

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Vice-Senior General Soe Win recount that Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing had urged officials to leverage up youth development measures on a broader scale in order to ensure the overall development of the youth sector at the ceremony to mark the International Youth Day on 12 August.

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, who is in the capacity of Patron of the Leading Committee on Organizing the Fifth National Sports Festival 2024, delivered an address at the third coordination meeting of the leading committee at the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion he urged medical experts from the Ministry of Health to scrutinize athletes in order to avoid doping in competition strictly.

The Vice-Senior General pointed out that officials must provide aid for outstanding athletes who will come out from the upcoming Fifth National Sports Festival for their long-term existence.

Moreover, the Vice-Senior General emphasized that the Immigration and Population Ministry has to verify the accuracy of the age of athletes from ministries and regions and states bound for the National Sports Festival, applying E-ID software.

He continued to say that ministries, regions and states have to implement the guidance given by the Senior General that all youths must be encouraged to take any sports event for the development of their strengths, and emphasis must be placed on the emergence of the athletes who can bring honour to the State as a national duty.

He underscored that all athletes have to compete in the Fifth National Sports Festival with the



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win presides over the third coordination meeting of the Leading Committee on Organizing the Fifth National Sports Festival 2024 yesterday.

Sports: A symbol of polite society and a diplomatic path to world peace

The Immigration and Population Ministry has to verify the correct and accurate age of athletes from ministries, regions, and states bound for the National Sports Festival by applying E-ID software.

aim of becoming those who can bring prestige to the State.

The Vice-Senior General retold that the Prime Minister awarded K7452.3 million and US\$133,900 as cash awards to victorious athletes securing 77 gold, 87 silver and 159 bronze medals in 22 international sports competitions, including Asian and Southeast Asian games, aimed at stipulating new generation youths to uplift prestige of the State.

Chairman of the Leading Committee Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan reported on the accomplishment of the previ-

ous meeting's minutes, setting sports events and awarding programmes.

Members of the organizing committee, union ministers, the auditor-general of the union, the deputy minister, and the Nay Pyi Taw Council members discussed plans to hold the opening and closing ceremonies on a grand scale.

Officials from the subcommittees and officials presented reports on the successful holding of the ceremony and the progress of their assignments. The meeting ended with a concluding remark by the Vice-Senior General. — MNA/TTA

Salient points from the speech delivered by Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the meeting of the Fifth National Sports Festival

1. The Immigration and Population Ministry has to verify the correct and accurate age of athletes from ministries and regions and states bound for the National Sports Festival, applying E-ID software.
2. Experts from the Ministry of Health strictly scrutinize athletes in order to avoid doping in competition.
3. Officials must provide aid for outstanding athletes who will come out from the upcoming 5th National Sports Festival for their long-term existence.
4. With guidance given by the Senior General, all youths must be encouraged to attend any sports event to develop their strengths, and emphasis must be placed on the emergence of athletes who can bring honour to the State as a national duty.

Article

The Importance of Oral Healthcare in Daily Life

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

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Steady orders for Bogale coconuts from Yangon, Pyay, and Tachilek

NATIONAL

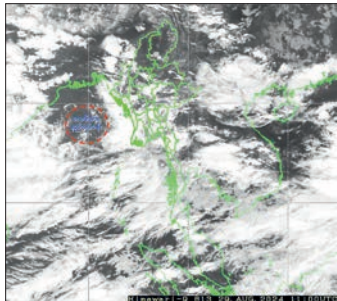
Amendment Law to Union Taxation Law 2024 released

THE State Administration Council released the Amendment Law to the Union Taxation Law 2024 as the State Administration Council Law No 54/2024 on 28 August 2024. The Law shall come into force from 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025. — MNA/KTZH

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (19:00) hours MST on 29-8-2024

ACCORDING to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the low-pressure area over the Central and adjoining North Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to move West-Northwestwards and become more marked over Westcentral and



adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal on 30-8-2024. Thereafter, it is likely to intensify into a Depression on 1-9-2024. — DMH

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Amendment Law to the Union Taxation Law, 2024 State Administration Council Law No 54/2024

9th Waning of Wagoung 1386 ME
28 August 2024

THE State Administration Council hereby enacts this Law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

1. This Law shall be called the Law Amending the Union Taxation Law, 2024.
2. This Law shall come into force from 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025.
3. The words "Pure gold; gold bullions (standard gold bars, gold bullions, gold coins) and" mentioned at No 39 in Schedules attached to the Commercial Tax Law at Subsection (a) of Section 14 of the 2024 Union Taxation Law shall be removed.
4. Subsection (i) of Section 14 of the 2024 Union Taxation Law shall be substituted as follows:
"(i) A three-per-cent commercial tax shall be levied on the income from the sale of pure gold; gold bullions (standard gold bars, gold bullions, gold coins) and gold ornaments or on the landed costs in case of imports from abroad. However, the commercial tax paid when buying pure gold, gold bullions (standard gold bars, gold bullions, gold coins) or gold ornaments domestically or importing it from abroad shall not be deducted from the commercial tax payable when selling domestically or exporting."

I hereby sign this under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

ME urges Myanmar nationals to heed Typhoon Shanshan warnings

POWERFUL Typhoon Shanshan has struck Kyushu, southern Japan, and Myanmar nationals in the affected area will need to pay close attention to timely warnings given by local authorities, the Myanmar Embassy to Japan said in a statement on the natural disaster on 29 August.

According to the embassy's statement, a powerful typhoon, Shanshan, has hit Kyushu, southern Japan, and the Japan

Meteorological Agency issued a warning of landslides, flooding and large-scale damage.

Myanmar nationals living in the region need to watch local authorities' timely warnings on internet websites www.jma.go.jp/jma/indexe.html NHK World-Japan: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/>, with particular attention, it said.

For calls for help, the embassy has provided its hotline number 070 44137383. — MT/ZS

21-year-old elephant at Wingabaw Camp gives birth to healthy twins

THE 21-year-old female elephant Pearl Sanda at the Wingabaw elephant camp in Phayagyi, Bago Region, gave birth to twin elephants on 26 August for the first time, and the babies are in good health, according to the Wingabaw elephant camp.

The first twin, a female baby named Pearl Sint, was born at 3:38 am, and the second twin, a male baby named Kyaw Pearl, was born at 3:42 am.

"After the delivery, their height is lower than usual, and as they are short, they cannot suck milk well. So, we have to breastfeed them with a wooden stool after milking the mother elephant. Then we make liquid milk from milk powder and feed them with a milk bottle, but now the elephants have learned to suck milk, and their health is good," said an official from the camp.

It is infrequent for a moth-



Twin baby elephants born at the Wingabaw Camp are seen healthy and happy together with their mother.

er elephant to give birth to twins.

"Twin elephants are rare. They usually give birth to one baby only. But we have records of twin elephants born in Myanmar. In the whole country, this is the 11th time twins have

been born, and this is the first time for this elephant camp in Myanmar," he added.

In addition to rare twin cases, even if twins are born, the babies do not survive, or the mother usually dies. — Thit Taw/ZN



The Japan Meteorological Agency issued the typhoon tracking map.
PHOTO: NHK

NATIONAL

Kayin's thread-tying ceremony held in Bago

STATE Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung, accompanied by Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Jeng Phang Naw Taung and Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win, attended the Kayin traditional white thread-tying festival at Bago City Hall yesterday.

The frog drum was first played to commence the event. A Kayin Language teacher

briefed all on the history of the white thread-tying ceremony. The SAC member and party enjoyed the traditional Kayin dance and participated in the festival together with Kayin youths.

They also provided cash assistance for Kayin elderly persons, the Bago Region Kayin Literature and Culture Committee and dance troupes. — MNA/KTZH



SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung (C), Union Minister Jeng Phang Naw Taung (R) and Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win (L) strike frog drums to launch the Kayin traditional event in Bago yesterday.

Myanmar attends briefing session of CPC third plenary session



This picture captures the briefing session of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

U Kyaw Zeyar Lin, Myanmar Consul-General in Chongqing, China, joined a briefing on the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on 27 August in Chongqing City, China, according to the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs.

The briefing was held at the Foreign Affairs Office in Chongqing City, and the consuls-general, diplomats residing in Chongqing, scholarship students, and foreign correspondents were present at the briefing.

During the meeting, officials discussed economic and social reform policies. Additionally, the Myanmar Consul-General reportedly participated in a media interview on behalf of the consulates-general based in Chongqing, China. — TWA/MKKS

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Electric Power

11th Waning of Wagoung 1386 ME

30 August 2024

Public Notice Amendment to electricity bill rates

- Access to electricity plays a crucial role in the country's social and economic development, and the Ministry of Electric Power upgrades the power plants and power grids. It also conducts extensions and maintenance works in collaboration with local and foreign investments. In distributing stable power to the public, as the costs for power generation become higher in respective financial years, electricity bill rates must be renewed.
- Therefore, the ministry reported to the Union Government that it would amend the electricity bill rate under the 2014 Electricity Law. According to the Union Government meeting 5/2024 held on 5 July 2024, the electricity bill rates will be amended as follows: -

	Type of consumers	Rate	
		Unit	Kyats
(a)	Domestic Domestic, household power meter, large sum consumption (household), non-commercial religious buildings	1-50	50
		51-100	100
		101-200	150
		Over 201	300
(b)	Non-domestic Industries, businesses, large sums, temporary lamp posts, governmental buildings, State-owned industries, State-owned industries, river water pumping stations, municipal departments and workplaces, non-governmental organizations, foreign embassies, international organizations	1-5,000	250
		5,001-20,000	400
		Over 20,001	500

- The amended electricity bill rates will come into force effective from 1 September 2024.

Daily newspapers available online

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NATIONAL

Myanmar joins ASEAN Committee meeting in Washington with Australian ambassador

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar participated in a meeting of the ASEAN Committee in Washington (ACW) with the Australian ambassador to the United States, held at the Malaysian Embassy in Washington of the US on 26 August.

This meeting was part of ACW activities organized by the Committee. The ambassador of Timor-Leste to the United States and the Director of Multilateral Affairs from the



The commemorative group picture taken at the meeting of the ASEAN Committee in Washington on 26 August 2024.

East Asia Pacific Bureau of the US Department of State attended the event.

During the working lunch, members of the ASEAN Committee in Washington exchanged views with the Australian ambassador on various topics, including ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations, developments in the Indo-Pacific Region, geopolitical manoeuvres, and the economic prospects of the region. — ASH/TMT

Yazar Min to launch EV express bus service

YAZAR Min Highway Express bus line says it will start EV express service with China-made Yutong EV buses at the end of September, and a cargo ship carrying new EV buses departed from China port. EV express buses will run from Yangon to Mandalay and from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw, with the

purpose of helping passengers more comfortable and reducing environmental pollution, it said.

The Mandalay Min highway bus line first started EV express service for Yangon, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw last month, and Yazar Min is going to launch it soon. — TWA/ZS



This image showcases an EV express bus ordered by Yazar Min.

YRTC warns: Reckless driving is unforgivable

OVERTAKING, driving in the opposite direction, passing red lights and exceeding the limit speed won't be forgiven at all, Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC)'s vice chair U Chit Ko Ko said in a seminar on educating YBS drivers.

Organized by YRTC, it was held on 29 August at YRTC head office's training hall from 9:30 am to 3:25 pm.

The YRTC vice chair, committee members, and 100 YBS drivers who violated rules attended the seminar.

In his opening speech, U Chit Ko Ko said about 4,000 drivers transport about 1.5 million passengers on a daily basis, and YBS drivers are the main force for implementing YRTC's primary objective of "safe public transport to all".

YRTC's joint secretary U Lyan Cin Mang highlighted road safety rules and urged YBS drivers to follow the rules and become drivers



Attendees are present at the seminar on educating undisciplined YBS drivers.

who acknowledge being held responsible and accountable for what they have done. YRTC's lawyer Daw Yin Myint Nwe encouraged drivers to become good drivers who sincerely follow the rules and regulations.

Committee members U Maung Myo and head of department U Win Naing discussed charges against violations mostly committed by YBS drivers and common reasons for traffic accidents. — MT/ZS

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL



This photo shows a disciplined protest procession for the protection of Mandalay's cultural heritage.

Monks, locals protest to protect Mandalay's cultural heritage

TO protect the capital of Mandalay Region and its cultural heritage, monks and patriotic locals staged a peaceful demonstration at the foot of Mandalay Hill in Aungmyaythazan Township on the afternoon of 29 August.

During the demonstration, monks and residents from Mandalay City and surrounding

areas gathered at the base of Mandalay Hill and marched in an orderly fashion. They held peaceful protests, displaying posters and placards while chanting slogans such as "Let's protect the cultural heritage of our Mandalay", "Let's unite to prevent the destruction of Mandalay", "Let's safeguard

Mandalay's rich history for future generations", "Let's unite to combat terrorism", "Unity among ethnic groups is our cause", "Stability and peace in Mandalay are our priorities", "Conservation of cultural heritage is our mission", and "Oppose all forms of violence". — MNA/TKO

Counter-argument to false information

False reports blame security forces for crimes on Myingyan-Nabu-aing road

FALSE reports are being circulated by malicious media, claiming that security forces are robbing vehicles on the Myingyan-Nabu-aing road in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region.

A resident refuted these allegations, stating that the security forces have not engaged in such lawless acts. Instead, these crimes are often committed by terrorists. The local further noted that the only parties consistently plotting to harm the public are terrorists and subversive media.

These fabricated stories are a tactic used by subversive media to divert attention from the fact that PDF terrorists are forcefully extorting money from locals and arresting and torturing those who refuse to comply. — MNA/TKO



This screenshot validates misinformation.

Drugs seized on express train from Mandalay to Yangon

AUTHORITIES have seized a large quantity of stimulant tablets on the Mandalay-Yangon Express Train No 12, according to Myanma Railways.

The incident occurred at approximately 12:50 pm on 27 August while the train was en route between Pynmana and Pyiwin stations. During an inspection of seat numbers A3 and A4 at the train's upper class carriage, security personnel discovered two unclaimed two bags and two baskets.

Upon further examination, they found a large plastic package containing 50 packets filled with WY-branded stimulant tablets. Each large packet contained five smaller packets, with each smaller packet holding approximately 7,500 pills. The total seizure amounted to 461,945 pills, weighing 36.96 kilogrammes, with an estimated



Photos show confiscated drugs and related items.



street value exceeding K900 million.

The discovery was made as security officers verified the train's seating chart, revealing that the drugs were registered under names and identification numbers associated with passengers on the Yangon-bound trip: Than Zaw Oo CSC 8/TaLaNa (N) 139817 and Sai Thet Aung (TaKaNa-N 321696).

The investigation is ongoing, with Myanma Railways' authorities and local law enforcement continuing to probe the ownership of the seized drugs. The case has been filed under of Sections 19(a) and 20(a) Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law at Pynmana Police Station. — MNA/KZL

Nationwide crackdown yields K566M in illegal trade seizures

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat the illicit trade are being carried out effectively and in accordance with the law.

On 26 and 27 August, the Customs Department conducted inspections at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, resulting in the seizure of 82,500 metres of 100-per-cent polyester woven dyed fabric, three industrial commodities, and one consumer good, with an estimated value of K229 million. The team also seized one industrial good valued at K2.4 million at Yangon International Airport, a commodity worth K64.68 million at Myanmar Industrial Port, 12 consumer goods, three types of foodstuffs,

and two industrial goods valued at approximately K45.09 million, as well as one Zhong Tong bus, one Scania tractor head, and one trailer worth K100 million at Ywathagyi Dry Port. The action was conducted according to Customs procedures.

On 27 August, combined teams from the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections. They seized one commodity and one foodstuff worth approximately K30 million, as well as one Doh Shwe Myan truck valued at K35 million in Kyaukse Township. The action was taken in line with Customs procedures.

On the same day, the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force

seized three types of foodstuffs valued at approximately K7.2 million and one Yutong bus worth K50 million in Waw Township, with the action being taken as per Customs procedures.

On 28 August, the Taninthayi Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized one smuggled commodity valued at K2.75 million in Kawthoung Township. This action was also conducted according to Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that from 26 to 28 August, 18 arrests were made, leading to the seizure of illegal goods worth approximately K566.243 million. — MNA/TMT

NATIONAL

600 local, foreign pilgrims visit Mandalay Hill Pagoda daily in Aug

ACCORDING to U Kyaw Win, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Mandalay Hill Pagoda, approximately 600 local and foreign pilgrims visited the pagoda in August.

Among the many famous sites in the Mandalay Region, Mandalay Hill Pagoda is a popular destination for both local and international visitors.

“Mandalay Hill is a place that attracts pilgrims year-round, particularly from the Yangon Region, Shan State, and Ayeyawady Re-

gion. Currently, around 600 pilgrims visit there daily,” said U Kyaw Win.

Records indicate that the famous figures of two snakes at the apex of Mandalay Hill are rare colonial-era iron sculptures cast by master smelter U Win.

In addition to the traditional stairs, escalators and elevators have been installed to assist pilgrims in reaching the apex of the hill. It has also been reported that most pilgrims choose to drive up the mountain. — ASH/TKO



This picture captures a night scene of the Mandalay Hill and the Royal Moat.

YR High Court holds coordination meeting to accelerate court proceedings



Chief Justice Daw Sandar Thwe of the Yangon Region High Court is seen clarifying the directives issued during the coordination meeting organized by the Union Supreme Court, which took place on 19 and 20 August.

THE 27th work coordination meeting was held at the Yangon Region High Court on 28 August to discuss the acceleration of court proceedings.

The meeting served as further clarification on the directives issued during the coordination meeting organized by the Union Supreme Court in Nay Pyi Taw, which took place on 19 and 20 August via video

conferencing and was attended by the Chief Justices of the Region and State High Courts and the Advocates-General of the States and Regions.

In her clarification of the directive from the coordination meeting, Chief Justice Daw Sandar Thwe of the Yangon Region High Court explained that cases should be investigated and resolved

promptly without delay, and effective punishments should be imposed on perpetrators of serious crimes. She encouraged the further development of the mediation settlement system led by the court, which resolves disputes in a short period and is crucial for the efficient and accurate completion of lawsuits. She also highlighted the importance of quickly tackling and deciding on cases to prevent the loss of evidence, addressing mistakes in office operations, and ensuring there are no weaknesses. Thorough investigations should be carried out to avoid damage caused by inadequate investigation, and employees must comply with the law and strictly follow the rules of conduct.

A total of 136 judicial officers attended the meeting, including the judges of the Yangon Region High Court, law officers from the Yangon Region Advocate-General's Office, and judges and law officers from district and township courts. — TWA/TH

Kayin State seeks private investors for Hpa-an hospital partnership

THE Kayin State government has announced plans to collaborate with both domestic and foreign investors to establish a modern hospital in Hpa-an through a public-private partnership.

An Expression of Interest (EOI) proposal will be invited to facilitate this collaboration. Local individuals and foreign compa-

nies interested in investment opportunities are invited to take the proposal forms and related documents starting on 16 September.

The state government has mentioned that all proposals must be submitted to the Kayin State Government office by 15 October. — TWA/TRKM



This photo depicts the opening ceremony for the building of OPD and Emergency wards of Kayin State General Hospital in Hpa-an on 28 August 2024.

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.

Intercropping crop promotion programme to launch this FY

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation stated that a crop promotion programme by cultivating soybeans under an intercropping system in the post-harvest of paddy will be carried out this financial year 2024-2025.

A workshop on the development of the Myanmar soybean sector was held at the Yezin Agricultural Research Department in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 August.

Union Minister U Min Naung for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation said that the ministry has been cooperating with domestic and foreign development institutions to enhance agricul-

ture and livestock sectors simultaneously. This workshop was held under the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund's projects. The Special Fund will cover the 2024-2025 crop production programme with an intercropping system for soybeans in the post-harvest of paddy project. Improving soybean production is conducted in Nay Pyi Taw, Shan State, Kachin State and Ayeyawady Region. In addition to soybean oil production, soybean cultivation is encouraged to meet growing feedstuff demand in the domestic market.

The Union Minister high-



Showing the quality of soybeans produced in Shan State.

lighted efforts to have stability and consistency in soybean outputs and grow high-yielding

Yezin-15 variety widely across the country.

He also urged those stake-

holders in the relevant sectors to actively participate in making efforts to cut soybean meal imports for feedstuff and secure edible oil consumption, improve the soybean value chain and draw up plans to achieve goals for Myanmar's soybean sector.

At present, soybeans are primarily grown in Shan State during the monsoon season. When the water level declines in Sagaing, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, and Ayeyawady regions, soybeans are cultivated as a late-monsoon crop in those areas after paddy is harvested.

Myanmar's soybean acres reached 3.4 million in the 2023-2024 FY, covering 30 per cent of monsoon crop cultivation acres and 70 per cent of winter crop cultivation acres and producing more than 5.8 million tonnes. Over 6,000 metric tonnes were exported then. — NN/KK

Steady orders for Bogale coconuts from Yangon, Pyay, and Tachilek

ACCORDING to coconut market sources, Bogale coconuts are receiving continuous orders from Yangon, Pyay, and Tachilek.

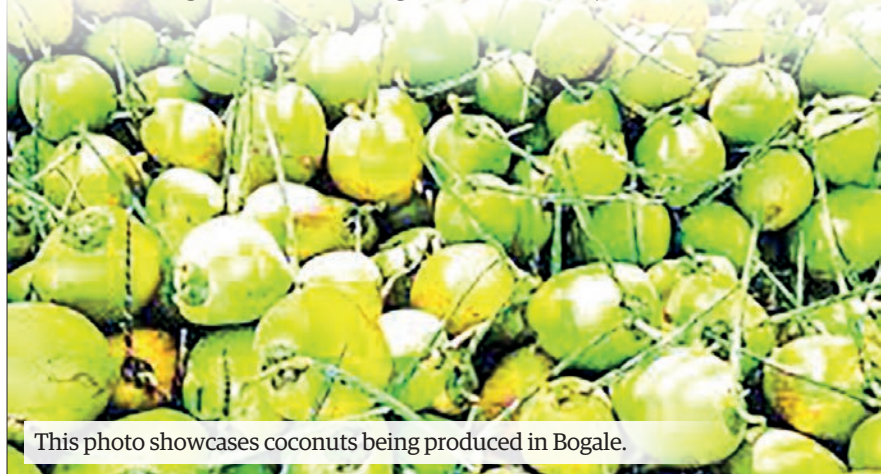
Coconuts in Bogale Township are primarily produced during the rainy season, with the most popular brands being Penang and 'Pwe' (offerings) coconuts.

"Coconuts are ordered from Yangon, Pyay, and Tachilek, with increasing demand during this high-production season. Orders vary by brand, with most customers requesting large and medium-sized coconuts. We negotiate prices to accommodate traders' needs, with some ordering only large coconuts and others buying both large and medium sizes. Penang and 'Pwe' (offerings)

are the most popular brands, according to a coconut farmer in Bogale Township."

Coconut production varies with the weather, and the Ayeyawady Region leads in overall output. During the summer, Bogale's coconuts are predominantly ordered from Yangon for their coconut water.

"The fruiting rate of coconuts drops with insufficient rain and is further affected by damage from rats. Bogale, along with Pyapon, Patheingyi, and Mawgyun in the Ayeyawady Region, produces a significant number of coconuts. Currently, it is the peak season for coconuts, and people in Yangon often enjoy coconut water during the summer," he said. — Thit Taw/ZN



This photo showcases coconuts being produced in Bogale.

Myanmar traders invited to join 25th Border Trade & Tourism Fair in Yunnan

THE 25th Border Trade and Tourism Fair that will be held in Jinghong in Yunnan Province, China, from 1 to 7 October invited Myanmar business people, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

This fair aims to strengthen cooperation mechanisms in the fields of tourism, trade, economy, and other sectors, as well as promote exchanges and cross-border trade and investment between China, Lao, Myanmar, and Thailand.

Myanmar's Kengtung City is available to showcase products with five booths for free. Companies from Kengtung can

negotiate with organizers to add more booths.

The related departments from Kengtung are requested to form a delegation to participate in the fair. Participants must bear travel, accommodation, food and other costs themselves.

Individuals can enquire about details through Han Xiao (fax number 00866912144220). Myanmar business delegates can submit their lists to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization through contact number 067 408622 and email event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/KK

Myanmar's realty body to attend 2024 AP Real Estate Convention in Bangkok

MYANMAR Real Estate Services Association (MRESA) will attend the 2024 Asia Pacific Real Estate Convention and panel discussions of FIABCI-Thai that are scheduled to take place on 30-31 August in Bangkok, Thailand.

At the invitation of FIABCI-Thai, over 50 members of MRESA will join the convention for the second time. Over 40 real estate organizations and their members are invited to join and show their products and services. International seminars will be conducted with over 40 world-class

speakers and 600 real estate leaders, and over 800 developers and investors are expected to attend the convention.

With the theme "United World of Real Estate Professionals", developers, investors, brokers, and other agents around the world are welcome. It aims to bring opportunities to discuss innovation in real estate technologies, housing finance mechanisms for developing countries, collaboration in international real estate and diversity of cross-nation realty investments. — NN/KK

OPINION

Protect the lives and habitats of elephants

ELEPHANTS, the largest and strongest land animals, play a crucial role in maintaining the balance of forests and ecosystems. There are three living species: the African bush elephant, the African forest elephant, and the Asian elephant, with the largest weighing up to eight tonnes. In countries like Myanmar, elephants are often referred to as essential ecosystem engineers because they create pathways in dense forests, enabling other animals to thrive.

Despite their strength, elephants face significant threats from humans. Poaching for their valuable tusks and body parts remains a serious problem worldwide. Elephants are often killed for profit, with little regard for the environmental consequences. In some areas, wild elephants are captured and trained to work in timber extraction, particularly in regions where heavy machinery cannot

be used due to poor infrastructure. Myanmar, for example, still relies on elephants to log in remote forest areas.

Another major threat to elephants is the shrinking of their habitats. As human populations grow, urban development, agriculture, and industrial expansion encroach on forest areas, leaving elephants with less space to live. This loss of habitat increases the likelihood of conflict between humans and elephants as the two compete for the same land. Although elephants have historically adapted to natural disasters, they struggle to survive human-induced challenges, both intentional and unintentional.

According to recent surveys, there are only about 50,000 wild elephants left in the world. African elephants are particularly at risk, with many being hunted illegally for their tusks and other body parts, which are then smuggled into black markets. Over the past decade, elephant populations have declined by 62 per cent, and many experts predict that the remaining elephants could face extinction within the next ten years.

In Myanmar, as of 2010, there were approximately 4,800 elephants, both wild and domesticated, used in logging operations. Experts estimate that around 1,500 wild elephants still inhabit forest reserves and protected areas across the country. Unfortunately, poaching continues to be a significant issue driven by demand from neighbouring countries. Between 2010 and September 2018, 108 elephants were killed by poachers in Myanmar's forests, with an additional 105 elephants dying from natural causes during the same period.

In fact, wildlife and natural trees, as well as natural areas, are relying on one another. If unscrupulous persons are eager to smuggle all body organs of elephants to the grey market, Myanmar's elephants will face the situation of becoming extinct. That is why everybody, including authorities, needs to protect the life and habitat of elephants to be free from danger for environmental conservation.



For thousands of years, Myanmar's unity as a single monarchy in Southeast Asia was a source of pride and success. **ILLUSTRATION: FREEVECTORS.NET**

Divided We Fall, United We Stand

By U Than Zaw

FOR thousands of years, all nations in our country, Myanmar, had been united, and we had pride in being a Union of Sole Monarchy in the South East of Asia. The result was because of "Unity".

We had the first united states in a monarchy, the time of King Anawrahta, in the past roughly thousands of years ago. In each and every region under sovereignty or supreme power or authority, there were self-governing states, such as Shan, Mon, Rakhine, Kachin, and Chin. Their states were found to be peaceful and calm under the control of their administrators or Sawbwa in the above-mentioned states.

All the natives were relatively well-off, earning a peaceful living. The majority earned their living by cultivating paddy, farming and plantations of various kinds, etc. The respective minor or sub-kings and administrators also urged motivations and supplementations to be developed as their primary sources, building dams and lakes, etc., to have

storage of a large area of water surrounded by land. For example, Inlay Lake, Indawgyi Lake, Moebye Dam, etc. For instance, Ledwin Ko Khyine — Khayaing or nine cultivating districts in Upper Myanmar and Lower Ledwin Khayaing somewhere Sagu, Satin, etc.

Those olden days, under the sovereignty of Anawrahta, were expanded to northern Arsam and in the southeast right up to Thailand, according to the historical map of Myanmar.

That time was the 1st united states of Myanmar.

The second unity of our country was under the sovereignty of King Ahlongpaya during the Konbaung Monarchy Period.

The third unity of our country was shown during the monarchy of Bayintnaung Kyawhtin Nawrakhta of Tounggoo Monarchy Times.

The fourth and up-to-date was the unity of all our ethnic nations led or co-operated, reconciled by General Aung San and other ethnic nations. That

was why we achieved our sovereignty or Independence from the British Colony, which enslaved all our nations for about a hundred years. We were all resistors to all the colonies and protected ourselves by holding hands in hands. We should not forget this kind of unity forever.

Divided we fall

In the year (in Myanmar-Era 1247, the 8th Waning of Tazaungmon was unforgettable for all of us: on that date, King Thibaw was de-throned and taken away very easily without any resistance. It was absolutely because of disunity among us. It is a lesson of "Divided we fall".

We all brethren should sit around the table and consult until to attain reconciliation as in the previous 1947 "Panglong Conference" held by General Aung San and our ethnic nations, Bamar, Shan, Mon, Kayin, Kayah, Kachin, Rakhine and Chin, etc.

May all our nations be UNITED, peaceful, and beneficent forever in our federal states of the country.

The Importance of Oral Healthcare in Daily Life

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

ORAL health is the state of the mouth, teeth and orofacial structures that enable individuals to perform essential functions such as eating, breathing and speaking. It encompasses psychosocial dimensions such as self-confidence, well-being and the ability to socialize and work without pain, discomfort and embarrassment. Oral health varies over the course of life from early life to old age, is integral to general health, and supports individuals in participating in society and achieving their potential.

Oral diseases encompass a range of diseases and conditions that include dental caries, periodontal (gum) disease, tooth loss, oral cancer, oro-dental trauma, and congenital disabilities such as cleft lip and palate. Oral diseases are among the most common non-communicable diseases worldwide, affecting an estimated 3.5 billion people. While the global burden of oral health conditions is growing, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, the overall burden of oral health conditions on services is likely to keep increasing because of population growth and ageing.

Oral diseases disproportionately affect the most vulnerable and disadvantaged populations. People of low socioeconomic status carry a higher burden of oral diseases, and this association remains across the life course, from early childhood to older age, regardless of the country's overall income level.

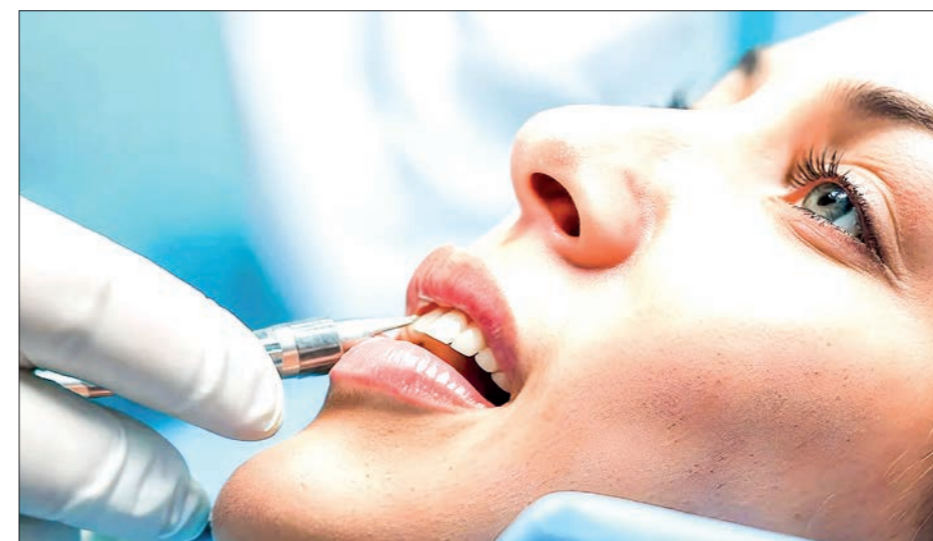
Oral diseases affect about 3.5 billion people around the world. They also affect overall well-being and quality of life, especially where resources for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment are limited. Approaches based on new digital health technologies can contribute to better oral health for all. In the context of the Be He@lthy Be Mobile initiative, the World Health

Organization and the International Telecommunication Union have developed "Mobile Technologies for Oral Health: An Implementation Guide". This new resource provides guidance on promoting oral health, training health workers, detecting oral health conditions, collecting epidemiological data, and monitoring the quality of patient care, all through mobile technologies. It will help countries develop and implement oral health programmes to complement existing oral health programs. The handbook is intended to assist policy- and decision-makers and implementers in establishing a national or large-scale oral health program.

A new document, Global Strategy and Action Plan on Oral Health 2023–2030, has been released by the World Health Organization (WHO) and contains the complete set of policies that define WHO's global oral health agenda towards 2030. Together, these policy documents lay out the path to tackle the challenges faced by communities worldwide and make the case for strengthening the integration of oral health into non-communicable diseases and universal health coverage benefit packages.

The Action Plan is a practical tool to support Member States in the adaptation and implementation of global oral health policies in national contexts. It outlines a set of priority actions for Member States, the WHO Secretariat, international partners, civil society organizations and the private sector in moving towards our shared commitment to equitable access to oral health for all.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, highlighted in the document's foreword that "Member States have demonstrated their commitment to improving oral health in recent years by adopting the landmark Resolu-



Incorporating good oral hygiene practices—brushing twice daily, flossing, avoiding tobacco, and regular dentist visits—greatly benefits both oral health and overall well-being. **ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY**

Good oral health is essential in our daily lives, from



eating



breathing



speaking

It contributes to our overall health and well-being and gives us confidence in interacting with others



World Health Organization

tion on oral health in 2021 and the Global strategy on oral health in 2022. That was followed in 2023 by the development of the Global Oral Health Action Plan 2023–2030, which translates the vision, goal, and strategic objectives of the global strategy into a series of 100 actions for more substantial and coordinated action on oral health. The action plan also includes a set of 11 global targets to track progress on oral health for all individuals and communities by 2030.

Oral healthcare is crucial for maintaining overall well-being and quality of life. The following are some key reasons why it's important: -

Prevents Dental Issues: Regular brushing, flossing, and dental check-ups help prevent common problems like cavities, gum disease, and tooth sensitivity. Early detection of issues can prevent more severe conditions.

Promotes Overall Health: Good oral hygiene is linked to overall health. Poor oral health can contribute to conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and respiratory infections. Maintaining a healthy mouth supports the body's overall function.

Maintains Fresh Breath: Regular oral care helps prevent bad breath, which can be a source of self-consciousness and affect social interactions.

Preserves Tooth Function and Aesthetics: Healthy teeth and gums are es-

essential for proper chewing and speaking. Additionally, maintaining your teeth helps preserve your smile, which can boost self-esteem and confidence.

Saves Money: Investing in regular oral healthcare can prevent costly procedures down the line. Preventive care is generally less expensive than treatments for advanced dental issues.

Enhances Quality of Life: Dental pain or problems can affect eating, speaking, and overall comfort. Keeping your mouth healthy helps ensure these daily activities remain enjoyable and pain-free.

Supports Nutritional Intake: Healthy teeth and gums are crucial for chewing food properly, which supports good nutrition and digestion.

In addition, integrating good oral hygiene practices into your daily routine, such as brushing twice a day, dental flossing, avoiding smoking and tobacco products, and visiting your dentist regularly, can have significant benefits for both your oral health and overall well-being.

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SCI/TECH WORLD

China strives to improve industrial, supply chains of clean energy: white paper

The document addresses the increasing complexity of international relations and the rise of green barriers, which threaten global energy stability and security.

CHINA will work with the rest of the world to improve the industrial and supply chains of clean energy and contribute to global sustainable energy development, said a white paper issued on Thursday by China's State Council Information Office.

Noting that the international situation has become increasingly complex, with various forms of green barriers on the rise, the white paper titled "China's Energy Transition" highlighted the challenge to keep global energy industrial and supply chains stable and maintain energy security in an open environment.

In response to these challenges, China is committed to improving bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms in the energy sector, strengthening the exchange of policy ideas and best practices in energy transition, and advancing cooperation and capacity building on green and low-carbon technologies, it said.

China opposes overstretching the concept of national security and imposing baseless restrictions on normal international development cooperation, and all forms of unilateralism and protectionism, said the



This aerial photo taken on 29 June 2023 shows photovoltaic canopies at the energy port of an industrial park in Sanjiang New Area of Yibin, southwest China's Sichuan province. **PHOTO: JIANG HONGJING/XINHUA**

white paper. China rejects all forms of decoupling, any sev-

ering of industrial and supply chains, and the "small yard and

high fence" approach, it added. — Xinhua

40 hurt as Typhoon Shanshan makes landfall in southwest Japan

TYPHOON Shanshan made landfall on Japan's southwestern main island of Kyushu on Thursday, the weather agency

said, bringing heavy rain and strong winds that left at least 40 people injured in three prefectures.



Farmland is flooded along the Miyagawa River in Yufu City, Oita Prefecture on Thursday, as Typhoon Shanshan brings torrential rain to Kyushu. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The Japan Meteorological Agency has urged residents in affected areas to stay alert for natural disasters as Typhoon Nanmadol impacts Japan. Public transport disruptions include cancellations of trains and flights, with some regions experiencing power outages.

A rare special typhoon warning for Kagoshima Prefecture was downgraded after the typhoon made landfall around 8 am. The storm, moving north at 15 kilometres per hour with winds up to 180 kph, affected transportation services. — Kyodo

Greek port grapples with flood of dead fish

AUTHORITIES in central Greece are racing to deal with an inundation of tonnes of dead fish at a popular port that locals say could threaten their livelihoods.

It is the second environmental catastrophe to hit the port of Volos, a three-and-a-half-hour drive north of Athens, after catastrophic floods hit the Thessaly region last year.

Those floods refilled a nearby lake that had been drained in 1962 in a bid to fight malaria, swelling it to three times its normal size.

"After the storms Daniel and Elias last autumn, around 20,000

hectares (50,000 acres) of plains in Thessaly were flooded, and various freshwater fish were carried by rivers" to the sea, Dimitris Klaudatos, a professor of agriculture and environment at the University of Thessaly.

Since then the lake waters have receded drastically, forcing the freshwater fish towards the Volos port that empties into the Pagasetic Gulf and the Aegean Sea, where they cannot survive.

On Tuesday alone, authorities removed 57 tonnes of the dead fish washed up on beaches near Volos, with cleanup efforts continuing on Wednesday. — AFP



Dead fish floating in the port of Volos, central Greece, on Wednesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

Pakistan: Air pollution significantly affecting people's life expectancy

IN addition to the current socio-political, economic, and security concerns, people in Pakistan continue to face threats from climate-related issues, including air pollution, Geo News cited a report as saying.

According to a yearly as-

essment by the Energy Policy Institute (EPIC) at the University of Chicago, Pakistan's citizens' life expectancy is severely impacted by the detrimental impacts of the country's increasing air pollution.

The study claims that Pa-

kistanis are subjected to particulate pollution levels that are 22.3 per cent greater than those that existed at the beginning of the century as their country is located in South Asia, the most polluted region in the world. — ANI

China hosts internet civilization conference

Attendees emphasized that fostering civility in cyberspace is crucial for keeping pace with technological advancements and for strengthening socialist culture and cyber capabilities.



The 2024 China Internet Civilization Conference opened in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province, 28 August 2024. PHOTO: CFP/CGTN

THE 2024 China Internet Civilization Conference opened on Wednesday in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province.

Themed on promoting the spirit of the times and jointly advancing civility in cyberspace, the two-day event has brought together delegates from central and local author-

ities, major news portals, as well as heads of online social organizations and internet businesses, scholars and internet celebrities.

Li Shulei, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee

delivered a keynote speech to the conference.

Delegates to the conference believe that advancing cyberspace civility is vital for adapting to the new trends of rapidly developing information technology. It is also an essential part of building a strong socialist culture and a strong cyber country. — Xinhua

Norway's Princess Martha Louise to wed her California shaman

NORWEGIAN Princess Martha Louise is set to marry American self-proclaimed shaman Durek Verrett on Saturday, a union of two alternative therapy devotees that has raised eyebrows in Norway.

Martha Louise, 52, is marrying American self-proclaimed shaman Durek Verrett, 49, in a ceremony this Saturday in Geiranger, Norway. The couple, known for their unconventional spiritual practices, has sparked controversy.

Martha Louise, a clairvoyant who has capitalized on her abilities through books and courses, and Verrett, who claims to be a "sixth-generation shaman" selling life-saving gold medallions, have faced criticism in Norway for their departure from traditional values and their commercial use of royal status.

The wedding festivities, starting with a pre-celebration for over 350 guests, including Swedish royalty, are accompanied by controversy. Verrett, who believes he was a pharaoh



Princess Martha Louise and Durek Verrett's eccentric views have stirred controversy in Norway. PHOTO: NTB/AFP/FILE

in a past life and that Martha Louise was his wife, has faced backlash for promoting his spiritual services and using his royal connection for profit, such as with a "wedding gin" product. — AFP

Cellphone bans spread in US schools amid mental health concerns

STUDENTS returning to school in a growing number of US states and districts are facing tight restrictions and outright bans on cellphone use as evidence mounts of the damaging impact persistent connection to the internet has on teenagers, reported The Washington Post on Tuesday.

In Los Angeles, the second-largest district in the country, the school board voted in June to ban cellphone use. In Clark County, Nevada, the district will require students in

middle and high schools to store phones in pouches during the day, starting this fall, according to the report.

Several states, including Indiana, Louisiana, South Carolina and Florida, have enacted legislation limiting cellphone access during the school year. And governors in at least three other states, including Virginia, have called on schools to restrict or ban the devices. Other states have provided funding to support restrictive policies. — Xinhua



As students head back to school, many US states and districts are implementing strict cellphone policies due to concerns about the negative effects of constant internet access on teenagers. PHOTO: CANVA

NEWS IN BRIEF

Asymmetry of power in Kerala movie Industry

IN the wake of the Justice Hema Committee report and sexual harassment allegations faced by some members of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA) executive committee, Former Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said that the Hema Committee exposes the asymmetry of power in Kerala's movie Industry and misuse by a few actors of that power to exploit vulnerable women actors.

In a post on X, he shared, "Women anywhere in India have a right to work in safe and non-exploitative workplaces, whatever profession they pursue — scientist to driver to actress to soldier to doctor to nurse — That is every woman's fundamental right. In the last 10 years, women empowerment and safety in India has progressed considerably including the Women Reservation Bill."

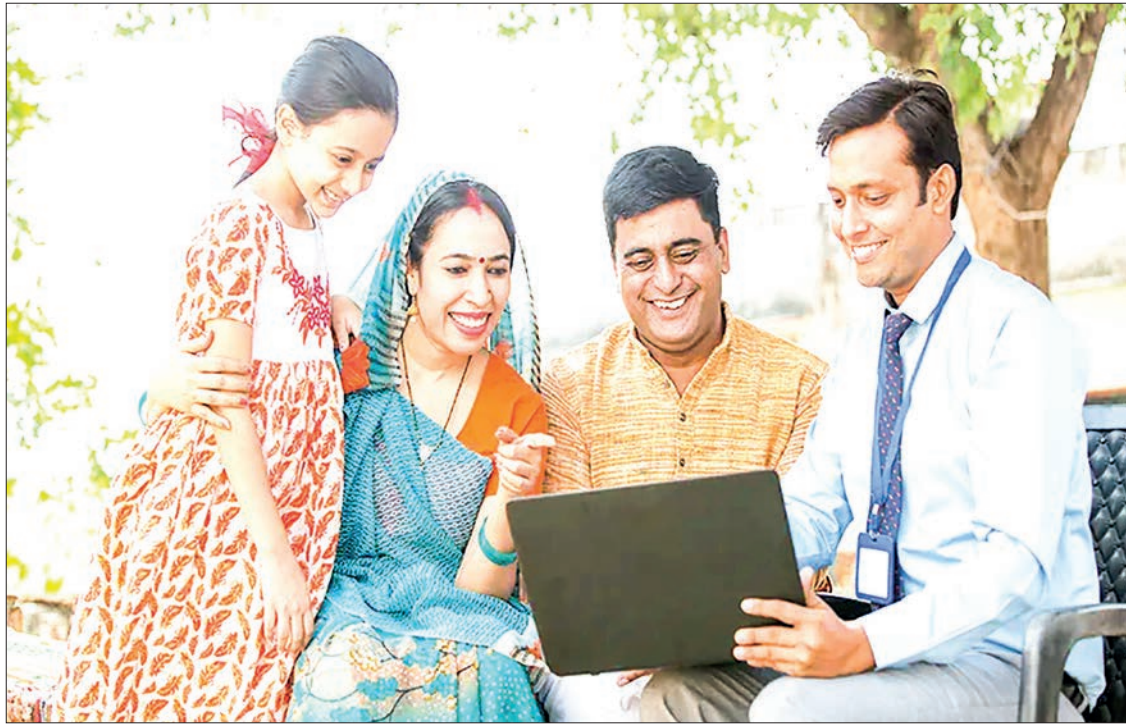
He further shared that a lot still needs to be done.

"Male predators continue to torment women as Kolkata rape and the recent Hema Committee report show. Hema Committee exposes the Asymmetry of power in the Kerala movie Industry and the misuse by a few actors of that power to exploit vulnerable women actors. This must be investigated quickly, transparently and fairly under law and those guilty should not be spared. This must not be allowed to be brushed under the carpet," he shared. — ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

Modi celebrates 10 Years of Jan Dhan Yojana

The average deposit per account has risen to Rs 4,352, which is a fourfold increase since the scheme's inception.



One noteworthy scheme is the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, that was launched by the Prime Minister of India in 2014. **PHOTO: ANI**

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday lauded the Jan Dhan Yojana after the scheme completed 10 years and said that it has been paramount in boosting financial inclusion and giving dignity to crores of people.

In a post on X, PM Modi said, "Today, we mark a momentous occasion – 10 Years of JanDhan. Congratulations to all the beneficiaries and compliments to all those who worked to make this scheme a success. Jan Dhan Yojana has been paramount in boosting financial inclusion and giving dignity to crores of people, especially women, youth, and marginalized communities."

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has achieved a milestone of a total of 53.13 crore PMJDY accounts out of which 55.6 per cent (29.56 crores) Jan-Dhan account holders are women and 66.6 per cent (35.37 crores) Jan

Dhan accounts are in rural and semi-urban areas, the Ministry of Finance said in a statement on Wednesday.

Deposit balances under PMJDY Accounts stand at Rs2,31,236 crore. Deposits have increased about 15 times with an increase in accounts 3.6 times, as of 14 August 2024.

The average deposit per account, according to the finance ministry stood at Rs4,352, as of 14 August 2024. The deposit per account has increased four times over 15 August.

The PMJDY was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day address on 15 August 2014.

PMJDY is the National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services, namely, Banking, Savings and Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, and Pension affordably. — ANI

China commercial fleet to more than double by 2043: Boeing

CHINA will more than double its commercial airplane fleet by 2043 as its aviation industry expands and modernizes to meet the growing demand for passenger and cargo air travel, according to Boeing's newly-released 2024 Commercial Market Outlook (CMO) for China, the company's long-term forecast of demand for commercial airplanes and related services.

"China's commercial aviation market for passengers and cargo continues to expand, driven by economic growth and

airlines building their in-country networks," said Darren Hulst, Boeing vice president of commercial marketing. "As this forecast shows, China's airlines will see strong demand, requiring further growth of their modern fuel-efficient fleets."

China's commercial fleet will grow 4.1 per cent annually, from 4,345 to 9,740 airplanes by 2043, and its annual passenger traffic growth of 5.9 per cent will exceed the global average of 4.7 per cent, according to the CMO. — Xinhua



A Hainan Airlines flight taxis at the Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv, Israel, 29 November 2022. **PHOTO: GIL COHEN MAGEN/XINHUA/**

Intl student cap will devastate economy of Australia's state of Victoria

THE treasurer of Australia's state of Victoria has warned that a national cap on international student numbers will devastate the economy. The state's Treasurer Tim Pallas on Wednesday said that the federal government's international student cap could cost Victoria 12,000 jobs and billions of dollars.

"A cap on international students is a cap on economic growth. These caps will devastate our state's economy, lead to skills shortages and cost us thousands of jobs," he told local media The Age.

Australia's Federal Education Minister Jason Clare on

Tuesday announced that the government will cap new international student enrolments at

universities and vocational education providers at 270,000 in 2025. — Xinhua



Victoria, Australia's second-most populous state, holds about 30 per cent of Australia's international student enrolments. **PHOTO: VICTORIA UNIVERSITY**

Africa urged to boost investment in food processing industry to tackle hunger

THE food processing industry in Africa could offer a durable solution to the continent's hunger, malnutrition, and rural poverty, hence the need to boost its competitiveness through investments, technology adoption, and enhanced market access, experts said Tuesday. Africa is the next frontier for

food processing, whose growth has been fueled by urbanization and rising middle-class incomes, the officials said during the virtual launch of a report titled "Value-Up: Policy Innovations to Advance Africa's Food Processing Sector for Growth, Jobs and Health." — Xinhua

Shanghai FTZ's Lin-gang Special Area to create 150,000 jobs in next 3 years

Recent policies have made it easier for jobseekers to settle there, including relaxed housing conditions and lower prices, which have been especially beneficial for young people.

THE Lin-gang Special Area of China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ) has vowed to create at least 150,000 new jobs over the next three years, mainly in the digital economy, high-end services and advanced manufacturing sectors.

Located in the south-east of Shanghai, a major economic powerhouse in east China, Lin-gang is one of the city's fastest-grow-

ing areas.

Since the beginning of this year, Shanghai has introduced a new round of policies to support the development of the Lin-gang Special Area, offering more relaxed conditions for jobseekers to settle there. These policies have made it easier for key enterprises in the area to attract talent and facilitate their relocation.

"The Lin-gang Spe-

cial Area offers significant policy support for talent in terms of housing purchase and rental. With relaxed conditions and relatively low housing prices, it is much easier for young people to buy homes in Lin-gang," said Chen Jinshan, director of the management committee of Lin-gang.

Since its establishment in August 2019, the Lin-gang Special Area has



A view of Lin-gang Special Area. PHOTO: VCG/CGTN

attracted approximately 100,000 talents, with an av-

erage annual growth rate of 97 per cent over the past five years, according to local authorities. — Xinhua

Toyota July global output down 0.6%, smallest decline in 6 months



Toyota restarted manufacturing the Prius in mid-June in Japan after its output was suspended in April due to a recall. PHOTO: TOYOTA

TOYOTA Motor Corp said Thursday its global production fell 0.6 per cent in July from a year earlier to 804,610 vehicles, marking the sixth straight month of drop but with the smallest

decline helped by solid domestic output.

The July figure improved from a 12.9 per cent drop the previous month, as its domestic production inched up 0.1 per cent to

309,118 cars compared with an 18.8 per cent slide in June.

Toyota restarted manufacturing the Prius in mid-June in Japan after its output was suspended

in April due to a recall. The hybrid model made up for production halts of three other models following its recent vehicle certification scandal, in which it admitted not fully following government standards in testing vehicles.

The figure in Italy more than doubled due to government subsidies but was not enough to cover the loss in the two major auto markets. Overall overseas sales fell 0.1 per cent to 717,629 units. — Kyodo

Lego profit rises as it gains market share

LEGO, the world's largest toy maker, said Wednesday that its net profit grew 16 per cent in the first half of the year as it gained ground in a slowing market.

The Danish company said its first-half sales rose 13 per cent to 31 billion kroner (\$4.6 billion) while net profit rose to six billion kroner.

"This growth has been driven by the Lego Group taking a higher share," chief executive Niels Christiansen said in an interview with AFP.

The group, best known for its plastic bricks and whose name is a contraction of "play well" in Danish

("Leg godt"), launched around 300 new products during the first half, while continuing to see higher revenue from franchises such as Star Wars and Harry Potter.

The company also recently announced that it was forming a partnership with Nike to develop products and content together.

Sales rose the strongest in Europe and North America, but were slower in China.

"We will continue to build the Lego brand in China, to open stores. The potential is there," Christiansen said. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (913N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (913N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-8-2024** 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
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC CHANGMING VOY.NO. (2410S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHANGMING VOY.NO. (2410S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-8-2024** 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
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

South Korean president proposes pension fund reform

SOUTH Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol pledged Thursday to reform the country's multi-billion dollar pension scheme, as a looming demographic crisis threatens to upend the payment system's stability.

South Korea has the world's lowest birth rate and a rapidly ageing population. The number of children a woman is expected to have in her lifetime dropped to 0.72 in 2023, far below the so-called replacement rate needed to keep a population stable.

The country's pension fund is the world's third-largest, but with insufficient new contributors due to the demographic crisis, the fund is expected to deplete rapidly.

"We need to fundamentally reform the current pension system, which works poorly for the elderly and has not got the trust of the youth," Yoon said Thursday at a policy briefing.

South Korea's pension fund is valued at more than 1,113.5 trillion won (\$834 billion), but projections by the government indicate that the fund's growth will cease by 2041, and it is anticipated to be depleted by 2055.

The country's pension fund, currently the third-largest globally, faces a significant risk of rapid depletion due to a demographic crisis that has resulted in insufficient new contributors.



In 2023, the average number of children per woman fell to 0.72, well below the replacement rate needed for a stable population. People lounge in Seoul Plaza in Seoul, South Korea on 23 April. **PHOTO: WANG YILIANG/XINHUA**

This is largely because eligibility for full pension benefits was rare in the past, but since then, those able to receive pensions more easily — baby boomers — are beginning to retire after a lifetime of contributions.

The reforms will aim to create a sustainable system that provides "intergenerational fairness and income security after retirement" to "restore trust in the National Pension Service", Yoon said.

Nearly two-fifths of Koreans in their twenties and thirties said the pension system needs to be reformed "to ensure that I can receive a pension in the future", a recent poll showed. — AFP

BRIEFS: WORLD

Vietnam to send swine fever vaccine doses

VIETNAM will send 150,000 doses of its African swine fever vaccine to the Philippines on Thursday, state media said, although it has not yet been approved internationally.

The illness — which does not affect humans — is highly contagious and fatal for pigs, and an outbreak is potentially devastating for the pork industry, experts say.

The shipment of the vaccine, developed by AVAC Vietnam (AVAC), is part of 600,000 doses ordered by the Philippine government, Vietnam News Agency quoted the company's general director Nguyen Van Diep as saying.

Vietnam approved two African Swine Fever (ASF) vaccines for domestic use in July 2023, saying it was the first country to do so. But neither of the vaccines has been approved internationally.

In October 2023, the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) issued a statement warning veterinary authorities and the pig industry of the "risk from use of sub-standard vaccines". — AFP

Layoffs, digital drive spark concerns for Swiss media landscape

SWISS newspaper group Tamedia said Tuesday that it would cut nearly 300 jobs and close two printing sites to



Journalists of Tribune de Geneve newspaper, part of Swiss publishing group Tamedia, hold placards during a demonstration on 15 December 2017 in Lausanne. **PHOTO: FABRICE COFFRINI / AFP/FILE**

increasingly digital, triggering concerns for the news media landscape in Switzerland.

The group, which calls itself Switzerland's largest media company, said the drastic change of direction "accelerates its digital transformation".

"With the new strategy, the company is responding to the rapid change in media usage, but also to the changes in the advertising market driven by technology companies," Tamedia said in a statement.

The group, which employs around 1,400 people, owns the Tages-Anzeiger and Tribune de Geneve newspapers among other titles. — AFP

First rioter to enter US Capitol sentenced to 53 months

A Kentucky man who was the first rioter to enter the US Capitol during the 6 January 2021, attack on Congress by Donald Trump supporters was sentenced to 53 months in prison on Tuesday.

Michael Sparks, 46, a factory supervisor, was convicted in March of civil disorder and disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building.

Prosecutors had sought a sentence of 57 months while Sparks's defence attorneys asked that he be given 12 months of home detention.

District Judge Timothy Kelly sentenced Sparks to 53 months in prison and a \$2,000 fine.

In their sentencing memorandum, prosecutors said Sparks

was "the very first rioter to enter the United States Capitol building" and "helped light the fire that day".

Sparks jumped through a broken window, they said, "ignoring the warnings of the rioters behind him and the pepper spray (from US Capitol police) that hit him squarely in the face."

Capitol police sergeant Victor Nichols, testifying at Sparks's trial in Washington, said he "acted like a green light for everybody behind him, and everyone followed right behind him".

Nearly 1,500 people have been charged for their roles in the storming of Congress by supporters of former Republican president Trump. — AFP

SPORTS

Myanmar wins silver at ASEAN Chess Championships

IN the ongoing 22nd ASEAN+ Age-Groups Chess Championships held in Vientiane, Laos, from 21 to 30 August, Myanmar secured a silver medal in the Standard Chess competition held on 28 August.

Myanmar's top players, May Maha, Shwe Yee Poe Eaint, and Shinn Nadi Aung, excelled in the Under-10 Girls category, earning the silver medal for their outstanding performance.

The tournament features competitors from ASEAN countries, China, Japan, Hong Kong, New Zealand, India, Russia, the USA, and South Korea, showcasing a high level of international chess talent. — Arkar Linn/KZL



Team Myanmar (L) holds the Myanmar flag and secures a silver medal during the ASEAN Chess Championship.

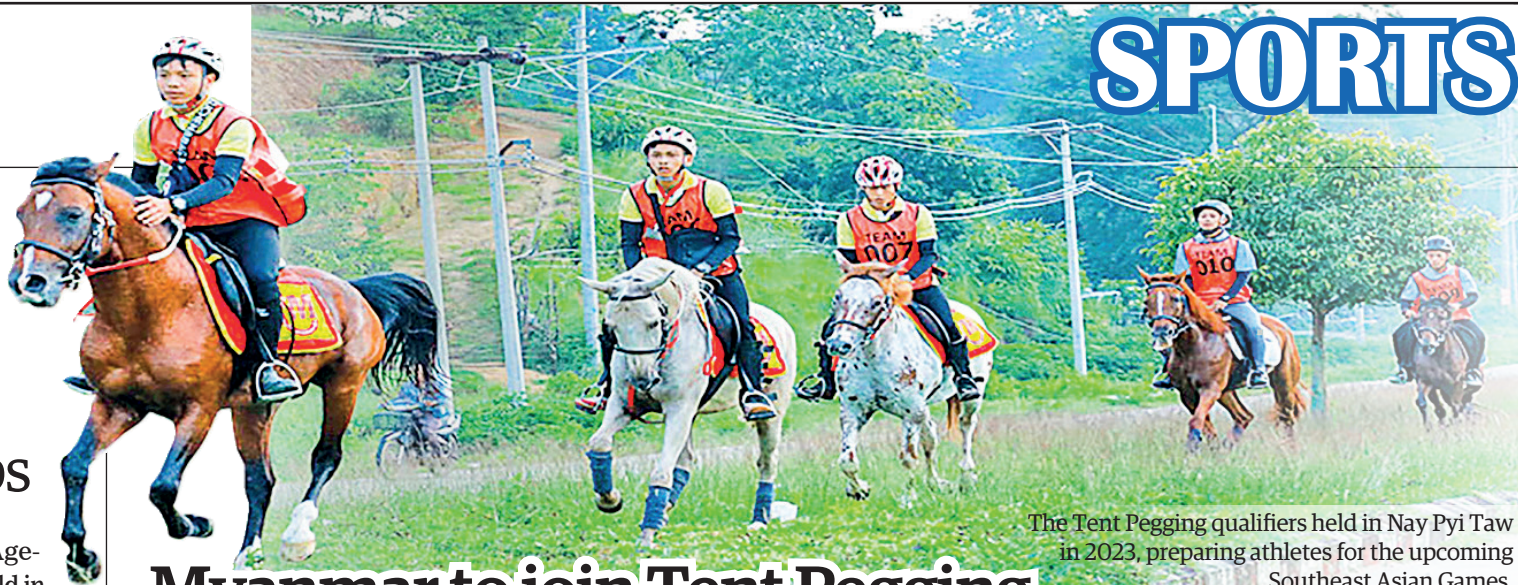
Britain begin Paralympic wheelchair rugby title defence with win

AARON Phipps scored 25 tries as Great Britain started the defence of their Paralympics wheelchair rugby title with a statement 58-55 opening victory over world champions Australia on Thursday in Paris.

Phipps played a pivotal role in Britain's strong start to their Group B campaign at the Tokyo Paralympics in wheelchair rugby, also known as "murderball".

He scored shortly after the tip-off and contributed significantly throughout the game, helping Britain maintain narrow leads with scores of 14-13 and 28-27 at the end of the first and second quarters, respectively.

Phipps scored his 21st try as Britain led 43-40 going into the final quarter and clinched the win with a try less than 30 seconds before the end. Although Australia's Ryley Batt scored 36 tries in a losing effort, Phipps and teammate Stuart Robinson, who had 23 tries, ensured victory. — AFP



The Tent Pegging qualifiers held in Nay Pyi Taw in 2023, preparing athletes for the upcoming Southeast Asian Games.

Myanmar to join Tent Pegging training in New Delhi

IN a move to bolster the growth of Tent Pegging, the Indian Equestrian Federation has announced a training session in New Delhi. Myanmar is set to send its athletes to participate in this prestigious event aimed at enhancing the skills and development of the sport.

The Tent Pegging qualifiers will be held at the Nay Pyi Taw equestrian grounds on 7 and 8 September this year. There is no age restriction for the competition, and interested athletes are encouraged to register by 31 August.

All participating horses must

arrive at the Nay Pyi Taw equestrian grounds by 3 September. For those requiring expedited transport, a request for the use of expressway must be submitted to the federation five days in advance.

Qualified participants from this competition will be eligible to attend an introductory Tent Pegging training session in New Delhi, India, in October 2024. Preference will be given to those holding an international passport. — TWA/KZL

ASEAN Cup 2024: Group stage fixtures revealed

THE ASEAN Football Federation has officially confirmed the dates for the highly anticipated ASEAN Cup 2024, the premier competition in the ASEAN region.

The tournament, initially scheduled from 23 November to 21 December,

will now take place from 8 December 2024 to 5 January 2025. The competition will feature two groups. Group A includes defending champions Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Cambodia, and the Myanmar team. Group B compris-

es Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Myanmar, and Laos.

The tournament will kick off with group stage matches, followed by semi-finals on 26 and 27 December, with the second leg on 29 and 30 December 2024.

The finals will be held on 2 and 5 January 2025. Myanmar's fixtures in the group stage are as follows: a home match against Indonesia on 9 December; an away game against the Philippines on 12 December; a home encounter with Laos on 18 December; and an away clash against Vietnam on 21 December.

Prior to the tournament, Myanmar will participate in international friendlies. As MFF has cancelled the contract with former head coach, German-born Michael Feichtenbeiner, a new head coach will be appointed ahead of the tournament. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar versus Laos during the group stage of the 2022 tournament.

Paris 2024 Paralympic Games open

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron declared the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games open on Wednesday evening at Place de la Concorde.

This is the first time that France has hosted the Paralympic Summer Games, and is also the first time that a Paralympics opening ceremony has taken place outside a stadium, in the heart of the host city.

The athletes paraded from the bottom of the Champs-Elysees and made their way around the stage area, greeted by the Phryges, mascots of the Games.

The opening ceremony on the theme of "Paradox" told the story of two groups moving from discord to concord.

"The aim of this ceremony is to change the way we look at people with disabilities, and to oppose all preconceived opinions on these issues, but not in a vain and sterile opposition," said Thomas Jolly, artistic director of the Paris 2024 ceremonies. — Xinhua



Dancers perform in front of the Obelisque de Louxor (Luxor Obelisk) at the Place de la Concorde during the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games Opening Ceremony in Paris on 28 August 2024. PHOTO: POOL/AFP



Xi meets US national security advisor

CHINESE President Xi Jinping met US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Thursday.

Xi pointed out that in this changing and turbulent world, countries need solidarity and coordination, not division or confrontation. People want openness and progress, not exclusion or regress. As two major countries, China and the United States should be responsible for history, for the people and for the world, and should be a source of stability for world peace and a propeller for common development.

While great changes have taken place in the two countries and in China-US relations, China's commitment to the goal of a stable, healthy and sustainable China-US relationship remains unchanged, the principle of handling the relationship based on mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation remains unchanged, its position of firmly safeguarding the country's sovereignty, security and development interests remains unchanged, and its efforts to carry forward the traditional friendship between the Chinese and American people remain unchanged, Xi said.

Xi expressed the hope that the US side will work with China in the same direction, view China and its development in a positive and rational light, see each other's development as an opportunity rather than a challenge, and work with China to find a right way for two major countries to get along. — Xinhua

Xi emphasized that in a turbulent world, countries should focus on solidarity and coordination rather than division and confrontation.



Chinese President Xi Jinping shakes hands with US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Thursday. **PHOTO: TREVOR HUNNICUTT/POOL/AFP**

JEONBUK BANK QR CODES

Cambodia, S Korea launch cross-border QR code payments

CAMBODIA and South Korea on Thursday launched cross-border QR code payments, enabling people of both countries to scan QR codes for making their payments.

Speaking at the launching event held in the capital Phnom Penh, Chea Serey, governor of the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC), said under this project, people of both countries will be able to make their payments via Cambodia's Bakong KHQR and South Korea's Jeonbuk Bank mobile banking app.

"Following this launching ceremony, visitors from the Republic of Korea, particularly users of the Jeonbuk Bank mobile application, will be able to use and scan QR codes in Cambodia to complete their payments," she said.

"In the next phase, Cambodian residents will be enabled to use local wallets at Jeonbuk Bank QR code accepting merchants in the Republic of Korea," she added.

Serey is confident that introducing cross-border QR code payments between Cambodia and South Korea will elevate financial cooperation by leveraging technology to benefit the citizens of both countries. — Xinhua

Astronaut carrying flag at Paralympics sends 'powerful message'



McFall was one of the official flagbearers before it was unfurled in Paris. **PHOTO: BERTRAND GUAY / AFP**

WHEN John McFall, the world's first parastronaut, carried the Paralympic flag at the opening ceremony of the Games in Paris Wednesday, he knew he was sending a "powerful message".

The 43-year-old Briton had his right leg amputated below the knee after a motorcycle crash in Thailand when he was 19, before becoming a surgeon himself and winning a bronze medal in the 100 metres at the 2008 Beijing Paralympics.

Two years ago the Euro-

pean Space Agency (ESA) recruited him as their first astronaut with a physical disability.

"Astronauts are envoys of humanity," he told AFP. So for "someone with a physical disability to reach this pinnacle is a powerful message for humanity."

A keen runner and hockey player before his accident, McFall only became a top-level athlete after losing his lower leg.

He quickly embraced paralympic sport, working at the Athens Games in 2004.

Four years later, he was one of the stars of Beijing after becoming world 100 metres champion in 2007.

The Englishman was recruited as an astronaut by the ESA as part of a programme to test the feasibility of sending someone with disabilities to space.

He believes that the same qualities that enabled him to overcome his accident, turn into a paralympic sportsman and become a surgeon played a role in his selection by the ESA. — AFP