

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Travellers enjoy camping on Mulaei Mountain in Hpa-an, Kayin State – one of Myanmar’s tourist spots.

## Yangon residents flock to Hpa-an’s popular monsoon destinations

**M**ANY people from Yangon Region have been on vacation in Kayin State’s Hpa-an, where loads of tourist attractions are located during this monsoon season, residents told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

Hpa-an’s sceneries and landscapes, which look beautiful in the rainy season, have caught a lot of people around the country, including Yangon Region, making the visitor arrival increase, with 400-500 on a daily basis on average, residents say.

“Hpa-an is quite beautiful during the rainy season, so lots of people come to visit, the majority of whom are from Yangon. Visitors are thronging on weekends and holidays. The visitor arrival is approximately between 400 and 500 on a daily basis. Visitors are from Yangon, Mawlamyine and nearby towns. Some come on day trips. Some hotels that provide attractive scenery are always occupied, so you will need to book 15 or 20 days ahead,” said an Hpa-an resident.

Among visitors, most are middle-aged groups, and Saddan Cave, Taungwine Mountain, Htuntpataing Lake, Kyaukkalal, Zwegabin Mountain, Lonnya Blue Lake, Naunglone Valley Road, Kanthaya, Kawnanthatan Creek,



Beautiful scenery of Kweekyal Creek and its green surroundings.

Kweekyal Creek and Waterfall, Mulaei Mountain and Hpa-an’s riverside night market are popular destinations. Still, a resident says, there are many other places to visit in the state.

“There are lots of places to visit in Hpa-an, so you will need to stay two days and three nights so that you can

visit everything. For hiking, three days is enough. It is fine to go hiking in the monsoon,” he said.

The increase in visitor arrivals has also resulted in the growing income of residents who earn from driving downtown taxis and Oway taxis as well as hotels and restaurants, he said. — MT/ZS

## Myanmar’s agri-produce exports surpass US\$1.5B by 12 July

MYANMAR’S agricultural export value swelled to US\$1.557 billion as of 12 July in the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The figures reflected a significant increase of over \$611.11 million compared with that (\$948.468 million) recorded in the corresponding period last FY2023-2024.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods through maritime and border trade channels. At the same time, it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, raw materials imported by the CMP enterprises and consumer goods.

Myanmar has been implementing the National Export Strategy (NES) 2020-2025 in order to boost exports. The priority sectors of the NES include agricultural production, garment and apparel, industrial and electronic device, fishery business, forest product, digital manufacturing and service, logistic service, quality management, trade information service, innovation and entrepreneurship sectors. — NN/KK

### NATIONAL PAGE 3



DPM MoD Union Minister speaks at 8<sup>th</sup> Myanmar National Culture Committee meeting

### NATIONAL PAGE 10



Over 200 Japanese firms to recruit 1,100 Myanmar workers

# NATIONAL

Myanmar Gazette

## Heads of Service Organizations confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations, as shown against each of their names, at the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Myo Swe	Director-General Correctional Department Ministry of Home Affairs
(2) U Khin Zaw (2)	Director-General Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

## Myanmar students participate in "We Are the BRIDGE Festival 2024" in Japan

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, students from Myanmar participated in the international children's friendship festival, "We are the BRIDGE Festival 2024," held in Fukuoka, Japan.

The festival was organized by the Asia-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC) in Fukuoka as part of the Bridge Kids Summer Camp Program.

It took place at Lalaport Fukuoka Park on 19 July as an international children's friendship exchange project.

Children aged 11 to 12 from over 30 nations, including Japan, took part in the festival. The Bridge Kids Summer Camp Program fosters friendship between Japanese and international students. Four students from Myanmar participated in the celebration, representing No. 1 Basic Education High School (Dagon Township), Kamayut Practising High School (Yangon University of Education), and No. 2 Basic Education High School (Mingaladon Township), also known as Aung San Thuriya Hla Thuang School. — ASH/MKKS



Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Soe Han (left photo) is seen attending the International Children Friendship Festival.



## U Myo Myint Maung appointed as Ambassador of Myanmar to Nepal

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myo Myint Maung, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Nepal. — MNA

### Flood Warning

(Issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 21-7-2024)

ACCORDING to the (12:00) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin at Hpa-an is observed as about 1 ½ feet (42 cm) below its danger level 24.61 feet (750 cm). It may reach its danger level during the next two days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Hpa-an Township, to take precaution measure. — DMH

## Baby White Elephant thrives with mother



A 33-year-old female elephant called Zar Nan Hla kept by the Myanma Timber Enterprise in Taungup Township of Rakhine State gave birth to one white male elephant at 6:30 am on 23 July 2022. When it was born, the baby elephant was two feet and five inches in height, three feet and one inch in girth and weighed 180 pounds.

The white elephant's name is Rattha Nandaka. It has pearl-coloured eyes, a plantain branch-shaped back, white hair, a distinctive tail

with a tuft of hair at its end, auspicious plot signs on the skin, reddish-brown or pinkish skin, five claws on the front legs, four claws on the back legs and big ears. Therefore, these features conform with seven out of eight characteristics.

At two years old, the baby white elephant is four feet and six inches in height, seven feet and four inches in circumference and weighs about 1,395 pounds. It is reported that he stays healthy and happy at the Yadana White Elephant House in Nay Pyi Taw with his mother elephant under the 'peace human and elephant interaction training system' to have a better relationship with humans. — MNA/TRKM

This photo showcases baby albino elephant Rattha Nandaka.

# NATIONAL

## DPM MoD Union Minister speaks at 8<sup>th</sup> Myanmar National Culture Central Committee meeting

THE 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Myanmar National Culture Central Committee was held on the afternoon of 23 July at the Ministry of Religion and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw.

State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San, in the capacity of Chairman of the Myanmar National Culture Central Committee, delivered a speech at the meeting.

Attendees included U Tin Oo Lwin, Vice-Chairman of the central committee and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, as well as Union Ministers, who are committee members, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, directors-general, experts, and departmental officials.

Admiral Tin Aung San emphasized the collective responsibility of all Myanmar citizens to preserve the nation's cultural heritage. He highlighted the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture's leadership in safeguarding Myanmar's cultural legacy, ongoing research and mapping efforts to mitigate damage from natural disasters, and the enactment of



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Defence Minister Admiral Tin Aung San chairs the eighth meeting of the Myanmar National Culture Central Committee yesterday.

laws to protect ancient artefacts and buildings.

The meeting also addressed the ongoing repair of the Thatbyinnyu Pagoda, one of the 389 pagodas affected by the earthquake in Bagan on 24 August 2016, under the Memorandum of Understanding with the Cultural Heritage Management Department

of the People's Republic of China.

The Deputy Prime Minister further noted that efforts are underway to pass the Myanmar Museums Law (draft) and the Intangible Cultural Heritage Preservation and Promotion Law (draft) to support the growth of private museums and enhance

public awareness.

The committee was urged to diligently identify, preserve, and promote Myanmar's cultural heritage to maintain the country's esteemed traditions and standards. The meeting also reviewed the resolutions from the previous 7<sup>th</sup> meeting and encouraged members to propose and

discuss improvements in various relevant sectors to advance cultural heritage protection and conservation efforts.

Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin, Vice-Chairman of the central committee, discussed the identification and listing of Myanmar's tangible and intangible cultural heritage for the World Heritage List, upgrades to cultural museums, designation of natural heritage for preservation, and the use of digital technology in managing traditional buildings and Buddhist pagodas.

Deputy Minister Daw Nu Mra Zan reported on the progress of tasks and ongoing activities related to the decisions made at the seventh meeting of the central committee.

The meeting concluded with a discussion on various sectors related to the discovery, preservation, and protection of Myanmar's ancient cultural heritage and ethnic traditions. Chairman Admiral Tin Aung San issued necessary instructions and urged coordination across all sectors. The meeting successfully concluded following his address. — MNA/TKO

## 2024 Inter-State/Region U-21 Men's Football Tournament opens

AN opening ceremony of the 2024 Inter-State and Region U-21 Men's Football Tournament was held at Wunna Theikdhi Stadium

in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, attended by State Administration Council members.

During the ceremony, Union

Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, who is also a chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, said that

Myanmar Football Federation and club officials will visit these competitions and select talented athletes for elite teams and

clubs. He urged all the athletes to try their best.

The Union minister then opened the ceremony, followed by the athletes reciting the four sports oaths. SAC members, Union ministers, and officials enjoyed the opener between the Nay Pyi Taw team and the Ayeyawady team.

The tournament is held with the aim of promoting Myanmar football to reach a new height and success at the ASEAN and Asian levels. The football matches will be played at Wunna Theikdhi, Paung Laung and Lewei football turfs from 23 July to 8 August, with 15 participating teams. Fans can enjoy the matches for free. — MNA/KZL



SAC members and dignitaries watch the opening match of the 2024 Inter-State and Region U-21 Men's Football Tourney in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

# NATIONAL

## DPM MoD Union Minister attends Cultural Heritage Preservation Steering Committee meeting



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Defence Minister Admiral Tin Aung San addresses the first meeting of the Cultural Heritage Preservation Steering Committee yesterday.

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San attended and addressed the Cultural Heritage Preservation Steering Committee meeting 1/2024 held yesterday morning at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was also attended via teleconferencing by U Tin Oo Lwin, Vice-Chair of the Committee and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, Union ministers, advisory personnel, deputy ministers, senior departmental officers, local archaeologists, officers from the National Museum Department,

and the chief ministers of Magway Region and Mandalay Region.

During the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister noted that the Prime Minister and Chairman of the State Administration Council had directed, during his visit to the Bagan Cultural Heritage Site on 25-26 May 2024, that the following measures be prioritized: ensuring the sustainability of dam preservation and construction, implementing step-by-step quality control for dams, preventing blockages in water reservoirs and their surrounding areas, and ensuring proper water flow in low-lying areas.

Admiral Tin Aung San also

emphasized the importance of conducting Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) and adhering to them during development projects in cultural heritage zones. He mentioned that re-excavation of lakes and pools within these zones is underway to ensure good water flow. Of the 106 lakes recorded based on stone inscriptions, 91 are scheduled for repair to remove sand sediments and improve water flow. Efforts are being made to collaborate between departments and the regional government to implement these projects without impacting heritage sites.

China is assisting with the preservation of the Thatbyin-

nyu Pagoda, and Myanmar has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with India's Archaeological Survey for the conservation of 92 ancient pagodas and stupas over a ten-year period from 2018 to 2028.

The steering committee is tasked with supervising and maintaining the Ancient Bagan Cultural Heritage Site. A comprehensive surveillance system with full-time monitoring and CCTV is required to protect the site from both natural and man-made disasters. Admiral Tin Aung San also urged the need for detailed records of individual pagodas and stupas to facilitate reconstruction and repairs in case of

damage.

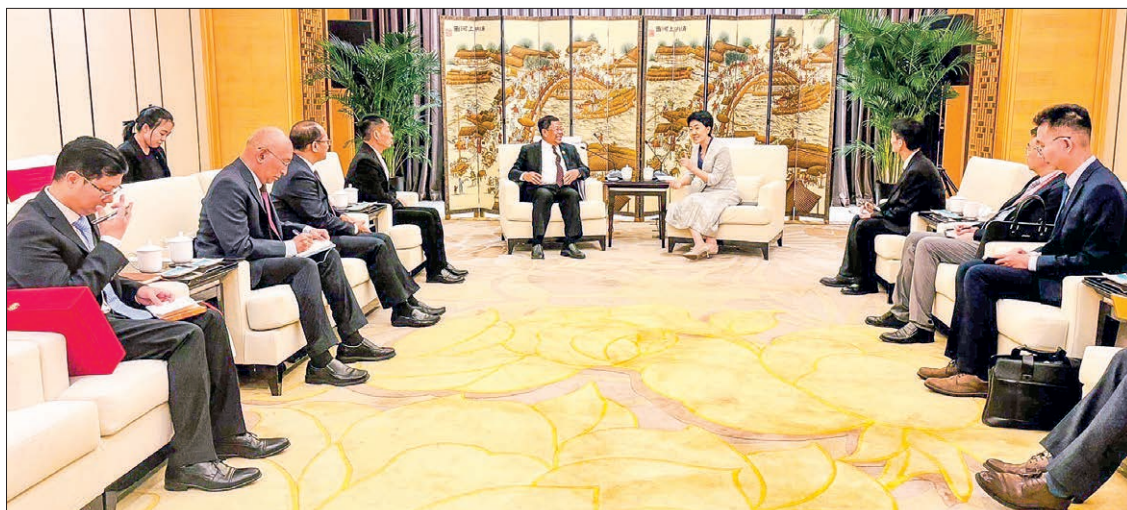
Additionally, the Senior General has directed improvements to roads and transportation within the Bagan area to facilitate local and international tourism, given its status as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Roads connecting villages surrounding Bagan and the entrance to Bagan are to be upgraded by the relevant authorities and regional government.

Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin discussed the progress of repairing ancient pagodas, stupas, temples, and religious buildings damaged by recent earthquakes, as well as the re-excavation of 91 ancient lakes. He also reported on the systematic management of funds and expenditures.

Other committee members, including union ministers, chief ministers from Magway Region and Mandalay Region, and deputy ministers, also discussed the maintenance of the Ancient Bagan Cultural Heritage Site. Deputy Minister Daw Nu Mra Zan, the committee secretary, presented updates on the resolutions from the previous meeting. Attendees also discussed ongoing and future projects for maintaining the Ancient Bagan Cultural Heritage Zone. — MNA/TMT

## DPM MoFA Union Minister attends Welcome Dinner of 8<sup>th</sup> China-South Asia Expo & 28<sup>th</sup> China Kunming Export & Import Fair

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, together with Union Minister for Commerce U Htun Ohn, attended the Welcome Dinner of the 8<sup>th</sup> China-South Asia Expo and the 28<sup>th</sup> China Kunming Export & Import Fair hosted by Mr Wang Yubo, Deputy Secretary of the Chinese People's Republic of China, which was held on the evening of 22 July 2024 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Kunming. The delegates



Deputy Prime Minister Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe meets Mrs Sun Haiyan, Deputy Minister of the International Liaison Department of the Chinese Communist Party on 22 July 2024.

from the countries in the South Asia region also attended the dinner.

Afterwards, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs received the Chinese delegation led by Mrs Sun Haiyan, Deputy Minister of the International Liaison Department of the Chinese Communist Party. During the meeting, both sides cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to further promotion of the existing friendship and bilateral cooperation between

**SEE PAGE 5**

# NATIONAL

## Clarification by SAC Information Team Leader on handover of duties and functions of Pro Tem President to SAC Chairman for taking measures of National Defence and Security Council

TODAY, I would like to explain measures in the Constitution for questions raised by the media about the handover of duties and functions of the Pro Tem President to the Chairman of the State Administration Council in order to carry out tasks of the National Defence and Security Council. The Information Team of the State Administration Council issued information about the health conditions of Pro Tem President U Myint Swe on 18 July. A special medical team is carefully providing healthcare services to the Pro Tem President. However, as his health condition has not improved yet, he is still unable to serve the duties of Pro Tem President. A handover of his duties and functions was held on 22 July. In this regard, I wanted to first inform everyone about taking these measures in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. In reviewing the announcement of the state of emergency mentioned in Section 417 and announcement of the state of emergency in Section 412 in the Constitution, although some persons from the National Defence and Security Council are absent during the period when the state of emergency has not completed yet, remaining persons have to continue serving the duties assigned by the Constitution. Section 412 (b) stipulates that "if some members are unable to attend the meeting held by the President to



SAC Information Team Leader – Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun.

coordinate with the National Defence and Security Council under Sub-Section (a), the President may declare a state of emergency after coordinating with the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, the Minister for Defence, and the Minister for Home Affairs who are members." If the Pro Tem President cannot attend the meeting of the National Defence and Security Council due to his health condition or the post of the Pro Tem President falls vacant for various reasons, the Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence

Services has to lead the meeting of the National Defence and Security Council to decide administrative measures of the State according to the constitutional provisions of Section 412 (b) as he is exercising the executive power of the State on behalf of the President in line with the Section 419. As such, the executive power of the State will have to be handed over to the Chairman of the State Administration Council, who is practically exercising the duties of the President. With regard to the reason why the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw does not take a leading role, Section 418 mentions this situation that there is only

the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw but not the Hluttaw. The Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw is waiting to hand over responsibilities to new Hluttaw speakers elected by Section 424.

With regard to replying to the question of whether SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing will serve as Pro Tem President or SAC Chairman, the statement issued on the previous day has mentioned it. To carry on with the affairs of the National Defence and Security Council, the duties of the Pro Tem President were handed over to the Chairman of the State Administration Council. So, the State Administration Council will mention the name of the President when exercising the executive power of the State according to Section 431. The State Administration Council and the government will exercise legislative, executive and judicial powers of the State in accord with Section 419 of the Constitution. The State Administration Council will continue the implementation of the adopted Five-point Roadmap and nine objectives without any change. In this regard, I will especially emphasize that a free and fair multiparty democratic general election, which is an ultimate aim of the government of the State Administration Council, will be held without fail. I thank you all.

### DPM MoFA Union Minister attends Welcome Dinner...

#### FROM PAGE 4

Myanmar and China, China's continuous and constructive support towards Myanmar's development endeavours, maintenance of peace and stability along the Myanmar-China border areas and enhancement of cooperation in combatting illegal drug trafficking and online scamming in border areas.

In the morning, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs paid a visit to the Myanmar Consulate-General

Office in Kunming, and he met officials from the consulate-general office and their family members.

In the afternoon, the Myanmar delegation led by the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs also made a tour to the Yunnan Nongken Coffee Co Ltd of the Agricultural Reclamation Group and observed the development of the local coffee production sector in Yunnan Province and also explored the different types of coffee. — MNA

### Illegal trade crackdown yields K82.638M in seizures

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat illegal trade are being conducted effectively in accordance with the law.

On 22 July, a team from the Customs Department carried out inspections at Yangon International Airport and seized three types of illegal goods valued at K15.2 million. This included seven JBL portable speakers made in China. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

On the same day, the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force inspected goods at the Yadana-bon Bridge Checkpoint, seizing 200 gallons of illegally imported premium diesel worth approximately K2.65 million and a Sojen

light truck valued at K20 million. The action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

Also, on 22 July, the Magway Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force inspected Sedoktara Township in Minbu District and seized 0.75 tonne of illegal timbers worth K287,540. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 23 July, the Taninthayi Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections and seized unregistered vehicles, including four Hijets, one Honda Fit, one Isuzu, one Toyota BB, and one Nissan Liberty, valued at approximately K44.5 million. The action was taken under the Import-Export Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradica-

tion Steering Committee reported that 12 arrests were made on 22 and 23 July, leading to the seizure of illegal goods worth approximately K82.638 million. — MNA/TMT



Confiscated illegal items.

# NATIONAL

## MoI Union Minister attends ICEEA 2024

THE International Conference on Engineering Education Accreditation 2024 (ICEEA 2024) was held yesterday afternoon via videoconferencing, focusing on continuous improvement in engineering education and technology. Union Minister Dr Charlie Than attended from the Ministry of Industry in Nay Pyi Taw.

Participants included patrons of the Myanmar Engineering Council, chairpersons and executive members from the Myanmar Engineering Council, International Engineering Alliance (IEA), World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP), Engineers Australia (EA), Institute of Engineering



Union Minister Dr Charlie Than joins online International Conference on Engineering Education Accreditation 2024 yesterday.

Education Taiwan (IEET), China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM), Pakistan Engineering Council

(PEC), Institute of Engineers Malaysia (IEM), and other international and local engineering professionals.

Union Minister Dr Charlie

Than highlighted that ICEEA 2024, organized by the Myanmar Engineering Council's Quality Verification and Accreditation Committee and

the World Engineering Federation's Engineering Education Committee, is themed "Engineering Education for Better Engineering Solutions to a Sustainable World". He emphasized the value of shared experiences with international and local experts in engineering education and accreditation.

Prominent individuals and academics discussed various topics, with contributions from WFEO, IEA, IEET, EA, BEM, TH Georg Agricola University, South Asian University, GIK Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology, and the University of Technology (Yangon). The conference includes question and answer sessions and will continue for two days. — MNA/TS

## MoSWRR Union Minister receives ICRC Resident Representative



The ICRC Resident Representative calls on Union Minister Dr Soe Win yesterday.

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win met Ms Elena Ajmone Sessera, Resident Representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), at the minister's office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday

afternoon.

They frankly discussed ICRC's activities in Myanmar, raising awareness on the danger of mine, physical rehabilitation for mine-affected people, and ICRC cooperation with the ministry. — MNA/KZL

## MoFA Deputy Minister receives BIMSTEC Secretary-General during his Introductory Visit to Myanmar

DEPUTY Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Lwin Oo received Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary-General of BIMSTEC, who is now in Nay Pyi Taw for his introductory visit to Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the call, they cordially discussed and exchanged views on matters related to BIMSTEC cooperation mechanisms. Their discussions also focused on the importance of food security in the region. Fur-

thermore, they deliberated on the works of BIMSTEC EPG on the future directions of BIMSTEC and the holding of core and sectoral BIMSTEC meetings regularly. The deputy minister highlighted that the BIMSTEC Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is designated as the BIMSTEC National Focal Point of Myanmar and coordinating with all relevant ministries of Myanmar to expedite cooperation with BIMSTEC.

On the evening of 23 July 2024, Deputy Minister U Lwin

Oo hosted a welcome dinner in honour of the BIMSTEC secretary-general and his delegation at the MGallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey of India assumed his duties as the 4<sup>th</sup> secretary-general of BIMSTEC in January 2024. It was learned that the secretary-general had made earlier introductory visits to other BIMSTEC Member States.

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization established in 1997. It comprises seven Member States: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

The main aim of BIMSTEC is to promote economic cooperation among the Member States of the Bay of Bengal region. Out of the current seven Sectors of BIMSTEC Cooperation, Myanmar is serving as the Lead Country for BIMSTEC "Agriculture and Food Security Sector". — MNA



MoFA Deputy Minister U Lwin Oo meets Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary-General of BIMSTEC yesterday.

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

# NATIONAL

## BIMSTEC members promote agricultural sector cooperation plan



BIMSTEC Secretary-General Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey calls on Union Minister U Min Naung yesterday.

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung received Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey, who is also the Secretary-General of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed the BIMSTEC agricultural sector cooperation action plan, how Myanmar can improve cooperation with member countries in increasing production and sustainable farming practices, improving trade and investment in the agricultural

sector, strengthening research and development in the farming industry, and ensuring food security and nutrition.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and departmental officials were also present at the meeting. — MNA/KZL

## MoTC Deputy Minister receives BIMSTEC Secretary-General

DEPUTY Minister for Transport and Communications U Aung Kyaw Tun met BIMSTEC Secretary-General Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting focused on enhancing cooperation in transport and communications

among member states, as well as improving trade, investment, and tourism through better regional connectivity. They also discussed Myanmar's role in transport and communications, including cybersecurity, within the future BIMSTEC cooperation framework. — MNA/TRKM



Deputy Minister U Aung Kyaw Tun meets BIMSTEC Secretary-General Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey yesterday.

AS the national government takes care of the Myanmar citizens who are abroad if they face any difficulties, regardless of what kind of situation the citizens encounter, the Myanmar Embassy and the Consulate-General of Myanmar contacts the embassies of the relevant countries to make arrangements so that the Myanmar citizens can return to their motherland in peace and safety as soon as possible.

In order to return Ma Aye Thiri Moe, a Myanmar citizen who is facing difficulties in Egypt, to her mother country as soon as possible, the Myanmar Embassy in Cairo assisted the Egyptian Ministry of Interior and the Immigration Department by paying the specified fines for her illegal stay and applying for a valid visa.

Officials were able to bring Ma Aye Thiri Moe back to Myanmar. She left Cairo, Egypt, by air at 7:50 pm local time on 22 July and arrived back in Yangon at 6 pm Myanmar Standard Time on 23 July.

Ma Aye Thiri Moe arrived in Dubai in September 2023 with the help of an agent to work. She lived in a room without a job for about 20 days. The agent told her that she could not find a job in Dubai and would only get a job if she went to Egypt and would get a salary of \$350.

If she did not go to Egypt, she would be sent to Saudi Arabia, so she decided to work in Egypt. She arrived in Egypt in October 2023 and worked in a house for

## Govt repatriates woman facing difficulties in Egypt to homeland

seven months, not getting full pay and working long hours, so she ran away in the third week of May, 2024.

Her employer kept her passport. She did not know her home address, and the Dubai agent cut off contact as well, so she wanted to return to her motherland as soon as possible due to many difficulties. Thus, she contacted the Myanmar Embassy in Cairo, and the Myanmar Embassy arranged for documents to send her back to her mother country, and she was allowed to return to Myanmar. She arrived back in Yangon yesterday evening.

"I live in Meiktila. I am 24 years old. I went to the Myanmar embassy when

I was in a lot of trouble in Egypt. Thank you to the ambassador and officials at the embassy for helping me with everything – respect from here. I want to say that Myanmar citizens should not go abroad illegally. I want to tell everyone only to do the work that is allowed by the state. I want to express my special thanks to all the heads and officials of the state," Ma Aye Thiri Moe expressed.

The Myanmar Embassy and the Consulate-General of Myanmar are assisting Myanmar nationals who are facing difficulties in the Middle East in returning to their mother country.

Myanmar brokers are not responsi-

ble for solving problems with the employer while Myanmar citizens are working in these countries. Foreign employment agencies and employers often keep the passports of the Myanmar workers, and brokers frequently hand them over to the agency offices.

The Myanmar Anti-Trafficking Police does not send Myanmar nationals to Middle Eastern countries to work legally under the bilateral agreement. Unfortunately, Myanmar women are being tricked by illegal employment agencies to work as domestic workers in these countries.

If Myanmar workers go to these countries to work illegally, they will be prosecuted according to the relevant country's laws and regulations and may encounter other unexpected dangers and human trafficking situations.

If Myanmar nationals arrive in places where there is no Myanmar embassy, it may be difficult to get help. Thus, those who are going to the Middle Eastern countries need to learn about the real situation of the region they are going to, the officials have advised.

The national government was able to bring Myanmar citizens who encountered difficulties while working abroad back to their mother country with the coordination and assistance of the Myanmar Embassy. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KZL



PHOTO: KANU

# OPINION

## Mitigate student dropout rate in education sector

**I**MPROVING the education sector is essential for the development of a country, with a direct impact on enhancing educational qualifications and alleviating poverty. Development efforts in education improve human resources and reduce poverty. Despite various challenges, it is crucial that all school-age children have the opportunity to complete basic education.

Developing countries worldwide face educational issues, with poverty being a significant factor causing students to drop out of school. Many children are forced to become income earners, missing out on daily learning due to the need to meet basic needs. Surveys indicate that despite Myanmar's implementation of compulsory education, the student dropout rate from primary to high school levels has remained high for many years.

Investment in the education sector is crucial for the development of human resources. Only when people are educated will they have a wide range of knowledge, rationality and farsightedness. As such, everybody needs to strive for a reduction of the student dropout rate in the education sector in order to improve the living standard of the people and the development of the nation.

education sector for its long-term development in harmony with the life and nature of students.

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to education. The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child mandates that all countries must provide opportunities for individuals to access higher education. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal-4 aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all by 2030. Therefore, focusing on education is vital for the sustainable development of all nations.

Investment in the education sector is crucial for the development of human resources. Only when people are educated will they have a wide range of knowledge, rationality and farsightedness. As such, everybody needs to strive for a reduction of the student dropout rate in the education sector in order to improve the living standard of the people and the development of the nation.

**H**UMAN health is affected by air pollution, causing cardiometabolic, respiratory, and neurological diseases and increased mortality. Pollutants include gases [for example, nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), NO<sub>x</sub>, and ozone] and particulate matter, which is commonly characterized by its aerodynamic diameter of less than 2.5 μm (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) or less than 10 μm (PM<sub>10</sub>). Air pollutants are mainly emitted by energy production, industry, traffic, heating, and agriculture. Exposure to air pollution affects most organ systems, causing a wide array of physiological changes, organ dysfunction, and manifest clinical disease (1, 2). Therefore, a burden of disease assessment that adequately reflects all related exposure-outcome relationships and their impacts on disease and mortality in the target population is important to guide population-based prevention.

Chronic exposure to air pollutants elicits oxidative stress, pulmonary and systemic inflammation, and impairment of the autonomic nervous system, which leads to vascular dysfunction, atherogenesis, impaired metabolism, and other adverse subclinical effects (1). Over time, manifest disease develops, including ischemic heart disease, stroke, hypertension, congestive heart failure, and arrhythmias. Pulmonary effects, such as lower respiratory tract infections, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, lung cancer, and acute and chronic bronchitis, are also associated with air pollution. Likewise, the incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus, dementia, Parkinson's disease, decreased birth weight, and premature birth are increased with exposure to air pollution. Depleted or not fully developed defence mechanisms, resulting from either very young or old age, chronic disease, social disadvantage, and genetic susceptibility, are also thought to be important modifiers of the risk of developing illness from air pollution. Hence, populations with a high prevalence of ageing, chronically diseased, and socially disadvantaged people are particularly susceptible to air pollution-associated disease. Thus, in ageing societies, the burden of disease from air pollution will continue to pose an

important public health concern. Understanding exposure-response relationships can help guide what can be considered "acceptable" levels of exposure to air pollution, which would, in turn, affect, for example, town planning and clean air policies. Nonlinear exposure-response functions for the effect of air pollution on human health were identified in 2006 (3), and more recent evidence shows stronger effects per unit of exposure at lower concentrations of particulate matter and NO<sub>2</sub> compared with exposure at higher amounts (4). However, this supralinear relationship, which is an important tool to guide prevention and clean air policies, has not been reflected in the European health impact assessment (HIA). Instead, linear exposure-response relationships derived from studies conducted at much higher pollutant concentrations are

# Assessing the health burden from air pollution



PHOTO: SCIENCE MAGAZINE 5 APRIL 2024

often used, resulting in an underestimation of the preventable burden of disease, specifically in areas of low exposure. Reconsidering the supralinear nature of the relationship between exposure and health effects could, therefore, have important implications for how air pollution is managed.

Two large bodies of evidence in air pollution research support a rethinking of current practices in evaluating the health effects of air pollution for prevention and policy: In September 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) substantially reinforced its Air Quality Guidelines for clean air by reducing the recommended annual levels of PM<sub>2.5</sub> from 10 μg/m<sup>3</sup> to 5 μg/m<sup>3</sup> and those of NO<sub>2</sub> from 40 μg/m<sup>3</sup> to 10 μg/m<sup>3</sup> and introducing a new guideline for peak-season ozone at 60 μg/m<sup>3</sup> (5). Notably, WHO stresses

that these are not thresholds but levels above which serious health effects occur with high certainty. This means that even below these levels, health effects can be observed and need to be considered when estimating the burden of disease on society and healthcare systems.

Additionally, evidence from mega-cohorts with several million participants from high-income countries with exposure to relatively low mean air pollutant concentrations is now emerging. These studies, conducted in Europe, Canada, and the US, encompass the pooling of classical cohort studies with in-depth confounder controls as well as large national administrative cohorts in which selection bias and loss to follow-up can be minimized (6-9). Furthermore, a European pooled cohort study used back extrapolation of exposures to 1990 across Europe and con-

ducted a time-varying analysis based on the available data for each cohort, thereby preventing an overestimation of effect sizes (6). Notably, the studies show effects on health even at air pollutant concentrations below the WHO Air Quality Guideline values, with larger effect sizes at lower levels of exposure. Potential explanations for this include but are not limited to less exposure misclassification because of denser monitoring networks and higher-resolution exposure models in high-income and low-exposure countries, differences in the air pollution mixture at low concentrations, and differences in demography with an increasingly higher proportion of older and susceptible people.

These findings and the WHO recommendations have the potential to seriously affect current practices and environmental regulations in high-

income countries. For example, current annual standards (as of January 2024) for PM<sub>2.5</sub> are 12 and 25 μg/m<sup>3</sup>, and for NO<sub>2</sub>, the annual standards are 100 and 40 μg/m<sup>3</sup> in the US and Europe, respectively. However, there is now a move toward lowering the standards. By 7 February 2024, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) strengthened the PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard to 9 μg/m<sup>3</sup>. The European parliament had a provisional agreement on 20 February 2024 that decreased annual limits for PM<sub>2.5</sub> to 10 μg/m<sup>3</sup> and those for NO<sub>2</sub> to 20 μg/m<sup>3</sup>. According to the European Environmental Agency briefing (10), in 2022, less than 1% of Europe's urban population was exposed to PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels exceeding the current European annual standards, whereas 97 per cent exceeded the new 2021 WHO Air Quality Guidelines (5). Hence, present levels of air pollution may cause a substantial disease burden in high-income countries experiencing relatively low exposure levels because the current burden of disease calculations may substantially underestimate the true burden.

HIA, with the burden of disease calculations, is the systematic assessment of the potential effects of a particular risk factor on the health of a population that produces estimates of attributable deaths, years of lost life (YLLs), and disability-adjusted life years (DALYs). Central input data for HIA include the effects of each pollutant outcome combination, such as PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration and mortality or disease incidence. Many large HIA studies have used linear exposure-response functions from global meta-analyses (5), assigning the same percentage increase in health effects irrespective of the exposure level. For example, using the global linear exposure-response function underlying the 2021 WHO Air Quality Guidelines resulted in a disease burden of 275,000 deaths attributable to PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure in Europe in 2020 (11). However, when applying estimates from the supralinear exposure-response functions in HIA, the

By Yin Nwe Ko

resulting disease burden in Europe from PM<sub>2.5</sub> is 40 per cent greater, and from NO<sub>2</sub>, it is 110 per cent larger. This means that exposure to low concentrations of air pollutants has a greater impact on human health than previously appreciated. Furthermore, benefits from clean air regulations and co-benefits from greenhouse gas reduction measures, which often overlap, are larger than previously anticipated.

The effect of different exposure-response functions on mortality and the adaptation to a supralinear relationship with higher effects per unit mass at lower air pollutant concentrations has been suggested before. With new evidence emerging from several cohorts, the new Global Exposure Mortality Model (GEMM) was derived in 2018, confirming larger effect sizes on mortality at the low end of the exposure range (12). However, disease burden is not solely defined as increased mortality but also includes individuals who have spent many years living with sometimes disabling chronic disease. The effects on morbidity include higher incidences of cardiovascular disease and stroke, lung cancer, asthma, COPD, and diabetes associated with PM<sub>2.5</sub>, as well as the effect of NO<sub>2</sub> on the incidence of childhood asthma, causing many years of life lived with potentially severe limitations. Data on the exposure-response function for the many pertinent morbidity outcomes were lacking for the low-exposure areas. Hence, it was not possible to define the shape of the exposure-response function in the low-exposure range for many diseases. Therefore, morbidity effects were either neglected or grossly underestimated in large-scale European HIA (13). Without these additions, important determinants of loss of economic and societal welfare from air pollution are left out. These determinants include pressure on healthcare systems and productivity losses due to sick leave. Without the inclusion of these parameters, the true burden of air pollution

on population health will not be fully captured.

Another issue is the incorporation of other pollutants besides PM<sub>2.5</sub> in HIA. Specifically, the independent causal effect of chronic NO<sub>2</sub> exposure on health has been an issue of debate, mostly because of a scarcity of mechanistic evidence from toxicological studies and long-term epidemiological studies and because of a high spatial correlation between NO<sub>2</sub> and other traffic-associated air pollutants. However, a controlled human exposure study led the US EPA to conclude that there are causal effects of short-term NO<sub>2</sub> exposure on respiratory health (14), and a WH systematic review (15) demonstrated the presence of health effects of NO<sub>2</sub> on COPD mortality and all-cause mortality down to levels as low as ten μg/m<sup>3</sup> (10). Similarly, the effects of exposure to peak-season ozone on all-cause mortality have been documented in the 2021 WHO Air Quality Guidelines (9), but more research is needed to clarify the interaction of various pollutants and to incorporate these interactions in HIA. Along similar lines, the most susceptible groups are at the greatest risk for health effects from air pollution but will also benefit most from air pollution reduction policies. For a comprehensive assessment of the health impacts of air pollution and the benefits of mitigation, the interaction of susceptibility factors with pollution also needs to be considered.

The supralinear relationship between air pollution and health effects shows that population benefits from reductions in air pollution are still possible at low levels of air pollution, and in this case, the effects seem to be greater per unit of reduction. The benefits of exposure reduction may, therefore, currently be underestimated in low-exposure areas, calling for the development of refined and broader application of exposure-response functions for HIA. Hence, while maintaining focus on the highest-pollute areas, the very real effects of air pollution in low-exposure areas should be addressed with equivalent commitment.

REFERENCES AND NOTES  
G D Thurston et al, *Eur Respir J* 49, 1600419 (2017).



# NATIONAL

## 85 Kyaiklat Township villages launch Emerald Green Project



The Department of Rural Development grants cash to rural households.

ACCORDING to the Department of Rural Development, 85 villages in Kyaiklat Township will start implementing the Emerald Green Village Project.

Among the 421 villages in the

township, 85 villages have implemented the project. The project was launched in the 2014-2015 financial year with a combined budget of K431.25 million from states and regions.

The project has been implemented in 12,475 villages until the 2023-2024 financial year. The purpose of the project is to provide employment opportunities to the rural people, reduce poverty by increasing family income, and enable the village community to implement the measures that are really needed by the villages themselves with the increased interest money.

In addition, the Department of Rural Development, in coordination with domestic and foreign experts, strives to implement sustainable rural development activities in a people-centred manner in the rural development strategy framework.

According to surveys conducted by organizations in Myanmar, about 75 per cent of rural households need interest-free loans or low-interest loans to increase their livelihood and family income. — TWA/KZL

## Over 200 Japanese firms to recruit 1,100 Myanmar workers

OVER 200 Japanese companies have offered jobs to approximately 1,100 Myanmar workers, according to a statement from the Myanmar Embassy in Japan.

The statement detailed that 218 demand letters were re-submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after verification. It added that the embassy has been verifying demand letters received from the Ministry of Labour via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The verification process involves checking whether the labour supervisory companies and the factories or companies offering jobs are officially established in Japan. The findings and remarks are then re-submitted to the Ministry of Labour through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Foreign workers are seen at an electronic factory in Japan.

The statement also noted that over 400 male and over 600 female workers

from Myanmar would be recruited. — TWA/MKKS

## Music event marks 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Soe Lwin Lwin's passing



A poster of tribute music event for the loss of composer/singer Soe Lwin Lwin

A music event commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of composer and singer Soe Lwin Lwin will be held, according to his family.

The event will take place at the Marion Chill & Grill rooftop bar of Hotel Royal Vista in Tamway Township on the evening of 27 July.

“On 25 July, it will have been 25 years since he passed away. The music event in his memory is being organised at the request of his fans and friends,” said a family member of Soe Lwin Lwin.

It has been confirmed that singers May Kalar, Maung Galone, Shwe Eain Si, and others will perform Soe Lwin Lwin's songs at the event. The music will be provided by the Success band, which has worked with Soe Lwin Lwin for many years. — ASH/TRKM



The image depicts an advertisement for the Cyber Security Awareness Video Competition 2023 (Online).

## University students invited to join 2024 Cyber Security Video Competition

THE Ministry of Transport and Communications has announced that participants are invited to enter the Cyber Security Awareness Video Competition 2024 (University Level), which will be hosted online.

Those interested in participating can find detailed information by downloading the forms from the following links: <https://www.ncsc.gov.mm/CAVC2024RegistrationForm.pdf> and [www.ncsc.gov.mm/CAVC2024\\_Announcement.pdf](https://www.ncsc.gov.mm/CAVC2024_Announcement.pdf).

The competition will award a first prize, second prize, third prize, and two consolation prizes. The video submitted by the first prize winner will represent Myanmar in the ASEAN-Japan Cyber Security Awareness Video Competition 2024, which will be held in Brunei.

Further information is available on the National Cyber Security Centre's website: [www.ncsc.gov.mm](http://www.ncsc.gov.mm). — TWA/TRKM

## Myanmar ships 110,000+ tonnes of tissue-cultured bananas to China in Q1

MYANMAR delivered over 110,000 tonnes of tissue-cultured bananas to China in the first quarter (April-June) of the current financial year 2024-2025 through border posts in Kachin State, U Aung Lwin Oo, deputy head of Kachin State's Agriculture Department said.

Myanmar exported tissue-culture bananas to China through Lweje and Kampaiti border posts in Kachin State.

Last FY, Myanmar placed over 490,000 tonnes of tissue-cultured bananas in China in the 2023-2024 FY.

"Myanmar transported 3,107 trucks loaded with 77,000 tonnes of tissue-cultured bananas to China in April, 1,226 trucks carrying over 31,000 tonnes in May, and 136 trucks with over 4,000 tonnes in June. At present, growers are caring for tissue-cultured banana plants. They are cultivated

around Myitkyina, Waingmaw, Bhamao, border areas of Kachin State and Sagaing Region," he elaborated.

A total of 32 registered companies for tissue-cultured banana export to China have over 50,000 acres in Kachin State. They are designated for exports only, not for domestic consumption.

Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, there were 70,000 acres of tissue-cultured banana,



Tissue-cultured bananas are seen in the banana plantation.

and 50,000 of them remain. An acre can generate earnings of US\$6,000. As it is a commercially

valued and lucrative crop, cultivation acres should be expanded. — ASH/KK

## Kawthoung border trade crosses US\$18M in mid-July



Officials are seen inspecting export-fisheries at the Kawthoung-Ranong border trade channel.

MYANMAR'S Kawthoung border with Thailand aimed to achieve a trade target of US\$20 million for July, and actual trade value as of mid-July has reached \$18.8 million, performing over 94 per cent of the trade target.

Fisheries exports at Kawthoung are operating with a free-on-board system. There is always a trade surplus at the Kawthoung border. The main export items are various fish,

shrimp, squid, crab, anchovy and oil palm.

The Ministry of Commerce has been prioritizing trade promotion. Thailand grants zero tariffs for maize imports between 1 February and 31 August yearly. Myanmar conveys maize directly from Yangon Port to Ranong Port. Some are exported through the Kawthoung border as well.

Myanmar sent 76,838.3 tonnes of maize to Ranong via

the Kawthoung border, with an estimated value of \$17.887 million.

Kyat-Thai baht trade settlement is also operational in the Kawthoung border with authorized dealers (A Bank, MEB, KBZ and AYA).

The Kawthoung border attained the fourth-largest trade value between Myanmar and Thailand, according to the Ministry of Commerce's statistics. — NN/KK

## Bamboo shoots sell well in monsoon

BAMBOO shoot consumption has risen during the monsoon season, which is harvest time.

Bamboo shoots harvested in the monsoon season taste sweet, and beyond the monsoon season, only salted bamboo shoots are available. People prefer sweet bamboo shoots rather than salted ones.

"Bamboo shoot has high consumption. Sweet bamboo shoots are available during the monsoon season, and people like them more. Bamboo shoots are preserved by salting to stock for the whole year. So many people

buy it now. All are sold out shortly after they arrive," said an official from the Aye Saytana wholesale trading centre in Mandalay.

This period is bamboo shoot harvest time in many areas, and the trading is going well.

"Monsoon is bamboo shoot harvest season in many areas. The trading is good in Mandalay. It is also harvested in other towns. Consumers enjoy the sweet bamboo shoot. Other towns such as Chauk, Hopin and Mohnyin make orders when salted bamboo shoots are available," he said. — Thit Taw/ZS



Sweet bamboo shoots are traded in the market.

### Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit [www.moi.gov.mm/mal](http://www.moi.gov.mm/mal), [www.moi.gov.mm/km](http://www.moi.gov.mm/km), [www.moi.gov.mm/nlm](http://www.moi.gov.mm/nlm) and [www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper](http://www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper).

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar delegation attends 46<sup>th</sup> session of World Heritage Committee in India

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a Myanmar delegation led by U Moe Kyaw Aung, Myanmar's Ambassador to India, attended the opening ceremony of the 46<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee. The ceremony took place at the Bharat Mandapam International Exhibition and Convention Centre in New Delhi, India, on 21 July.

The session is scheduled to run from 21 to 31 July. During the meeting, discussions will cover

proposals for nominating new sites to the World Heritage list, reports on 124 existing World Heritage sites, international assistance, the allocation of World Heritage Funds, and other related issues.

Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered the opening speech. The ceremony was also attended by Minister for External Affairs Dr S. Jaishankar, Minister for Culture and Tourism Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, UNESCO Direc-



tor-General Ms Audrey Azoulay, and Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee Shri Vishal Sharma.

This marks the first time India is hosting the World Heritage Committee meeting. The event will see the participation of over 2,000 international and national delegates from more than 150 countries. — ASH/TMT

The 46<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee in progress on 21 July in New Delhi.

## Tender open for online train ticketing and payment system

THE Ministry of Transport and Communications has called for a tender to design, build and operate an online ticketing and payment system where train tickets can be purchased online.

In order to implement the project, the ministry has invited domestic and foreign investors and developers to bid for the Yangon-Mandalay railway section, the Yangon-Pyay-Bagan railway section and the Yangon-Mawlamyine railway section, and it is planning to implement the initial work in these sections.

The investor who will implement the tender for the online ticketing and payment system must be a company owned by Myanmar nationals, a foreign-owned company, a joint ven-

ture or a consortium, it stated.

There are two steps in the tender selection process: submission of an expression of interest (EOI) proposal and submission of a request for proposal (RFP) by the EOI winner. In the first step, domestic and foreign companies interested in investing in the project were invited to submit EOI proposals. The documents can be bought at K300,000 per set from the Support Department, Myanma Railways, at the corner of Merchant Street and 51st Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, during office hours from 22 July to 2 August.

EOI proposals must be submitted to the above address by and before 2:30 pm on 16 September. — MT/ZN



Travellers are seen queuing in a line to buy train tickets.

## Counter-argument to false information

### Malicious media spreads fake news: 10 civilians detained in Launglon

MALICIOUS media outlets intentionally spread fake news, claiming that the security forces raided Yinboke and Pyinchaung villages in Launglon Township in Taninthayi Region, torched the houses and detained 10 locals, on 22 July.

According to a security official, security forces conducted security measures in the vicinity areas of these two villages on 22 July, and they did not torch the village or arrest villagers. Subversive media outlets intentionally circulate false claims and misinformation to threaten people and mislead the public about the security forces carrying out security duty. — MNA/KTZH



This screenshot validates misinformation.

### Misinformation: Prison authorities lock up inmates in Kyaikmaraw Prison for no reason

A Facebook page named Khit Thit Media posted fake news with the title "Prison authorities beat five political prisoners in Kyaikmaraw Prison for no reason, locked them up and are facing many charges in prison" on 16 July in an attempt to mislead the public.

In verifying the truth of the incident, five inmates, including Nyi Nyi (aka) Ashay Gyi, smeared the three CCTV cameras installed for security with whitewash on the walls of the dormitory with the intention of impairing the visibility and security on 27 June, according to the CCTV records.

Under the Prisoners' Act, the officer in charge sentenced these prisoners to two weeks of confinement in shackles, a one-month loss of the right to receive parcels, a one-month loss of seeing visitors, and to be placed in a separate building after serving two weeks of confinement.

When the punishment was imposed and moved to the apartment, officials did not beat inmates, and inmates were not prosecuted in court, but the officer in charge managed them under the Prisoners Act. Khit Thit Media's claims are fabricated with the intention of misleading the public. — Moe Aung/KZL

Advertise with us/ Hotline: 

09 255597511, 09 454237515

## GM China joint venture posts strong NEV sales in H1

SAIC - GM - WULING (SGMW), a joint venture between SAIC Motor, General Motors and Liuzhou Wuling Motors, reported strong new energy vehicle (NEV) sales in the first six months of 2024, selling 243,000 NEV units during the period. Accounting for 37.6 per cent of the joint venture's total auto sales from January to June, NEV sales surged by 35.5

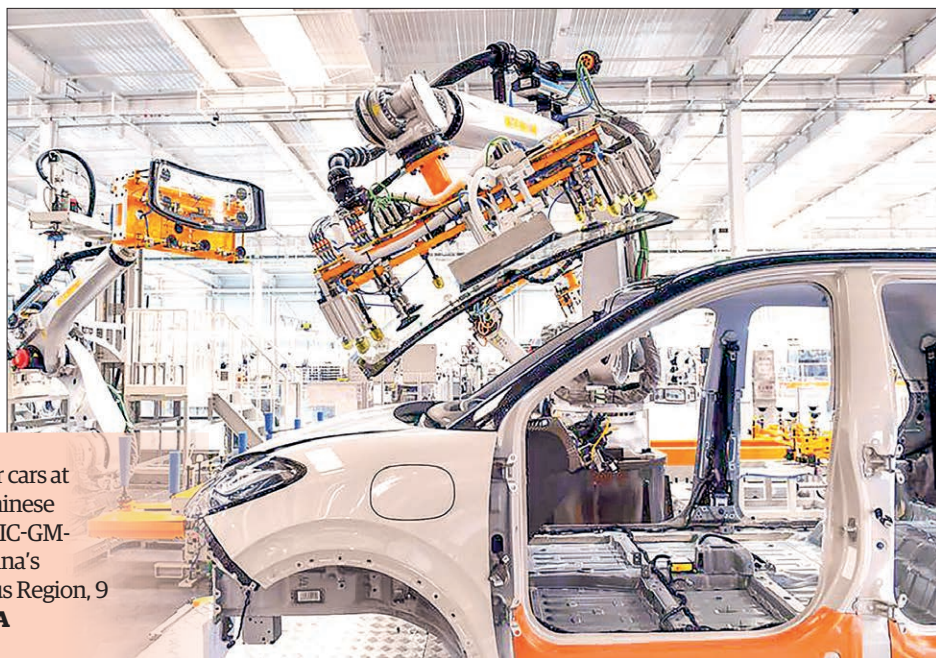
per cent compared with the same period from last year, according to the company. The company also logged a strong performance in exports in the first six months this year, with its export sales rising 16 per cent year on year to 107,126 units/sets.

Indonesia is the company's largest export market, with three electric vehicle models making up

more than 60 per cent of the country's NEV market.

SGMW is based in the city of Liuzhou, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. — Xinhua

Robots install windshields for cars at an intelligent workshop of Chinese automobile manufacturer SAIC-GM-Wuling in Liuzhou, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, 9 May 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA



## Vietnam's e-commerce boasts highest annual growth in ASEAN

VIETNAM'S e-commerce market has boasted an average annual growth rate of 16-30 per cent over the past four years, the highest in the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) region, local media VOV reported Tuesday.

Citing OpenGov Asia, a content platform dedicated to sharing ICT-related knowledge and information, the report said that the country's cross-border e-commerce sector is expanding at a rate 2.3 times faster than regular e-commerce between 2022

and 2025, with projections indicating a 20 per cent annual growth until 2026.

In Vietnam, TikTok Shop holds a significant 24 per cent market share, making it the second largest e-commerce platform in the nation. — Xinhua

## Amazon begins online pharmacy, drug delivery services in Japan

E-commerce giant Amazon.com Inc on Tuesday started online prescriptions and medicine delivery services in Japan in cooperation with some 2,500 drug stores across the country, the retailer's Japan unit said. Through the Amazon Pharmacy

services, already available outside Japan, consumers can obtain electronic prescriptions after diagnosis at hospitals and clinics or remotely online.

Amazon account holders can receive advice on how to take their medicine through video chats with

pharmacists and have their medicine delivered to their doors or pick them up at nearby drug stores, according to the company.

"We aim to provide services tailor-made to each customer's healthcare needs," an official of Amazon Japan GK said. — Kyodo

### MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS Online Ticketing and Payment System Implementation Tender Committee Expression of Interest (EOI) Invitation

1. Developers of local and international organizations interested in investment are invited to bid on the design, construction, and operation of an Online Ticketing and Payment System for purchasing train tickets online. The initial implementation of this project is planned for Yangon-Mandalay, Yangon-Pyay-Bagan, and Yangon-Mawlamyine sections.
2. The entity responsible for implementing the Online Ticketing and Payment System can be a Myanmar-owned company, a foreign-owned company, or a joint venture or consortium. All such entities are eligible to participate in the bidding process.
3. The selection process for this project will be implemented in two phases: submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI) and submission of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for those who succeed in the EOI stage. In the first stage, local and international companies interested in investing and operating this project are invited to submit their EOIs.
4. Interested investors can purchase the EOI documents from which is 300,000 MMK for one set at the Supply Department of Myanma Railways, on the corner of Merchant Road and 51<sup>st</sup> Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, during office time from (22- 7- 2024) to (2-8-2024).
5. The Proposal for EOI shall be submitted to the Supply Department of Myanma Railways, at the corner of Merchant Road and 51<sup>st</sup> Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, no later than (16.9.2024) (2:30) PM.
6. For further details, please contact during office time by Ph: 067-77051 or 01-291994.

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (231N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (231N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-7-2024** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (430N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (430N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-7-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V SINAR SOLO VOY.NO. (1043E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR SOLO VOY.NO. (1043E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-7-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE**

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Harris consolidates support within Democratic Party after Biden's withdrawal from presidential race



US Vice-President Kamala Harris (C) speaks during an event celebrating the 2023-2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association championship teams on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, DC, the United States, on 22 July 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

US Vice-President Kamala Harris said late Monday that she has secured enough support from Democratic delegates to become the party's nominee for the presidential election in November.

"Tonight, I am proud to have secured the broad support needed to become our party's nominee," she wrote in a statement sent by her campaign. "I look forward to formally accepting the nomination soon."

This came one day after incumbent President Joe Biden announced that he was dropping out of the 2024 presidential race, under mounting pressure from within the Democratic Party due to concerns about his fitness for office. Biden also offered his full support for nominating Harris as the Democratic presidential candidate.

Since then, Harris has gained the endorsements of numerous

prominent Democrats to be the party's presidential nominee, including former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, one of Biden's staunchest allies.

"I endorse Vice-President Kamala Harris for President of the United States. My enthusiastic support for Kamala Harris for President is official, personal and political," Pelosi said in a statement posted on her account on X, formerly known as Twitter, on Monday. — Xinhua

## New 'vaccine-like' HIV drug could cost just \$40: researchers

A new "vaccine-like" HIV drug that currently costs over \$40,000 per person a year could be made for as little as \$40, researchers estimated on Tuesday.

The antiretroviral drug Lenacapavir, developed by US pharmaceutical giant Gilead, has been hailed as a potential game-changer in the fight against HIV.

Early trials have found the treatment is 100 per cent effective in preventing HIV infection. And it only needs to be injected twice a year, making the drug far easier to administer than current regimens requiring daily pills.

"It's like having a vac-

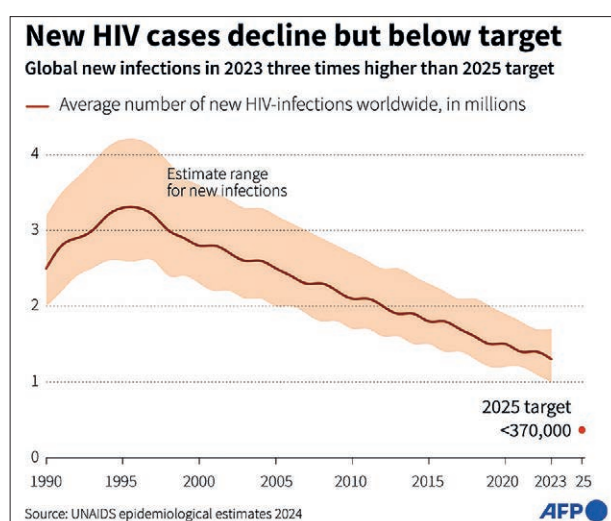


Chart showing the average number of new HIV cases between 1990 and 2023 and the 2025 UN target. **PHOTO: AFP**

cine basically," Andrew Hill, a researcher at the UK's Liverpool University, told AFP.

The treatment currently costs patients over \$40,000 a year in a range of countries including the

United States, France, Norway and Australia.

New research, which Hill presented at the International AIDS Conference in Munich on Tuesday, looked into how much the cost of making the drug could come down if Gilead allowed for cheaper generic versions to be manufactured.

A year's worth of the drug could be made for as little as \$40 — 1,000 times less than the current price — according to the research, which has not been peer reviewed.

This price was based on production volumes equal to treating 10 million people. — AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Death toll from Ethiopia landslide climbs to 146

THE death toll from Monday's landslide in southern Ethiopia has risen to 146, local government officials said on Tuesday.

The deadly landslide occurred on Monday morning at around 10 am local time (0700 GMT) in southern Ethiopia's Geze Gofa district.

The deaths include 96 males and 50 females, Gofa Zone Government Communication Affairs Department said in a statement. Local officials said that the death toll could increase as rescue continues.

Ethiopia is in the midst of a rainy season which started in July and is expected to last until mid-September. Constant rains occasionally cause landslides in some parts of the East African country. — Xinhua

#### Australians waste over 7 mln tonnes of food every year: report

AUSTRALIANS throw away 7.6 million tonnes of food every year, a report has found.

According to the report, which was published by End Food Waste Australia (EFWA) on Tuesday, Australians waste the equivalent of 29 million meals every day.

Steven Lapidge, chief executive of the South Australian-based EFWA, said that the wastage was enough to provide lunch daily for every Australian at a time when 3.7 million households are struggling to put food on the table.

The report estimated that the combined value of the food wasted by Australians every year is 36.6 billion Australian dollars (US\$24.3 billion).

EFWA was established in 2023 when government agencies the Fight Food Waste Cooperative Research Centre and Stop Food Waste Australia merged to help deliver the 2017 National Food Waste Strategy, which set a target of halving food waste by 2030. — Xinhua

#### Japan, Britain, Italy defence chiefs hold talks on fighter jet plan

THE defence ministers of Japan, Britain and Italy met in London on Tuesday to discuss a joint fighter jet development programme after a news report last week that the new British government might review the trilateral project.

At the talks, Japanese Defence Minister Minoru Kihara aims to emphasize the importance of advancing the plan to develop a next-generation fighter aircraft and start deploying it by 2035 to address the increasingly severe security environment.

British Defence Secretary John Healey, who assumed the post early this month after Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour Party won in a general election, and Italian Defence Minister Guido Crosetto also joined the meeting.

The gathering comes after The Times reported last Friday that the Global Combat Air Programme fighter project "is feared to be at risk of being axed as part of a major defence review" by Starmer's government due to concerns over the eventual costs. — Kyodo

# SPORTS



Myanmar Badminton star Thet Htar Thuzar. PHOTO: BWF

## 2024 Olympics: Myanmar athletes take part in two events

MYANMAR athletes will compete in two types of sporting events, Badminton and Swimming, at the 2024 Paris Olympics in France.

Thet Htar Thuzar will represent Myanmar in the Badminton Championship, while Myanmar's Bhone Pyae Han will take part in the men's 100-metre swimming game.

Thet Htar Thuzar has qualified for the

Paris Olympic Badminton Championship, placing in Group C with World Class Five Japanese player Yamaguchi and World Class 32 Canadian player Michelle Li.

The Myanmar Badminton star has also successfully competed in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and is now eligible to compete in the Olympics twice in a row. The badminton and swimming competitions will start on 27 July. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

## Japan's Paris chef de mission hopes Miyata aims for 2028



(From L) Japan's Chef de Mission for the Paris Olympics Mitsugi Ogata and Vice-Chef de Mission Kosei Inoue are surrounded by reporters after landing at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport near the French capital on 22 July 2024. PHOTO: KYODO

JAPAN'S Chef de Mission Mitsugi Ogata on Monday expressed his hope that 19-year-old gymnast Shoko Miyata, who withdrew before the start of the Paris Olympics over smoking and drinking, will target a place at the 2028 games in Los Angeles.

The Japan Gymnastics Association on Friday confirmed the captain of the women's artistic gymnastics team had admitted to smoking and drinking, both prohibited in Japan for those aged under 20, on one occasion each since late June and pulled out of the summer games.

"It's really painful and sad," Ogata said after landing at Paris

Charles de Gaulle Airport. "I'd like her to give her best and aim for the next Olympics".

"It's expected that members of society should abide by rules and regulations. Some have said the decision was too harsh, but it's something that was decided after a discussion between herself, her (university) team and the JGA, and we respect it".

Vice-Chef de Mission Kosei Inoue said Miyata's mental health needs to be looked after following the development.

"She's an athlete with a future. We'll examine what we can do with her team and the JGA, and need to think about a setup to support her". — Kyodo



## Murray confirms retirement after Olympics as sun sets on golden age

ANDY Murray confirmed on Tuesday that he will retire after the Paris Olympics, closing another chapter in tennis's golden age.

The 37-year-old, a two-time Olympic champion, is planning to play in the singles and doubles at his fifth Games.

"Arrived in Paris for my last-ever tennis tournament @Olympics," the three-time Grand Slam champion and former world number one posted on social media.

"Competing for Great Britain has been by far the most memorable weeks of my career and I'm

Britain's Andy Murray takes part in a training session at the Roland-Garros Stadium complex in Paris on 23 July 2024, ahead of Paris 2024 Olympic Games. PHOTO: EDGAR SU / POOL / AFP

extremely proud to get to do it one final time".

Murray has been ravaged by injuries in recent years, slumping to 121<sup>st</sup> in the world.

The Scot has played with a metal hip since 2019 and suffered ankle damage earlier this year before undergoing surgery to remove a spinal cyst, which ruled him out of singles at Wimbledon.

Instead, he played doubles with brother Jamie and was defeated in the first round before an emotional tribute arranged by tournament chiefs.

"It's hard because I would love to keep playing but I can't," admitted Murray at the All England Club.

"Physically it is too tough now, all of the injuries, they have added up and they haven't been insignificant".

Murray famously ended Britain's 77-year wait for a men's champion at Wimbledon when he triumphed in 2013, defeating career-long rival Novak Djokovic in the final. — AFP

Harris consolidates support within Democratic Party after Biden's withdrawal from presidential race

PAGE 14



# WORLD

**T**HE core outcome of the reconciliation dialogue among Palestinian factions held in Beijing is to specify that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is the sole legitimate representative of all the Palestinian people, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Tuesday.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks at the closing ceremony of the reconciliation dialogue among Palestinian factions. He also witnessed the signing of a declaration on ending division and strengthening unity by 14 Palestinian factions.

Wang noted that the most important consensus reached at this dialogue is to achieve grand reconciliation and unity among the 14 factions, and the core outcome is to make clear that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of all the Palestinian people.

The most significant highlight is the agreement to form an interim national reconciliation government focused on the post-war governance of Gaza, and the strongest call is for the creation of a truly independent Palestinian state in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, Wang said.

"The key to the internal reconciliation process of the Palestinian factions is to maintain firm confidence, grasp the direction and proceed step by step,"

## PLO is sole legitimate representative of Palestinian people: Chinese FM



China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi (C) poses for a group picture with members of the Palestinian factions during the signing of the "Beijing declaration" at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing on 23 July 2024. **PHOTO: PEDRO PARDO / POOL / AFP**

Wang added.

Reconciliation is an internal affair of all Palestinian factions, and cannot be

achieved without the support of the international community. On the road to promoting reconciliation, China shares

the same direction and goals as the vast majority of Arab and Islamic countries, Wang said. — Xinhua

## Mineral enriched with water molecules discovered in Chang'e-5 lunar sample

A team of Chinese scientists has identified in a lunar sample retrieved by Chang'e-5 a kind of mineral enriched with water in its molecular structure.

An increasing body of evidence has

pointed to the existence of water or water ice on the moon's surface, but it is more likely to be in the form of hydroxyl groups.

Now, scientists led by those from the Institute of Physics under the Chinese

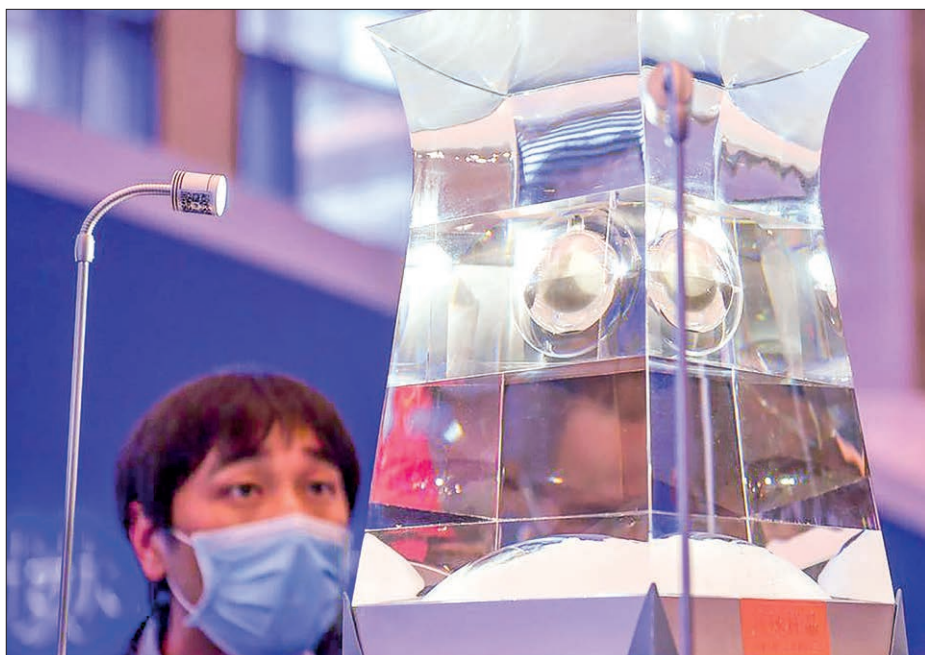
Academy of Sciences have discovered a hydrated mineral that contains up to six molecules of crystalline water.

According to a study published recently in the journal *Nature Astronomy*, water molecules weigh as much as about 41 per cent of the total mass.

The researchers said this discovery signifies the first direct detection of molecular water within the lunar regolith, shedding light on an actual form of water molecules and ammonium on the moon's surface.

The mineral's structure and composition bear a striking resemblance to a mineral found near volcanoes on Earth. At the same time, terrestrial contamination or rocket exhaust has been ruled out as the origin of this hydrate, according to the study.

This finding has unveiled a potential form in which water molecules may exist on the lunar surface: hydrated salts. Unlike volatile water ice, these hydrates are very stable in high-latitude regions of the moon, even in sunlit areas. — Xinhua



A visitor looks at lunar samples brought back by China's Chang'e-5 probe at the National Museum of China in Beijing, capital of China, 18 April 2021. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Govt assigns staff in 5 nations to support Japan business in ASEAN

JAPAN on Tuesday designated staff at diplomatic missions in five nations as officials in charge of supporting Japanese companies engaged in cross-border business in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations market. The officials are stationed at Japan's embassies in Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam and India as well as its consulate general in Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City, according to the Foreign Ministry.

"It is essential for Japan's economy to take in the vitality of the ASEAN market by backing up Japanese businesses playing a role of expediting regional trades, and by encouraging ASEAN's growth," Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa told a press conference. — Kyodo