

## Message from Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, State Administration Council Chairman, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on Occasion of 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Association of Southeast Asian Nations

8 August 2024

### Esteemed Citizens and Peoples of ASEAN,

On this occasion of the 57<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Day, I have the pleasure to extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to the people of Myanmar and the peoples of the ASEAN Member States. I would also like to extend my best wishes for the further success of the Association in this ever-changing international landscape and for the continued progress and prosperity of the region and the peoples.

The ASEAN was born on 8 August 1967, with the wisdom of five founding architects. ASEAN has evolved from an Association to a Community and from regional cooperation to integration. Over fifty-seven years, ASEAN has been successfully materializing the vision of the founding fathers and has become one of the most successful inter-governmental organizations in the world. ASEAN acts as a locomotive for peace, stability and prosperity in the region. Despite the challenges during the evolution of the Association, ASEAN responds effectively to challenges and complex geopolitical and socioeconomic environments in this region and beyond.

### Esteemed Citizens and Peoples of ASEAN,

ASEAN continues as a rules-based community of nations committed to the principles and spirit of the ASEAN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) and other ASEAN instruments. As ASEAN is a people-centred, people-oriented organization, the ASEAN peoples are at the heart of our efforts, and we ensure the meaningful and inclusive participation of all stakeholders in our ASEAN Community-building process. With our concerted efforts, we need to enhance ASEAN centrality and unity and to strengthen ASEAN's vital role in leading and shaping the regional security architecture.

**SEE PAGE 2**



This picture showcases travellers visiting the Shwethaungyan Beach.

## Shwethaungyan Beach welcomes over 17,000 domestic travellers in July 2024

**S**HWETHAUNGYAN Beach in Patheingyi Township, Ayeyawady Region, attracted 17,011 domestic travellers in July 2024, according to Daw Cherry Myint, an Executive Officer of the Myanmar Tourism Federation (Shwethaungyan Beach).

The beach hosts 20 hotels and guest houses that provide year-round service to visitors. "Despite it being the rainy season, the beach sees visitors

throughout the year, including now. Most visitors are day trippers. Additionally, the Kyaukmaungnama Elephant Camp at the Shwethaungyan Beach contributes to the increasing number of visitors each month," said Daw Cherry Myint.

Currently, hotels at Shwethaungyan Beach are taking measures to ensure cleanliness along the beachfront, beautify landscapes and roads within

hotel compounds, and maintain overall public area cleanliness in preparation for the peak season. Preparations are also underway to offer local cuisine to hotel guests.

Furthermore, a variety of seafood, local products, and souvenirs are available along the beach. Visitors can also enjoy bicycle, motorboat, horse cart, and horse rental services. — ASH/MKKS

## Article

# Myanmar in BIMSTEC

By Min Khant

**PAGE 8-9**

## NATIONAL

**PAGE 6**



Over 150 Myanmar EPS workers sent to S Korea again

## BUSINESS

**PAGE 7**



Importers must adhere to pre-established reference prices



# NATIONAL

## Message from Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, State Administration Council Chairman, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on Occasion of 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Association of Southeast Asian Nations

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### FROM PAGE 1

Amidst the complex and fast-changing geopolitical and geoeconomic landscapes, the Association needs to be resilient, responsive, well connected and competitive. Therefore, no one can deny that the 2024 ASEAN Chairmanship theme, “ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience”, is more relevant than ever. Moreover, all Members are working to finalize the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, which aims to fulfil the aspirations of the peoples while maintaining resilient, innovative, dynamic, and People-Centred ASEAN.

In addition, we are addressing the challenges of supply chain disruption by implementing the Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) to enhance cross-border e-commerce and digital trade to empower businesses and stakeholders across the region.

### Esteemed Citizens and Peoples of ASEAN,

Being a responsible member of the Association, Myanmar continues its cooperation with the ASEAN Member States in the ASEAN Community-Building process in accordance with the ASEAN Charter. Moreover, Myanmar has been fulfilling legal, financial and functional obligations. From 2021 to 2024, Myanmar has successfully performed its role as the coordinator for ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations. The partnership between ASEAN and China has been broadened and deepened and contributed to regional peace, stability and prosperity through established important mechanisms across three community pillars under a comprehensive agenda. We will continue this momentum in taking over the coordinator-ship for ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Relations from 2024 to 2027.

On this auspicious occasion of the 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary, ASEAN should further strengthen its unity in creating One Community in this corner of the world. While fulfilling the purposes and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN Member States need to work together to render constructive support to member countries and address internal matters smoothly.

Creating an ASEAN Community encompassing all three pillars requires full commitment by all member states. These commitments shall form the cornerstones in the foreign policies of each member state as well as the very foundation of the ASEAN. In closing, I would like to wish for more peace and greater prosperity for the peoples in the region.

## Central Bank of Myanmar Notification 37/2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Waxing of Wagoung 1386 ME  
7 August 2024

1. The Central Bank of Myanmar has released this notification by exercising the authority conferred under Section 49 (b) of the Foreign Exchange Management Law.
2. The Central Bank of Myanmar issued Notification 26/2023 on 6 December 2023 that exporters shall convert 35 per cent of the export earnings to Myanmar kyats according to stipulations mentioned in Notification 12/2022.
3. It amended that exporters are to exchange only 25 per cent of their export earnings to Myanmar kyats instead of 35 per cent as per stipulations mentioned in Notification 12/2022.
4. This notification shall come into effect starting on 8 August 2024.

Than Than Swe  
Governor

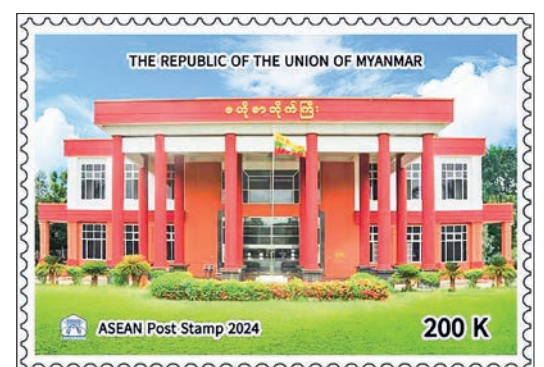
## K200 stamps to commemorate 57<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Anniversary on 8 August

TO commemorate the 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of ASEAN, the Myanmar Post Office has announced that it will sell a special postage stamp worth 200 kyats starting from 8 August.

The Myanmar Post Office, under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, will sell this unique postage stamp on 8 August (the 4<sup>th</sup> waxing day of Wakhaung, 1386 Myanmar Era (Thursday)) at the Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, the Yangon Post Office, the Mandalay Post Office and other regional/state post offices, simultaneously from 09:30 am on that day.

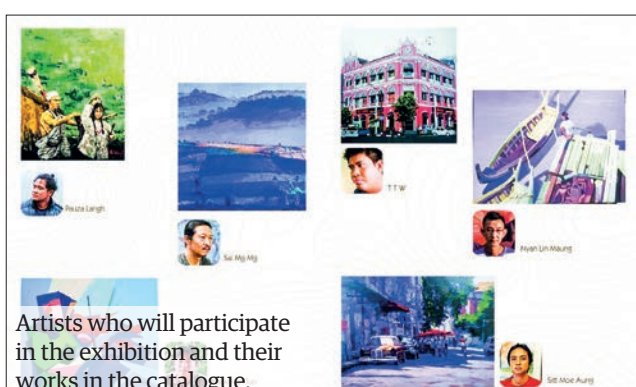
As a particular programme, postage stamps purchased from the Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, the Yangon Post Office, and the Mandalay Post Office on 8 August will have first-day covers on which a commemorative date stamp is made.

Stamps are already distributed to regional or state post offices. To buy first-day covers,



New K200 postage stamp released by the Myanmar Post Office to commemorate the 57<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Anniversary.

people can contact U Nyi Nyi Lwin, an officer in charge of the Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, 09 450000226, U Aung Soe, an officer in charge of the Yangon Post Office, 09 424000458 and U Tin Maung Myint, an officer in charge of the Mandalay Post Office, 09 424000515. — MT/ZN



Artists who will participate in the exhibition and their works in the catalogue.

## ‘augest August’ group art exhibition to showcase artworks of eight artists

IT has been announced that the group art exhibition titled ‘augest August’ will be held at the Shwe Khit Oo Art Gallery in Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region.

The exhibition will run from 10 to 16 August and will showcase

the diverse artistic visions of eight artists. Art enthusiasts who are interested in viewing paintings from various perspectives and personal styles are encouraged to attend. The gallery will also offer special programmes for those interested

in purchasing and collecting art.

The exhibition will feature works by artists Pauza Langh, Sai Maung Maung, Kyaw Han Tun, TTW, Nyang Lin Maung, Sit Moe Aung, Kaw Zar Thit, and Zaw Min Thein. — ASH/TKO



# NATIONAL

HONORARY patrons Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and Daw Khin Thet Htay of the Myanmar Women and Children Development Foundation attended the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation at Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, Chair of Myanmar National Women's Committee Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win said that the foundation is implementing the solar power project for rural development by signing the MoU with the Barefoot College of India and Indian Embassy to Myanmar.

He continued that the foundation has been initiating a good treatment project for protecting the rights of children.

The Union minister noted that the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (2023-2032) is being implemented through the collaborative efforts of the steering committee and 12 working committees.

He recounted that the foundation has been emphasizing the conducting of vocational training courses for women, undertaking education promotion of children, donations to displaced people and disaster victims, and health-care services and rural development undertakings for rural people during the COVID-19 period.

He urged all women's organizations and partner organizations to accomplish the aims and objectives of the strategic plan of the foundation.

Chair of the foundation, Dr

The 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Myanmar Women and Children Development Foundation in progress yesterday.



Honorary Patron Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and dignitaries view round the display at yesterday's event in Nay Pyi Taw.

## MWCDF launches initiative to protect children's rights



Wai Wai Tha, extended greetings, whereas central executive committee member Dr Nanda Hmun discussed the development of women in ASEAN countries.

A documentary movie and the documentary photos of the foundation were presented to the attendees.

Honorary Patron of the foundation Daw Kyu Kyu Hla awarded the winner from Bago Region in the article contest and the Social Outstanding Award winner from Shan State.

Honorary Patron Daw Khin Thet Htay also presented the Social Outstanding Award to the winner from Kachin State.

The Union minister presented the World Vision International Founder Award to the winner from Kachin State.

Honorary patrons Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and Daw Khin Thet Htay visited the documentary photo show and products.

The foundation meeting took place in the afternoon. — MNA/TTA



## DPM MoFA Union Minister receives UNDP Resident Representative

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received Mr Titon Mitra, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay

Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters of existing cooperation programmes and further cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also present at the meeting. — MNA

The UNDP Resident Representative calls on Deputy PM Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe yesterday.



# NATIONAL

## National Land Utilization Council holds its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting

EASY access to information, statistics, maps and records of land use for governmental departments, organizations and people plays a crucial role in managing land resources effectively, said Member of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San at the sixth meeting of the National Land Utilization Council yesterday morning.

At the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in Nay Pyi Taw, the Admiral, the National Land Utilization Council Chairman, said that the One Map Myanmar Working Committee organized Technical Teams so as to implement such processes, and it should accelerate the pilot projects.

Moreover, the relevant departments should work together to record the data in one section for land management and draft-



The sixth meeting of the National Land Utilization Council in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

ing land use projects.

Then, the Admiral also highlighted the importance of land resources, enactment of the National Land Use Policy in January 2016 as per Section 37 of the Constitution, organizing the Na-

tional Land Utilization Council to implement the stipulations of sub-paragraph (a) of the National Land Use Policy Paragraph-9.

He then mentioned challenges, such as illegal trespassing in government land areas,

poor communication among ministries and organizations, inharmonious laws, weakness in following laws and procedures, inaccurate land resources and maps, and hardship in managing land practically.

He added that drafting a suitable national land law by analyzing the land management-related laws is the most critical factor in solving such challenges.

The Admiral also called for collaborative efforts in managing land resources systematically to ensure adequate protection for the ecosystem.

Then, Vice-Chairman of the council Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae explained the need to follow nine facts made at the fifth meeting, ten missions of the council, land grabbing and compensation under the 1894 Land Acquisition Act without affecting the people and other matters.

Union ministers, deputy ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman and officials reported on the progress of tasks undertaken by relevant work committees, drawing the national land utilization law and management measures. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister U Min Naung meets Ms Sara Austin Netzer, Director and Representative of the UNOPS in Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

### MoALI Union Minister meets UNOPS Director

UNION Minister for Agriculture Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung received Ms Sara Austin Netzer, Director and Representative of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Myanmar, at the Union Minister's office yesterday morning.

They discussed implementation of future work in accordance with existing laws and regulations to support the agriculture and livestock sectors.

The permanent secretary, directors-general and departmental officials attended the meeting. — MNA/TS

### UNHCR Resident Representative calls on MoIP Union Minister

UNION Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing received Ms Noriko Takagi, UNHCR's representative for Myanmar, and her delegation at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting focused on various key areas, including the ongoing repatriation process for displaced persons from Rakhine State. They also dealt with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the ministry and UNDP-UNHCR.

The main topics included the progress of activities under the MoU, facilitation of visa issues for UNHCR foreign staff, travel arrangements for local

staff, support for the import of operational materials, and the continuation of collaborative efforts between the ministry

and UNDP-UNHCR. Both sides engaged in an open and transparent exchange of views on these matters. — MNA/KZL



Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing meets UNHCR's Representative for Myanmar Ms Noriko Takagi in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

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



# NATIONAL

## Ministry 1 Union Minister receives Thai Ambassador

NATIONAL Security Adviser and Union Minister for Ministry 1 at the State Administration Council Chairman's Office Admiral Moe Aung received the delegation led by Mr Mongkol Visitstump, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar, yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Both sides frankly discussed friendship and cooperation be-

tween the two countries, BIMSTECH, security, and collaboration for the stability and peace of border regions of the two countries.

Officials from the State Administration Council Chairman's Office Ministry 1 and officials from the Thai Embassy were present on the occasion. — MNA/TS



National Security Adviser and Union Minister Admiral Moe Aung receives Thai Ambassador Mr Mongkol Visitstump in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

## MIFER Union Minister receives UNDP Resident Representative, and UNOPS Country Director and Representative



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw receives Resident Representative of UNDP Myanmar Mr Titon Mitra in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw received Mr Titon Mitra, Resident Representative of UNDP, Myanmar at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters relating to the UNDP's ongoing projects and future work plans to be carried out in Myanmar.

Moreover, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw received Ms Sara Austin Netzer, Coun-

try Director and Representative of UNOPS, Myanmar, at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on the status of cooperation with UNOPS and the future collaboration between Myanmar and UNOPS.

Senior Officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and representatives from the UNDP and the UNOPS Myanmar offices were also present at the meetings. — MNA

## Associations condemn MNDAA's acts of terrorism

THE Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) of Shan State and the Kokang Ethnic Literary and Cultural Association (Yangon) issued statements firmly rejecting and condemning terrorist activities of the Myanmar

National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA).

MNDAA has recently committed attacks using rockets, heavy weapons, and drones against the hospital, a non-military target, and local neigh-

bourhoods in Lashio, northern Shan State. These attacks have resulted in the deaths and injuries of locals, departmental staff, and family members of security personnel receiving medical treatment at the hospital. Fur-

thermore, some individuals were unlawfully detained, and several residents were forced to flee their homes.

Both the Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) of Shan State and the Kokang

Ethnic Literary and Cultural Association (Yangon) denounced these acts as war crimes and inhumane terrorism, expressing their complete rejection and strong condemnation of MNDAA's violent acts. — MNA/KZL



### Statement of Kokang Ethnic Literary and Cultural Association (Yangon)

THE Kokang Ethnic Literary and Cultural Association (Yangon) issued a statement firmly rejecting and condemning terrorist activities of the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA).

MNDAA has recently attacked the hospital, a non-military target, and local neighbourhoods in Lashio, northern Shan State, using rockets, heavy weapons, and drones. These attacks resulted in the deaths and injuries of locals, departmental staff, and family members of security personnel who were receiving medical treatment at the hospital. Additionally, some individuals were unlawfully detained, and several residents were forced to flee their homes.

The Kokang Ethnic Literary and Cultural Association (Yangon) expressed its strong disapproval of MNDAA's acts, which it describes as war crimes and inhumane acts of terrorism, emphasizing its total rejection and severe condemnation of these actions.

*Kokang Ethnic Literary and Cultural Association (Yangon)*



### Statement of Young Men's Buddhist Association (Shan State)

1. The Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) of Shan State strongly condemns the recent attacks by the MNDAA terrorist group. MNDAA targeted the hospital, a non-military facility, in Lashio, northern Shan State, using rockets, heavy weapons, and drones. These attacks resulted in the deaths and injuries of residents, departmental staff, and family members of security personnel receiving medical treatment at the hospital. Some individuals were unlawfully detained.
2. Additionally, MNDAA launched attacks using rockets, heavy weapons, and drones against locals in Lashio, resulting in casualties. Many survivors were forced to flee their homes, leading to a significant loss of livelihoods and disruption to their social and economic lives.
3. YMBA firmly rejects and condemns MNDAA's attacks on non-military targets, including hospitals and residential areas, as well as the use of rockets, heavy weapons, and drones against civilian areas. The association also denounces the appropriation of religious buildings for military purposes. YMBA declares its strong opposition to these acts of terrorism and violence.

*Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) of Shan State*



# NATIONAL

THE 952<sup>nd</sup> Buddha Pujaniya Festival at Lokananda Swetawmyat Pagoda in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, has been in full swing

since 6 August, according to the pagoda's board of trustees.

The festival features chanting of Pali

scriptures (Pattana) from 6 to 10 August and the offering of alms to 170 monks

on 12 August.

The event is bustling with vendors from various townships catering to devotees and festival-goers, while boats from the villages from the islands in the Ayeyawady River pay homage to the pagoda.

Deco-

rated boats also highlight the regatta festival, a symbol of celebration for all ages.

The Lokananda Pagoda (pagoda number 1023/418-A) is an ancient structure built by King Anawrahta in 1059 AD, showcasing Pyu and Myanmar architectural styles. It has been renovated over the years, so it now appears as a new pagoda.

The pagoda is situated on the bank of the Ayeyawady River, north of Thiripyitsaya village, approximately two miles and six furlongs from Bagan. — TWA/TH

## Lokananda Swetawmyat Pagoda celebrates 952<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Buddha Pujaniya Festival



This photo depicts the Lokananda Swetawmyat Pagoda in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region.

## Over 150 Myanmar EPS workers sent to S Korea again



New 153 Myanmar EPS manufacturing workers are seen arriving at Incheon Airport on 7 August 2024. PHOTO: THE MYANMAR EMBASSY IN SEOUL

THROUGH the Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA), further up to 150 Myanmar EPS workers were sent to the Republic of Korea on 7 August, according to the Myanmar Embassy.

New 153 manufacturing workers arrived at Incheon International Airport on 7 August from Yangon on Myanmar National Airlines charter flight UB 8301. The Labour Attache from the Myanmar Embas-

sy in Seoul welcomed workers, advised them what they needed to do, and provided necessary assistance, said the embassy.

Seven new agriculture and livestock workers and 145 new manufacturing workers, totalling 152, were despatched on 16 July and 188 new manufacturing workers were sent on 25 June under the EPS system, according to statistics released by the embassy.

New 152 manufacturing workers on 21 May, 146 manufacturing workers and 24 agriculture and livestock workers, totalling 170 on 7 May, were despatched through POEA.

A total of 421 EPS workers under E-9 visas in April, a total of 862 EPS workers in March and a total of 1,333 EPS workers under E-9 visas in February were conveyed to the Republic of Korea, according to the embassy. — MT/ZS

## UDE announces exam and intensive course schedule for 2024-2025AY

THE Department of Higher Education has announced the exam dates and intensive course periods for students of Universities of Distance Education for the 2024 academic year.

The exams for first-, second-, third-, and final-year students majoring in Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Botany, and Zoology will be held from 1 to 7 October.

The intensive courses for first, second, third, and final-year

students majoring in English, Law, Geography, Psychology, Philosophy, and Oriental Studies will run from 9 to 21 October, with their exams scheduled from 24 to 30 October.

The intensive courses for first, second, third, and final-year students majoring in Myanmar, History, Economics, and Business Management will take place from 1 to 11 November, and their exams will be conducted from 12 to 20 November. — TWA/MKKS



This photo depicts the front Signage of the University of Distance Education.





File photo shows the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) building in Yangon.

## YSX stock market reaches two-month low in July

THE grand trading value of the eight listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) fell to K974 million with 321,007 shares traded in July from highs in the past two months, according to the monthly report released by the exchange.

The equity market registered trading values of K1 billion with 425,102 shares in January 2024, K693 million with 253,178 million in February, K1.34 billion with 560,687 shares in March, K473 million with 177,812 shares in April and K1.55 billion with 603,906 shares in May respectively. The trading value hit a record high of K1.7 billion, with 593,392 shares traded in June.

At present, shares of eight listed companies – First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB),

First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co Ltd (EFR), Amata Holding Public Co Ltd. (AMATA) and Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX) are ongoing trading in the security market.

MTSH topped the trading with 113,640 shares worth K390 million, followed by 114,481 shares of FPB worth over K195 million, 40,131 shares of MAEX worth K144.5 million, 16,300 shares of FMI worth K143 million, 25,579 shares of EFR worth K44.48 million, 3,532 shares of MCB worth over K28.78 million, 4,100 shares of AMATA worth K19 million and 3,244 shares of TMH worth K8.9 million respectively last month.

The trading value in July is K730 million lower than that of June. — NN/KK

## MAEX to hold 8<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting on 27 Aug

THE eighth annual general meeting of Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX) will be held virtually at 10 am on 27 August 2024.

The meeting will present matters of approval by shareholders for Board of Directors' Report and financial statements of 2023-2024 financial year ending 31 March 2024, announcement of dividends of shareholders, approval for directors' bonus, approval for the resignation of one-third of board of directors (three directors) and election and appointment of new BOD members for the FY 2024-2025, approval for the appointment of independent directors for the FY 2024-2025 and approval for appointment of auditor "Win Thin & Associate Audit Firm.

Shareholders can register online through the official website, and those registered shareholders will receive a message for a voting link to cast a vote on directors and a Zoom link to join the meeting. Individuals who have difficulty with online registration can enquire about the contact numbers of MAEX 09 889955485 and 09883016868. Shareholders must register by providing their name, citizenship scrutiny card and mobile number by 20 August at 4:30 pm to vote for directors. Regarding the annual general meeting, shareholders can see information through the MAEX website: [www.maex.com.mm](http://www.maex.com.mm). They can send suggestions and questions to the Board of Directors through [ho@maex.com.mm](mailto:ho@maex.com.mm) by 21 August.

Afterwards, those who meet the qualifications of directors can send proposals and personal information to [ho@maex.com.mm](mailto:ho@maex.com.mm) or MAEX's office by 21 August at 4:30 pm. The annual report of the Board of Directors for the FY 2023-2024 will be uploaded on [www.maex.com.mm](http://www.maex.com.mm) on 9 August.

Individuals can enquire about details of the meeting through the contact numbers of MAEX 09 889955485, 09 883016868, 01 503928, and 01 503929 during office hours. — NN/KK

## Importers must adhere to pre-established reference prices

IMPORTERS need to follow pre-established reference prices starting from 12 August 2024 when seeking import licences and processing customs declarations for imports, according to the Trade Department's Notification 8/2024 released on 6 August.

The Committee on Customs Valuation, which consists of officials of the Myanmar Customs Department and Trade Department, analyzed and

established import reference prices for 3,279 items (HS code 373 lines) with the aim of ensuring the right price for imported goods. Import prices will be analyzed and changed accordingly.

The value of Myanmar's foreign trade totalled over US\$8.3 billion over the past three and half months of the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April, comprising exports worth \$4.4 billion and imports valued at \$3.9 billion,

the Ministry of Commerce's data showed. Myanmar conducts international trade through maritime trade and border trade channels.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, raw materials imported by the CMP enterprises and consumer goods. — NN/KK



Lorries loaded with export cargoes are pictured at the Muse trade post on the Myanmar-China border.

### Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise



## OPINION

### Preserve fine traditions of ASEAN among member states

SINCE its inception, ASEAN has played a pivotal role in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity across Southeast Asia. Despite facing numerous challenges throughout its evolution, ASEAN has consistently demonstrated resilience and adaptability in navigating complex geopolitical and socio-economic landscapes within the region and beyond.

Over the past 57 years, ASEAN has successfully realized the vision of its founding fathers, emerging as one of the world's most successful intergovernmental organizations. The member states have remained united in adhering to the disciplines, rules, and regulations enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, which serves as the foundation for fostering regional peace and prosperity.

As a rules-based community, ASEAN is deeply committed to the principles outlined in its foundational documents, including the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC). The association prioritizes a people-centred, people-oriented approach, ensuring that the voices and participation of all stakeholders are integral to the ASEAN Community-building process.

ASEAN member states focused on implementing the Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) to address the challenges posed by supply chain disruptions. This initiative seeks to boost cross-border e-commerce and digital trade, thereby empowering businesses and stakeholders across the region.

ASEAN that meets the aspirations of its citizens.

ASEAN member states focused on implementing the Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) to address the challenges posed by supply chain disruptions. This initiative seeks to boost cross-border e-commerce and digital trade, thereby empowering businesses and stakeholders across the region.

From 2021 to 2024, Myanmar has successfully served as the coordinator for ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations, strengthening the partnership between ASEAN and China. This collaboration has contributed significantly to regional peace, stability, and prosperity through comprehensive mechanisms established across the three community pillars. Building on this momentum, Myanmar will assume the role of coordinator for ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Relations from 2024 to 2027.

ASEAN continues to uphold its fine traditions of cooperation and mutual respect among member states, ensuring that the region remains a beacon of peace, stability, and prosperity in an increasingly complex global environment. On this auspicious occasion of the 57th anniversary, which falls on 8 August 2024, ASEAN should further strengthen its unity by creating one community in this corner of the world. While fulfilling the purposes and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN Member States need to work together to render constructive support to each other and address internal matters smoothly.

MYANMAR hosted the 4th BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs' Meeting successfully on 24-26 July.

Security chiefs of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, as well as member states of BIMSTEC, attended the meeting. During the meeting, the participants frankly discussed the matters pertaining to combatting terrorism and narcotics, challenges of maritime security and cyber security, practical cooperation in information sharing in relevant security affairs, ongoing security affairs in the regions, and preparations to be made to overcome the possible security-related challenges.

National security advisers who attended the meeting, have highly vested powers in their respective governments and are the policy makers for international relations and national security affairs. Hence, their attendance and participation of all stakeholders are integral to the ASEAN Community-building process. In response to the rapidly changing geopolitical and economic environments, ASEAN recognizes the need to be resilient, responsive, well-connected, and competitive. The theme for the 2024 ASEAN Chairmanship, "ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience," aptly reflects these priorities. Member states are also diligently working to finalize the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, which aims to create a resilient, innovative, dynamic, and people-centred

In particular, since neighbouring countries like Thailand, Bangladesh, and India are BIMSTEC member states, the ways to address armed conflicts and combat drug-trafficking along the border areas in a collaborative manner could be discussed.

BIMSTEC is a strong regional organization which is regarded as a product of the convergence of Thailand's Look West Policy, which seeks to strengthen economic relations with neighbouring countries and beyond, and India's Look East Policy, which seeks to cultivate economic relations closely with the nations of Southeast Asia.

BIMSTEC came into being on 6 June 1997. It was initially known as BIST-EC (Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation) and was comprised of Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. With Myanmar joining on 22 December 1997, the organization was renamed BIMST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation). Bhutan and Nepal became new members of BIMSTEC in 2004. As of 2023,



## Myanmar in BIMSTEC

By Min Khant

the BIMSTEC region is home to around 1.8 billion people, that is, nearly 22 per cent of the global population, with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of USD 3.6 trillion. BIMSTEC is also considered a bridge between South Asia and Southeast Asia. Through this, it is an important organization to link the East Asia Region.

The BIMSTEC Charter prescribes that cooperation within the BIMSTEC will be based on respect for the principle of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference in internal affairs, non-aggression, peaceful co-existence, mutual respect and mutual benefit. It also states that all decisions will be based on the consensus.

BIMSTEC differs from

other organizations, which are comprised of different countries with diverse societies, faiths, languages, and cultural heritage. All Member States are carrying out activities to promote active collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest in the economic, social, technical and scientific fields.

BIMSTEC is working under four main mechanisms: Summit, Ministerial Meeting, Senior Officials' Meeting and BIMSTEC Working Group Meeting.

It mainly aims to create collaboration for rapid economic and social development. Nonetheless, it comes to take into consideration not only traditional security threats but also nontraditional security threats due to geopolitics,

transnational organized crimes,

arms smuggling, and narcotics smuggling. It also focuses on maritime security because of the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea.

During the 4th BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs' Meeting, the Member States discussed matters and shared experiences to prevent the spread of terrorism and violent extremism and eliminate illegal narcotics smuggling in the region under the theme "Regional countries' cooperation in combatting terrorism and illegal narcotics". The meeting gave means, opportunities and ideas for cooperation in counter-terrorism in the host country, Myanmar, as well as the region. It also explored collaborative ways to prevent nontraditional threats.

Myanmar geopolitically plays a vital role in links between ASEAN countries and South Asian ones. The successful completion of the BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs' Meeting is an excellent movement for Myanmar in diplomatic relations and gave it the potential to trade promotion with the BIMSTEC Member States.

It had many opportunities for making border trade cooperation with India, which had 1.4 billion people in the West, rather than relying on China alone in the East. Again, it could seek ways to trade with Middle Eastern and European countries through India, the leading nation among BIMSTEC Member States.

BIMSTEC can link the cooperation between the two regional organizations as it comprises some Member Countries of the Association of Southeast

Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) as well.

Today, most global countries

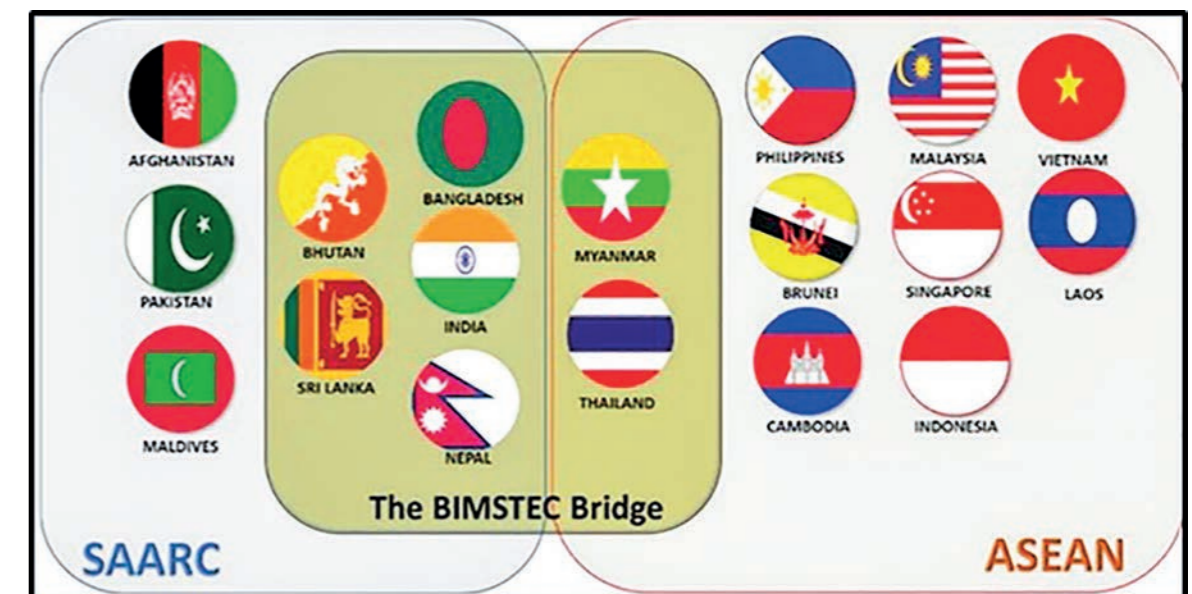
like BIMSTEC and ASEAN have been established to facilitate cooperation between the countries in the region. Geographically, Myanmar, as a land connectivity between Southeast Asian and South Asian countries, can link a connection between BIMSTEC and ASEAN. I write this article stating that Myanmar is a unique country that can help combat terrorism in the security sector as well as eliminate narcotics and create not only the prospect but also a favourable environment for rapid economic development in the sub-region, the BIMSTEC's vision.

operation for mutual interests. The active participation of the SAC Government, which is being blocked by diplomatic means, in BIMSTEC is very beneficial not only for BIMSTEC but also for Myanmar.

Since international terrorism and transnational crimes are posing threats to economic development and social progress in the BIMSTEC region, the meeting adopted policies and plans, including the exchange of information, to effectively combat terrorism and transnational crimes. In this regard, Myanmar is carrying out anti-narcotics measures.

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## ARTICLE

Myanmar's neighbouring countries, Thailand and Laos, are in ASEAN Member States. Likewise, its neighbouring countries like Thailand, Bangladesh and India have joined the BIMSTEC. The neighbouring countries in BIMSTEC have a righteous attitude towards Myanmar. They have a balanced view and co-

can no longer stand alone due to political, economic, social and security conditions. Only when it cooperates with another country or other countries will progress in the political, economic, social, and security sectors be achieved, and economic development will be made, too. Under these circumstances, regional organizations

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# NATIONAL

## Myanmar and Malaysia discuss repatriation of detained nationals

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reported that Myanmar and Malaysia held a discussion on 5 August regarding the health, humanitarian care, and repatriation of Myanmar nationals detained in Malaysian detention centres.

The discussion took place at the Myanmar embassy between Myanmar Ambassador U Aung Soe Win and officials from the Malaysian Immigration Department. — ASH/TMT



Bilateral talks in progress between Myanmar and Malaysia.

## Nationwide illegal trade crackdown: Seizures total K264M over 3 days

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

On 5 August, a combined team managed by the Customs Department conducted inspections. It seized four commodities valued at approximately K71 million, including 20 Gspower lithium batteries and one Hino tractor head worth K90 million at Ywathagyi Dry Port. The action was taken in accordance with Customs procedures.

On the same day, a combined team managed by the Mon State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections. It seized four commodities worth approximately K10.5 million, including 360 pieces of Korea-made Lebelage green tea solution mask packs and one Mitsubishi Fuso bus valued at K30 million near Hintha Circle in Mawlamyine Township. The action was taken according to Customs procedures.

Again, on 5 August, a combined team managed by the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections. It seized 10,500 bottles of Thai-made Lipovitan-D energy drink worth approximately K2.8 million and one Mitsubishi Canter truck worth K30 million near Shwethanlwin Toll Gate. The action was taken in line with Customs procedures.

On 5 August, a combined team managed by the Magway Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections. It seized ten gallons of illegal crude oil, one coil of electrical cable, and one Shayan-110 motorbike worth approximately K890,200. The action was taken under the Public Property Protection Act.

On 6 August, a combined team managed by the Nay Pyi Taw Council Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections. It seized one unregistered Honda Fit vehicle and one unregistered Toyota Mark II worth K16.5 million in Shansu checkpoint, Lewe, and 0.694 tonnes of illegal teak worth K225,000 in Lewe District. The action was taken under the Import-Export Law and the Forest Law.

On 7 August, a combined team managed by the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections. It seized one unregistered Nissan X-Trail vehicle worth K12 million at the Yadanabon Bridge checkpoint in Sagaing Township and one Kenbo motorbike worth K250,000 in Monywa Township. The action was taken under the Import-Export Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that seven arrests were made on 5, 6 and 7 August, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods worth approximately K264 million. — MNA/TMT



Illegal Gspower lithium battery and a vehicle seized at Ywathagyi Dry Port in Yangon.

## Counter-argument to false information

### False claims by subversive media on Tatmadaw bombardments and terrorist attacks revealed

SUBVERSIVE media outlets spread false reports, claiming that 13 civilians were killed and 24 injured due to aerial bombardments by Tatmadaw in Hsenwi, Shan State (North), in July.

Additionally, these sources alleged that people died and schools, hospitals, and shops were destroyed in villages in Madaya Township and Singu Township in Mandalay Region due to Tatmadaw aerial attacks on 5 and 6 August.

Tatmadaw, during its counter-terrorism operations, is targeting only locations where terrorists are known to be hiding, based on reports from residents seeking peace and stability.

In contrast, terrorists reportedly targeted non-military civilian areas with bomb drops, missiles, and heavy weaponry. Furthermore, subversive media networks supporting terrorists are fabricating stories to obscure their acts of terror and mislead the public. — MNA/TKO



This screenshot of Khit Thit media validates their fake

### False claims by subversive media: Security forces not responsible for Koyint village fires



SUBVERSIVE media falsely claimed that security forces burnt down 23 houses in Koyint Village, Yesakyo Township, Magway Region, on 6 August.

In reality, on 6 August, PDF terrorists arrived in Koyint Village and demanded K100,000 per household from villagers to purchase weapons. Residents reported this to security forces,

who came to perform their duties. PDF terrorists began shooting, leading to clashes. As they retreated, terrorists set fire to the village houses, according to a security official.

The subversive media is reportedly spreading propaganda to mislead the public with biased accusations and misinformation, obscuring the true nature of PDF terrorists' actions, which include burning residential houses and extorting money from locals. — MNA/TKO

This screenshot of DVB TV News validates their fake news.



## Health experts urge Olympics to cut ties with Coca-Cola

*Two health experts have urged the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to end its sponsorship deal with Coca-Cola, criticizing the company for promoting unhealthy sugary drinks at the Paris Games.*

TWO health experts on Tuesday called for Olympic organizers to cut ties with Coca-Cola, saying the current big money sponsorship deal allows the US company to “sportswash” unhealthy sugary drinks.

Events at the Paris Games have been lined with advertising for the ubiquitous fizzy drinks of Coca-Cola, which has been sponsoring the Olympics since 1928.

But these sugary drinks “offer little or no nutritional value” and promoting such unhealthy products has no place in sport, according to Trish Cotter and Sandra Mullin of global health group Vital Strategies.

Sugary drinks are a “key driver” of a range of serious health problems affecting people across the world, including

obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease, the pair wrote in a commentary in the journal *BMJ Global Health*.

Coca-Cola’s products also contribute to global plastic pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and use up a huge amount of water, they added.

“By continuing its association with Coca-Cola, the Olympic movement risks being complicit in intensifying a global epidemic of poor nutrition, environmental degradation and climate change,” the authors wrote.

“It’s time for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to cut ties with Coca-Cola in the interest of athletes, spectators and the planet.”

Coca-Cola did not respond to a request for comment. — AFP



Health experts argue that these drinks contribute to serious health issues like obesity and diabetes, as well as environmental problems such as plastic pollution and high water usage. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

## Czech beer spas emerge as popular wellness trend

DURING his three-day stay in the Czech Republic, tourist Tony Eggink chose to spend half a day experiencing something both unusual and popular in a country renowned for its high-quality beer and rich brewing history: the beer spa. “While I was studying the maps to see where we should go, beer spa popped up, which made me interested. So I did

a search and then saw that beer spa was a thing,” he said.

A fan of lagers and pilsners, Eggink and his friends visited the Original Beer Spa in downtown Prague, where they enjoyed a pint while soaking in warm oak tubs. “It was very relaxing being able to go through the whole process. And then having the beer as well, which is very pleasant. It

was probably the best spa I’ve ever done,” Eggink said after a two-hour session.

“I feel a little bit more relaxed. My skin feels a little bit more rejuvenated,” he added.

The concept of beer spas dates back thousands of years. According to the Original Beer Spa, people in ancient Egypt used ingredients from the beer brewing process for their therapeutic properties. The Czech Republic gave birth to the modern wellness trend by beer spas about 30 years ago.

Jaromir Pazout, who founded the Original Beer Spa in 2013, noted that his franchise business has expanded to three locations in the Czech capital and estimated that there are around 40 to 50 beer spas in the whole country, with up to 20 in Prague alone. Over time, beer spas have become a novel way to experience the country’s rich beer culture, he added. — Xinhua



Jaromir Pazout prepares a beer bath at the Original Beer Spa in Prague, the Czech Republic, on 1 August 2024. **PHOTO: DENG YAOMIN/XINHUA**

## Discovery of tiny bone sheds light on mysterious ‘hobbit’ humans

THE discovery of a tiny arm bone suggests that an ancient human dubbed “hobbits” only shrank down to their diminutive size after they arrived on an Indonesian island a million years ago, scientists said on Tuesday.

Much about the pint-sized *Homo floresiensis* has been shrouded in mystery since the first fossils suggesting their existence were found on the island of Flores in 2003. These tool-using hominins are believed to have been living on the island as recently as 50,000 years ago, when our own species *homo sapiens* was already walking the Earth, including in nearby Australia. From some 60,000-year-old teeth and a jawbone found in an island cave, scientists had previously estimated the hobbits were around 1.06 metres (3.5 feet) tall.

But the discovery of part of an upper arm bone as well as some teeth at an open-air island site on the island suggests some

hobbits stood just one metre tall around 700,000 years ago, according to a study in the journal *Nature Communications*.

The bone was so small, that at first the international team of researchers thought it must have been from a child. Study co-author Adam Brumm, an archaeologist at Australia’s Griffith University, told AFP that it was the smallest humerus fossil of an adult hominin ever found. Recent findings could resolve a debate on the origins of *Homo floresiensis*. One theory suggests these “hobbits” evolved from a small hominin already on Flores, while another posits they descended from *Homo erectus*, which became smaller over time due to island dwarfism. The discovery of teeth resembling those of *Homo erectus* supports the latter theory, indicating that this species may have reached Flores by crossing deep-sea barriers and then shrank in size. — AFP



# ECONOMY WORLD

## CPEC to promote development, prosperity in Pakistan's Balochistan: experts

*The recent seminar in Quetta, Balochistan, underscored the promising growth potential of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).*



Meena Majeed Baloch, a provincial assembly member, expressed optimism that CPEC will provide valuable employment and business opportunities for Balochistan's youth. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

PAKISTANI officials and experts in the capital city Quetta of Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province, said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has a

huge potential to promote growth in various sectors in the province. Addressing a seminar titled "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Assessing the Transformation of Vision

into Reality with a Focus on Regional Connectivity, Innovation, and Security in Balochistan," the officials on Tuesday called for enhanced cooperation and inclusive growth in the

next phase of CPEC. In her remarks, Meena Majeed Baloch, a member of the Balochistan provincial assembly, said that CPEC is a great hope for the youth of Balochistan, who will get employment and business opportunities through it. She stated that to harness CPEC's potential, the provincial government has announced 30,000 vacancies to train youth in various skills, enabling them to participate in future CPEC projects.

"CPEC project holds great significance for both Balochistan and Pakistan. The development of Gwadar port, along with the donation of the New Gwadar International Airport by the government and people of China, will play a major role in transforming the future of Balochistan and uplifting its underprivileged population." — Xinhua

## Gold, oil push Canada trade into June surplus

CANADA posted a surprise trade surplus of Can\$638 million (US\$461 million) in June, led by a surge in oil and gold exports, the government statistical agency said Tuesday.

Gold demand jumped recently as a hedge against global political and economic uncertainty, while the opening of a new pipeline from Alberta to Canada's Pacific coast resulted in increased shipments to Asian countries.

Combined, gold and oil accounted for three-quarters of Canada's increased exports in June, which rose 5.5 per cent to Can\$66.6 billion.

Imports increased 1.9 per cent to Can\$66.0 billion, with a record number of passenger cars and light trucks brought into the country, marking a recovery from production disruptions and delayed deliveries in late 2023 and early 2024. Imports of pharmaceutical products were also up in June. These increases were



This 9 December 2021, image courtesy of Trans Mountain Corporation shows pipeline construction work in Valemount, British Columbia, Canada. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / TRANS MOUNTAIN CORPORATION/ AFP/FILE**

partly offset by lower imports of gold for refining and copper ores and concentrates. — AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Kenya central bank cuts interest rate for first time in four years

KENYA'S central bank trimmed Tuesday its main interest rate for the first time in four years, citing easing inflationary pressures, as the government struggles to raise revenue and service its public debt following deadly protestors over tax hikes.

The bank's monetary policy committee (MPC) cut its main interest rate by a quarter percentage point to 12.75 per cent.

"The MPC noted that its previous measures have lowered overall inflation to below the mid-point of the target range, stabilized the exchange rate, and anchored inflationary expectations," the bank's governor and chairman of the MPC, Kamau Thugge, said in a statement.

Kenya's overall annual inflation rate fell to 4.3 per cent in July from 4.6 per cent in June.

"The MPC concluded that there was scope for a gradual easing of the monetary policy stance, while ensuring continued exchange rate stability," it added.

The rate cut comes as Kenyan President William Ruto seeks to ease the worst crisis of his near-two year presidency when protests over tax hikes turned violent in June.

He scrapped deeply unpopular tax increases, introduced amidst a cost-of-living crisis, that were meant to reduce public debt standing at \$78 billion, according to treasury records.

Kenya's Court of Appeal also annulled the controversial tax hikes adopted in 2023 over procedural issues at the end of July.

Ruto sacked most of his cabinet in July and has been working to form a national unity government. — AFP

## US trade gap narrows less than expected in June

THE US trade deficit narrowed slightly less than analysts anticipated in June, according to government data released Tuesday, helped by an uptick in exports.

The trade gap in the world's biggest economy was down 2.5 per cent to \$73.1 billion, slightly larger than the \$72.8 billion that analysts expected, the Commerce Department said. The figure was helped by a bigger uptick in exports than imports, with the former rising 1.5 per cent to \$265.9 billion.

The civilian aircraft and industrial supplies sectors helped boost exports, while imports rose on the back of goods like pharmaceutical preparations and semiconductors. But the imports were offset by a decrease in some areas, including crude oil, the report showed. The US goods deficit with China slipped \$1.6 billion to \$22.3 billion in June, the Commerce Department report showed.

#### GDP drag

"This report confirms that trade was a drag on GDP growth in the second quarter -- as revealed in the initial GDP estimates," said economists Carl Weinberg and Rubeela Farooqi of High Frequency Economics in a note. — AFP



## Indian auto companies will soon produce 100% ethanol-run cars

*Toyota is investing Rs 20,000 crore to build a plant in Aurangabad, Maharashtra for producing these flex-fuel cars. Tata and Suzuki are also working on similar technology, and Bajaj, TVS, and Hero are developing ethanol-powered two-wheelers.*

UNION Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said on Monday that many Indian companies are setting up plants to produce 100 per cent ethanol-run cars and two-wheelers in India.

Gadkari came to Parliament in a similar vehicle

produced by Toyota and while talking to the media said, "This is the world's first vehicle which has a flex engine and complies with emission norms of Euro 6. It gives net zero emissions. Runs on ethanol produced from sugarcane juice, molasses, and corn."

Recently, Toyota has announced for setting up of a plant to produce flex cars in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, with an investment of Rs 20,000 crore. Gadkari says Tatas and Suzuki are also working on producing 100 per cent ethanol or flex engine cars. — ANI



Gadkari highlighted that such vehicles could reduce pollution, save costs, and support farmers, with plans for ethanol pumps to be introduced like petrol stations.

**ILLUSTRATION: IMAGE USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE/CHINIMANDI**

## Hong Kong's Cathay unveils \$11 bln deal for up to 60 Airbus planes



Hong Kong carrier Cathay Pacific said Wednesday it would buy at least 30 Airbus A330-900 aircraft in a deal valued at \$11 billion. **PHOTO: PETER PARKS / AFP**

HONG Kong carrier Ca-

thay Pacific said Wednes-  
day it would buy at least  
30 Airbus A330-900 aircraft  
in a deal valued at \$11 bil-  
lion as it looks to build

on a post-Covid recovery and reach pre-pandemic passenger numbers in the new year.

The firm made the announcement as it reported a drop in profit in the first half of the year, having moved into the black for the first time in four years in 2023 thanks to a pick-up in post-Covid demand.

Cathay did not disclose the total purchasing price of the but said it had received "significant price concessions" on the basic

value of approximately HK\$85.8 billion (US\$11 billion) from the European planemaker. The new planes are expected to be delivered by the end of 2031. "(Cathay Pacific) has agreed to purchase and Airbus SAS has agreed to sell 30 Airbus A330-900 aircraft," it said in a filing with the Hong Kong stock exchange, adding that the airline has also "secured the right to acquire 30 additional Airbus A330-900 aircraft". — AFP

## Xinjiang civil aviation passenger traffic sets new record in July

NORTHWEST China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region saw its civil aviation passenger traffic in July exceed five million for the first time, reaching over 5.27 million — a 14.5 per cent increase compared to the same period last year. The latest data

released by the regional branch of the Civil Aviation Administration of China said that both monthly and daily passenger throughput set new historical records last month, with daily passenger traffic peaking above 180,000 passengers.

The administration reported rapid growth in Xinjiang's civil aviation sector, with passenger throughput growing 27.2 per cent and 16.7 per cent, respectively, year on year in the first and second quarters of this year. From January to July, interna-

tional airports across the region handled 306,000 passengers and 11,000 tonnes of cargo on international and regional flights, marking a 144.7 per cent increase and a 399.8 per cent rise, respectively, compared to the same period in 2023. — Xinhua

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SATURN VOY.NO. (104997)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SATURN VOY. NO. (104997)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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: **2301928**

**Shipping Agency Department  
Myanmar Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XIN HAI HE VOY.NO. (2411)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XIN HAI HE VOY.NO. (2411)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT-2** 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.

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Phone No: **2301928**

**Shipping Agency Department  
Myanmar Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDINGS PTE LTD**



# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus to head interim govt in Bangladesh

*The President approved this proposal, and other members of the interim government will be selected in consultation with various political parties.*



Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus will serve as the head of Bangladesh's interim government. **PHOTO: AFP**

NOBEL laureate Muhammad Yunus will serve as the head of Bangladesh's interim government, local media reported early Wednesday.

The decision was taken at a meeting of President Mohammed Shahabuddin with chiefs of the three services and the coordinators of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement to finalize the outline of the interim government on Tuesday night, Bangladesh's state-run news agency BSS reported.

The head of state gave consent to the proposal of the meeting, the president's Press Secretary Md Joynal Abedin told the news agency.

Shahabuddin said other members of the interim government would be finalized in consultation with other political parties of the country.

According to the report, Shahabuddin said during the meeting that as Bangladesh is passing through a deep crisis and in order to resolve the problem, an interim government must be formed as soon as possible. He urged everyone to work together to resolve the crisis.

Earlier Tuesday, Shahabuddin dissolved the parliament, paving the way for the formation of an interim government following the fall of the government led by former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Bangladesh is facing uncertainty after the resignation and fleeing of Hasina on Monday. — Xinhua

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### India recalls non-essential staff from Bangladesh

INDIAN authorities have recalled non-essential staff and their families of its high commission and consulates in neighbouring Bangladesh, local media reports quoting government sources said Wednesday.

"All non-essential staff and their families from the Indian High Commission in Dhaka have been evacuated. The High Commission is currently operating with a skeletal staff," a local television news channel NDTV quoting sources said.

Officials said all Indian diplomats remain in Bangladesh and the missions are functional.

India has a huge presence in Bangladesh. Apart from its high commission in Dhaka, India has consulates spread across the country in cities like Chattogram, Sylhet, Rajshahi and Khulna. — Xinhua

#### Japan's opposition party to hold leadership election

THE main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP) of Japan decided Wednesday to hold its leadership election on 23 September, as the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is expected to hold a leadership election around the same time, local media reported.

Campaigning for the CDP's leadership race is scheduled to begin on 7 September, with current leader Kenta Izumi eager to be reelected ahead of the upcoming election of the House of Representatives, the all-important lower chamber of Japan's parliament, which must be held by October 2025, Kyodo News reported. If the CDP secures a victory in the lower house election by defeating the LDP, its chief could become Japan's prime minister, the report said. — Xinhua

## Harris picks Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as running mate

US Vice-President Kamala Harris, who has won enough delegate votes to secure the Democratic presidential nomination, unveiled Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as her running mate on Tuesday.

"As a governor, a coach, a teacher, and a veteran, he's delivered for working families like his. It's great to have him on the team," Harris said on the X platform.

According to CNN and the Associated Press, Harris has selected Walz as her running mate, a pairing aimed at strengthening support for the Democrats among rural and white voters in Midwestern states.

Harris, who is the daughter of Indian and Jamaican immigrants, with the choice of Walz, aims to broaden the Democratic Party's appeal for a wider range of voters in this election, which is only three months away.

Walz, 60, previously served as a US House Representative.

He was elected Governor of Minnesota in 2018 and re-elected in 2022.

The choice of Walz creates a ticket that many Democrats have said would be "politically beneficial", according to The Washington Post. Harris, who spent much of her career in deep-blue California, "chose from a list of finalists populated by White men, including Walz, who have represented more

competitive swaths of the country", the report said.

Harris, 59, served as District Attorney of San Francisco and Attorney-General of California, before serving as a US Senator. By choosing Walz, she has opted for an experienced politician with executive leadership skills, highlighting the significance of Midwestern swing states like Wisconsin and Michigan. — Xinhua



This combination of pictures created on 2 August 2024, shows US Vice-President Kamala Harris in Washington, DC on 22 July 2024, and Governor of Minnesota Tim Walz in Washington, DC, 3 July 2024. **PHOTO: JIM WATSON, CHRIS KLEPONIS / AFP**



# SPORTS



## Japan's Fumita strikes 60-kg Greco-Roman wrestling gold

*This victory followed his impressive semifinal win against reigning world champion Zholaman Sharshenbekov of Kyrgyzstan.*

JAPAN'S Kenichiro Fumita won the men's Greco-Roman 60-kilogramme wrestling gold medal at the Paris Olympics on Tuesday, going one better than his silver in Tokyo three years ago.

Fumita defeated China's Cao Ligu 4-1 in the final at Champ-de-Mars Arena, after fellow Japanese Nao Kusaka advanced to the men's Greco-Roman 77-kg final.

In one of the women's 68-kg bronze medal matches, Nonoka Ozaki of Japan defeated Nigeria's Blessing Oborududu 3-0.

The 28-year-old Fumita,

also a two-time world champion, scored two points by rolling Cao to go up 3-0 and stayed in the driver's seat from there.

"It was a long journey," Fumita said. "I struggled a lot to get here. Even if I won at the world championships, I didn't feel like I reached the top. Winning at the Olympics must be the top of everything." Fumita came into the final on a high after beating reigning world champion Zholaman Sharshenbekov of Kyrgyzstan in the previous day's semifinal. — Kyodo



Kenichiro Fumita of Japan reacts after beating Cao Ligu of China in the wrestling men's Greco-Roman 60-kilogramme final at the Paris Olympics on 6 August 2024, at Champ-de-Mars Arena in Paris. **PHOTO: KYODO**

## Spain wins gold in mixed marathon race walk relay

ALVARO Martin and Maria Perez claimed Spain's first athletics gold medal of the Paris Olympics by winning the mixed marathon race walk relay on Wednesday.

Martin and Perez finished in two hours, 50.31 minutes, ahead of Ecuador's Brian Pintado and Glenda Morejon, who took silver in 2:51:22.

Australia's Rhydian Cowley and Jemima Montag claimed bronze in 2:51:38.

"It has been an incredible day," Perez said. "This [victory] is not only ours, but of all the Spanish race walkers."

Perez has now completed the trifecta of career gold medals at the Olympics, world championships and European championships.

"I feel very special because it's the first time that the triple crown has been achieved by an athlete from Spain and I'm fortunate enough to have shared it with Alvaro," the 28-year-old said. — Xinhua



Nikola Jovic (C) of Serbia shoots during the men's basketball quarterfinal between Serbia and Australia at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France, on 6 August 2024. **PHOTO: MENG YONGMIN/XINHUA**

## Serbia, Germany stumble into men's basketball semis

THE basketball competitions of the Paris 2024 returned to the Bercy Arena on Tuesday, when the men's quarterfinals witnessed two comeback wins and one upset on the first day of the knockout stages.

World Cup finalists Serbia escaped with a 95-90 overtime win over Australia, world champions Germany came back from a lackluster start to beat Greece 76-63, while hosts France upset unbeaten medal favorites Canada 82-73. Only defending champions the United States had an easy 112-87 win over Brazil.

Nicola Jokic had an all-around game with 21 points, 14 rebounds, nine assists and four steals, while six Serbia players

scored double-digit numbers to ensure a berth in the semifinals. Josh Giddey had 25 points for Australia.

Leading 44-20 at the beginning of the second quarter, Australia gave Serbia a huge mountain to climb for the rest of the match. Serbia needed only one and a half quarters to erase Australia's advantage, and usurped the lead by 61-60 midway in the third quarter.

Serbia were up 67-65 to start the fourth quarter, but never got away from their opponents as the scoreline was 82-80 in favour of Serbia with 9.8 seconds to go. Patty Mills, who scored 26 points, tied the game with a mid-range jumper to force an overtime. — Xinhua

## Over 40 Olympic athletes test positive for COVID-19 amid resurgence

At least 40 athletes at the Paris Olympics have tested positive for COVID-19, according to the World Health Organization.

The UN health agency warned Tuesday that COVID-19 infections are surging worldwide, including at the Olympics, and are unlikely to decline anytime soon.

The Olympics began 26 July and will run until Sunday.

"In recent months, regardless of the season, many countries have experienced surges of COVID-19," WHO infectious disease epidemiologist Maria Van Kerkhove said. "COVID-19 is still very much with us and circulating in all countries." — Kyodo





## 1<sup>st</sup> group of Lao train drivers licensed to work independently on China-Laos Railway

**T**HE first group of Lao train drivers to work independently on the China-Laos Railway have been formally awarded driver certificates after receiving qualification training courses.

Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Saleumxay Kommasith, Lao Deputy Minister of Public Works and Transport Saysongkham Manodham, General Manager of the Laos-China Railway Co Ltd (LCRC) Liu Hong attended the certificate awarding ceremony held in Laos on Monday.

On behalf of the Lao Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Saysongkham presented the licences to the 14 people.

Speaking at the ceremony, Saysongkham said this was a major event in the history of Laos' transport development. He hopes that these train drivers will always keep safety first, ensure that passenger and freight trains arrive at their destinations safely and on time, contributing to the development of Laos' railway industry.

Also speaking at the event, Liu said, "In the next step, we will make full use of the teaching resources including from Chinese railway colleges and the Lao railway vocational technical college to build a Lao railway talent team, promoting the high-quality and reliable development of

the China-Laos Railway."

The LCRC recruited the first batch of Lao train driver trainees in June 2020. After theoretical study and training courses, 66 Lao assistant drivers were selected

in June 2022.

By the end of 2023, the company had selected 14 co-drivers with a driving mileage of more than 100,000 kilometres.

— Xinhua



A fully loaded train, driven independently by a Lao train driver, leaves Vientiane station in Vientiane, Laos, and heads for Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan Province, 5 August 2024. PHOTO: YANG YONGQUAN/XINHUA

“ The awarding ceremony was attended by key officials, including Lao Deputy Prime Minister Saleumxay Kommasith and Deputy Minister of Public Works and Transport Saysongkham Manodham. ”

## BIMSTEC unaffected by political crises in member countries: Secretary-General

*This comes in the context of political unrest in Bangladesh.*

POLITICAL development in any member country has no impact on the functioning of BIMSTEC, said the regional group's secretary general Indra Mani Pandey on Tuesday. In an exclusive interview with



In an interview, he emphasized that BIMSTEC focuses on technical and economic cooperation rather than political issues.

ANI, the Secretary-General said the BIMSTEC focuses on technical and economic cooperation between member countries while staying away from political issues and internal political developments of the countries. His remarks come amid political turmoil in Bangladesh as Sheikh Hasina resigned as Prime Minister and fled the country amid ongoing widespread protest and violence.

Being asked about the impact of political developments in member countries on the functioning of BIMSTEC, the Secretary General of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) stated that the organization remains unaffected by political crises in member countries. — ANI

### VIOLATING ROYAL DEFAMATION LAW

## Thai Constitutional Court dissolves main opposition Move Forward Party

THAILAND'S Constitutional Court on Wednesday dissolved the main opposition Move Forward Party, ruling its efforts to amend a law against defaming the kingdom's royal family violated the constitution.

The judges voted unanimously to order the dissolution of the Move

Forward Party and impose a ban on the party's executives from political activity for 10 years.

The party's campaign to amend the royal insult law was considered an attempt to undermine the nation's constitutional monarchy, the court said.

— Xinhua