

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Article

### The Role of Grammar in Teaching-Learning Language

By Hu Wo  
(Cuckoo's Song)

PAGE 8-9

## NATIONAL

PAGE 7



Myanmar govt facilitates safe return of citizen from Iraq

## BUSINESS

PAGE 11



Yangon house moving services market expands with increased users



A sunflower plantation in the central Myanmar area – an essential oil crop to reduce palm oil imports.

## MoALI plans to expand sunflower cultivation to 3M acres

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has been endeavouring to reach three million sunflower acres in the 2024-2025 financial year, with a view to reducing palm oil import and having edible oil sufficiency.

The ministry started to expand sunflower sown acreage to 1.5 million acres in the 2022-2023 FY. Under the State's Economic Promotion Fund, the ministry contributed loans for oil crop growers.

A work coordination meeting to expand oil crop cultivation and ramp up yield was held on 21 August in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung addressed the review of sown acreage by dividing crop categories into regions and states, monitoring growers to run farm operations in all acres of arable land, beefing up productivity rather than

increasing acres, achieving yield target of ten main crops, ramping up of production year over year by remedying yield loss in disaster-stricken regions, designation of oil crop special zones to meet a yield target and ensuring edible oil sufficiency and not loss of yield below regular production rate outside the oil crop special zone.

Additionally, the ministry needs to persuade growers to participate actively in sunflower cultivation, conduct soil tests to monitor sunflower yield to make profits for growers, and provide pedigree crops and agricultural inputs, he emphasized.

The ministry will cooperate with related departments for designated arable lands with great potential for sunflower cultivation. — NN/KK

## MoH launches Mpox surveillance at Yangon and Mandalay airports

THE Ministry of Health has conducted fever with vesicular rash surveillance and laboratory tests at the National Health Laboratory (Yangon), Public Health Departments and general hospitals in Nay Pyi Taw, regions and states since the WHO declared a multi-country outbreak of Mpox in May 2022.

The WHO declared

Mpox PHEIC (public health emergency of international concern) on 14 August 2024. The ministry accelerated mass thermal screening, an inspection of the health declaration form of arrivals and awareness on Mpox at the Yangon International Airport, Mandalay International Airport (TadaU), entry and exit of Myawady in Kayin State

and Mwaytaw Island in Kawthoung in Taninthayi Region.

Although there are significantly fewer chances that Myanmar will have Mpox, according to WHO, the ministry has conducted public health awareness programmes, preventive measures, surveillance, and control programmes in advance. — MNA/KTZH



Mpox surveillance checks underway at Yangon International Airport.

# NATIONAL

## Prevention Measures for Mpox

THE World Health Organization declared Mpox a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) on 14 August 2024.

### Possible transmission of Mpox:

- Having sexual relationship with someone who is infectious
- Skin-to-skin contact, kissing, and hugging with someone who has Mpox
- Proximity to an infected person (talking, breathing)
- Direct contact with sores and waste of an infected person
- Direct contact by touching the surface of materials of an infected person
- Contaminated needles and hospital utensils
- Direct contact with infected animals
- Transmitted during pregnancy or to the newborn by close contact during and after birth

### Signs begin:

- Mpox causes signs and symptoms, which usually begin within a week but can start 1–21 days after exposure.

### Symptoms:

- Rash and blister on face, mouth, hand and leg, body, anal and sexual organs
- Fever (more than 38.5°C)
- Swollen glands
- Sore throat
- Headache, muscle aches, back pain
- Low energy

(Returnees from the countries and regions in which Mpox cases were detected within the last 21 days must inform the health department if they suffer from the symptoms mentioned above).

### Preventions:

- Avoid skin-to-skin contact, close face-to-face contact and sexual relationship with the in-

fecting person

- Wear gloves and masks unless avoiding close contact
- Wear gloves and mask while touching materials of Mpox suspected patients
- Wash hands with water or hand sanitizers that contain at least 60 per cent alcohol systematically, and do not touch the mouth, nose and eyes without washing the hands
- Make sure personal hygiene and surrounding
- Use a handkerchief or inner elbow to cover sneeze or cough
- Wash utensils (bedsheet, towel, clothing, etc.) using water and soap systematically
- Do not touch animals without any protection gear, and cook the meat thoroughly

Go to the nearest health department for proper laboratory tests and medical treatments if someone has close contact with Mpox patients or suffer from symptoms.

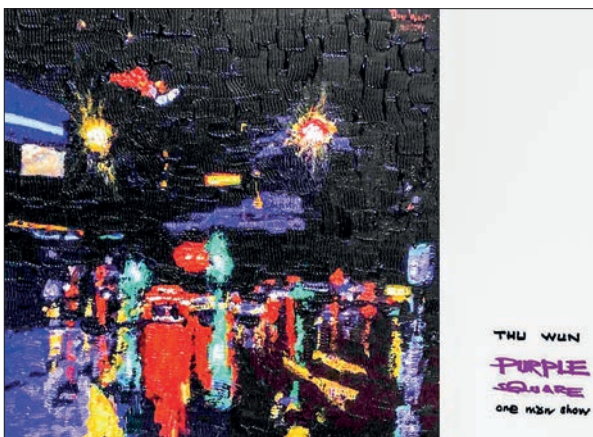
*Ministry of Health*

## Daw Marlar Than Htaik presents Credentials to President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

DAW Marlar Than Htaik, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, presented her Credentials to Mr Ranil Wickremesinghe, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, on 21 August 2024, at the President's House in Colombo. — MNA



## Yangon to host 'Purple Square' solo art exhibition by Thu Wun



A catalogue of 'Purple Square' solo art exhibition.

THE 'Purple Square' solo art exhibition will be held at Sar Ga Art Gallery in Pazundaung Township, Yangon, from 31 August to 4 September, according to Artist Thu Wun.

"This is my third solo exhibition. The name 'Purple Square' reflects the predominant use of purple in acrylic on canvas paintings. I've spent about a year preparing for this show, and I warmly invite all art enthusiasts to come and enjoy my work," said Thu Wun.

It is confirmed that over 50 of Thu Wun's creations will be available for purchase at the exhibition. — ASH/TRKM

## Myanmar students receive scholarships from Woojung foundation in Seoul

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, three Myanmar students studying at Korean universities received scholarships for the 2024 second semester at the Woojung Education and Culture Foundation Scholarship Award ceremony on 20 August in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

The event, organized by the Woojung Education and Culture Foundation, took place at the Korea Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, U Thant Sin, attended the ceremony and delivered a speech.

During the event, U Thant Sin expressed his gratitude to Chairman Lee Joong-keun and the Woojung Education and Culture Foundation for providing fi-

nancial support to outstanding international students from various universities. The foundation selected a total of 99 students from 33 countries currently studying in Korea, including three from Myanmar, to receive scholarships.

The ambassador urged the students, along with their parents and family members, to remain committed, emphasizing that the scholarships reflect the dedication and hard work of the students. He also expressed appreciation to the Woojung Foundation for increasing the number of scholarships from 83 to 99 in this second semester, following his request made during the first-semester Scholarship Award Ceremony in February of this year. — ASH/TMT



This photo shows attendees at the Woojung Education and Culture Foundation Scholarship Award.

# NATIONAL

## Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons holds first meeting

STATE Administration Council Member Union Minister for Home Affairs and Chairperson of the Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons Lt-Gen Yar Pyae attended the 1/2024 meeting of the central body in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his speech, the Union minister said that 2023 UNODC's casino, cyber fraud, and trafficking in persons for forced criminality in Southeast Asia stated that the forced criminality for online scams and fraud in Southeast Asia such as Cambodia, Laos PDR, the Philippines and Myanmar, have a new form of an increasing number of trafficking-in-person cases. Such cases are called modern forms of human trafficking for exploitation purposes.

After the outbreak of COVID-19, online communication,



The 1/2024 meeting of the Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, chaired by SAC Member Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae.

online financial investment, and online payment-based scams are on the rise. Communication technology ad-

vancement is the root of the emergence of malicious online companies.

He then mentioned the ef-

forts of Myanmar in combating online scams, sending victims to their respective native towns and transferring foreigners,

who arrived in the country via border towns for different reasons, to their countries by communicating with Myanmar embassies and INTERPOL.

He also clarified the repatriation of Myanmar citizens facing difficulties abroad. He said the TOR of BIMSTEC to Combat Human Trafficking of BIMSTEC and the BIMSTEC Action Plan on anti-human trafficking have been approved.

He added that the national plan (2020) for the implementation of readmission, reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking was approved. He urged the relevant anti-human trafficking task forces of regions, states, and districts to work together.

Then, the attendees coordinated the discussion, and the Union minister concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

## NSPNC holds second-day talks with political parties' working group



A commemorative group picture taken on the final day of talks between the NSPNC and the political parties' working group.

THE second day of the meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the political parties' working group continued at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Border Affairs and NSPNC Chair Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, NSPNC members and Dr Aye Maung, leader of the political parties' working group and Chairman of the Arakan Front Party, along with other representatives, attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed and negotiated issues related to general elec-

tions and constitutional amendment proposals that had not been completed on the first day of the meeting. In the general discussion, current political situations and security issues were discussed. Opinions obtained from the two-day talks were then recorded as summaries.

Afterwards, Dr Aye Maung, leader of the political parties' working group and the chairman of the Arakan Front Party, expressed his word of thanks, and National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Chair Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung gave the closing remarks and finally took a documentary group photograph. — MNA/TS

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### CORRIGENDUM

IN the news item titled "NSPCC holds talks..." on page 3 of The Global New Light of Myanmar on 22 August 2024, please read "NSPNC holds talks ..." in the headline, The National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) in the first paragraph, ... NSPNC Chair Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, NSPNC members ... in the second paragraph, and ... NSPNC Secretary ... in the third paragraph. Errors are most regrettable. — Ed

# NATIONAL



The awareness seminar on anti-corruption jointly organized by the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in progress yesterday.

## Awareness seminar on anti-corruption held at Ministry of Foreign Affairs

THE Anti-Corruption Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs jointly organized an awareness seminar on anti-corruption under the guidance of the State Administration Council Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the event, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe briefed the audience the consequences of corruption, the importance of corruption-free

public services and government institutions, and the formation of a Corruption Prevention Unit (CPU) for the ministry. Commission Chairman U Sis Aye then talked about the corruption that affects the all-round development of the nation and the need for government employees to serve duties honestly.

Next, the attendees discussed the anti-corruption measures and their experiences with CPU members. — MNA/KTZH

## Bangladeshi Ambassador calls on MoALI Union Minister

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation U Min Naung received Dr Md Monwar Hossain, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar, at the Union Minister's office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They cordially discussed the matters relating to agricultural produce and aquatic products sectors of the two countries and cooperation in food security and surplus in the region. — MNA/TS



Union Minister U Min Naung receives the Bangladeshi ambassador yesterday.



UNOPS Country Director Ms Sara Austin Netzer calls on Union Health Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win yesterday.

## MoH Union Minister receives UNOPS Country Director

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win received Ms Sara Austin Netzer, Country Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), and the delegation in the ministry's office, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

Both sides discussed using the Global Fund managed by the UNOPS in cooperation with the Ministry of Health for control of HIV/

STD, tuberculosis and cooperation in malaria control measures, maternal and reproductive healthcare funded by the Access to Health Fund, nutrition development, primary healthcare, healthcare cooperation in emergencies, continued cooperation and requirement to ensure that unauthorized persons must not use funds. — MNA/TS

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.

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# NATIONAL

## Union Information Minister inspects Patheingyi University library

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, who is also chairman of Myanmar Libraries Cooperation Development Committee, inspected Patheingyi University's Library, together with Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win, yesterday.

The Union minister first met students and faculty members reading in the library, highlighted the efforts to place different genres of publications to enrich the knowledge of students, and pre-

sented books on public science donated by the Head of State to the library.

The Union minister also attended the respect-paying ceremony, fresher welcome, farewell and awarding ceremony of the Geography and Environmental Studies Family of the 2023-2024 academic year at the convocation hall.

He donated two DTH dishes and 15 DVB-T2 set-top boxes, and the region chief minister donated K1 million to the Geography



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn presents two DTH dishes and 15 DVB-T2 set-top boxes to the Geography Department at Patheingyi University yesterday.

Department.

At the university meeting hall, Rector Dr Than Tun clarified the university's procedures, and the faculty members of different departments read out their

papers related to MSME development.

Then, the chief minister reported on agriculture and livestock breeding-based research conducted at Patheingyi Uni-

ty and plans to start proper research on manufacturing and the market.

Finally, the Union minister provided proper instructions. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister U Min Naung receives the handover of plant nutrient spray for monsoon paddy yesterday.

## Central Committee on Animal Health and Livestock Development holds coord meeting

THE Central Committee on Animal Health and Livestock Development held a coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister U Min Naung, who is also chairman of the central committee, said the departmental organizations, the private sector and farmers should cooperate in developing nutritious meat,

egg, milk and dairy products, whereas the committee focuses on establishing livestock land areas, animal disease-free zone, disease control zone and supervision on registration of animal medicine and animal feed.

At noon, the Union minister attended the handover ceremony of Russia-made leaf fertilizer spray for mon-

soon paddy.

At the ceremony, Mr Oleg Kovalenko of Fund RC-Investments of the Russian Federation clarified the donations and handed over 293 litres of leaf fertilizer spray.

The Union minister then expressed gratitude and gave a certificate of honour to Fund RC-Investment in return. — MNA/KTZH

## MoE Deputy Minister returns from 2024 China-ASEAN Education Week

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Education Dr Moe Zaw Tun returned to Yangon yesterday after attending the 2024 China-ASEAN Education Week in Guiyang, Guizhou of China.

Deputy directors-general and officials welcomed back the deputy minister and his team at Yangon International Airport.

The event, which runs from 20 to 25 August, focuses on educational cooperation between China and ASEAN countries, the development of Myanmar's education sector, and the potential signing of an MoU between China and ASEAN nations. — MNA/TRKM



Deputy Minister for Education Dr Moe Zaw Tun (2R) poses for the documentary picture at the 2024 China ASEAN Education Week on 20-25 August in China.

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# NATIONAL

## Donors provide food and cash to Tatmadaw and security forces

FAMILIES of the Ministerial employees and other well-wishers are donating food and cash assistance to Tatmadaw members and security forces stationed on the frontlines for national defence.

Families from Hsinphyushin Ward in Nay Pyi Taw prepared a variety of food items and donated them to

Tatmadaw personnel and security forces. Donations included fried fish paste, fried dried fish, fried meat, packets of instant noodles, and cheroot rolls.

These food items will be delivered to frontline Tatmadaw personnel and security forces using military planes, helicopters, and vehicles. — MNA/TKO



Cooking processes are underway to donate food to Tatmadaw members.

## Bagan Museum earns over K17M in admission fees in 4 months

BAGAN Archaeological Museum has received over K17 million from up to 16000 local and foreign visitor arrivals over the first four months of the 2024-25 financial year, as of April to July, said the museum's deputy director Daw Khet Khet Hla.

In April, the museum earned K6,575,000 from 6575 local visitors and K120,000 from 12 foreign visitors. In May, it earned K4,132,000 from 4132 local visitors and K350,000 from 35 foreign visitors.

June's income is worth K3,568,000 from 3288 local visitors and 28 foreign visitors, while July's income is worth K2,863,000 from 2584 visitor arrivals, of which 2553 are locals and 31 are foreigners.

"Visitor arrival is large in the dry season. Now it is monsoon season and school season, so visitor arrivals have decreased," said Daw Khet Khet Hla.

In August, there are 20-



A general view of the Bagan Archeological Museum.

80 visitors on a regular basis, more than 100 on weekends and public holidays. "There were only 43 admissions on 1 August but exceeds 100 on weekends and public holidays. The rest days receive 50-60 visitors on average and just 20 on some days," she said.

Except for Monday and public holidays, the museum is open from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm every day. The admission fee

is K1,000 per local, and free admission is provided for under 12-year-old children, students on excursions with school approval and monks and nuns, while it is fixed at K10,000 per foreigner.

In the last 2023-24 financial year, the Bagan Archeological Museum gained more than 71.9 million from 94,951 domestic and international travellers. — MT/ZS

THE ancient Pyu people seem to have excelled at analyzing land use and land cover when establishing city-state areas, said U Kyaw Myo Win, director of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture (Bagan Branch).

The subsurface soil may have been studied for planning purposes when they chose a site to cultivate, build a village or a palace, store water, and make water connections, in addition to the places where religious buildings such as stupas will be constructed, he said on his social network page.

"Pyu people seem to be very good at analyzing land use and land cover when establishing a city, where to cultivate paddy, where to grow other crops, where to build villages, where to build the palace, where to store water, where to connect water, etc. They look as if they have studied and planned the subsurface soil of the city where religious buildings such as stupas would be built," he wrote.

In particular, the palace

## Pyu people excelled in land use analysis for city building



Some buildings of ancient Pyu people.

and religious buildings were constructed on a little high ground with a hard subsoil. At the same time, the villages were often located at some distance away from these religious build-

"For example, there are brick mounds as well as broken pot mounds in the ancient Pyu cities, but the brick mounds are high, and the places with the broken pot mounds are spread out horizontally. These are the

broken pots left on the ground after they lived in houses made of wood and bamboo. During the Pyu period, ordinary civilians built their houses only with wood and bamboo, and only the religious buildings were built

using bricks and sandstone slabs," he said.

Regarding the locations of the religious buildings of these Pyu cities, they are densely clustered in the northern part of the inner Beikthano city and outskirts, but more are found in the eastern outskirts than in the inner city of Maingmaw. In Sri Ksetra and Hanlin, they were built more to the south and the east, respectively.

"So, when we study the selection of different sites (for these religious buildings), we get an answer. They chose a higher land for it. In the Pyu cities, they only cultivate on the farms within the city. Large lakes and water canals connect the fields. The land on which they farmed and the places where many fragments of their villages were found are much different. They would never have built villages by changing the land. They have mountains near their cities. They did not try to build buildings by tearing down the mountains," he said. — MT/ZN

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar govt facilitates safe return of citizen from Iraq

THE government takes great care of its citizens who face difficulties abroad. The Myanmar Embassy and the Consulate-General of Myanmar, in coordination with relevant embassies, are arranging for the safe and timely return of citizens to Myanmar.

Recently, the Myanmar Embassy in Cairo worked with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Iraqi authorities, and social organizations assisting migrant workers to expedite the

return of Ma Lwin Lwin Kyi, who was facing difficulties in Erbil, Kurdistan Autonomous Region, Iraq. The embassy coordinated with IOM and SEED organizations, which operate in Kurdistan, to rescue Ma Lwin Lwin Kyi from a locked agency office.

On 18 August, Ma Lwin Lwin Kyi arrived at Istanbul Airport in Turkiye from Erbil at 7:05 am local time. She then flew back to Yangon from Bangkok, arriving in Yangon at 9:40 pm local time.

The Myanmar Embassy and Consulate-General continue to assist citizens experiencing difficulties in the Middle East, ensuring their safe return to Myanmar. The government, with the help of the embassy and consulate, is committed to bringing back Myanmar nationals who encounter problems while abroad. The embassy and consulate are appreciated for their efforts. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/TKO



Ma Lwin Lwin Kyi. PHOTO: KANU

### Counter-argument to false information

## Media accuses of security forces torching villages in Paungde, Kalay townships

MALICIOUS media outlets intentionally spread fake news, claiming that security forces torched the houses, one vehicle and one motorcycle in Pyanchitat Village, Paungde Township, Bago Region, on 20 August.

According to a security official, security forces conducted security measures near the vicinity of Pyanchitat village, and they did not make an arson attack.

Similarly, subversive media circulated false reports, claiming that security forces raided Thoneainsu and Shataw villages in Kalay Township of Sagaing Region and torched the two villages on 20 August.

Security forces received reports that terrorists arrived in Shataw village, gathered locals by force and asked for money on that day. Upon tip-off, security forces blocked terrorists in the village, and there was a clash. Terrorists retreated and set fire to houses.

Security forces seized two dead bodies of terrorists, four guns, two grenades and other explosives.

Subversive media outlets intentionally circulate false claims and misinformation to intimidate people and mislead the public about security forces carrying out security duties. — MNA/KTZH



Screenshots reveal false claims of disruptive media outlets.

## Nationwide crackdown seizes K417.84M in illegal trade



Confiscated illegal items in different states and regions.

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

On 20 August, a combined team managed by the Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections. It seized 1,500 boxes of Thai-made 'Common' brand collagen dipeptide, 2,000 boxes of dietary supplement products worth approximately K60.25 million and one Mitsubishi Canter worth K20 million in Hpa-an. The action was taken in line with Customs procedures.

On the same day, combined teams managed by the Customs Department conducted inspections and seized five commodities valued at approximately K42.68 million, including 150 Korol cutters for commercial

use, at the Myanma Industrial Port; 3,898.08 square metres of China-made porcelain tiles worth K53.2 million at the Asia World Container checkpoint; five commodities worth K61.9 million, including 1,090,000 China-made slipper laces at the MITT Port; six commodities worth K54.82 million, including 7.225 kilogrammes of Ireland-made Sigma femoral posterior stabilized cemented orthopaedic equipment, at the Yangon Airport (warehouse); 20,000 kilogrammes of Malaysia-made coated duplex board valued at K24 million and one Mitsubishi Fuso truck and one Hino truck worth K60 million at Ywathagyi Dry Port. The action was taken as per Customs procedures.

On 21 August, a combined team managed by the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradica-

tion Task Force conducted inspections. It seized 3.564 tonnes of teak and 3.577 tonnes of other wood worth K6.7 million and one tractor worth K10 million in Mandalay, Kyaukse, Yamethin, and Meiktila districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 21 August, combined teams managed by the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections. They seized one unregistered Toyota Caldina, one unregistered Honda Fit and one unregistered Toyota Alphard worth K12.5 million in Mayangon, Shwepyitha and Tamway townships. In addition, 510 gallons of illegal fuel and diesel worth K5.355 million were seized in Shwepyitha and Insein townships. The action was taken under the Import-Export Law and the Petroleum and Petroleum Product Law.

On 22 August, a combined team managed by the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections. It seized one unregistered Daihatsu Hijet worth K6 million at the Yadanabon checkpoint in Sagaing Township, and the action was taken under the Import-Export Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 24 arrests on 20, 21 and 22 August, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods worth approximately K417.84 million. — MNA/TMT





# NATIONAL

## E-pension withdrawals now free at 149 bank branches

MYANMA Economic Bank (MEB) stated in its notification that cash withdrawal from e-pension cards can be undertaken at 149 branches equipped with a centralized e-pension system without service charge.

MEB's e-pension system has been upgraded to a centralized e-pension system from September 2023. The centralized e-pension system has covered 149 banks as of August 2024.

MEB notified government pensioners that they can check the branches that operate the centralized e-pension system through [www.meb.gov.mm](http://www.meb.gov.mm) and Myanmar Economic Bank Facebook page in a timely manner.

At present, that service is available at the following 149 branches including township branches and district branches; Pyinmana branch, Saving branch 3, Tachilek branch, Kawthoung branch, Bhamo branch, Taikkyi branch, Hlegu branch, Lewe branch, Tatkon branch, Pobbathiri branch, MEB branch 1 (Mandalay), branch 2 (Mandalay), Saving

branch 4, Thanlyin branch, Kyimyindine branch, Kamayut branch, Thingangyun branch, Loilem branch, Lashio branch, Monywa branch, Hmawby branch, Sagaing branch, Shwebo branch, Htantabin (Insein) branch, Myaung branch, Hpan branch, Budalin branch, KhinU branch, Shwepyitha branch, Hlinethaya branch, MEB branch 3 (Mandalay), Tamway branch, Myawady branch, Debayin branch, Mingaladon branch, NyaungU branch, Meiktila branch, North Okkalapa branch, Kawkareik branch, Namtu branch, Kawhmu branch, Insein branch, Magway branch, Yanbye branch, Kungyangon branch, PyinOoLwin branch, Bago branch, Thayet branch, Kutkai branch, Kyauktan branch, Myingyan branch, Toungoo branch, Minbu branch, Moemeik branch, Amarapura branch, Kyaukse branch, Thayawady branch, Pakokku branch, Mabein branch, Patheingyi branch, Yamethin branch, Pyay branch, MEB branch 1 (Mawlamyine), Hsihseng branch,



This photo shows the facade of the Myanmar Economic Bank (MEB) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Wundwin branch, MEB branch 1 (Yangon), Pathein branch, MEB branch 2 (Mawlamyine), Kyaukpadaung branch, Thazi branch, MEB branch 2 (Yangon), Hinthada branch, Thaton branch, Kalaw branch, Pyawbwe branch, MEB branch 3 (Yangon), Myaungmya branch, Sittway branch, Chauk branch, Einme branch, MEB branch 4 (Yangon), Maubin branch, Thaton branch, Taungdwingyi

branch, Yekyi branch, MEB branch 5 (Yangon), Pyapon branch, MEB branch 5 (Yangon), Pyapon branch, Kyaukpyu branch, Dala branch, Kyonpyaw branch, MEB branch 6 (Yangon), Saving branch (1), Taunggyi branch, Kengtung branch, Myeik branch, South-Dagon branch, Wakema branch, Dawei branch, North Dagon branch, Wakema branch, Ingapu branch, Kalaw branch,

Zalun branch, Kyangin branch, Pantanaw branch, Thabeikkyin branch, Dala branch, Shwepyitha, Minhla branch, Kawkareik branch, DaikU branch, Taikkyi branch, Hlegu branch, Kamayut branch, Sittway branch, Shwepyitha branch, Tamway branch, Myeik branch, Dawei branch, Shwetaung branch, Labutta branch, Natogyi branch and Myanaung branch. — NN/KK

## Medical universities' admissions open for 2024 matric exam top scorers

THE Ministry of Health announced that admissions to Medical Universities, the University of Dental Medicine and various medical related universities are open for the 2024 matriculation exam's outstanding students.

Top achievers in 2024 matriculation exams can now apply for medical universities operated under the Department of Human Resources for Health along

with a prescribed application form issued by the Department of Higher Education.

Those students who give their priorities to the University of Pharmacy, University of Medical Technology, University of Nursing and the University of Community Health must also submit application forms to the 23 designated universities under the Ministry of Education.

For those who prioritize

medical universities and universities of dental medicine they can directly send their forms to the Department of Human Resources for Health (Nay Pyi Taw), University of Medicine 1 (Yangon), University of Medicine 2 (Yangon), University of Medicine (Mandalay), University of Medicine (Magway), University of Medicine (Taunggyi), University of Dental Medicine (Yangon) and University of Dental Medicine (Mandalay).

Requirements for medical university acceptance are mentioned in the university admission handbook. Students are advised to read thoroughly before applying to universities. Medical universities will accept application forms from 26 August to 12 September, including weekends and public holidays, according to the Ministry of Health. — NN/KK



Students walk through the entrance to the University of Medicine 1 in Yangon.

## Health volunteers address hypertension and diabetes in Ayeyawady



The Kyaunggon Township in Ayeyawady Region

ACCORDING to Dr Than Sein, Chairman of the Public Health Foundation, youth health volunteers are conducting community-based work to diagnose and treat patients with high blood pressure and diabetes in 90 villages across Kyaunggon and Einme townships in the Ayeyawady Region.

"If we identify individuals with hypertension or diabetes, we coordinate with the relevant health centres to arrange long-term treatment. We have found that 50 per cent of peo-

ple with high blood pressure or diabetes were unaware of their condition. Without timely treatment, they could face serious consequences. This initiative is part of the Public Health Foundation's community-based programme," said Dr Than Sein.

The Public Health Foundation added that the focus of diagnosing and treating diabetes and hypertension is primarily on villagers aged 40 and above in these areas. — ASH/MKKS

## Household utensils sell well in Yangon



This photo showcases some household items available in the market.

THE sale of household utensils has flourished now in Yangon, according to shop owners.

As the migrant population has become more prominent in Yangon Region, apartment, house and hostel rent has increased, household utensil sales have developed more than before.

"Household utensils such as pillows, mosquito nets, mats, blankets, mattresses, cooking pots, laundry baskets and water baskets are being sold well.

Most of the buyers are migrants. A few days ago, a person bought household goods worth nearly K300,000. Some are families, so they have to buy all that they need. So, the sale is better than before," said an owner of a household utensils shop at the Pazundaung market.

The household products market was typically slow during monsoon, and only bed accessories were sold well during the dry season in previous years. However, it is now lively

as a result of purchases from people who moved to Yangon.

A housewife of a migrant family said they had just brought some essential items when they moved to Yangon due to transportation difficulties.

"During the day when we moved here, it was raining heavily, so we were just able to bring some essential items. Only after we arrived here did we have to buy kitchen utensils, bed accessories, and other things we needed," she said. — MT/ZS

## MoALI aims to export live goats and sheep to Malaysia

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI) is making efforts to ship live goats and sheep to Malaysia, said MoALI Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi.

Live animal export procedures, food safety management, and health certificate drafts have been sent to Malaysia, and discussions are ongoing.

The ministry held a workshop regarding imports of veterinary medicine, feed and pedigrees on 20 August in Nay Pyi Taw.

The deputy minister remarked that Myanmar brings in veterinary medicine and pedigrees to ensure food security and livestock sector development. The ministry is attempting to reduce soya bean imports, which are required as protein in feedstuff production, in three years and process soya bean meals as import substitutions.

The ministry has been negotiating protocol with China to export live animals (cattle, goat and sheep) and frozen animal products, he added.

The deputy minister reiterated that stakeholders in the industry should be

coordinated regarding the importation of veterinary medicines, supplements, raw feedstuff, pedigrees, and veterinary equipment in a timely manner so as not to have a shortage in the market. He also asked Myanmar Livestock Federation, Myanmar Veterinary Medical Association and importing companies to discuss priority import items and quantity at the workshop.

The deputy minister, directors-general from the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the Trade Department, the Department of Consumer Affairs and representatives from Myanmar Livestock Federation, Myanmar Veterinary Medical Association, Myanmar Livestock Producers and Distributors Association, Myanmar Animal Feed Producers and Distributors Association, group of entrepreneurs for pedigree and livestock farming and importing companies and invitees were present at the workshop.

Attendees also requested requirements in veterinary medicines, pedigrees, and feedstuff import, and officials concerned coordinated those matters. — NN/KK

## Yangon home moving services market expands with increased users

RECENTLY, the market for home moving services in Yangon has expanded, and the number of users has increased, according to sources.

Moving service advertisements, with various price categories and promotions, have been more frequently seen on social media.

"The home moving business has expanded recently. Whether it is moving from one place to another township, whether it's moving offices, or moving shops, we provide workers and cars to carry goods up and down. The market is growing. When you call to move to a house, we come all over Myanmar. We've seen a lot of people doing this business lately. It's convenient. More and more people are using it," said an official from the Yangon-based Ngwe Chanthar home moving service.

When using this service, in addition to saving time and



Yangon home moving services are seen operating in the city.

burden, in case of damage to one's own goods, the service companies will take responsibility for the compensation and settle it to the customer's satisfaction, so it is a mutually convenient market.

"If you call this service, you will save time, you will not be tired, and everything will be convenient when you make a

phone call. Then, when you move house, for the owner's fragile belongings that break in our hands, we will reimburse you to your satisfaction. Therefore, it is a business and a market that can be said to be mutually convenient for both the service provider and the person who use the service," he added. — Thit Taw/ZN

## Myanma Pearl Enterprise to auction oysters

MYANMA Pearl Enterprise in Taninthayi Region will sell oysters, including Saibo, through an open tender system in the 2014-2015 financial year, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Individuals can submit a tender form to the deputy

general manager of Myanmar Pearl Enterprise by 3 September 2024. They can enquire about details related to tender and oysters at the office. — TWA/KK

Pearl oysters.



# ECONOMY WORLD

## Shanghai ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in intl shipping centres

SHANGHAI ranks third among leading international shipping centres, according to a report published here Wednesday.

Singapore, London, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Dubai have secured the top five spots in the Xinhua-Baltic International Shipping Centre Development Index (2024).

With their outstanding shipping service capabilities and industry-leading port infrastructure, these cities provide a strong guarantee for the smooth operation of global shipping, the index report said.

The eastern Chinese city of Shanghai once again ranked third on the list, demonstrating that its status as an international shipping centre of great significance has been continuously consolidated.

In 2023, the container

*In 2023, Shanghai Port handled 49.16 million TEUs, maintaining its position as the world's top port for container throughput for the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.*



This photo taken on 17 September 2023 shows a view of the automated container terminal of Shanghai Yangshan Deep Water Port in east China's Shanghai. **PHOTO: WANG YIMING/XINHUA**

throughput of Shanghai Port had reached 49.16 million TEUs — ranking first in the world for a 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

Other Chinese shipping centre cities like Hong Kong, Ningbo-Zhoushan, Guangzhou, Qingdao and Shenzhen also featured prominently on this list. Notably, north China's Tianjin returned to the global top 20, which highlights its important position in the international shipping industry value chain.

The Xinhua-Baltic International Shipping Center Development Index was first released in 2014. — Xinhua

## Switzerland moves towards cashless future with instant payments



According to the Swiss National Bank (SNB), around 60 financial institutions are now equipped to handle instant payments, covering over 95 per cent of Swiss retail transactions. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ HINRICH FOUNDATION**

SWITZERLAND'S new instant payment system will bolster the future of cashless payments in the country, the Swiss central bank said Wednesday after the scheme went live.

The Swiss National Bank said around 60 financial institutions were now able to receive and process instant payments, covering more than 95 per cent of Swiss retail payment transactions, following Tuesday's market launch.

"By end-2026 at the latest, all financial institutions active in retail payment transactions will be reachable," the SNB said in a statement.

The central bank said the first institutions had already launched retail offerings enabling customers to send instant payments, with further banks to follow in the coming months. — AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Digital Trade Expo to boost global digital trade cooperation

THE third Global Digital Trade Expo will take place in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, from September 25 to 29, featuring Kazakhstan and Thailand as guests of honour.

The expo aims to leverage global digital trade resources to enhance cooperation and promote development, said Deng Bo, deputy director of the Trade Development Bureau of the Ministry of Commerce, at a press conference on Wednesday.

According to Han Jie, director of the Department of Commerce of Zhejiang Province, more than 1,000 digital trade enterprises and 15 international organizations have confirmed their participation, and professional purchasers from over 50 countries and regions are expected to join in the procurement activities.

The expo will span 150,000 square metres, featuring a comprehensive exhibition area and eight specialized zones dedicated to various digital industries. — Xinhua

## Belarus aims to increase exports by 5.4% to \$52 bln in 2025

BELARUS plans to increase its exports by 5.4 per cent to \$52 billion in 2025, Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko said on Wednesday.

"Exports are expected to grow by 5.4 per cent ... the forecasts for the development of foreign markets allow for an increase in foreign currency rev-

enue by \$2.8 billion. The volume of exports should reach \$52 billion, which is the maximum value within the research horizon.

At the same time, the trade balance is projected to be positive at 0.5 per cent of GDP," Golovchenko said during a government meeting. The prime minister also stated that infla-

tion in 2025 must be kept within the parameters of the five-year programme — no more than 5 per cent. "Achieving the planned indicators of the target scenario will ensure a growth in real household incomes by 104 per cent, with real wages increasing by 4.7 per cent," the prime minister said. — SPUTNIK



Agricultural equipment manufactured by Gomselmash, Belarus on display at the 14<sup>th</sup> Russia - Islamic World: KazanForum International Economic Forum. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

## Ford adjusts EV lineup as it aims to lower vehicle cost

FORD announced Wednesday fresh changes to its electric vehicle lineup, including the scuttling of a planned SUV model, lifting shares despite a hefty near-term profitability hit.

The adjustments — which reflect a slower-than-expected transition to EVs in North America — will result in around \$1.9 billion in cost hits to Ford's earnings, according to a Ford securities filing.

A company news release describing the changes highlighted competitive pressures including low-expense Chinese EV producers and the heightened cost focus of current EV consumers compared with early EV adopters, who view the autos "as a practical way to save money on fuel and maintenance, as well as time by charging at home".

Ford's EV business lost about \$2.5 billion in the first half of 2024 as the company contends costly production ramp-ups amid demand uncertainty.

Among the changes, Ford is dropping a plan to produce a three-row electric utility vehicle that had previously been expected to be constructed in Oakville, Ontario. — AFP



The interior of Ford's first mass-market electric car. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

## Japan's Kawasaki Heavy reports data falsification on ship engines: media

JAPAN'S Kawasaki Heavy Industries has falsified fuel-efficiency data on its ship engines for more than 20 years, local media reported on Thursday.

Kawasaki Heavy announced that it altered data on 673 of 674 engines which were mounted on vessels including large cargo ships, container ships and tankers in and after 2000, when regulations on harmful nitrogen oxides were enforced, public broadcaster NHK reported.

The manufacturer changed data by manipulating testing equipment to keep values within the permissible range decided with customers, saying this could have an impact on nitrogen oxide emissions, the report said.

The Japanese government started to investigate marine engine makers across the country last month after emissions testbed data falsifications have recently been reported by subsidiaries of IHI Corp and Hitachi Zosen. — Xinhua

## Asian countries become Vietnam's largest cinnamon market

ASIAN countries have become the largest market for Vietnam's cinnamon exports, with Indonesia and China being two major importers, the Voice of Vietnam (VOV) reported Thursday.

Vietnam exported 2,979 tonnes of cinnamon in the first seven months of this year, with the total turnover reaching more than US\$7.1 million, the report said, citing the Vietnam Pepper and Spice Association.

Exports to Indonesia and China reached 1,299 tonnes and 1,242 tonnes, respectively, during the cited period.

Vietnam's cinnamon growing area totals up to 180,000 hectares in the northern mountainous localities and the north-central region.

The Southeast

*The country's cinnamon is grown across 180,000 hectares, with reserves estimated at 900,000 to 1,200,000 tonnes and an annual harvest of 70,000 to 80,000 tonnes.*



Cinnamon is a spice derived from the inner bark of trees from the genus Cinnamomum, commonly used in cooking and baking for its warm, sweet flavor. PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Asian country's cinnamon bark reserves are estimated at about 900,000 tonnes to 1,200,000 tonnes, with an average harvest of 70,000 tonnes to 80,000 tonnes per year, according to the VOV. — Xinhua

## Singapore's Temasek to issue 2.7 bln offshore Chinese yuan bond

SINGAPORE'S state investment firm Temasek will issue 10-year and 30-year offshore Chinese yuan bonds with a total worth of 2.7 billion yuan (US\$379 million), according to the latest announcement from the firm.

The 1 billion 10-year bond's yield to maturity is 2.75 per cent per annum. The 1.7 billion 30-year bond's yield to maturity is 3.10 per cent per annum.

The bonds are rated Aaa by

Moody's and AAA by S&P, said the announcement. The offering is scheduled to close on 28 August, and the bonds will be listed on the Singapore Exchange on 29 August. — Xinhua

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**MYANMA Port Authority**  
**"NOTICE of High Tide"**

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.01 feet to 20.18 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of September 3<sup>rd</sup> to September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V PADIAN 3 VOY.NO. (0UV96S1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PADIAN 3 VOY.NO. (0UV96S1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:  
**M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## PM Modi holds delegation-level meeting with Poland counterpart Tusk

*During the visit, Modi announced a new social security agreement between the two countries and highlighted growing collaboration in technology and clean energy.*

**P**RIME Minister Narendra Modi and Poland Prime Minister Donald Tusk on Thursday held a delegation-level meeting in Warsaw, Poland.

Earlier, following a ceremonial welcome, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held a bilateral meeting with his Polish counterpart, Donald Tusk in Warsaw.

Before the meeting between the leaders, PM Modi received a grand ceremonial welcome at the Chancellery in Warsaw in the presence of Polish PM Donald Tusk.

“A new landmark in the India-Poland partnership. PM Narendra Modi was warmly received by PM Donald Tusk of Poland at the Federal Chancellery



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Polish counterpart Donald Tusk during his ceremonial welcome at the Chancellery. **PHOTO: PTI**

in Warsaw and accorded a ceremonial welcome. This visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Poland after 45 years will impart fresh momentum to the India-Poland partnership,” said the MEA in a post on X.

It is important to note that PM Modi, whose key visit to Poland will further bolster ties between New Delhi and Warsaw, announced on Wednesday that India and Poland have agreed on a social security agreement. He stated that the partnership between the two nations has been strengthening in areas like new technology and clean energy.

He also pointed out that Kabbadi emerged as a source of connection between the two nations as Poland is going to host the Kabaddi championship for the first time this year.

While addressing the Indian community in Poland’s Warsaw, PM Modi stated, “Innovation and youth are going to give energy to the development of both nations. Today I have come to you with some big good news. Both India and Poland have agreed on a social security agreement which is going to benefit all the friends like you.”

— ANI

## Iran to boost ties with Japan to address regional crisis: Araghchi

IRAN’S new foreign minister, Seyed Abbas Araghchi, said Wednesday that his ministry will boost ties between Tehran and Tokyo in all aspects, based on a comprehensive roadmap built on his deep knowledge of Japan, and will cooperate with Tokyo to address the regional crisis jointly.

“I know the capacity and capabilities of Japan. Japan can be more important in Iran’s energy, oil, and economy section,” the former ambassador to Japan told Kyodo News, giving his first exclusive interview after being approved by the Iranian parliament on Wednesday to serve as foreign minister for the next four years.

Iran will welcome Japanese companies interested in working in the oil and energy sector, the minister said, adding that Japan can

return to Iran’s oil fields and contribute to expanding its oil production.

Due to hundreds of unilateral sanctions on Iran’s economy, including banking and trade, imposed by the US government in the past decade to curb Iran’s nuclear

activities, Japan had to abandon the Iranian market.

Araghchi believes that Iran and Japan, with their distinct yet complementary capabilities, hold immense potential for forging a mutually beneficial and stabilizing partnership across Asia. — Kyodo



Iran will welcome Japanese companies interested in working in the oil and energy sector. A picture taken on 12 March 2017, shows an oil facility in the Khark Island, on the shore of the Gulf. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Domestic flight in India gets bomb threat

SECURITY paraphernalia in southern India went into a tizzy on Thursday morning after a phone call was received regarding a bomb being placed inside a flight flying from Mumbai to Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of the southern state of Kerala.

The flight, belonging to the private airline company “Air India”, landed safely at the Thiruvananthapuram airport under emergency conditions.

Immediately after landing, all passengers were evacuated and the aircraft was parked in the isolation bay at the airport.

There were 135 passengers onboard the flight number AI-657, confirmed an official at the Thiruvananthapuram airport. — Xinhua

#### S Korean drill causes chaos

SOUTH Korea held a nationwide drill on Thursday that sowed confusion in the capital as traffic was brought to a standstill and thousands of civilians practised emergency evacuations.

The exercise, linked to the ongoing joint military drills between the United States and South Korea known as Ulchi Freedom Shield, is designed to simulate a war or national emergency. Similar drills happen every year. In downtown Seoul, an air raid siren blared, followed by loudspeaker announcements urging people to seek shelter. Thousands of pedestrians and government employees cleared from streets and offices, while traffic stopped in some areas, causing confusion and frustration. — AFP

# SPORTS

## Shan United defeated in ASEAN Club Championship group match

VIETNAM'S Thanh Hoa beat Myanmar's Shan United 3-1 on the first day of group A of the 2024-25 ASEAN Club Championship on 21 August.

Although Shan United got the leading goal and tried to get a score away, the rival beat it with three secure goals. Since Shan United lost in the very first group match, it has to make a steadfast effort in the later matches.

In the lineup of the Shan United club, there are four foreign players and local players involving: Nanda Kyaw, Kyaw Zin Phyto, Myo Ko Tun, Thet Hein Soe and Hein Phyto Win. Six minutes after the match commenced, a goal was secured by Shan United's wing player Moussa Bakayoko.

Thanh Hoa – coached by Popov, who was the former head coach of Myanmar U-22

– could not make an equalizer in the first half. However, it secured goals in the second half and won. For Thanh Hoa, Rimario scored the first goal at 61 minutes, Ramos scored the second goal at 73 minutes, and Antonio scored the third goal at 87 minutes.

The Shan United is scheduled to match with Indonesian club PSM Makassar on 25 September. — Ko Nyi Lay/TMT



A player from Vietnam's Thanh Hoa dribbles the ball against players from Shan United on 21 August 2024.



This photo shows the match between Myanmar U-12 and Japan's Dragon Kashiwa teams.

## Myanmar U-12 wins Junior Soccer World Challenge final

THE U-12 Junior Soccer World Challenge continued on 22 August, with Myanmar securing a victory in their final match. Myanmar's U-12 team defeated Japan's Dragon Kashiwa team 1-0. This win allowed Myanmar to achieve a ranking after being eliminated from the 32-team fixture.

Myanmar's performance in the group stage included two wins and one draw, which earned them first place in their group with seven points and advanced them to the next round. However, they did not progress to the last 16 due to a low score in the round of 32 teams. The final ranking for Myanmar will be determined once all games are completed. — Ko Nyi Lay/TRKM

## Man City's Foden wins PFA Player of the Year award



Phil Foden of Manchester City has been named the Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year. PHOTO: AFP

MANCHESTER City forward Phil Foden won the Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year award on Tuesday.

Foden played a key role in City winning an unprecedented fourth consecutive Premier League title last term.

The 24-year-old scored 19 times and delivered eight assists for Pep Guardiola's team as they pipped Arsenal to the title on the last day of

the season.

"To win this award is something very special and it is one that I am very proud of and grateful for. To be recognised this way by your fellow professionals means everything and I would like to thank everyone who voted for me," Foden said.

"I also want to pay special thanks to Pep, the City coaches and all my teammates as they help me to try and get better every single day".

Foden has already set his sights on a fifth successive Premier League crown after City started their title defence with a 2-0 win at Chelsea on Sunday.

"Last season was another very special one for everyone at the Club but now all our focus is concentrated on trying to achieve more success this term," he said. — AFP

THE 2024 IFSC Climbing Youth World Championships kicked off in Guiyang, southwest China's Guizhou

Province on Thursday.

The event attracted 599 athletes from 51 nations and regions including China, the United States, Australia, Japan and India.

The ten-day championships sees athletes competing in the men's and women's Boulder, Lead and Speed disciplines across three age categories, U16, U18 and U20.

Christophe Billon, the delegate of the IFSC event, said at the opening ceremony that the championships was not only just a competition but also a unique opportunity to bring together young athletes from around the

## 2024 IFSC Climbing Youth World Championships kicks off in SW China's Guizhou

world with different cultures to show their passion and talent.

"After Tokyo 2020, Paris 2024, and as we look forward to the LA 2028

Olympic Games, where climbing will once again

take centre stage, the championships serves as a vital stepping stone," said Billon. — Xinhua



Over ten days, climbers will showcase their skills in Boulder, Lead, and Speed disciplines across U16, U18, and U20 categories. PHOTO: IFSC CLIMBING.ORG



Chinese Premier Li Qiang meets Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, 21 August 2024. PHOTO: RAO AIMIN/XINHUA

## Chinese premier says China ready to join Russia for cooperation in emerging areas

CHINESE Premier Li Qiang said here Wednesday that while consolidating cooperation in traditional areas, China is willing to work with Russia to explore cooperation in emerging areas.

Li made the remarks when meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin after he co-chaired the 29<sup>th</sup> regular meeting between Chinese and Russian heads of government with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin.

Li conveyed Chinese President Xi Jinping's cordial greetings and best wishes to President Putin. He said that the two heads of state have met twice this year, drawing a new blueprint and injecting strong momentum into fur-

*Li expressed China's commitment to advancing the agreements reached by both heads of state and to achieving tangible outcomes through expanded, mutually beneficial cooperation.*

ther deepening bilateral relations and cooperation, especially at the historical juncture of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Russia.

The steady development of China-Russia relations not only serves the fundamental interests of the two countries and two peoples, but also contributes to regional and world peace, stability and prosperity, Li noted, expressing China's willingness to work with Russia to implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, maintain the sound momentum of the development of bilateral relations, expand all-round mutually beneficial cooperation and achieve more practical results.

Li pointed out that the current round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation is deepening, which implies huge development opportunities. — Xinhua

## Cambodia celebrates return of 70 looted artefacts from abroad



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet worships Khmer ancient statues at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 22 August 2024. Cambodia on Thursday celebrated the return of 70 stolen Khmer ancient artefacts to the Southeast Asian nation from abroad. PHOTO: RANI/XINHUA

CAMBODIA on Thursday celebrated the return of 70 stolen Khmer ancient artefacts to the Southeast Asian nation from abroad.

Recently, a total of 70 Khmer cultural objects have been repatriated to the kingdom through a range of different processes, including voluntary returns, negotiations, seizures, and legal proceedings, said a statement from the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts.

These artifacts have been returned from different collections such as from the Lindemann family, Jim Clark, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and other private collectors in the United States, the statement said.

Speaking at the event held at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet said peace has provided a great opportunity for the country to return the souls of ancestors and precious treasures to their homeland. — Xinhua

## Volcanic eruption grounds flights in New Zealand

A resurgence of activity from New Zealand's White Island volcano, infamous for its deadly 2019 eruption, has grounded flights and sparked warnings that the volcanic unrest could persist for weeks or even months. A volcanic eruption belched a plume of ash that grounded flights in New Zealand on Thursday, with government scientists warning it could continue venting for "weeks to months" to come. It is the same White Island volcano that erupted in 2019, killing 22 people.

The island, once popular with tourists, lies about 50 kilometres (31 miles) off New Zealand's North Island, and 200 kilometres from Auckland, the country's largest city. — AFP