

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

**A** tour has been planned to explore ground orchid species and new orchid species at Mount Popa, and two seedlings which are believed to be new species have been discovered at present, according to Maha Giri, a community-based geotourism service group.

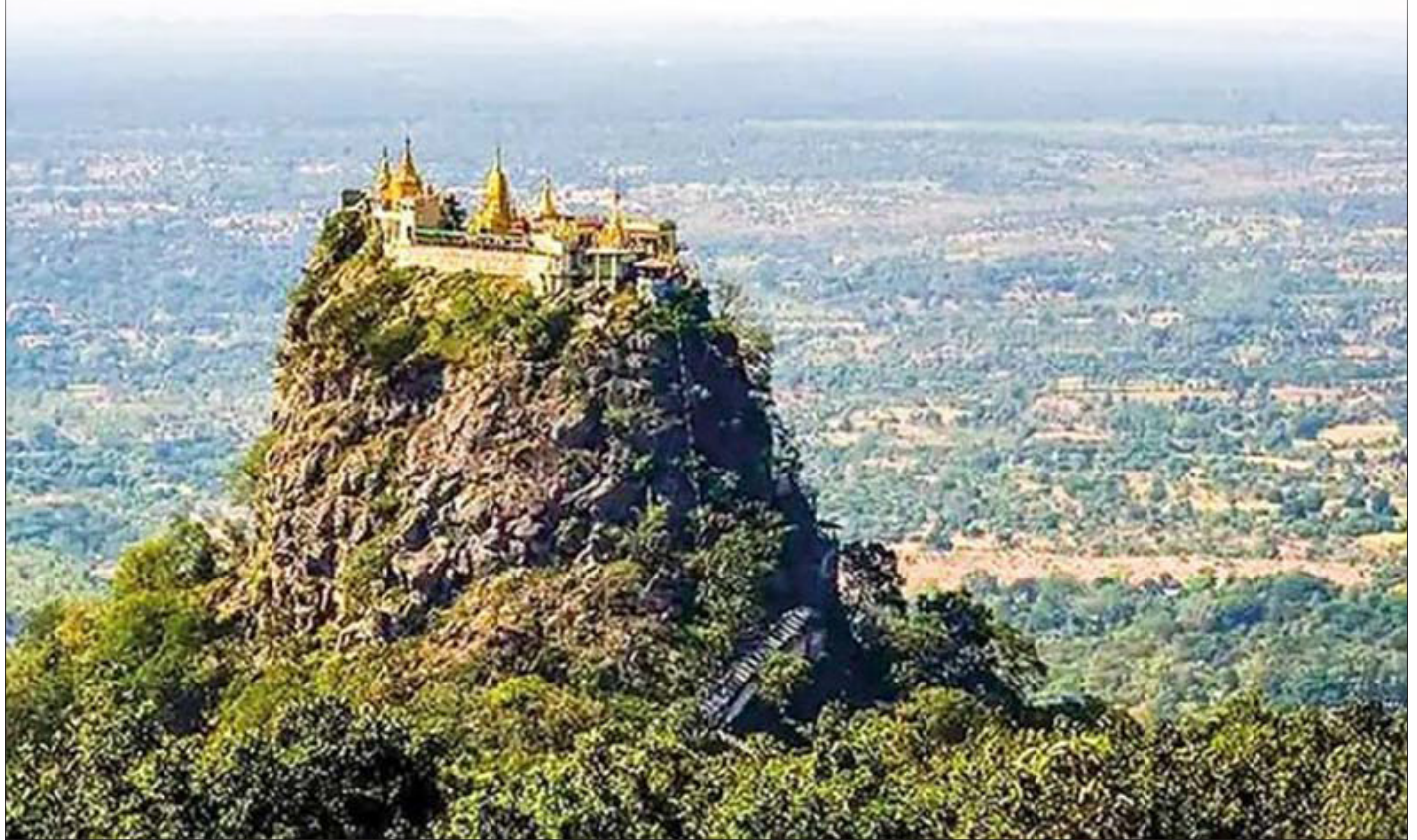
Ground orchid seedlings have been found at present and the exploring tour is scheduled to start in coming August or September when the plants will blossom.

“We’ve just found a few young plants. They will blossom from August to November. At that time, we will invite experts and go to explore in groups. We will find new records. For now, we have found two young plants believed to be new species. If we can find further, new species will be recorded for this country,” said Ko Tin Ko Min from Maha Giri.

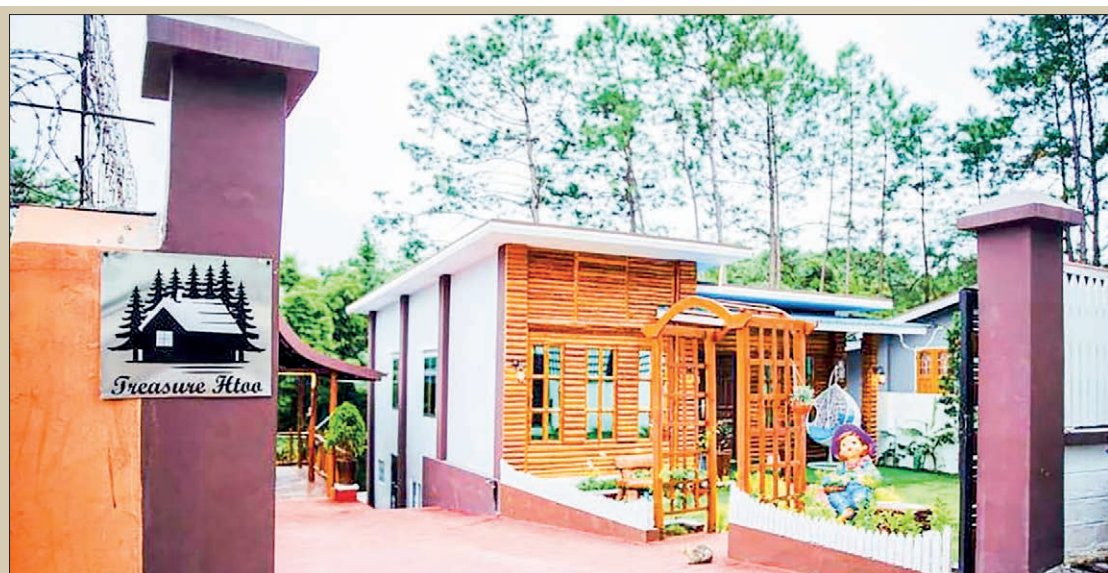
Ground orchids can live on the earth, eat fertile soil and blossom just three to four. Unlike orchids thriving on tree, there are just a few species of ground orchid which flower mass in branch.

The group operates Mount Popa trekking service and Mount Popa langur conservation as well as geotourism expansion. It also works on conservation of Popa flying gecko and Popa bent-toed gecko which are listed in endangered species. Packaged tours are being planned to sell before the end of July as a plan to launch first-ever geotourism industry in Myanmar. — MT/ZS

## Exploring new orchid species to be conducted at Mt Popa soon



Landscape of Mount Popa and its vicinity.



Guest house of homestays in Kalaw.

## Licences issued for homestay lodgings in Kalaw, Shan State

ACCORDING to U Kyaw Moe Tun, deputy director of the Shan State Development Department, licences are being issued for houses to operate as homestays in Kalaw, Shan State.

Currently, there are 22 homestays operating in Kalaw, with 12 of them paying taxes. “Foreigners are not allowed to stay in homestays. They

are only intended for domestic travellers,” said U Kyaw Moe Tun. It is also noted that more than 80 hotels are operated under hotel and travel licences in Kalaw, Aungban, and Heho in southern Shan State. However, domestic travellers prefer joining homestays rather than in hotels and motels. — ASH/TKO

### Article

## Innovative Thinking for the Advancement of Traditional Medicine in Myanmar

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

PAGE 8-9

### NATIONAL

PAGE 6



Rohu, river catfish top best-selling fish in domestic market

### BUSINESS

PAGE 7

Last season's increase in foreign tourist arrivals expected to further enhance this season



# NATIONAL

## Agricultural inputs provided for monsoon paddy growers in Ayeyawady Region

MEMBER of the State Administration Council Mahn Nyein Maung viewed cultivation of monsoon paddy with the use of paddy transplanting machine on 100 acres of paddy farm and harvesting of paddy as tripple crop in Mwedaw Shansu Village of Myaungmya Township yesterday morning.

The SAC member attended the ceremony to present agricultural inputs to monsoon paddy growers through the State economic promotion fund for 2024-25 financial year in Ukyun

Village in Wakema Township and discussed use of quality strains of paddy seeds to have higher per-acre yield.

He viewed cultivation of paddy with use of paddy transplanters, potable paddy transplanters and drum seeders and presented agricultural inputs to local farmers from Ukyun and surrounding villages.

The SAC member together with Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win attended the ceremony to provide agricultural inputs to monsoon



Member of the State Administration Council Mahn Nyein Maung attends the ceremony to present agricultural inputs to monsoon paddy growers in Ukyun Village in Wakema Township yesterday.

paddy farmers in Kwinya Tagundaing Village-tract of Einme Township and urged local farmers to use natural fertilizer.

The Regional Chief Minister explained efforts for growing paddy meeting the target

production, increasing double cropping process and establishment of two oil crop zones after monsoon paddy cultivation.

They also presented agricultural inputs to local farmers through the State economic pro-

motion fund and viewed ploughing of eight-acre farmlands, cultivation of monsoon paddy with use of paddy transplanters, potable paddy transplanters and drum seeders. — MNA/TTA

## Deputy PM MoFA Union Minister arrives back in Myanmar after 2<sup>nd</sup> BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe arrived back in Myanmar yesterday afternoon, after attending the

2<sup>nd</sup> BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat which was held on 11 and 12 July 2024 in New Delhi, India.

The delegation was welcomed back at the Yangon

International Airport by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of India in Yangon. — MNA



Union Minister U Than Swe being welcomed back on his arrival at Yangon International Airport yesterday.



This image showcases the catalogue of paintings for 'The Glorification'.

## 'The Glorification' group art exhibition now on display

A group art exhibition titled 'The Glorification' is currently on display at the Shwe Khit Oo Art Gallery in Kyauktada Township, starting on 14 July, according to the gallery.

The paintings by 18 artists who participated in the Glorification Workshop Demonstration organized by Shwe Khit Oo Art Gallery are being showcased at the exhibition, which will continue until 21 July.

"At this exhibition, audiences will enjoy various paintings representing the diverse perspectives and creations of the 18 artists. We invite art lovers to visit and not miss this opportunity," said the gallery curator.

Watercolour paintings and oil colour paintings of artists Ko Tint Shoon, Ko Maung Win Hla, Hla Tun Aung, Aung Thin Oo, Myint Oo, Thant Sin, Thu Wun, Myo Kyaw, Aung Thiha, San Tun, Nyi Nyi Tun, Aung Myo Myat, Sitt Moe Aung, Aung Htet Lwin, Soe Khine, Aung Wun Htut, Aung Ko Hteik and Kaw Zar Thit will be displayed at the exhibition. — ASH/TRKM

# NATIONAL

## MIFER Union Minister arrives back after attending Second High-Level Conference of Forum on Global Action for Shared Development

AT the invitation of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations attended the Second High-Level Conference of the Forum on Global Action for Shared Development from 11 to 13 July in Beijing.

The conference was also attended by Mr Wang Yi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs; Mr Luo Zhaohui, the CIDCA Chairman; and high-level representatives from countries in Asia, America, Latin America regions' international organizations and the private sector. U Tin Maung Swe, Myanmar Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, and the two representatives from the Myanmar Embassy also joined the conference.

On the evening of 11 July, the Union minister attended a welcome banquet hosted by CIDCA for the high-level representatives from respective countries and organizations, who would be attending the Conference.

On the morning of 12 July, the forum's first day, the Union minister participated in the Interactive Discussion: Joint Actions to Promote Sustainable Development. Ministers from



Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw takes part in the Second High-Level Conference of the Forum on Global Action for Shared Development held in Beijing from 11 to 13 July.

Egypt, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Papua New Guinea, the vice-president of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), an expert for poverty alleviation and a professor/director from Columbia University, the USA, also participated in the interactive discussion.

In the evening, 14 high-level representatives of the Second High-Level Conference of the Forum including Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw met the Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the 20<sup>th</sup> Central Committee of the Communist

Party of China, Vice-Premier of the State Council, and Deputy Secretary of the Party Leadership Group Mr Ding Xuexiang. They exchanged views on China's leading role in global development cooperation and expressed their readiness to work together to deepen Global Development Initiatives (GDI) cooperation.

The Second High-Level Conference of Forum on Global Action for Shared Development, which took place on 12 and 13 July, was conducted into five sub-forums: Parallel Forum 1 (Promoting Modernization of the Glob-

al South: New Pathways, New Visions), Parallel Forum 2 (Dialogue on Innovative Approaches to Accelerating Sustainable Development: Country, Regional and Global Actions for a Better Future), Parallel Forum 3 (Energy Transition and Sustainable Development), Parallel Forum 4 (Multi-Sector Engagement in International Development Cooperation: Enabling Global Growth Through Sustainable Partnership), and Parallel Forum 5 (Uniting Generations: Shared Global Youth Responsibilities in the Digital Era). The representa-

tives from participating countries, United Nations agencies and international institutions engaged in collaborative discussions and dialogues by the specific topics and areas. On the morning of 13 July, the Union minister attended the closing ceremony of the Second High-Level Conference of the Forum on Global Action for Shared Development.

In the afternoon, Chairman Mr Luo Zhaohui of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) received the Union minister and his delegation. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral cooperation for development and investment between China and Myanmar. The Myanmar delegation and CIDCA Vice-Chairman Mr Yang Weiqun also discussed the implementation process and activities of bilateral development cooperation.

The Union minister and delegation arrived back in Yangon yesterday evening. Economic and Commercial Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar Mr Ouyang Daobing and officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations welcomed back the Union minister at the Yangon International Airport. U Thant Sin Lwin, Director-General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) also arrived back in Yangon. — MNA

## Press conference emphasizes joint statement of 23 political parties

A total of 23 political parties on 11 July issued a joint statement over terror acts of three northern alliance MNDAA/TNLA/AA and related armed groups killing

innocent people, firing at non-military target major cities of people with the use of heavy weapons and bomb drops, and expelling people of ethnic groups different

from them from their controlled areas in Shan State (North).

With regard to the joint statement, officials from Union Solidarity and Development Par-

ty, Democratic Party, Union of Myanmar Federation of National Politics Party, and National Political Alliance League Party held a press conference at the USDP headquarters in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the press conference,

spokesperson U Hla Thein of USDP explained ending of terrorism as quickly as possible in the country, and widening of scope of knowledge of the people to carry out development of the country. Officials from relevant parties replied to queries raised by media. — MNA/TTA

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



### CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,  
Hotline - 09 255597511

### ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,  
Hotline - 09 251022355  
marketing@gnlm.com.mm  
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.  
[gnlmnews@gmail.com](mailto:gnlmnews@gmail.com)  
[newsroom@gnlm.com.mm](mailto:newsroom@gnlm.com.mm)  
[www.gnlm.com.mm](http://www.gnlm.com.mm)

### Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email [aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm](mailto:aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm) with your name and title.

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

## Union H&T Minister attends Myanmar-India tourism meeting

DR Thet Thet Khaing, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, participated in the Myanmar-India Tourism Cooperation Coordination Meeting held at Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon yesterday. The meeting included the Director-General of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Deputy Secretary of the Indian Embassy Mr Ashok Kumar, representatives from the India-Myanmar Businessmen's Association, the president of the Myanmar Tourism Federation, and officials from relevant associations.

During the meeting, the Union Minister emphasized the aim of enhancing bilateral tourism cooperation between

Myanmar and India, leveraging up collaboration between their respective governments and private sectors. Myanmar and India are closely engaged in ASEAN+India, BIMSTEC, SASEC, and Mekong-Ganges tourism frameworks. She then expressed the desire to discuss tourism promotion strategies to attract more Indian tourists to Myanmar.

Discussions among attendees focused on Myanmar's hotels and tourism sector development, increasing Indian tourist arrivals, operational aspects of domestic and international airlines, Myanmar-India tourism cooperation, and relevant procedural frameworks. — MNA/TKO



The Myanmar-India Tourism Cooperation Coordination Meeting in progress at Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

### CRIME NEWS

## Illegal trade crackdown on 11 arrests, seizures worth over K74 million

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, action against illegal trade is being taken in accordance with the law.

On 12 July, at Myanma Industrial Port, on-duty teams managed by Customs Department confiscated four kinds of goods including 2,500 pieces of Magnetic Nut Setter and 172 pieces of GL lead acid batteries from China, imported in quantities exceeding the Import Declaration, estimated worth K27.49 million, from three containers. The action is being taken under

the Customs procedures.

In Ottarathiri Township on 12 July, the on-duty team managed by the Nay Pyi Taw Council Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force confiscated 2.724 tonnes of timbers, estimated to be worth K198,564. Action is being taken under the Forest Law.

In Sagaing Region, the on-duty team managed by the Sagaing Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized a Nissan AD Van and two Toyota Ipsums without motor vehicle registration, totally estimated

valued at K11 million, in Sagaing Township on 12 July. Similarly, in Monywa Township on 13 July, another team seized a tri-cycle unregistered, valued at K2.5 million. Action is being taken under the Export/Import Law.

In Myanaung Township on 12 July, the on-duty team managed by the Ayeyawady Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force confiscated 0.504 tonne of illegal teak and 0.265 tonne of illegal timbers, estimated to be worth K151,094. Action is being taken under the Forest Law.



Pieces of confiscated illegal teak in Bago Region.



Confiscated illegal GL lead acid battery at Myanma Industrial Port.



A confiscated vehicle in Sagaing.

In Pyay District on 13 July, the on-duty team managed by Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized 9.331 tonnes of illegal teak, estimated to be worth K5,164,256. Action is being taken under the Customs procedures.

In Kayin State on 13 July, on-duty teams managed by the state's Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force inspected a vehicle en route to Yangon from Myawady at Thanlwin Bridge inspection checkpoint. The

team seized two kinds of goods including 40 used-Lenovo laptops without official documents. The value of the illegal items is K2.9 million, and a vehicle carrying them are valued at K25 million. Action is being taken under Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 11 arrests were made on 12 and 13 July, with the total value of the illegal items and vehicles estimated at over K74.4 million. — MNA/KZL

# NATIONAL

## Rohu, river catfish top best-selling fish in domestic market

AMONG the most consumed fish in Myanmar, rohu and river catfish are the top best-selling fish.

Orders for river catfish are on the increase for making dried fish.

“River catfish is one of the most consumed fish in the domestic market, mostly for making it into dried fish. Rohu is the top in the list of the most consumed fish, followed by river catfish, silver pomfret and catla catla,” said the owner of Ko Nyi freshwater fish trading at Central Sanpya fish market in Kyimyindine Township.

Fish farm owners breed rohu, Hampala barb, Cyprinus carpio and freshwater silver pomfret mixed with river catfish, along with small-scale poultry farming on the fish farms.

Thailand species river catfish farming was initiated in



This photo shows rohus being displayed for sale in the market.

1990 in Myanmar. An adult river catfish is 130 centimetres long and weighs 44 kilogrammes and adulthood takes three years for females and two years for males. A female weighing 10 kilogrammes can lay about one million eggs. — Thit Taw/ZS



This photo shows the Waso-robe offering ceremony and sermon-chanting events.

## Shwedagon Pagoda to hold Buddha Pujaniya festivals during Lent

THE Buddha Pujaniya festivals and sermon-reciting events are planned to be celebrated at Shwedagon Pagoda during Buddhist Lent, according to U Bo Thin, a member of the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

“During the three months of Buddhist Lent, religious ceremonies will be held on a grand scale. The Dhammacakka Day ceremony and the Waso-robe offering ceremony will be celebrated on the full moon day of Waso, 20 July. In addition, the Metta Day ceremony and offering ceremony with 84,000 pieces of miscellaneous flowers will be

held on Wagaung full moon day on 19 August. Similarly, the Garu Dhamma Day on Tawthalin full moon day, 17 September, the lighting festival on the day before Thadingyut full moon day 16 October and the Abhidhamma Day ceremony on Thadingyut full moon day, 17 October will be organized,” said U Bo Thin.

Similarly, it is also scheduled for the pilgrims to take the Sabbath from Shwedagon Pagoda Ovadacariya Sayadaws between the full moon day of Waso and Thadingyut full moon day every Sabbath day. — ASH/MKKS

## Pyay District’s 45,000 acres of monsoon paddy fields to receive ample irrigation water

MYANMAR adjusts its rice production to meet both domestic needs and export demands. During the current rainy season, monsoon paddy fields in Pyay District, Bago Region, are crucial for meeting production targets. The Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management is actively supplying irrigation water to over 45,000 acres of these monsoon paddy fields.

Bago Region boasts 39 dams, including eight in Bago District, five in Nyaunglebin District, eight in Toungoo District, three in Nattalin District, eight in Thayawady District, and seven in Pyay District. Additionally, the region features 13 diversion weirs and 14 water sluice gates, totalling 66 irrigation facilities. Officials from the Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management are diligently managing

agricultural water supply, reinforcing dam structures, and raising flood awareness during the rainy season.

“The primary responsibility of our department is to store and distribute agricultural water, ensure water safety, and promote regional development. Besides providing irrigation for successful plantation growth, we manage water storage and flood prevention, including diverting water flow and maintaining agricultural supply,” stated U Ko Ko Oo, Director of the Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management in Bago Region.

“In Pyay District, where drought conditions prevail, ensuring sufficient water for planting is critical. Agriculture remains Myanmar’s key economic sector, and our ability to provide timely irrigation sup-



This photo shows the North Nawin Dam which distributes irrigated water to monsoon paddy field in Pyay Township. **PHOTO: BAGO IRRIGATION**

ports farmers’ socio-economic livelihoods,” he added. The department has commenced sup-

plying irrigation water to over 45,000 monsoon paddy fields in Bago Region since late June,

aiming to sustain water access for plantations until December. — Thitsar (MNA)/KZL

## Last season's increase in foreign tourist arrivals expected to further enhance this season

WITH destination expansions and promotions in the coming season, rising foreign tourist arrival in the last season could be further increased, said an official of the Myanmar Tourism Federation.

"In order to improve the tourism sector, we have to attract Chinese and Thais, who are the top visitors to Myanmar, in the coming tourism season. For example, Chinese citizens are interested in visiting Mandalay whereas Thais are interested in Yangon, Bago, and Kyauktiyi. If we can develop them and make them safe, tourists will come. Thai and Chinese tourists want to visit Bagan, not just Mandalay. If the destination can be expanded for Thai tourists from Yangon and Bago to Bagan such as arranging direct flights from Bangkok to Mandalay or Bagan, the number of arrival will increase. We need to expand and promote the trips to safe places. Then, more tourists will come," he said.

At present, foreign tourists to Myanmar are mostly from China, while the arrivals from Thailand and western countries decrease during the rainy season.

"The arrival of foreign tourists has generally decreased since the end of Thingyan. The number of Chinese tourists is still moderate, but the number of tourists from Thailand, western nations and other countries has decreased as usual. Chinese tourists are now the largest visitors from Thailand. Since they are Myanmar's neighbours with a lot of business cooperation, there are many visitors from them," he said.

Myanmar people mostly chose Thailand and Singapore as outbound destinations for visits as well as for business purposes.

"In outbound trips, most of Myanmar travellers go to Thailand. Some go to Singapore for visit and business. Some companies have little work during the rainy season, so they often go abroad with their families," he said.

During the six-month period from October 2023 to March 2024 of the open season, there have been many tourist arrivals from China and Thailand to Myanmar, and the number of visitors from other countries has also increased, he said. — MT/ZN



Some foreign tourists visiting Myanmar.

## Green Banana Myanmar to export upcycled banana products to Thailand, Japan

ACCORDING to Green Banana Myanmar Co Ltd, plans are underway to export value-added upcycled products made of discarded banana trunks to markets in Thailand and Japan. CEO of Green Banana Myanmar, U Myint Thein, explained that both industrial goods and handicrafts are created using waste parts of banana trunk.

The outer parts of the banana trunk are used for commodity products, while handmade textiles are crafted from the inner parts.

"Fibre threads derived from banana and pineapple trunks are used to make shoes, slippers, bags, scarves, textiles, and other products," he added. Despite



Authorities observe the commodities produced from waste of banana trunks.

ongoing technology and machinery needs in the production process, slippers, bags, scarves, and textiles made of discarded banana trunks are in high demand and popular in the market.

Currently, Green Banana Myanmar is preparing to export these upcycled banana products to Thailand and Japan. Samples have already been dispatched to Japan. — ASH/TMT



The file photo shows that some fisheries product at the fish auction market in Myeik. PHOTO: MYINT OO (MYEIK)

THAILAND has introduced a new requirement for prior approval on imports of aquatic products and related goods through border checkpoints, effective from mid-July. Importers must now obtain approval at least one day in advance. The regulation specifies that purchases are restricted to pre-approved lists detailing product names and quantities, managed by authorized agents. This policy applies uniformly across all Thai-Myanmar border crossings.

An exporter from Myeik noted, "Bangkok headquarters has relaxed previous

## Thailand introduces prior approval requirement for aquatic product imports from Myanmar

restrictions, allowing the resumption of usual export for ten types of aquatic products through all Myanmar border checkpoints involved in this trade. Exporters in the Taninthayi region are advised to carefully review the official notification to ensure compliance with specific requirements".

Thailand's implementation of this requirement aligns with its laws governing aquatic products and related goods. The law aims to accurately trace the origin and capture locations of all imported items, ensuring compliance with regulations by mandating detailed reporting.

The statement further emphasizes that officer at relevant border aquatic product inspection checkpoints must strictly adhere to these legal

provisions, with penalties under Section 157 of the Penal Code for non-compliance. Additionally, Myanmar merchants exporting value-added and semi-processed products must provide a Health Certificate.

While these measures may pose challenges for aquatic exporters in Taninthayi Region, the potential reopening of the international fish market at Inlay Myaing Industrial Zone in south Myeik village-tract could be transformative.

This initiative promises direct sales opportunities at competitive prices, reducing transport costs and time. Moreover, revitalizing the market is expected to create jobs, combat illegal trade, and boost state tax revenues. — Myint Oo (Myeik)/TRKM

# OPINION

## Take preventive measures for flooding in fish and prawn farms

WITH rising water levels in rivers and creeks nationwide due to heavy rains, it is crucial for fish and prawn farmers to take preventive measures to protect their farms from flooding. Climate change has exacerbated the situation, causing more severe weather patterns that lead to water overflow from rivers and creeks, damaging agriculture and livestock breeding farms.

To mitigate these risks, farmers must improve dykes and bunds to prevent water inflow when levels rise. Heavy rains can significantly impact fish and prawn farms, causing water levels to rise and releasing fish, which leads to business losses and missed opportunities to supply the domestic market. This shortage drives up fish prices, causing trouble for consumers.

Importantly, all fish and prawn farmers need to exchange information in their regions in an emergency period of disasters to save their businesses in time. Moreover, they need to inform nearby Fisheries Departments about flooding and inundation at their farms in time. If so, they can prevent loss and damage to their fish and prawn farms in emergency cases of heavy rains and flooding.

Fish and prawn farms contribute significantly to the country's foreign currency income each year. Therefore, it is essential for farmers to adopt preventive measures against natural disasters. In response, the Fisheries Department has issued guidelines to protect fish and prawn farms during the monsoon season.

Farmers should upgrade their farm bunds with sandbags and reinforce them with nets to prevent fish and prawns from escaping when water levels rise. Building temporary retaining walls outside the bunds can help deflect the fast currents of floodwaters. Additionally, relocating fish and prawns to safer areas is necessary. Farmers should be prepared with fishing nets, boats, and necessary machinery for this purpose, especially for moving large, quality fish to ensure the regeneration of fingerlings.

It is also crucial to secure aquafeeds and working materials in safer locations and maintain regular feeding schedules to prevent fish and prawns from escaping. Regular checks on the bunds' integrity are vital, along with monitoring weather forecasts from relevant departments to make timely decisions.

By taking these preventive steps, fish and prawn farmers can safeguard their livelihoods, ensure a steady supply to the domestic market, and maintain their contribution to the country's economy. As such, they have to arrange proper plans for their fish and prawn farms before disaster-prone monsoons every year.

Importantly, all fish and prawn farmers need to exchange information in their regions in an emergency period of disasters to save their businesses in time. Moreover, they need to inform nearby Fisheries Departments about flooding and inundation at their farms in time. If so, they can prevent loss and damage to their fish and prawn farms in emergency cases of heavy rains and flooding.

THE Ministry of Health (MOH), Myanmar, laid down two objectives, to enable every citizen to attain full life expectancy and enjoy longevity of life, and to ensure that every citizen is free from diseases. To do that, traditional medicine is one of the main supporting issues.

In Myanmar, traditional medicine has been regarded as an invaluable national heritage and flourished significantly as a major part of the Myanmar culture. The provision of traditional medicine services is at the basic health services level to make essential traditional medicine easily accessible for the benefit of both urban and rural populations. It also supports and uplifts the health status of the people of Myanmar in the context of primary healthcare. Particularly for the rural population, traditional medicine is still a priority and has been carried out in the mode of preventive focus, getting along with the traditional values and the traditional art of treatment.

The Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win attended the opening ceremony of the 2024 Shanghai Cooperation Organization Forum on Traditional Medicine on 27 June 2024. At the event, the Union Minister stressed that Shanghai Co-op

# Innovative Thinking for the Advancement of Traditional Medicine in Myanmar

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

eration Organization member states, observers, physicians of partner countries, experts and business people are considering the sector-wise activities related to traditional medicines. Moreover, the use of modern technologies and investments in scientific research can promote the quality, effectiveness, safety and use of traditional drugs. Advancing traditional medicine in Myanmar with innovative thinking involves a multi-faceted approach that integrates modern technology, research methodologies, and sustainable practices while respecting and preserving cultural heritage. The following strategies are needed to consider innovative ways of thinking perspectives: -

### 1. Research and Documentation

- Comprehensive Documentation: Compile and digitize existing traditional medical knowledge, including medicinal plants, therapies, and practices.
- Scientific Research: Conduct



Utilize biotechnology for the cultivation of medicinal plants and the development of herbal medicines. ILLUSTRATION: ARTFULLY PHOTOGRAPHER/SHUTTERSTOCK

rigorous scientific studies to validate the efficacy and safety of traditional remedies. Collaborate with universities and research institutions for this purpose.

### 2. Integration with Modern Medicine

- Collaborative Practices: Develop integrated healthcare models where traditional and modern medicine practitioners work together.

ers work together. Training Programmes: Create educational programs that teach modern medical professionals about traditional medicine and vice versa.

### 3. Standardization and Quality Control

- Standardization of Practices: Establish standardized practices for the preparation and use of traditional medicines to ensure consistency and quality.
- Quality Control Mechanisms: Implement quality control measures to ensure the safety and efficacy of traditional medicine products.

### 4. Sustainable Sourcing and Conservation

- Sustainable Harvesting: Promote sustainable harvesting practices to ensure the long-term availability of medicinal plants.
- Conservation Efforts: Initiate conservation programs to protect endangered medicinal plants and their habitats.

### 5. Use of Technology

- Digital Platforms: Develop digital platforms for sharing information about traditional medicine, including mobile apps and online databases.
- Biotechnology: Utilize biotechnology for the cultivation

of medicinal plants and the development of herbal medicines.

### 6. Policy and Regulation

- Government Support: Advocate for government policies that support the development and integration of traditional medicine.
- Regulatory Framework: Establish a regulatory framework to supervise the practice and commercialization of traditional medicines.

### 7. Community Engagement and Education

- Community Involvement: Engage local communities in the development and conservation of traditional medicine.
- Public Education: Launch public education campaigns to raise awareness about the benefits and proper use of traditional medicine.

### 8. Economic Development

- Entrepreneurship: Encourage entrepreneurship in the traditional medicine sector to create economic opportunities.
- Market Development: Develop local and international

markets for traditional medicine products.

### 9. Collaboration and Partnerships

- International Collaboration: Collaborate with international organizations and institutions to share knowledge and resources.
- Public-Private Partnerships: Foster public-private partnerships to invest in the research and development of traditional medicines.

### 10. Innovation in Product Development

- New Product Development: Innovate new products by combining traditional knowledge with modern scientific techniques.
- Value Addition: Add value to traditional medicine products through improved packaging, branding, and marketing strategies.

Implementing these strategies requires a coordinated effort from various stakeholders, including government bodies, healthcare providers, researchers, entrepreneurs, and local communities. By integrating traditional knowledge with modern innovations, Myanmar can develop a robust traditional medicine sector that contributes to the health and well-being of its people while preserving its rich cultural heritage. ■



An AI voice interaction system in a heavy-haul electric locomotive streamlines operations, enhances safety, and improves efficiency by leveraging natural language processing and AI capabilities to assist operators in managing complex tasks effectively. An intelligent heavy-haul electric locomotive in Zhuzhou, central China's Hunan Province, 9 May 2024. PHOTO: CHEN ZEGUO/XINHUA

# Chinese AI firms make strides to keep pace with industry leaders

*China's ascent in the AI industry, particularly in LLMs, reflects its strategic investments, technological prowess, and expansive data capabilities.*

AFTER technological advances in the artificial intelligence (AI) industry marked by large language model (LLM) fever since 2022, Chinese firms in the rapidly advancing sector have cemented their position as major players and are intensifying efforts to narrow the gap with forerunners.

According to a SuperBench assessment report for LLMs by Tsinghua University, among 14 representative models in the world, models like GPT-4 and Claude-3 continue to lead in several capabilities. However, leading

Chinese models such as start-up Zhipu AI's GLM-4 and Baidu's Ernie Bot 4.0 have shown impressive performance, approaching the top level of their foreign counterparts and gradually closing the gap.

Industry insiders say that China, with its enormous data resources and diverse application scenarios, has gradually established itself as a prominent trendsetter and a second-to-none magnet for related industries amid the trend of exploring new frontiers of AI.

Of the 1,328 AI LLMs globally, 36 per cent are from China, the

second-largest proportion after the United States, according to a white paper on the global digital economy released by the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology at the Global Digital Economy Conference 2024, which runs from Tuesday to Friday in Beijing.

From China tech giant Baidu's Ernie to TikTok owner ByteDance's Doubao, Chinese tech firms have commercially launched a batch of LLMs and are leveraging extensive data to revolutionize AI applications across various platforms.

In May alone, Alibaba Cloud officially released Tongyi Qianwen 2.5 at the start of the month, comparable to GPT-4 Turbo in overall performance, and less than a week later, ByteDance introduced the Doubao family of models, featuring multimodal models.

Xue Lan, dean of Schwarzman College at Tsinghua University, attributes the success of China's AI sector to widespread societal acceptance of AI, a robust business-led ecosystem, and supportive government policies.

Speaking of China's advantages and how they benefit other

countries, Kang Xi, an assistant professor at Vanderbilt University in the United States, underscores China's computing power and vast consumer data, which are refining the foundations of AI models and facilitating the creation of tailored models adaptable for other countries' implementation.

These advantages finally fostered an energetic generative AI landscape in China. A growing number of companies, including startups, tech giants and state-owned enterprises, are rushing to adopt generative AI tools to enhance their productivity and efficiency.

Meanwhile, nearly 30,000 AI companies are operating worldwide as of the first quarter of this

year, with approximately 34 per cent based in the United States and around 15 per cent in China, according to the white paper.

According to a report released by the World Intellectual Property Organization on Wednesday, 54,000 generative AI patent applications were filed globally in the past decade. China filed over 38,000 patents, ranking first in the world. Among the top 10 patent applicants are Chinese entities including Tencent, Ping An Insurance, Baidu, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Alibaba and ByteDance, demonstrating that China's AI sector has made significant strides in keeping up with AI industry leaders.

SOURCE: Xinhua



# NATIONAL



Photo taken last year shows Myanmar workers who are going to work in Thailand.

## Department of Labour reports 388 agencies failing to submit expatriate data

THE Department of Labour has announced that 388 employment agencies have not submitted the personal data of expatriate workers for the period from April to December 2023.

The agencies have reported

difficulties in listing the profiles of the workers, as some cannot be contacted or have changed jobs.

Nearly 570 agencies hold official licences to send workers abroad. However, 70 per cent of

them have not provided the list of workers they sent overseas.

The Ministry of Labour has warned the agencies to ensure that expatriate salaries are remitted through official channels. — TWA/ TRKM



### Heavy Rainfall Warning No 02/2024

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

1. According to the observations at 12:30 hours MST today, monsoon will be strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal and the movement of cloud from an active low pressure cell over the South China Sea, rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavyfalls in some regions and states along with strong winds from 16-7-2024 to 20-7-2024.
2. Occasional squalls with rough to very rough seas will be experienced in off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 40-45 mph and wave height will be about 9-14 feet.

#### Advisory

Due to the strong to vigorous monsoon over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal and the movement of cloud from an active low pressure cell over the South China Sea, people should be aware heavy rain with strong wind, flash flood and landslide in the hilly areas and near small rivers and also domestic flight, trawlers, vessels and ships off and along Myanmar Coasts.

### Flood Warning

(Issued at 13:30 hours MST on 14-7-2024)

ACCORDING to the 12:30 hours MST observation today, the water level of the Ayeyawady River at Pyay is observed as about 0.5 foot (12 centimetres) below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next 6 hours.

According to the 12:30 hours MST observation today, the water level of the Ayeyawady River at Zalun is observed as about 0.5 foot (16 centimetres) below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next 12 hours.

According to the 12:30 hours MST observation today, the water level of the Ngawun River at Ngathainggyoung is observed as about 1.5 feet (40 centimetres) below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next two days.

According to the 12:30 hours MST observation today, the water level of the Toe River at Maubin is observed as about one foot (31 centimetres) below its danger level. 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 Pyay, Zalun and Maubin townships and Ngathainggyoung, to take precaution measure. — DMH

## MoC invites tenders to lease four Rest Camps on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway

FOUR parking lots in total, including the 76<sup>th</sup>-mile Rest Camp on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, will be leased through a competitive bidding system.

In addition, land that has been reclaimed, the land that has not yet been leased, and restrooms located next to the expressway will be leased through an open tender system, according to the Ministry of Construction.

The facilities to be leased include two Nay Pyi Taw Rest Camps (100 x 100 feet), one Theegon Rest Camp (100 x 200 feet), and one Sagar-in Rest Camp (200 x 104 feet) on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

Additionally, there are six restrooms located at mile posts 158/4, 243/0, 284/5, 317/2, and 352/2, including one at the 76<sup>th</sup>-Mile Rest Camp.

Interested entrepreneurs can buy tender forms at Office No 11, Nay Pyi Taw on 15 July. For detail information, they can contact Tender Adjudication Committee of Expressway Maintenance, Repair and Supervision Team under the ministry's Department of Highways.

Tender applications must be submitted during office hours on 9 August. The ministry will inform applicants of the date and time for the adjudication of tenders. — TWA/TH



Photo depicts 76<sup>th</sup>-Mile and 115<sup>th</sup>-Mile Mini Rest Camps on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

**Advertise**

with us/ Hot Line :



09 251022355, 09 255597511

## Indian artist wins Golden Sand Master Award

THE Indian embassy in Russia congratulated sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik for winning Golden Sand Master Award at the International Sand Sculpture Championship held in Russia.

Renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik created a sand sculpture of Mahaprabhu Jagannath and his great devotee Balaram Das at the International Championship in St Petersburg.

“Congratulations to Sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik for winning gold medal at International Sand Sculpture Championship at St Petersburg. @sudarsansand,” the Indian embassy in Russia said in a post on X.

Sudarsan Pattnaik, an acclaimed sand artist from Odisha, achieved recognition at the

International Sand Sculpture Championship 2024 in St. Petersburg.

His 12-foot sand depiction of Lord Jagannath and devotee Balaram Das earned him the prestigious Golden Sand Master Award. The event, themed around history, mythology, and fairy tales, featured 21 global participants, with Pattnaik representing India. A Padma Shri recipient, he has participated in over 65 international sand art competitions, promoting awareness on diverse social issues such as HIV, AIDS, global warming, terrorism prevention, plastic pollution, COVID-19, and environmental conservation through his art. Pattnaik also operates a sand art school at Puri Beach in Odisha. — ANI



Sudarsan Pattnaik, an acclaimed sand artist from Odisha, achieved recognition at the International Sand Sculpture Championship 2024 in St Petersburg. PHOTO: ANI

## NE Chinese city promotes public fitness based on natural landscape

IN northeast China’s Jilin City, amid scorching heat waves elsewhere in the country, tourists seeking relief are drawn to the icy wonders of the Beishan Four Seasons Cross-country Ski Resort.

Chen Jiajia, visiting from Jiangsu Province, expressed awe at the sight of rime ice coating willow trees, describing it as a long-awaited spectacle.

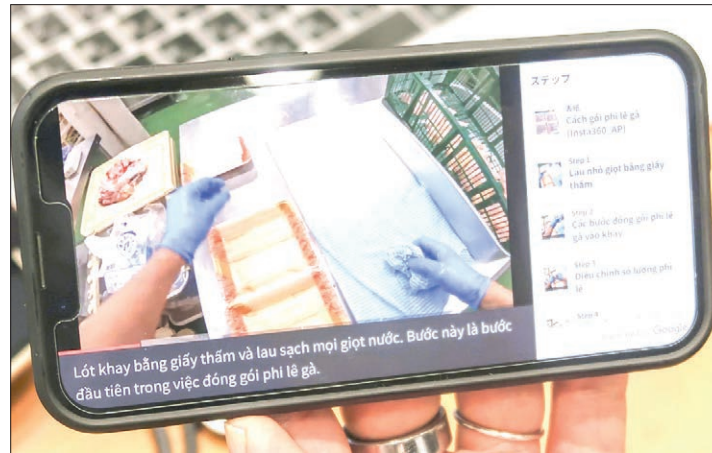
The resort, a hub for professional cross-country skiing training, maintains a chilly indoor environment of minus six degrees Celsius, attracting a growing number of visitors since

the opening of its rime ice lab earlier this year. Jilin City, renowned historically for its chemical industry, is now celebrated for the picturesque rime ice formations along the Songhua River during winter, transforming the area into a captivating winter wonderland.

Table tennis has become particularly popular among residents like Duan Yongsheng, who frequents the Songhua River Fitness Corridor daily. Recently, the area expanded its recreational offerings with the opening of a large skateboard park, catering to over 100 enthusiasts every weekend. — Xinhua

## AI software offers multilingual tutorial videos for foreign workers

*This initiative aims to alleviate the challenges faced by companies amidst Japan’s growing labour shortages and aging population.*



Studist Corp, a Tokyo-based software provider, has launched “Teachme AI,” a new AI-driven software designed to simplify the creation of instructional videos for foreign workers in Japan.

PHOTO: KYODO

SOFTWARE driven by artificial intelligence that can produce instructional videos for foreign workers in Japan more easily has been launched, with the ability to produce video footage accompanied by text translated into 20 different languages.

Tokyo-based software provider Studist Corp is offering

the service, called “Teachme AI,” to ease the burden on companies that need to create tutorial videos at a time when the number of foreign workers in Japan is increasing amid the country’s serious labour shortages and aging population.

Teachme AI can create tutorial videos from raw foot-

age in a short period. It can cut editing times by over 90 per cent, with footage automatically divided into chapters with subtitles and written explanations.

The software can produce content in languages such as Thai, Vietnamese, Indonesian and Bengali.

“The videos are useful for helping (workers) to learn the ropes at their jobs,” Satoshi Suzuki, president of Studist, said, underscoring the importance of giving the necessary training to foreign workers.

The number of foreign workers in Japan as of the end of October 2023 topped 2 million for the first time, according to government data.

Last month, Japan’s parliament enacted revised laws to replace a controversy-plagued foreign trainee programme with a new system that encourages workers from abroad to stay longer. — Kyodo

## Abu Dhabi selected as 2025 International Jazz Day Global Host City

EVERY year on 30 April International Jazz Day is celebrated around the world, honouring the sound of artistic freedom. UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock are pleased to announce that Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates, will serve as the Global Host of the 2025 edition of International Jazz Day.

Presented in partnership with the Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi), the celebration will be anchored around its cultural heritage, defined as a tapestry of an Arab and Emirati culture.

Classical instruments like Oud, Qanoon and Ney will introduce global audiences to ‘Arabic Jazz’. As the 2025 Global Host City, Abu Dhabi,



Abu Dhabi’s selection underscores its status as a UNESCO Creative City of Music and highlights its rich cultural heritage. PHOTO: ANI

the UNESCO Creative City of Music, will showcase the interplay of local musical traditions and Jazz dating back decades.

Mohamed Al Mubarak, Chairman of DCT Abu Dhabi, said, “We are honoured that Abu Dhabi has been selected

as the Global Host for the 2025 edition of International Jazz Day.

This recognition underscores our city’s thriving music scene and unwavering commitment to cultural diversity and artistic excellence. — ANI

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Mixed profits at US banks amid weaker signs from low-income customers

*JPMorgan Chase and Citigroup observed changes in consumer behaviour driven by economic pressures, with a focus on essential spending among lower-income customers amid higher interest rates and inflationary pressures.*

JPMORGAN Chase and Citigroup reported increased second-quarter profits Friday despite somewhat higher costs to account for bad loans in light of greater stress on lower-income customers.

Citigroup Chief Financial Officer Mark Mason pointed to a “bit of a pullback” from consumers with lower credit scores who are strained from higher interest rates and the consumer price hikes of recent years.

“The customer base is being discerning in terms of the nature of the spend in light of the environment that we’re in,” Mason said on a conference call

with reporters.

JPMorgan Chase has also seen lower-income segments shift spending from discretionary to essential goods, which “for obvious reasons is understood to be a little bit of a sign of weakness,” said Chief Financial Officer Jeremy Barnum, while noting that most of the bank’s customers tend to have higher credit scores.

Barnum offered measured optimism on the economy, saying conditions remain broadly positive, while noting persistent big-picture risks that include geopolitical instability and the chance that inflation and interest rate will stay high. — AFP



JPMorgan Chase and Citi experienced higher credit costs in the second quarter, reflecting greater stress on lower-income consumers. **PHOTO: AFP**

## India’s forex reserves reach all-time high at US\$657 bln

INDIA’S foreign exchange (forex) reserves reached an all-time high of 657.155 billion US dollars during the week ended 5 July according to weekly data released by the country’s central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The overall forex kitty rose by 5.16 billion dollars over the preceding week.

While the forex reserves’

biggest component the foreign currency assets (FCAs) stood at 577.11 billion dollars, the gold reserves stood at 57.432 billion dollars, and the special drawing rights were at 18.036 dollars, showed the RBI data.

The FCAs registered a growth of 42.29 billion dollars, while the gold reserves increased by over 904 million dollars during the week. — Xinhua

## New profession emerges as self-driving industry develops

*As more professionals enter this field, the critical role of testing and ensuring the safety and reliability of self-driving vehicles will continue to shape the future of transportation.*

THANKS to advances in electrification, networking, and intelligent transformation, along with progress in autonomous driving technologies, self-driving vehicles are gradually becoming a reality. As the industry develops, more professionals are becoming testers of self-driving vehicles.

The profession “intelligent connected vehicle tester” was listed as one of 19 new professions by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security earlier this year. — Xinhua



An intelligent connected vehicle tester works before a test at an enclosed test field in Tianjin, north China, 14 June 2024. **PHOTO: SUN FANYUE/XINHUA**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Pakistan pledges \$7 billion IMF aid deal will be its last

THE International Monetary Fund has agreed to loan Pakistan \$7 billion to bolster its faltering economy, with Islamabad pledging Saturday it would be the last time it relied on relief from the Washington-based lender.

The South Asian nation agreed to the deal — its 24<sup>th</sup> IMF payout since 1958 — in exchange for unpopular reforms, including widening its chronically low tax base.

Pakistan last year came to the brink of default as the economy shrivelled amid political chaos following catastrophic 2022 monsoon floods and decades of mismanagement, as well as a global economic downturn.

It was saved by last-minute loans from friendly countries, as well as an IMF rescue package, but its finances remain in dire straits, with high inflation and staggering public debts.

“This programme should be considered the last programme,” Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif told ministers and revenue officials in Islamabad. “We should tax those who are not being taxed.”

Islamabad wrangled for months with IMF officials to unlock the new loan announced Friday, which will be paid out over three years subject to approval by the organization’s Executive Board.

It came on condition of far-reaching reforms including hiking household bills to remedy a permanently crisis-stricken energy sector and uplifting pitiful tax takings.

In a nation of over 240 million people and where most jobs are in the informal sector, only 5.2 million filed income tax returns in 2022. — AFP

### US inflation to be worse under Trump than Biden: economists

MOST economists believe that inflation, deficits and interest rates would be higher during a second Donald Trump administration than if Joe Biden remains in the White House, according to a Wall Street Journal survey.

The Journal’s survey received responses from 68 professional forecasters from business, Wall Street and academia. Of the 50 who answered questions about Trump and Biden, 56 per cent said inflation would be higher under another Trump term than a Biden term, versus 16 per cent who said the opposite.

“I think there is a real risk that inflation will re-accelerate under a Trump presidency,” Bernard Baumohl, chief global economist at the Economic Outlook Group, was quoted as saying.

That would likely lead the Federal Reserve to set interest rates higher than if inflation continues its downward trajectory, Baumohl said.

“Economists’ views of inflation and interest rates appear mostly driven by Trump’s policy preferences, in particular on trade and immigration,” said the report. — Xinhua

## Southwest Airlines unveils electric air taxi venture

US carrier Southwest Airlines plans to jointly develop a fleet of electric air taxis to serve the California market with transportation startup Archer Aviation, the companies announced Friday.

The two companies signed a memorandum of understanding envisioning Southwest making use of Archer's "Midnight" aircraft throughout the nation's largest state, offering short trips from California's 14 airports.

Begun as an aviation venture in 2018, Santa Clara, California-based Archer has been working to gain Federal Aviation Administration certification of its electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft.

The company's Midnight eVTOL can carry four passengers in addition to a pilot.

The aircraft is "designed to transform urban travel, replacing 60-to-90-minute commutes by car with estimated 10-to-20-minute electric air taxi flights," said a joint press release. "The goal of Archer's aircraft is to offer a safe, low-noise, cost-competitive transportation option with no direct emissions."

The Southwest venture follows a joint announcement from Stellantis and Archer earlier this month in which the automaker agreed to an additional \$55 million investment in the startup.

Southwest — the fourth biggest US carrier after American, United and Delta — is "eager to explore the convenience Archer's air taxis could provide customers flying Southwest at airports in busy urban areas," said Paul Cullen, a vice president for real estate at Southwest. — AFP



Archer's Midnight electric air taxi, part of joint ventures with Stellantis and Southwest. PHOTO: STELLANTIS NV./AFP/FILE

## Philippine Airlines plane overshoots runway in Philippines

A Philippine Airlines (PAL) propeller plane overshoot the runway at an airport in Palawan province on Sunday afternoon, the airline company said.

All 53 passengers and four crew members were safely deplaned, the company said.

The plane, traveling from Cebu to Palawan, overran the runway upon landing at Busuanga airport before 3 pm local time amidst poor weather conditions,

PAL said.

The aircraft stopped on a grassy area beyond the concrete runway, causing the airport's closure, and forcing incoming flights to be diverted to other airports. PAL said it is working with related authorities to restore normal operations in Busuanga airport. The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines is expected to investigate the incident. — Xinhua



A staff member cleans a comprehensive inspection train at a workshop for the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway in Bandung, Indonesia, 21 June 2023. PHOTO: XU QIN/XINHUA

## Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway records 4 mln passengers after 9 months of operation

*It connects Halim station in Jakarta to Tegalluar station in Bandung, West Java's fourth largest city.*

INDONESIA'S Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway (HSR), locally called Whoosh, recorded on Saturday that it had carried 4 million passengers since it began commercial operations on 17 October 2023.

Eva Chairunisa, general manager corporate secretary of PT Kereta Cepat Indonesia-China (KCIC), said the achievement had proven the high public trust and enthusiasm in Indonesia for the HSR

during the nine months of operation. "We achieved this through the combined efforts and innovations of KCIC and all stakeholders, who continuously strive to enhance our services," Chairunisa said in a statement.

The HSR in Indonesia is the first of its kind in Southeast Asia. With a design speed of 350 kilometres per hour, the train connects Halim station in Jakarta to Tegalluar station in Indonesia's fourth largest city

Bandung of West Java province, cutting the travel time between the two cities from over three hours to around 40 minutes.

Chairunisa also said that the existence of Whoosh had a significant positive impact in various sectors, especially tourism and industry in the region.

"The positive impact on tourism strengthens our mission to improve connectivity and support economic growth through efficient and convenient transportation," she said. She went on to say that KCIC would continue to improve its facilities at stations and on trains to provide more comfort to passengers. — Xinhua

## US mobile giant AT&T suffers fresh massive data theft

US mobile operator AT&T reported Friday that hackers had stolen call and message data from virtually all of its customers for six months in 2022 — around 90 million people.

The company said in a statement that "AT&T customer data was illegally downloaded from our workspace on a third-party cloud platform" and that it had opened an investigation.

It added that the access point used by the hackers "has been secured" and that "based on information available to us...at least one person has been apprehended."

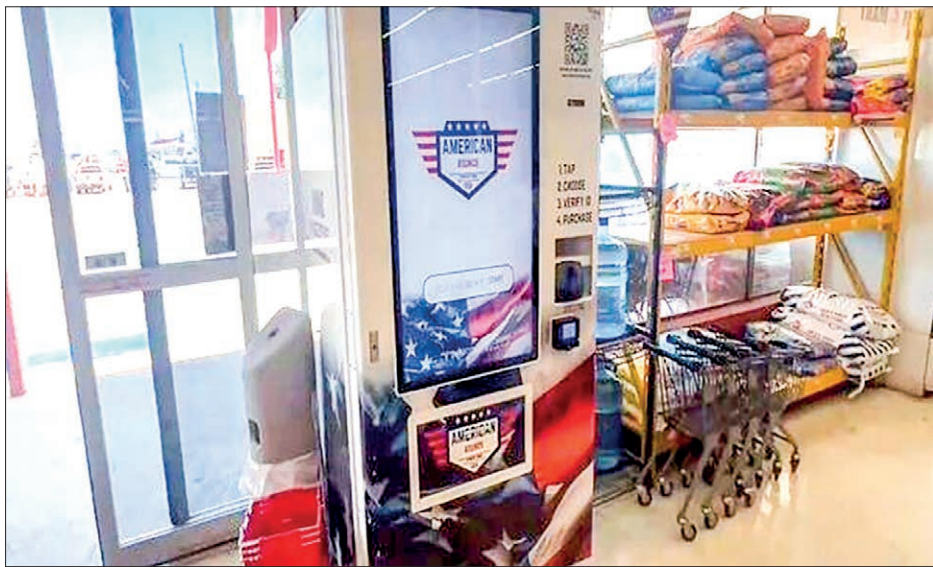
The data mainly comprised records of phone calls and text messages made between May 2022 and October 2022.

These are the phone numbers used by AT&T mobile subscribers, and also, in some cases, location data that could help malicious actors determine where calls were made and text messages sent.

But according to AT&T, the data downloaded by the hackers did not include the content of calls and messages, nor personal information such as names or social security numbers. — AFP

# ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

## Guns 'n groceries: Vending machines selling ammo debut in 3 US states



Vending machines selling ammunition have started appearing in grocery stores across Alabama, Texas, and Oklahoma, sparking a range of responses from state officials. **PHOTO: ANI**

VENDING machines selling ammunition are now appearing in grocery stores across Alabama, Texas, and Oklahoma, stirring mixed reactions from officials in

these states, CNN reported.

American Rounds, the company behind these machines, uses AI technology for customer identification. According to

Vending machines selling ammunition, equipped with AI technology for customer verification, are causing controversy in Alabama, Texas, and Oklahoma grocery stores.

their website, the machines use both ID scanning and facial recognition software to confirm a customer's identity. This ensures that the buyer's age is verified and that the person using the machine matches the scanned identification.

These vending machines offer ammunition for a variety of firearm calibers, including rifles, shotguns, and handguns, as stated by American Rounds. Grant Magers, CEO of American Rounds, mentioned that local grocery stores had approached him in the spring of 2023 about using his technology to sell ammunition. The company's first machine was installed in Alabama last November.

"It's not much different than set-

ting up any other business," Magers explained.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has allowed the machines, telling CNN in a statement: "A federal license is not required to sell ammunition. However, commercial sales of ammunition must comply with state laws as well as any applicable federal laws."

The Oklahoma Attorney General's Office told CNN that "review of state statutes indicates these vending machines appear to be lawful." CNN has also reached out to the attorneys general of Alabama and Texas to confirm the legality of these dispensers in their respective states. — ANI

## Lukashenko says Ukraine pulled back troops from border with Belarus

BELARUSIAN President Alexander Lukashenko said on Saturday that there was no more tension on the border with Ukraine and ordered Belarusian forces to retreat to places of their permanent deployment.

The Ukrainian troop withdrawal has taken place after "certain work" performed by Belarus, Lukashenko said as quoted by local media, adding that Kiev pulled its forces – including the additional troops previously

deployed in the border region – from the Belarusian-Ukrainian border zone.

"After certain work on our part, the Ukrainians have pulled back from the border and completely withdrawn their armed and additional forces, which they had transferred to the border, from the area of the Belarusian-Ukrainian border," Lukashenko was quoted as saying by Belta news agency. — SPUTNIK



Officers of the Mozyr border guard unit patrol an exclusion zone on the Belarus-Ukraine frontier in Narovlyansky District, Gomel Region. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

## Uranium production in Uzbekistan increased by 12% in the first half-year

Compared to the same period last year, the enterprise recorded a remarkable 112 per cent increase in uranium production, translating to a financial gain of 4.9 trillion soums (approximately US\$ 388 million).

UZBEKISTAN'S Uranium production has increased by 12 per cent in the first six months of this year, according to the press service of the state-owned enterprise "Navoiyuran" of Uzbekistan, the country's sole enterprise for uranium mining.

According to its website, the enterprise's uranium production increased by 112 per cent compared to the same period last year. In monetary terms, this indicator for the reporting period amounted to 4.9 trillion soums (about US\$ 388 million), which is 12.3 per cent more than last year.

In addition, the net profit of the enterprise increased by 55 percent to 19 thousand soums. During the reporting period, the company attracted investments worth US\$ 48.5 million.

In late May, Uzbekistan and



Uzbekistan's uranium production has surged by 12 per cent in the first half of this year. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

Russia signed an agreement on the construction of a small nuclear power plant in Uzbekistan.

The plant's total capacity will be 330 MW, consisting of six

reactors with a capacity of 55 MW each. Rosatom, a Russian state corporation, will act as the general contractor for the construction. Local companies will also be involved. — Xinhua

# SPORTS

## UFC Fight Night: Johnson's uppercut sends Joshua Van to floor

THE USA fighter Johnson won over Myanmar's Joshua Van in technical knockout in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Stanza at the UFC Fight Night event held in the United States on 14 July (Myanmar Standard Time). Johnson, who is superior than Joshua Van in terms of reach, relied mainly on the stand fight in the first round and tried to knock Joshua down, but failed.

In the second round, Joshua was able to match Johnson, who changed his tactic: stand fight to grappling. But in the third round, Joshua, who was eager to finish the bout, was hit by an uppercut from his opponent and suddenly fell to the floor. Joshua Van suffered his first loss in four fights since joining the UFC. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



Joshua Van (right) lands the punch on Johnson during the UFC Fight Night in the United States on 14 July 2024. PHOTO:USTODAY

## Spain and England set for Euro 2024 final showdown

ENGLAND are hoping to end their long wait to win a men's major international tournament when they take on an outstanding Spain team in the final of Euro 2024 on Sunday.

The match at the Olympiastadion in Berlin kicks off at 9:00 pm (1900 GMT) and will bring the curtain down on a month of football in which Spain — featuring teenage sensation Lamine Yamal — have been comfortably the most impressive side.

They have already eliminated several of the continent's heavyweights while winning all six matches en route to the final as they aim to become European champions for a record fourth time, after 1964, 2008 and 2012. — AFP



The Hanthawady United player vies for the pass against Thitsar Arman player during the Myanmar National League match at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon on 14 July 2024. PHOTO:MNL

## MNL: Hanthawady edge Thitsar Arman 1-0

HANTHAWADY United smashed Thitsar Arman 1-0 in the Myanmar National League match played at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon yesterday. The goal scored in the second half helped Hanthawady winning over Thitsar.

The Thitsar Arman team has been promoted from this season and despite losing two matches at the beginning of the season, they can play the MNL teams on equal skill.

Both teams came out with a full set of core players, and since there was no difference in terms of skill, both teams were able to attack each other.

Neither team could score in the first half, but Hanthawady won in the 59 minute with Kyaw Myo Naing scoring. The best player award for this match went to Lardin Mawra of Hanthawady United.

Likewise, Dagon Port FC garnered 2-1 win over Ayeyawady United at Patheingyi

Stadium on the same day. Yazar Aung took the leading goal for Ayeyawady in the opening three minutes, but Myo Sett Paing equalized for Dagon Port in the 10 minutes and Mogu scored the winning goal in the 60 minutes via a penalty. Dagon Port's Captain Mogu secured the best player award for this match.

After the second-day matches, Yangon, Hanthawady and defending champions Shan United secured six points each while Yadanabon, ISPE, Dagon Star, Maha and Dagon Port saved three points each while Ayeyawady, Thitsar Arman, Myawady and Rakhine United missed points. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Myanmar to host International and Future Series 2024 Badminton Tournaments in Yangon

THE Myanmar Badminton Federation has announced that Myanmar will host the Myanmar International Series 2024 and Future Series 2024 Badminton Tournaments in Yangon.

Both tournaments will be held at the National Badminton Court in Lamadaw Township, Yangon, from 27 August to 8 September.

Organized by the Myanmar Badminton Federation, the competitions are open to any Myanmar player who has won a medal in the under-19 or ordinary competition. The tournaments will feature men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles, women's doubles, and mixed events.

The entry fee for the Future Series 2024 is \$30 for singles events and \$50 for doubles and mixed events, and must be paid by 30 July. Similarly, the Myanmar International Series 2024 requires a fee of \$50 for singles events and \$80 for dou-

bles and mixed events, with registration closing on 6 August.

Those wishing to participate in the

competitions can contact the Myanmar Badminton Federation for registration. — TWA/KZL



Badminton players show up skills at the National Badminton Court in Yangon.

Guns 'n groceries: Vending machines selling ammo debut in 3 US states

**PAGE 14**



# WORLD

## Bloodied Trump survives assassination attempt

*The attack has heightened political tensions ahead of the presidential election. Various world leaders expressed shock and condemnation.*



Donald Trump is seen with blood on his face surrounded by secret service agents as he is taken off the stage at a campaign event at Butler Farm Show Inc. in Butler, Pennsylvania, 13 July 2024. **PHOTO: REBECCA DROKE / AFP**

DONALD Trump was hit in the ear in an assassination attempt by a gunman at a campaign rally Saturday, in a chaotic and shocking incident set to supercharge political

tensions ahead of the polarising US presidential election. The 78-year-old former president was rushed off stage with blood streaked across his face after the shooting in

Butler, Pennsylvania, while the shooter and a bystander were killed and two spectators critically injured.

The Republican candidate raised a defiant fist to the crowd as he was bundled away to safety, and said afterward: "I was shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear."

In a shocking incident at a Trump rally, President Joe Biden condemned the violence, calling it "sick" and asserting that such acts had no place in America. The gunman, identified as 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks, opened fire from an elevated position outside the rally, targeting former President Donald Trump before being neutralized by Secret Service agents. The motive behind Crooks' actions remains unclear.

Trump, wearing his iconic red "Make America Great Again" cap, was addressing supporters when gunfire erupted, causing panic and prompting Secret Service to swiftly evacuate him from the stage. Trump later described hearing shots and feeling a bullet graze his skin, causing significant bleeding. Despite his injuries, he managed to leave the scene under his own power.

Tragically, one bystander was killed and two others critically injured in the attack. Law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, treated the incident as an assassination attempt against Trump. The aftermath saw heightened security measures and a renewed focus on public safety at political events, underscoring ongoing concerns about political violence in the United States.

The attack sent shock waves around the world, with the leaders of Britain, Israel, Japan and a host of other countries expressing outrage. — AFP

### CLIMATE ADVISORY: SEA COOLING

## Philippines raises alert for La Nina

THE Philippines' state weather bureau has raised the alert for La Nina, suggesting that 70 per cent of the weather phenomenon will start in August and likely persist until the first quarter of next year.

In an advisory Friday, the bureau said its climate monitoring shows "further cooling of the sea surface temperature across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific".

The bureau warned that the country is at a heightened risk of increased convective activity and tropical cyclone occurrence, which could lead to above-normal rainfall over some parts of the country in the coming months.

It further warned of potential adverse impacts, including floods and landslides over vulnerable areas, of varying magnitude. The bureau stressed the importance of continuous monitoring and the implementation of precautionary measures against the impending climate impacts for all concerned government agencies and the general public. La Nina is a global climate pattern in which cool waters from deep in the eastern Pacific Ocean well up to the surface, creating a pool of cooler-than-normal waters along the east and central Pacific equator. — Xinhua

## Egypt aspires to win back shippers as Suez Canal revenues slashed amid Red Sea tension

*The Suez Canal is a critical artery for global trade, handling 12 per cent of total global trade volume and serving as a vital source of foreign currency for Egypt.*

REVENUES from Egypt's Suez Canal have been significantly slashed due to the rerouting of international shipping to avoid the risk of Yemeni Houthi attacks in the Red Sea.

The canal, carrying 12 per cent of global trade, is a crucial source of foreign currency for Egypt, a country still grappling with persistent economic woes.

In Q1 2024, Suez Canal transit receipts dropped sharply by 57.2 per cent year-on-year to \$959.3 million, per the Central Bank of Egypt.

For FY 2023/2024 up to March, receipts totaled \$5.8 billion, down from \$6.2 billion last year. Net tonnage fell 15.6 per cent to 944.9 million tons, and transiting vessels decreased by 11.5 per cent. The de-

clines were attributed to Red Sea disruptions caused by attacks linked to Israel-Palestinian tensions since November. Since last November, Yemen's Houthi group has repeatedly attacked ships in the Red Sea that it said have links to Israel to show solidarity with Palestinians under Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip. — Xinhua



A ship sails on the Suez Canal in Ismailia Governorate, Egypt, 13 July 2024. **PHOTO: AHMED GOMAA/XINHUA**