike in previous years, five bungalows, ten biking member tickets, and 10 SUP tickets will be given away to Hlawga fans.

Aiming to offer a public recreation place and raise awareness of environmental conservation and wildlife conservation, Hlawga Park is open to the public, and it has been working on providing better services, it elaborated.

Hlawga is a perfect place to come and recreate while enjoying nature, it said.

It has invited fans to join the giveaway programme.



A glimpse of the Hlawga Park.



The first mission is to mention friends to comment about their memory of the park below a Hlawga Facebook post, and the second mission is to share the post in public.

Hlawga Park was opened to the public on 30 September 1989, and it will turn 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. — MT/ZS

### Low-Pressure Area Condition

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 24 September 2024)

ACCORDING to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the Low-Pressure Area over Westcentral Bay of Bengal and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal (off north Andhra Pradesh- south Odisha coast, India) still persists. Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State, scattered in northern Shan State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Kachin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Chin, and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is 100%.

**Advisory**

People should be aware of the heavy rainfall with strong wind, the natural disasters such as flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flight.

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### Flood Warning

(Issued at 18:30 hrs MST on 24-9-2024)

ACCORDING to the (17:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of the Bago River at Bago is observed as about one foot below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next one day.

It is especially alert to the people who settle near the river banks and low-lying areas in Bago Township, to take precaution measures and to stay away from the flood-prone areas in time if the water level will rise.



# 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)*

## SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends choice of arms for cadets of 67<sup>th</sup> Intake of DSA, 27<sup>th</sup> Intake of DSTA

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the choice of arms for cadets of the 67<sup>th</sup> Intake of Defence Services Academy and those from the 27<sup>th</sup> Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy separately on 23 and 24 September.

Also present on the occasions were Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Htein Win, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Central Command, the commandants of DSA and DSTA. They chose relevant corps of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy



SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing joins the choice of arms event for DSA and DSTA cadets on 23-24 September 2024 in PyinOoLwin.

and Air) depending on the outstanding endeavours, hobbies and industriousness of each

cadet in literature and military arts.

In the afternoon, the Senior

General and party had lunch together with cadets at the cadet mess hall of DSA and Pyinnya Tazaung mess hall of DSTA, and they fulfilled their needs.

At the local Tatmadaw hospital, the Senior General cordially comforted Tatmadaw members receiving medical treatments for their injuries suffered while serving duties of stability, security, and rule of law for the State, fulfilling their needs, and presenting foodstuffs.

After asking officials about the hospital's requirements, the senior general attended to their needs.

The Senior General inspected regiments, units and training depots in PyinOoLwin Station

by car.

Yesterday morning, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, served lunch to residents receiving medical treatments at the General Hospital in PyinOoLwin and presented cash donations for the hospital to the medical superintendent. She also comforted patients at the maternity and child wards.

At the local Tatmadaw hospital, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla cordially consoled the patients in the maternity and child wards and presented foodstuffs. She also donated lunch meals for Tatmadaw members and families receiving medical treatments at the hospital and cash donations for the hospital through the commandant. — MNA/TTA



The wife of the Senior General, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, warmly consoles the patients in the maternity and child wards of PyinOoLwin.



# NATIONAL

## Sitagu Sayadaw, well-wishers donate cash to funds for relief and rehabilitation

Vice-Senior General Soe Win discloses that more than 140,000 people experienced the impacts of flash floods, leaving 419 people dead, according to the latest data.



The reception ceremony for cash donations from Sitagu Sayadaw and well-wishers is in progress yesterday, attended by Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

**S**TATE Ovadacariya Shwegyin Nikaya Chairman Ganidhipati 16<sup>th</sup> Shwegyin Sangharaja Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academies and Sitagu Hospitals Abhidhaja Maharatthaguru Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika Mahadhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara and well-wishers donated cash to the funds for rescue, relief and rehabilitation in the flood-hit areas triggered by Typhoon Yagi, at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the ceremony, a disciple on behalf of Sitagu Sayadaw presented US\$10,000 to State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, who, in the capacity of the National Disaster Management Committee Chairman, returned a certificate of appreciation.

The Vice-Senior General ac-



Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara and Vice-Senior General Soe Win are pictured during the yesterday's event.

cepted K100 million donated by Kun Kho Ya Co Ltd and presented a certificate of appreciation to the company.

The Vice-Senior General

and union ministers offered alms to the Sayadaw.

A video clip on documentaries on donations to flood-stricken monasteries and nunneries

was presented.

On the occasion, the Vice-Senior General said that heavy rains and flash floods triggered by Typhoon Yagi occurred in 54 townships of nine regions and states, flooding buildings and schools. More than 140,000 people experienced the impacts of flash floods, leaving 419 people dead, according to this morning's data. The flood destroyed 253 schools and 926 roads and bridges, in addition to lamp-posts and telecom towers, as well as more than 750,000 acres of paddy plantations and killing more than 100,000 animals.

The Vice-Senior General supplicated that the government allocated K30 billion for relief and rehabilitation measures for flood-affected people and regions. On 21 September, well-wishers donated K32.2 billion for the project. The allotted funds will be spent on rehabilitation measures in the disaster-affected areas as soon as

possible, whereas schools will be reopened as quickly as possible in October.

He added that, so far, the government has managed the dredging of 91 out of 106 ancient lakes affected by cyclone Mocha in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone, with 28 lakes in completion of dredging and nine lakes under dredging. A total of 47 lakes are being preserved with the public contributions.

Apart from minor damage at 11 religious edifices in Bagan, other religious monuments were free from the impacts of Typhoon Yagi.

He thanked the Sayadaw and Kun Kho Ya Co for their donations to flood-impacted areas and people.

Sitagu Sayadaw delivered a sermon dedicated to all donations for the sake of the people who lost lives in the recent natural disasters triggered by Typhoon Yagi, and then shared the merits gained. — MNA/TTA



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# NATIONAL

## PyinOoLwin station urged to enhance security, ...

### FROM PAGE 1

The Senior General emphasized that local Tatmadaw units must at one with and cooperate with residents in undertaking security measures for the regions and residents.

In the afternoon, the Senior General inspected the construction of a six-storey Thumingala Market (Nyantaw Market) in PyinOoLwin, where Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung reported on the progress of works, a circular road of the market, car parks, lifts, ordinary steps, plans to open shops on each floor, playgrounds and cinemas, and arrangements to install solar panels for generating electricity.

In his response, the Senior General gave guidance that it is necessary to take worksite safety and proper flow of water in drains into consideration. He urged officials to supervise the systematic allocation of shops



The Senior General presents offerings to Buddha images at the Maha Shwemyintin Pagoda on 23 September 2024.

upon completion of the building. Solar systems must be implemented to electrify shops and lifts. He added that the advanced market aims to sell domestic products and essential personal goods in a single place. He noted that the market

must be a model for PyinOoLwin. The Senior General highlighted that meat, vegetables and crops must be packaged systematically for sale. He underscored that it is necessary to consider systematic car parks for the operation of restaurants

and shops for visits of local and foreign travellers during festival seasons.

The Senior General viewed round progress of the six-storey market and left necessary instructions.

He then paid homage to

Maha Shwemyintin Pagoda in PyinOoLwin and made cash donations.

The Senior General and party also paid homage to the Buddha image at the Pada footprint hall of the pagoda. — MNA/TTA

## SAC Member consoles Pinlaung residents, provides cash assistance

SATE Administration Council Member Khun San Lwin, accompanied by Shan State Road and Transport Minister U Nay Win Aung, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone Chairman U Khun Ye Htwe and PNO (Pa-O National Organization) met locals at Mya Thein Tan Pariyatti Monastery in Pinlaung Township, and provided cash assistance to disaster-impacted people yesterday.

The SAC member and party first paid homage to the Presiding Patron Sayadaw of the Mya Thein Tan Pariyatti Monastery and donated offerings.

The SAC member then talked about the rehabilitation processes for the losses of flood-hit victims, cooperation in rehabilitation processes and prioritized sectors in transport.

The Shan State Road and Transport Minister and the



State Administration Council Member Khun San Lwin meets locals and flood-impacted people in Pinlaung Township yesterday.

Pa-O Self-administered Zone Chairman reported on the relief works in Hopong, Hsihseng

and Pinlaung townships. Then, the SAC member handed over K10 million, and

the PNO Secretary-General presented K5 million to the relevant officials.

At noon, the SAC member and party observed Naungtaya Potato cold storage and Naungtaya fertilizer factory.

At the reception hall of the factory, the SAC member met locals and highlighted plans to conduct rehabilitation processes by collecting data on destroyed schools, roads, bridges and clinics and importance of cooperation between donors and locals and the government.

Then, the SAC member and party heard the locals' presentations. They then donated K5 million for Naungmu rehabilitation processes, K10million for Naungtaya region, and the CB bank of Aungban township donated K5 million and K3 million by Naungtaya Agriculture and Cooperatives Association to the Township National Disaster Management Committee and locals. — MNA/KTZH



# NATIONAL

## Myanmar showcases cultural products, traditional food at Chongqing Expo



Photos show the 13<sup>th</sup> International Cultural Industry Expo being held in Chongqing (left) and the booth of Myanmar displaying its cultural products and traditional foods (right).

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reported that Myanmar showcased its cultural products and traditional food at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Cultural Industry Expo, held in Chongqing, China, on 20 September.

The expo was hosted by the Public Service Department of Chongqing Municipality and the Chongqing International Convention Organization. Consul-General U Kyaw Zeyar Lin of the Myanmar Consulate-General in Chongqing

attended the opening ceremony.

With support from the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Network (MWEN), the Myanmar consulate-general displayed a range of handicrafts and traditional food products from Myanmar.

The expo aims to promote cultural exchange and expand trade between provinces in China and the international community. Participating regions included Chongqing Municipality, Hubei Province, and

Guangdong Province, along with twenty countries such as Myanmar, Germany, Belarus, Pakistan, Japan, the Philippines, and Australia.

The opening ceremony was attended by officials from the Foreign Affairs Department, the Commerce Department, and the Culture and Tourism Department of Chongqing Municipality, as well as consuls-general and consuls based in Chongqing and Chengdu, along with guests. — ASH/TMT

## Myanmar joins “2024 ASEAN Family Day” in Seoul

U Thant Sin, Myanmar’s Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, along with embassy staff, participated in the “2024 ASEAN Family Day” ceremony held in Seoul on 22 September, as reported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The event took place at Seoul Battleship Park and was organized by the Embassy of the Philippines, which currently holds the chairmanship of the ASEAN Committee in Seoul.

Attendees included the Sec-

retary-General and staff from the ASEAN-Korea Centre, ambassadors and their spouses from various ASEAN embassies, as well as diplomats and their families. The Philippine Ambassador, Ms Maria Theresa Dizon-De Vega, delivered a speech, and participants engaged in various games and competitions.

During the ceremony, the Myanmar embassy, along with other ASEAN embassies, offered traditional food and drinks to guests. — ASH/MKKS



This photo shows participants of the “2024 ASEAN Family Day” ceremony held in Seoul on 22 September.

## Inya Lake Garden to host ‘R & B Night’ by Myo Kyawt Myaing and Wyne Su Khine Thein

A music show titled ‘R & B Night’ featuring renowned singers Myo Kyawt Myaing and Wyne Su Khine Thein will take place at Inya Lake Garden on 28 September. The event is set to start at 7 pm, with the Daily Gita Band providing musical accompaniment.

“I haven’t seen Ko Myo Kyawt for a long time, and I’ll be singing my favourite songs that he wrote. I hope the songs I choose will align with my fans’ preferences as well. Let’s make



This image showcases the poster of the ‘R & B Night’ by Myo Kyawt Myaing and Wyne Su Khine Thein. It a memorable night at Inya Lake Garden,” said Wyne Su Khine Thein. — ASH/TRKM

## EU pledges €1.2M; UNOCHA seeks more funds for flood relief

THE European Union (EU) has announced that it is prepared to provide €1.2 million to assist flood-hit individuals nationwide and is collaborating with partner organizations to secure additional funding.

Similarly, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) in Myanmar is actively seeking extra funds to support those affected by the floods. Currently, only 27 per cent of the funding needed for the 2024 Humanitarian Response Project has been secured, prompting UNOCHA to intensify efforts to boost flood response activities. The Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim for Myanmar is also working alongside UNOCHA to address these challenges.

Norway has contributed \$500,000 to assist regions im-



This photo depicts UNOCHA Myanmar’s aid being provided to Myanmar’s flooding areas.

acted by the floods, and it is anticipated that the United States will also provide support for flood relief efforts.

After ten days of flooding caused by Typhoon Yagi, approximately 887,000 people have been impacted across 65 townships in Bago, Magway, Mandalay, and Sagaing Regions, as well as in Kayah,

Kayin, Mon, Rakhine, and eastern and southern Shan States, including Nay Pyi Taw.

The floods have resulted in significant destruction, including damaged homes, household appliances, water sources, and power lines, in addition to over 300 reported deaths and more than 100 injuries. — ASH/MKKS

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## CBM sells US\$22.6M on 23 Sept

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$22.6 million on 23 September.

CBM also announced on 20 September that it would inject \$30 million into the fuel oil sector. Then, it sold over \$1.2 million and 800,000 yuan on 20 September.

CBM pumped over \$8.5 million and two million Thai baht on 19 September and over 3.2 million baht on 18 September into the financial market. According to CBM's notification dated 17 September, it would sell 10 million baht for importers on 18 September.

It also injected \$30,000 on 17 September, \$5 million on 16 September, \$230,000, over 1.5 million yuan and over 956,000 baht on 13 September into the financial market.

CBM announced on 12 September that it would pump \$10 million into the fuel oil sector and \$7 million into the edible oil sector through the foreign exchange trading platform. It sold \$12.4 million and 80 million baht on 4 September, \$90,000 on 5 September and \$100,000 on 6 September, respectively.

Following CBM's notification dated 14 August about contribution of \$100 million towards the fuel oil sector, it sold over \$9.498 million at exchange rate of K3,400 on 15 August, over \$89.975 million at exchange rate of K3,410 on 19 August, \$31 million at exchange rate of K3,440 on 22 August, over \$35 million at exchange rate of K3,460 on 26 August and \$16.9 million at exchange rate of K3,472 on 28 August respectively.

CBM announced on 9 August that it would sell \$6 million, five million yuan and 10 million baht into the edible oil, fuel oil and pharmaceutical sectors through online foreign exchange trading platforms in the coming week.

CBM sold \$5 million and five million yuan for fuel oil, edible oil and pharmaceutical sectors on 2 August, after authorized banks sold 69 million baht and nine million yuan for those importing edible oil, fertilizer, pharmaceuticals and medical devices on 1 August through a foreign exchange trading platform.

Therefore, CBM injected over \$190 million, 19 million yuan and 79 million baht in August.

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 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

## Mandalay market sees brisk sales of chickpea, lablab bean

MANDALAY market was bustling with trading activity of chickpeas and lablab beans in the third week of September upon strong demand from charity drives for donations to the flood-hit area.

Chickpeas are heavily reliant on domestic consumption. Therefore, the demand for millers is highly correlated with price fluctuation, according to the Mandalay commodity depot.

The chickpea is commonly cultivated in October-November and harvested in January-April. It is primarily grown in Bago, Ayeyawady, Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay regions.

Next, lablab bean is highly consumed in the domestic market, and it is also exported to foreign markets. China is the leading buyer of Myanmar's lablab bean. The beans are also shipped to India and Japan. Additionally, Myanmar was able to export



A vendor evaluates chickpeas in the market.

lablab beans as ready-to-eat roasted beans to Singapore with value-addition. The lablab bean is a cold-season crop

primarily grown in the Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway regions. It is usually harvested in January. — KK

## Bogale blood clam supply to Yangon market increases in August

ABOUT 75,000 visses of blood clam from Bogalay Township, Ayeyawady Region, were supplied to the Yangon market in August, which increases from 54,000 visses registered in July, said Daw Le Le Win, a fishery depot owner in Bogalay Township.

"The supply grew remarkably in August. The majority of the fisheries from Ayeyawady Region are sent to Yangon. The blood clam has strong domestic demand. Local fisheries products, including blood clam, are highly purchased in Yangon this month", she elaborated.

This business is thriving, allowing fishermen, hard labourers and traders to earn well.

Blood clam farming business is incredibly trendy in the 2017-2018

financial year. The capacity of a clam farm is estimated at 30,000 clams. When the blood clams reach one kilo with less than 100 calms, it's the right size to deliver them to market. There are around 100 clam farming ponds in Taninthayi Region, said Daw Ni Ni engaged in blood clam farming in Yaykantaung village tract, Kyunsu Township, Taninthayi Region

The blood clam has two shells. Some called them the blood cockles. The residents in Taninthayi widely called them Gin. The blood clam from Taninthayi Region is primarily exported to Thailand, generating foreign earnings and creating jobs for the local community. — KK



## Myanmar exports 2,600+ tonnes of shrimp in 5 months of FY

THE Fisheries Department stated that Myanmar conveyed more than 2,600 tonnes of shrimp to international trading partners in the first five months of the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, with an estimated value of \$9.58 million.

Myanmar's seaborne shrimp export reached 2,141.387 tonnes worth \$6.95 million, and the border saw exports of 464.54 tonnes worth \$2.626 million between 1 April and 31 August.

Myanmar exports fishery products to 40 international countries, including Japan, Bangladesh, China and Thailand, through maritime and border trade channels.

Myanmar delivered fisheries worth \$143.244 million to external markets in the Q1 (April-June) this FY. — NN/KK

## Yangon International Trade Expo 2024 to be held on 25-27 Oct

YANGON International Trade Expo 2024 will take place on 25 and 27 October from 10 am to 5 pm at Yangon Convention Centre (YCC), providing a platform to showcase domestic products and services.

This expo will also include semi-

nars, business matching programmes and networking events. Construction businesses, equipment, real estate and investment businesses, education, health care service, IT and renewable energy, agriculture and food processing companies and other service businesses

will feature their products and services with over 200 exhibition booths.

Entrepreneurs and companies can register to participate in the expo through contact numbers (09 409 4000 55, 09 409 4000 66, 09 409 4000 77, and 09 43125185). — NN/KK



# OPINION

## Strive to restore normality through concerted efforts

**A**LTHOUGH severe flash floods and heavy rains have impacted many parts of the country, it is time for everyone to make utmost efforts to restore normalcy through rehabilitation and reconstruction for the loss and damage to people's property.

Most rural communities have suffered significant losses due to the recent natural disasters. Many have lost their livelihoods as they are engaged in agriculture and livestock farming. According to statistics released by relevant departments on 21 September, a total of 2,149 buildings were completely destroyed by the disasters in 56 townships, along with 126,023 flooded houses.

Moreover, a total of 148,643 people are suffering from the impacts of natural disasters. In the incident, 384 people died in the incidents, with 89 still missing. Additionally, 546 schools and 435

religious buildings were damaged, while 144,998 animals lost their lives, and 735,461 acres of paddy plantations were submerged.

Crops such as paddy, pulses, beans, and sesame were flooded. As a result, farmers may face challenges in regrowing paddy once the water recedes. Nevertheless, the government has pledged to provide assistance to farmers as much as possible. Therefore, farmers are encouraged to grow summer paddy on all available acreage to compensate for the damaged monsoon crops. With heavy rains filling the dams, agricultural water will be available at full capacity for summer crops.

Additionally, many livestock and other animals died due to the heavy rains and flash floods. The government is prepared to offer aid for operating livestock breeding farms to support the farmers. Currently, the government prioritizes managing food and

accommodation for flood-affected individuals. Meanwhile, relevant organizations will assist with farmland preparations, cultivation, and livestock farming measures.

In the upcoming October, farmers will commence cultivation of winter crops. It is time to plant pulses, beans, and other crops, along with summer paddy. The government will provide quality seeds, fertile soil, water, and agricultural techniques, along with financial support, enabling farmers to rebuild their lives in normalcy.

Now, these submerged lands of crop plantations will be repaired to regrow cold-season crops so as to improve the socioeconomic life of farmers. However, people should not worry about food security as the government has restored about four million tonnes of rice reserves in warehouses for public consumption. If all flood-affected people try hard to overcome challenges in all measures through united strength, they can achieve a better socioeconomic life in the near future.

**L**AST year, my 9-year-old son Leopold and I were preparing for a mother-son ski trip to Keystone, Colorado. I introduced a new rule: we would say yes to everything. Leopold is a picky eater, surviving mainly on chicken nuggets and yoghurt. He often hesitates to try new things. He says it's because he has phobias, like heights, spiders, and the dark, but I think he just has normal childhood jitters.

I wanted to encourage him without using the old saying, "If you don't try it, you'll never know if you like it." So, I borrowed the idea of a Yes Day, inspired by the movie of the same name. Our family had tried it a few times before. Leopold and I agreed to say yes to everything during the trip, including new foods and experiences.

Our journey began with a stop at a breakfast buffet at the airport. I tried a vegan meatball while Leopold took a small bite of hash browns, which he found amusingly odd-looking. Neither of us went back for seconds, but we both decided our new foods were "not bad."

The next day, after settling into our hotel, I took Leopold to meet his snowboarding instructor. He had taken a few lessons back home in Connecticut, but this was his first time snowboarding on such a large mountain. I hoped Leopold would make the most of this opportunity.

While he attended snowboarding school, I skied alone. On the first day, I stayed on the long and easy green run. On the second day, inspired by Leopold's bravery in learning to ride a chairlift despite his fear of heights, I challenged myself to ski an intermediate blue run. There was a steep section that I found intimidating, but I took my time with slow, careful S-turns and made it down safely. I was proud of myself for trying something new.

Later that afternoon, back at the lodge, Leopold asked if we could go in the outdoor hot tub. It was a freezing 20-degree day, and I despise being cold and wet. When I hesitated, Leopold reminded me of our pact.

Yes, it was cold and wet, but it was also invigorating. The cold air on my skin made the hot water feel even better once we got in. Getting out was another story, but the experience was delightful because Leopold and I faced it together.

We had so much fun saying yes to everything that we decided to involve the rest of the family – Leopold's dad and sister – during our spring break trip to St Augustine, Florida. We all said yes to a moonlit ghost tour of the city's haunted sites, including a century-old jail and gallows. While

# Let's Say

# 'Yes'

By Yin Nwe Ko

others left the creepy jail cell during the ghost stories, Leopold and I stayed until the end.

On the same trip, Leopold tried his first spicy tuna roll, and his sister Nola sampled blackened grouper. When Nola asked me to join her in the freezing ocean, I went along. Not only did I survive, but I also enjoyed it because we had the whole ocean to ourselves.

During our summer adventures, we continued saying yes. I went down a scary 90-degree waterslide at a water park because my daughter asked me to. It was actually quite fun, though I would plug my nose next time. Leopold bravely completed a ropes course, reaching the top.

On our big family vacation to Yellowstone, saying yes led us to a 15-mile bike ride in Jackson Hole, line dancing at a country-western bar, and horseback riding through a national forest. On the last night, at the rodeo in Cody, Wyoming, both kids eagerly joined the traditional calf chase. Though neither caught the prized bandanna, they returned laughing, sweaty, and excited. It was an unforgettable experience.

The beauty of saying yes on vacation is that it pushes you out of your comfort zone. Although it's not always possible to say yes to everything at home, where work, school, and other obligations interfere, we try to say it more often. Cultivating a sense of adventure helps us live life to the fullest – even if it means sometimes ending up cold and wet.

As we continued to embrace the spirit of saying yes, we found more opportunities for adventure and growth. During a visit to a local zoo, Leopold



agreed to feed the giraffes. He was initially hesitant, but the joy on his face as the giraffe gently took the food from his hand was priceless. Nola, inspired by her brother, decided to hold a small snake, something she had always been afraid of. Her bravery was rewarded with a newfound confidence.

At an amusement park, Leopold asked if we could try the roller coaster. Normally, I would have declined, but remembering our pact, I agreed. The ride was thrilling, and the shared experience brought us closer together. Even Nola, who usually avoided such rides, joined us, proving that saying yes could lead to unexpected fun.

We also tried new foods more often. Leopold, who usually stuck to his favourites, started to explore different cuisines. He discovered he liked sushi and even tried escargot during a fancy dinner out. Nola found a love for spicy foods and began experimenting with new recipes at home.

Our family also became more active. We started hiking on weekends, exploring new trails and enjoying nature. Leopold and Nola both took up swimming, and I joined a yoga class. These activities not only improved our physical health but also brought us closer as a family.

Saying yes also opened doors to new friendships. During a neighbourhood block party, we agreed to join in

the games and activities, meet new people and form connections we might have missed otherwise. Leopold and Nola made new friends, and we found a sense of community we hadn't experienced before.

Our adventures took us to new places as well. A spur-of-the-moment decision to visit a nearby city led to a weekend filled with museums, parks, and local cuisine. We discovered hidden gems and created memories that will last a lifetime.

Even mundane activities became more enjoyable. When Leopold asked if we could have a family game night, we all said yes. It became a weekly tradition filled with laughter and bonding. Nola suggested we start a garden, and soon, our backyard was filled with vegetables and flowers, a project we all took pride in.

Reflecting on our journey, I realized that saying yes had transformed our lives. We became more open-minded and willing to take risks and try new things. Our family grew stronger, our relationships deeper, and our experiences richer.

Saying yes taught us to embrace the unknown, to face our fears, and to find joy in the unexpected. It reminded us that life is full of opportunities waiting to be seized and that sometimes, the greatest adventures come from simply saying yes.

So, as we look forward to future trips and everyday moments, we carry with us the spirit of adventure. Whether it's a new food, an exciting activity, or a simple request, we strive to say yes, knowing that it leads to growth, connection, and unforgettable memories.

And who knows? Maybe the next yes will lead us to an even greater adventure, one that we hadn't even imagined. Because in the end, saying yes isn't just about the experiences we gain; it's about the life we choose to live, full of possibility, excitement, and love.

Embracing the spirit of saying yes has not only enriched our vacations but also transformed our everyday lives. It has taught us to step out of our comfort zones, face our fears, and seek adventure in every moment. As a family, we have grown closer, discovered new passions, and created lasting memories. Moving forward, we will continue to embrace opportunities with open hearts and minds, knowing that each "yes" can lead to unforgettable experiences and a fuller, more vibrant life. So, whether we're exploring new places or simply enjoying time together at home, we'll remember that the key to a life well-lived is always to be ready to say yes.

**Reference: Reader's Digest July/August 2024**

## Japan can raise renewable energy share to 80% by 2035: study

*The institute recommends increasing renewable power generation capacity from 150 million kilowatts to 500 million kilowatts and boosting storage battery capacity from 1.8 million kilowatts to 72 million kilowatts for better solar energy storage.*

**J**APAN could boost the share of renewable energy in its electricity production to 80 per cent by fiscal 2035 by expanding the use of storage batteries and enhancing regional power grid cooperation, a Japanese think tank said in a recent study.

Japan could achieve a sharp increase in the share of renewables in its power generation from the 22 per cent attained in fiscal 2022, all while working to entirely phase out nuclear and coal power, the Renewable Energy Institute said.

The proposed energy transition is feasible without a significant increase in electricity bills or cuts in industrial activities, the study noted. It assumes that Japan's power consumption will remain stable despite the growth of industries such as semiconductor production and data center operations due to anticipated improvements in power usage efficiency.

The think tank made the analysis as the Japanese government is drawing up a new energy mix plan next year that will likely include higher dependence on nuclear power to cope with an increase in energy demand.

The institute calls for a hike in the capacity to generate power using renewable energy to about 500 million kilowatts from 150 million kilowatts in fiscal 2022. Infrastructure connecting regional power grids needs to be strengthened in regions between the Tokyo area and Hokkaido, it said. The country's storage battery capacity should also be brought up to 72 million kilowatts from the current 1.8 million kilowatts to store electricity from solar power generation, it said.

The remaining 20 per cent of energy demand could be met by power generation using natural gas, which emits less greenhouse gases than other fossil fuels when burned, the think tank said.

**SOURCE: Kyodo**



This file photo taken in May 2023 shows a large-scale solar power plant built in Oguni, Kumamoto Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**



# NATIONAL

## Flood-hit people receive cash assistance, foodstuffs



UNION Minister for Labour U Myint Naung, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Win Shein, Directors-General, relevant officials of departments, organizations and MOEAA (Myanmar Overseas Employment Agency Association), yesterday attended the food donation ceremony for 260 flood-stricken households in Chaungkangyi village, Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, at the Changkangyi Monastery.

At the event, the Union Minister and party donated of-

ferings to Presiding Sayadaw of Chaungkangyi Monastery U Thusetta, and handed over cash assistance and foodstuffs for flood victims.

They also observed the healthcare services of medical units of the Social Security Board of the Ministry of Labour and consoled the flood-affected people.

At the event, 260 households received K30,267,000 worth of cash assistance, as well as foodstuffs. — MNA/KTZH

Union Minister U Myint Naung hands over the cash assistance to the flood victim yesterday.

## Yunnan discusses friendship, cooperation with Myanmar-China Friendship Association

A six-member friendship delegation led by Deputy Governor Mr Liu Yong of Yunnan Province met Chairman U Tin Oo of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association, along with the vice-chairman and other executives, at the Sedona Hotel yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed ways to strengthen

the friendship and trust between Yunnan Province and Myanmar, promote peaceful coexistence, enhance people-to-people relations, and prioritize the implementation of mutual interests. Following the meeting, the Myanmar-China Friendship Association hosted a lunch for the guests at Dagon Hall. — MNA/TRKM

## MSWRR Union Minister consoles flood victims in Nay Pyi Taw; well-wishers donate cash



Union Minister Dr Soe Win receives cash donations from departmental organizations and well-wishers yesterday.

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win, who is also Vice-Chair 2 of the National Disaster Management Committee, consoled the flood-hit people at the Aung Myay Yadana Monastery in Seinsabin village, Zeyathiri Township and Shwe Mingala Pauktaw Monastery in Pobbathiri Township, yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union minister talked about the relief assistance for five flood-hit townships in Nay Pyi Taw provided by the ministry and Nay Pyi Taw Council and further help from the government for accommodation, agriculture, and livestock.

He then comforted the

flood victims warmly.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo urged the victims to adopt systematic waste management. He mentioned the efforts to facilitate transport, the opening of hospitals and schools, and proper assistance for their safe return.

Then, the Union minister and Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman handed over K500,000 provided by the government, K300,000 by the ministry and K200,000 by Nay Pyi Taw Council, totalling K1,000,000, to flood victims.

Moreover, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (Nay Pyi Taw) and Save The Chil-

dren organization donated commodities.

Similarly, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win received cash donations for flood-hit people made by the departmental organizations and well-wishers at the Disaster Management Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. He also expressed gratitude for the donation and gave certificates of appreciation in return. The Constitutional Tribunal chairman, members and staff donated K5 million, and Diamond Brothers Group donated K5 million, totalling K10 million, at the event. — MNA/KTZH

### Counter-argument to false information

## False reports blame Tatmadaw for arson in Madaya amid terrorist attacks

UNLAWFUL and subversive media are deliberately spreading false reports, falsely accusing Tatmadaw security forces of setting fire to and destroying houses in Gondanlay Village, Madaya Township, Mandalay Region.

In reality, terrorists had been threatening the villagers, extorting money from them, and planting mines on public roads. Upon information from a concerned citizen, security forces were in

the process of defusing the mines when terrorists dropped bombs, which exploded near the houses, according to a security official.

Despite this, malicious media outlets continue to spread false news to mislead the public intentionally.

Authorities have urged citizens to discreetly inform the nearest security post if they are aware of terrorist activity in their area. — MNA/TMT



# NATIONAL



A commemorative group photo of Singaporeans' donations to flood-impacted people in Myanmar.

## Singaporeans send aid to flood-stricken communities in Myanmar

IN response to severe flooding caused by recent heavy rains in several states and regions of Myanmar, the Singapore Sinhala Buddhist Association, Maha Garuna Buddhist Society, and Willing Hearts charitable organization have donated food and essential supplies to affected communities.

Approximately 10 tonnes of items, including nutritious food packs, clothing for adults and children, jackets, footwear, and

personal hygiene products like soap and shampoo, have been sent to Yangon through the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore.

Donations were facilitated by Myanmar National Airways (MNA) and Myanmar Airways International (MAI), which provided complimentary transport for the aid from Singapore to Yangon from 23 to 27 September 2024. Over two tonnes of supplies have already arrived at Yangon International Airport

on 23 and 24 September.

Donated items will be distributed to flood-stricken communities across Myanmar through the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement's programmes. The Myanmar Embassy in Singapore is collaborating with the Singapore Sinhala Buddhist Association, Maha Garuna Buddhist Society, and Willing Hearts to ensure that aid reaches those in need. — MNA/KZL

## Cash provided for deceased victims' families after Typhoon Yagi

THE strong winds and heavy rainfall from Typhoon Yagi triggered severe flooding, landslides, damage, and deaths of humans and animals across the country, affecting 54 townships in nine regions and states.

The State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister instructed to provide cash assistance for the injured people and destroyed materials, including the dead, as quickly as possible on 17 September at the National Disaster Management Committee. The committee members, ministries concerned, and well-wishers

provided cash assistance for the dead as a priority, and they handed over K1 million each to the families of 22 dead – 11 from Pobbathiri, seven from Pyinmana and four from Zeyathiri townships yesterday.

The committee provided K500,000, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement K300,000 and Nay Pyi Taw Council K200,000, respectively for 22 families.

Family members of the dead will be provided, and plans are underway to assist the injured and destroyed houses. — MNA/KTZH



A bereaved family member receives a K500,000 assistance.

## Aid+ health services continue for flood-stricken areas



Photos show the provision of relief items (left photo) and volunteers assisting locals in the face of flash floods (right).

HEALTHCARE services and donations of food and essential supplies are being provided to flood-stricken areas. Rescue and rehabilitation are ongoing in neighbourhoods and villages affected by flooding across states and regions, including Nay Pyi Taw Council areas.

Efforts were coordinated yesterday in Zeyathiri, Pyinmana, Tatkon, Lewe,

and Pobbathiri townships of Nay Pyi Taw, as well as in Kalaw Township of southern Shan State, Loikaw Township in Kayah State, and Taungoo Township of Bago Region. Volunteers, including Tatmadaw members, police officers, firefighters, and Red Cross members, worked alongside locals to relocate necessary items, clear debris, and provide

sanitation services. Fallen trees were also removed, and access roads and bridges were cleared of any blockages.

In addition, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Min of the Nay Pyi Taw Regional Command and other officials visited affected areas in Lewe Township, including Shwetaiktan Village and Nanwinn Ai Village monasteries, to meet with monks

and provide them with donations. They offered food supplies such as rice, oil, salt, and dried fish to the flood-hit residents in these areas. They then oversaw community cleaning efforts at local schools and monasteries.

Similarly, Maj-Gen Kyi Thike, commander of the Southern Regional Command visited flooded areas in Taungoo Township, including Anauksinywa Village and Shwehlaytaw Village near damaged dams, offering words of encouragement and food supplies to displaced residents. The commander and his team also visited temporary relief camps to inspect ongoing healthcare services and food preparation efforts. Later, they observed cleanup works, including clearing blockages from bridges on the old Yangon-Mandalay road, ensuring water flow and removing debris with the help of department staff and volunteers. — MNA/KZL



# ECONOMY WORLD

## Hungary, China vow to deepen cooperation on green finance



Delegates attend a panel discussion during the Budapest Renminbi (RMB) Initiative Conference 2024 in Budapest, Hungary, on 23 September 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

HUNGARY and China have agreed to strengthen financial cooperation and promote green finance at the Budapest Renminbi (RMB) Initiative Conference 2024 here on Monday.

At the conference, co-hosted by the National Bank of Hungary (MNB) and the Bank of China, Barnabas Virag, deputy governor of MNB highlighted the importance of the initiative in fostering Hungary-China rela-

tions and supporting sustainable investments.

“The Budapest Renminbi Initiative, launched in 2015, has been instrumental in deepening financial and economic ties between China and Hungary,” he said, adding that “this year, our focus is on green finance and the internalization of the RMB, two crucial areas for the future of our economies.”

Virag spoke highly of Chi-

na’s strides in developing its green finance market, citing the issuance of green bonds and the financing of environmentally sustainable projects, a trend that Hungary is also embracing.

He also underscored the role of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in promoting sustainable development. “As the BRI evolves, its potential to promote sustainable future-proof investment is becoming increasingly

clear. By aligning BRI projects with green finance principles, we can ensure that economic growth driven by the initiative is both inclusive and responsible,” Virag noted.

The BRI, which Hungary joined in 2015, has bolstered infrastructure projects and increased trade between the two countries, said Virag at the conference, which is also part of celebrations marking the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two nations.

Yang Chao, minister counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Hungary, said the conference is a significant step toward expanding RMB cooperation and promoting green finance.

“China and Hungary share similar development concepts and policy goals. We hope to expand the breadth and depth of RMB cooperation and elevate financial cooperation to new heights under the Belt and Road framework,” Yang added.

The first half of 2024 saw robust growth in cross-border RMB settlements between China and Hungary. The Bank of China processed a total of 26.4 billion yuan in settlements through its domestic and Hungarian branches. — Xinhua

## Cambodia’s trade with ASEAN up 11.8% in first 8 months of 2024

CAMBODIA’S trade exchanges with its fellow ASEAN member states amounted to US\$10.49 billion in the first eight months of 2024, up 11.8 per cent from \$9.38 billion over the same period last year, said a report from the General Department of Customs and Excise on Tuesday.

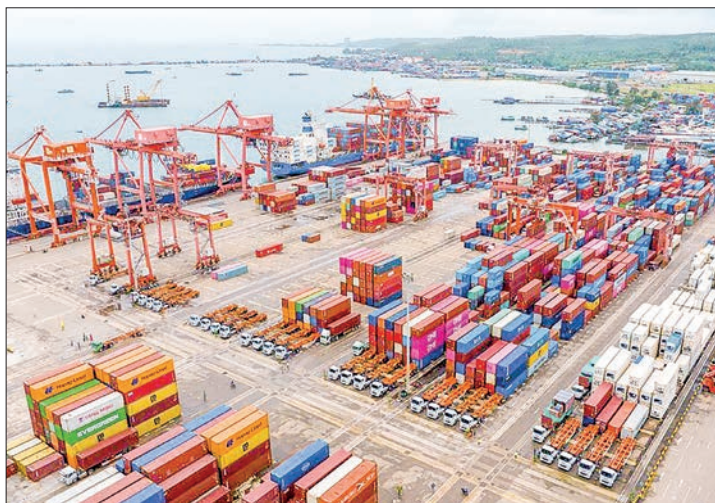
The kingdom exported products worth \$3.43 billion to other ASEAN countries during the January-August period this year, up 10 per cent from \$3.11 billion over the same period last year, the report said.

Meanwhile, the country’s import from its fellow ASEAN

countries was valued at \$7.06 billion, up 12.5 per cent from \$6.27 billion, it added.

The report said Cambodia’s trade volume with the ASEAN accounted for 28.4 per cent of its \$36.9-billion total trade volume during the first eight months of this year. The country’s top five trading partners in ASEAN are Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia, the report added.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet has recently said that the country stood as a vibrant partner within the ASEAN countries. — Xinhua



An aerial drone photo taken on 11 September 2024 shows a container terminal at the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port (PAS) in Sihanoukville, Cambodia **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### IMK report reveals lingering weakness in German economy

THE German economy remains mired in stagnation, with continued weakness expected throughout this year, according to a report published by a leading German research institute on Tuesday.

The German economy has been stuck in stagnation for years and a tentative recovery is anticipated only next year, the Macroeconomic Policy Institute (IMK) said in the report.

The institute forecasts that Germany’s gross domestic product will grow by 0.4 per cent this year, with recovery expected to accelerate next year, reaching a growth rate of 1.1 per cent. The report highlights that private consumption, driven by real wage increases and renewed consumer confidence, will play a crucial role in supporting the economic recovery. Meanwhile, exports and investment in equipment are expected to contribute positively to the rebound. — Xinhua

### S Korea’s retail sales grow in August

SOUTH Korea’s retail sales kept growing last month due to solid online demand for food and daily necessities, government data showed Tuesday.

The combined revenue among major offline and online retailers advanced 9.2 per cent in August from a year earlier, faster than an increase of 6.3 per cent in the previous month, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy. Revenue for online retailers jumped 13.9 per cent last month, maintaining a double-digit growth for the 12<sup>th</sup> straight month since September last year. Sales by offline retailers gained 5.0 per cent in August on a yearly basis after reducing 3.0 per cent in July.

Food demand in cyberspace soared 19.8 per cent, and online sales of daily necessities expanded 10.8 per cent. — Xinhua



## Indonesia secures US\$165 mln foreign investment for new capital Nusantara project

INDONESIA'S Ministry of Investment announced on Tuesday that the country had secured a total of US\$165 million from five foreign investors for its new capital city, Nusantara, located on Kalimantan Island.

Minister of Investment Rosan Perkasa Roeslani said in Jakarta that one of the investors was Singapore-based energy company Sembcorp, with an investment value of \$65 million, which would build a 50-megawatt solar plant.

"Sembcorp has started construction since last month," Roeslani said.

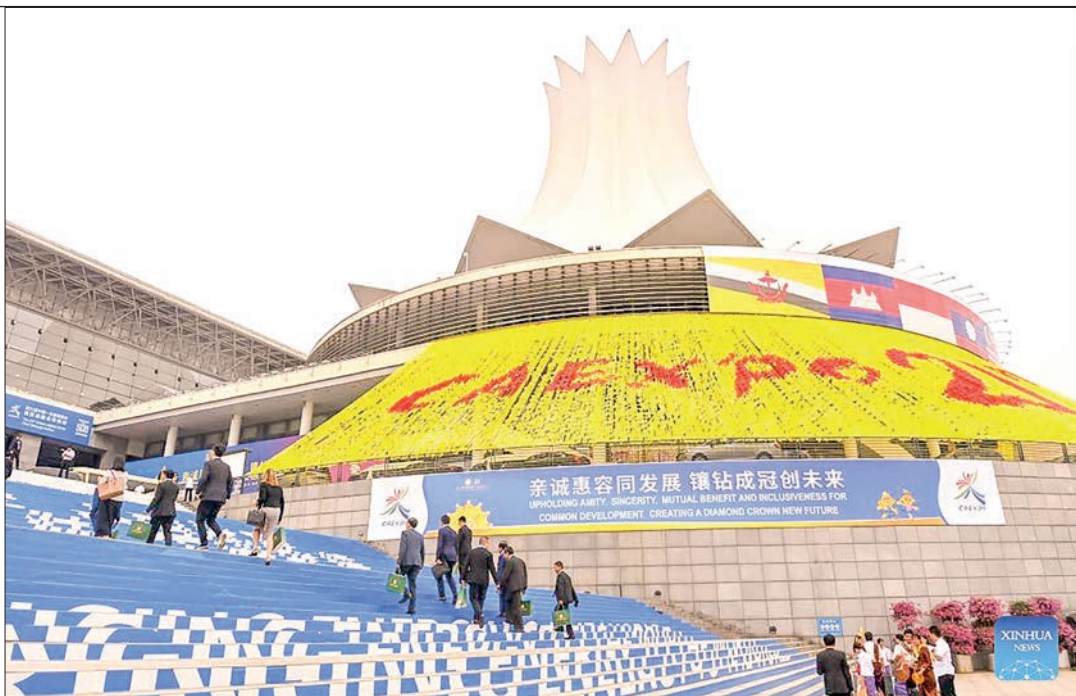
The Nusantara project, covering 256,142 hectares in East

Kalimantan, began construction in 2022. To fund the massive development, Indonesia is exploring a variety of financial sources, including state funding, international investments, and even crowdfunding from the public.

Investors from different countries are offered various incentives, including an 80-year right of land use permit and import tax exemptions.

Roeslani said the Indonesian government is encouraging more clean energy-based development to attract green investment.

"We hope to see more investments in sectors that contribute to carbon neutrality," he said. — Xinhua



This photo shows a view of Nanning International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Nanning, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, 24 September 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

## China-ASEAN Expo further drives economic, trade cooperation

PARTICIPANTS at the 21<sup>st</sup> China-ASEAN Expo, which kicked off on Tuesday in Nanning, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, emphasized the importance of deepening economic and trade cooperation between the two sides.

The opening ceremony attracted about 1,100 participants, including Chinese and foreign leaders, government officials, entrepreneurs, scholars, and representatives from international organizations.

The theme of this year's expo focuses on "Upholding amity, sincerity, mutual benefit

and inclusiveness for common development, creating a diamond crown new future -- promoting development of a China-ASEAN Free Trade Area 3.0 and high-quality growth of this region."

Speaking at the opening ceremony, China's Vice-Minister of Commerce Li Fei said that the mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation between China and ASEAN countries has reached new levels.

Bilateral economic and trade cooperation has continued to upgrade over the years, with positive progress achieved in negotiations for

version 3.0 of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area, Li said.

The five-day event covers an exhibition area of nearly 200,000 square metres, with Malaysia as the country of honour.

As part of the 50<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebrations of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Malaysia, four events related to China-Malaysia enterprise cooperation matchmaking, China-ASEAN commodity trading innovation promotion, and the Malaysian durian shopping festival, will be held. — Xinhua

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Türkiye's airlines suspend flights to Lebanon amid rising tensions

TÜRKIYE'S flag carrier, Turkish Airlines, and the country's low-cost carrier, Pegasus Airlines, have cancelled their flights to and from Lebanon due to heightened risks, local media reported on Tuesday.

The decision comes in response to Israel's air strikes on Lebanon, affecting flights to and from Beirut scheduled for Wednesday, according to Haberturk daily.

Currently, tickets from Istanbul to Beirut are unavailable for Wednesday on the Turkish Airlines website, though bookings for Thursday remain open. For some time, both airlines have limited operations to daytime flights for safety reasons due to the ongoing conflict in the region. — Xinhua

## California sues oil giant Exxon over plastic recycling 'myth'



Vehicles pass an ExxonMobil gas station on 23 September 2024 in Rosemead, California PHOTO: AFP

CALIFORNIA began legal action Monday against oil giant ExxonMobil over a "decades-long campaign of deception" about plastics recycling that has worsened a global pollution crisis.

In a lengthy lawsuit filed in San Francisco, the state's attorney general said the company had used "slick marketing" to deceive consumers into believing single-use plastics could and would be recycled, when the vast majority of them get dumped into the environment.

Rob Bonta's suit seeks to force ExxonMobil, a major producer of the polymers used to make plastics, to pay for the clean-up of some of the millions of tons of plastic that pollute land and water, as well as to educate consumers about the problems caused by their products, landing them with a bill he said could amount to billions of dollars.

"Plastic contaminates our drinking water, strangles our wildlife and blights our landscapes," Bonta told reporters.

"Microplastics have been found in our lungs, maternal and placental tissue, breast milk and blood. "What solution does ExxonMobil give us? Plastic, recycling: a farce, a lie, a deceit."

"Since the 70s, ExxonMobil has known the truth about plastic pollution and recycling, and still publicly promotes the myth that plastic recycling is the answer. ExxonMobil knows that the vast majority of plastic products are not and likely cannot be recycled." — AFP



# ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

## BRICS seminar on governance highlights modernization paths



Ivan Melnikov, first deputy chairman of the State Duma, also first deputy chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Russia, speaks via video link during the BRICS Seminar on Governance & Cultural Exchanges Forum 2024 in Moscow, Russia, 23 September 2024.

PHOTO: XINHUA

THE BRICS Seminar on Governance & Cultural Exchanges Forum 2024 was held Monday in Moscow, focusing on BRICS countries' paths to modernization. The event was attended by more than 120 representatives from BRICS countries and international organizations. Attendees noted that BRICS countries are a crucial force in shaping the international order, representing the future direction of human society.

The autonomous choice of development paths by BRICS

countries is not only essential for their own growth but also contributes significantly to global governance and the international order, the participants said. The countries should resist any form of development coercion, firmly defend their right to development, and encourage other developing nations to explore independent development paths, they noted.

BRICS countries should also enhance communication around innovation-driven development, jointly exploring

ways to boost international competitiveness through technological and institutional innovation, and improve the quality of life for citizens to guide the stable and long-term development of the Global South, the attendees added. Participants highly praised the tremendous achievements of China's modernization, viewing it as a valuable reference and source of inspiration for other developing countries seeking modernization paths suited to their national conditions. — Xinhua

## ADB joins partnership for lead-free future

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Tuesday announced a set of actions to mainstream lead exposure mitigation into its operations, as part of its participation in the newly formed Partnership for a Lead-Free Future.

The partnership, with the aim of eliminating childhood lead exposure by 2040, is a global initiative led by the United Nations Children's Fund and the United States Agency for International Development. The ADB said its participation in the partnership underscores its ongoing commitment to addressing health and environmental challenges in developing Asia and the Pacific.

The bank said toxic lead exposure has been affecting at least 400 million children in Asia and the Pacific, leading to cognitive

impairments, health complications, and significant economic losses. The global economic cost of lead-related cognitive underdevelopment is estimated at about US\$1 trillion annually, it added.

"Lead exposure doesn't just affect children's health — it holds back entire economies," said ADB Vice-President for East and Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Scott Morris. "The Partnership for a Lead-Free Future is an important step in addressing this environmental, health, and economic issue. We will dedicate ADB's expertise and resources to help ensure that countries across Asia and the Pacific can mitigate lead exposure, enhance public health, and secure a healthier, more productive future for all," said Morris. — Xinhua

## Russia will not resume nuclear test unless US does: Deputy FM

RUSSIA will refrain from conducting nuclear tests as long as the United States does the same, Tass reported Monday citing Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov.

Ryabkov noted that while Moscow has the capability to conduct nuclear tests, it will refrain from doing so as stated earlier by the Russian president, provided that Washington will do the same.

"I would like to draw attention to recent media reports indicating that the infrastructure

of the test site on Novaya Zemlya is fully prepared," Ryabkov said.

He stressed that "this was also done in response to Washington's actions, which over the past few years has been focused on improving the infrastructure that they have in this field."

The testing facility, located at the Novaya Zemlya archipelago in northern Russia, is currently ready to resume full-scale testing activities, the head of the nuclear site Andrei Sinitsyn said in a recent interview for local Rossiyskaya Gazeta. — Xinhua

## 50-cm tsunami reaches island south of Tokyo after M5.8 quake

A 50-centimetre tsunami hit an island south of Tokyo on Tuesday morning following a magnitude 5.8 earthquake in the area, Japan's weather agency said.

The focus of the 8:14 am quake was located in waters near Torishima Island in the Izu island chain in the Pacific. The tsunami was detected at 8:58 am at Hachijo Island, while a 20-centimetre tsunami and a

10-cm tsunami were also recorded on Kozu Island and Miyake Island, respectively, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

The agency issued a tsunami advisory for the Izu and Ogasawara islands shortly after the temblor but lifted it at 11 am, determining that the activity had sufficiently subsided. The quake initially registered

M5.9 but was later revised down.

No damage has been reported, according to Tokyo police. The quake did not register 1 or greater on Japan's seven-point seismic intensity scale at any locations, it said.

The quake occurred after the agency issued on Thursday a volcanic warning in the sea surrounding Smith Island, near the focus. — Kyodo



A Japan Meteorological Agency official holds a press conference in Tokyo on 24 September 2024 regarding a tsunami advisory for the Izu and Ogasawara islands. PHOTO: KYODO



# Yangon Region hosts thrilling Men's Football Tourney

THE highly anticipated men's football tournament, part of the 2024 National Sports Festival, kicked off in Yangon yesterday evening. This competition precedes the main sports festival, showcasing the talents of male athletes from across the region.

Following the matches, an awards ceremony celebrated the standout players, with accolades given to the top goal scorers throughout the tournament. The teams were recognized by regional ministers, receiving trophies and cash prizes for their impressive performances.

In the men's football event, the Botahtaung District team clinched third place, while the Insein District team secured second. The champions of the tournament were the Mayangone District team, all receiving individual trophies and cash awards.

In overall performances at the Yangon Region Sports Festival, the Mingaladon District team stood out with 33 medals and a cash prize of K3 million. In comparison, the Ahlon District team took home 34 medals and K5 million. The Thanlyin District



This photo showcases the Thanlyin District team receiving the combined trophy for their outstanding performance, having won 41 medals.

team led with 41 medals, along with K10 million and a trophy for their efforts. The tournament,

held from 14 to 24 September, saw participation from 2,407 players across 14 districts, alongside 599

coaches and officials, bringing the total competitors to 3,006. — Arkar Linn/KZL

# Asian Cup U-20 Qualifiers: Myanmar to face Kyrgyzstan today



Myanmar U-20 head coach U Aung Naing with his players ahead of their upcoming match in the Asian Cup U-20 qualifiers. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE 2025 Asian Cup U-20 qualifiers in Group I will kick off today, with Myanmar set to play against host nation Kyrgyzstan. Group I consists of Japan, Turkmenistan, Myanmar, and Kyrgyzstan, and the matches will be held in Kyrgyzstan.

On the first day of the group stage today, the match between Japan and Turkmenistan will take place at 3:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time (MST), followed by the match between Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan at 8:30 pm MST. The Myanmar team is eager to perform well in the qualifiers.

During the pre-tournament press conference held on 24 September, Myanmar U-20 head coach U Aung Naing and team captain Swan Htet were in attendance. Coach U Aung Naing remarked, "This group features strong teams like Japan and host nation Kyrgyzstan. In a competition like this, every team has its own opportunities. Our Myanmar team

will do our best to seize the chances we get to achieve good results. We have thoroughly studied the strengths and weaknesses of our opponents." As part of their preparations for the qualifiers, the Myanmar U-20 team trained in Thailand from 1 to 14 September, playing three matches against Bahrain U-20, Cambodia U-20, and a Thai League 3 club. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

will do our best to seize the chances we get to achieve good results. We have thoroughly studied the strengths and weaknesses of our opponents."

As part of their preparations for the qualifiers, the Myanmar U-20 team trained in Thailand from 1 to 14 September, playing three matches against Bahrain U-20, Cambodia U-20, and a Thai League 3 club. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

# ASEAN Club Championship: Shan United gears up for away clash

THE group stage matches of the 2024-2025 ASEAN Club Championship are set to take place on 25 and 26 September, with Myanmar's Shan United preparing for another away match.

On 25 September, Shan United will face Indonesian club Makassar in Indonesia. Other matches on the same day include Thailand's BG Pathum United taking on Cambodia's Preah Khan Reach Svay Rieng and Malaysian club Terengganu meeting Vietnam's Thanh Hoa in Malaysia.

On 26 September, in Thailand, the Thai club Buriram United will compete against the Philippine club Kaya, while in Ma-

laysia, the Malaysian club Kuala Lumpur City will face the Indonesian club Borneo. In Vietnam, the Vietnamese club Hanoi will go up against the Singapore club Lion City Sailors.

In their opening match, Shan United secured a narrow 3-1 victory against Thanh Hoa in an away game and are eager to maintain their momentum for a positive result in the upcoming match.

Shan United will take 21 players for the away match against Makassar, with Hein Thiha Zaw, Kyaw Ko Ko, Myo Ko Htun, Lin Htet Soe, Thet Wai Moe, and Zha Naya Thu being the players left out. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

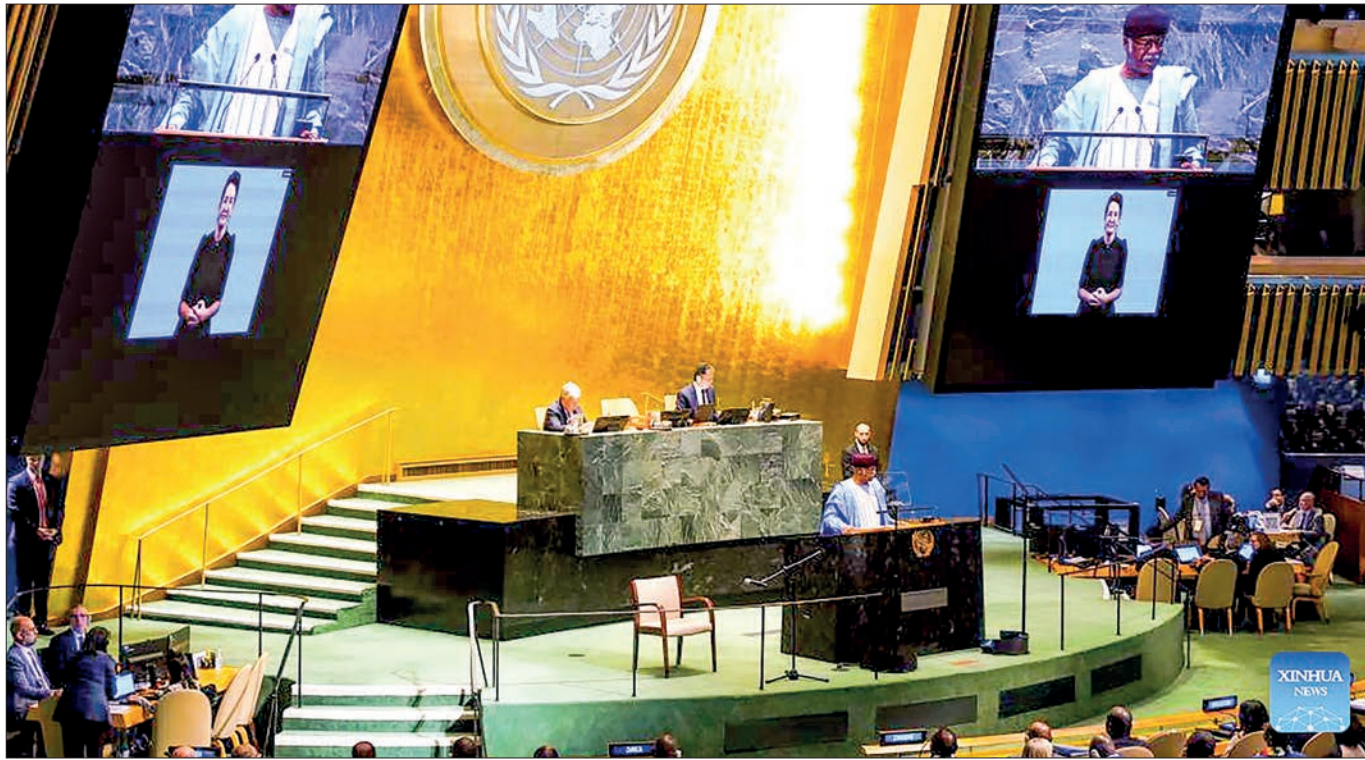


Shan United prepares for another away challenge in the ASEAN Club Championship. **PHOTO: MNL**





## UN concludes Summit of Future for new start of multilateralism



Philemon Yang, president of the General Assembly of the United Nations, speaks at the Summit of the Future at the UN headquarters in New York 22 September 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

**T**HE two-day Summit of the Future concluded in the United Nations headquarters in New York on Monday evening, as a major part of the ongoing 79<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly (UNGA) with a clamour for multilateralism in the future governance of global affairs.

The summit featured the adoption of the Pact for the Future and its annexes — the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations.

It is “a commitment to a new start in multilateralism,” said a UN release. “The centerpiece of the Summit of the Future is a once-in-a-generation op-

portunity to reimagine the multilateral system and steer humanity on a new course to meet existing commitments and solve long-term challenges.”

“We stand at a crossroads of global transformation, facing unprecedented challenges that demand urgent, collective action,” UNGA President Philemon Yang said at the opening segment on Sunday. “From conflict and climate change to the digital divide, from inequalities to threats against human rights, together, we all face profound challenges. Yet, alongside these challenges, there is hope.”

“I called for this summit to consider deep reforms to make global

institutions more legitimate, fair and effective, based on the values of the UN Charter,” UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres addressed the summit. “Our multilateral tools and institutions are unable to respond effectively to today’s political, economic, environmental and technological challenges. And tomorrow’s will be even more difficult and even more dangerous.”

Speaking on behalf of the least developed countries (LDCs) group, Prime Minister of Nepal KP Sharma Oli said that millions of their children are hungry every day, highlighting the inequality evident around the globe. — Xinhua

### China to continue deepening all-round strategic cooperation with Indonesia: Chinese FM

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi said here Monday that China is ready to continue deepening all-round strategic cooperation with Indonesia.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks when meeting with Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, Indonesia’s coordinator for cooperation with China and coordinating minister of maritime affairs and investment in New York.

The Chinese side is willing to work with Indonesia to follow the strategic guidance of their leaders, continue deepening all-round strategic cooperation, lift the building of a community with a shared future to new heights, and assist each other in their respective process of modernization, he said.

China looks forward to working with Indonesia to advance economic and trade investment cooperation and operate the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway in a high-quality manner, making it a road of development and happiness that carries the friendship between the two countries, Wang said, calling on both sides to jointly resist unilateralism and protectionism.

Luhut said that Indonesia is committed to a friendly policy towards China and will push for greater development in bilateral relations. — Xinhua

## World leaders gather at UN as Mideast tensions explode

ESCALATING clashes between Israel and Hezbollah threatened to overshadow US President Joe Biden’s final appearance at the UN’s signature annual event on Tuesday as diplomats scrambled to avert an all-out regional war.

The gathering of dozens of world leaders, the high point of the diplomatic calendar, comes

a day after Israeli air strikes on Lebanon killed more than 490 people, according to local authorities.

As world leaders gathered in Manhattan Monday for the annual flurry of speeches and face-to-face diplomacy, UN Security Council member France called for an emergency meet-

ing on the crisis engulfing the Middle East.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres’s spokesman said he was “gravely alarmed” as focus shifted from Gaza to Lebanon, and the EU’s top diplomat Josep Borrell warned “we are almost in a full-fledged war”. — AFP



Vehicles wait in traffic in the town of Damour, south of the capital Beirut, on 24 September 2024, as people flee southern Lebanon PHOTO: AFP