

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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Thailand demand for mantis shrimp surges

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Kyaiktiyo's six hills see increased pilgrimage this year

BUSINESS

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CAD announces reasonable rice market prices for Dec

Hong Kong International Travel Expo 2025 welcomes Myanmar business-people

MYANMAR businesspeople are cordially invited to attend the Hong Kong International Travel Expo 2025 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre that is scheduled to take place on 12-15 June 2025.

Those leading businesses from the Greater Bay Area including Hong Kong SAR participated in the ITE Hong Kong exhibitions. There were a total of 515 exhibitors, 7,023 traders and 60,000 visitors in the ITE 2024.

This four-day expo is arranged for two days for tourism merchants and customers and the last two days for the public.

The booth costs US\$4,500 per Shell Standard A (nine square metres), \$4,680 for Shell Standard B (nine square metres) and \$8,280 for raw space (918 square metres).

Individuals can enquire about details through www.itehk.com and early bird registration can enjoy a 15 per cent discount. Myanmar businesspeople can register through the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization at 067 408622 and email event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/KK

40 centenary buildings across 7 states and regions designated as listed



This photo showcases the Yangon University Convocation Hall being designated as a listed building in Yangon.

According to the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, 40 buildings over 100 years old in seven states and regions across the country have been designated as listed buildings.

Among these, prominent structures in Yangon Region,

such as the Convocation Hall of Yangon University and the Bogyoke Aung San Museum, are included.

The designation of buildings over a century old as ancient structures is based on cultural and historical value, artistic merit, and architectural significance.

This process is carried out under Section 34 (b) of the Protection and Preservation of Ancient Buildings Law. The ministry also noted that efforts are underway to preserve these ancient buildings through a collective monitoring and maintenance system to ensure their long-term du-

ability.

Out of the 40 newly designated ancient buildings, 15 are located in Yangon Region, six in Bago Region, five in Mandalay Region, two in Ayeyawady Region, two in Magway Region, nine in Mon State, and one in Shan State. — ASH/MKKS

NATIONAL

Agro and Livestock Industries: Driving Regional and National Development

THE growth of agriculture and livestock-based industries plays a crucial role in regional and national development.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with Magway Region government and district-level departmental officials on 24 May 2024 to talk about regional development)

Kalmykia delegation visits Mandalay religious sites

A delegation led by Mr Batu Khasikov, Head of the Republic of Kalmykia, Russian Federation, arrived in Mandalay yesterday morning by air from Nay Pyi Taw. They were greeted at the airport by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung, regional government ministers, and other officials.

Upon their arrival, the delegation visited the Maha Myat Muni Pagoda, where they paid respects and offered flowers, water, and gold leaves.

They later travelled to the Sitagu International Vipassana Academy in Sagaing. There, they paid their respects to Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara (Sitagu Sayadaw), the State Ovadacari-



Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara and Mr Batu Khasikov, Head of the Republic of Kalmykia, the Russian Federation, meet at the Sitagu International Vipassana Academy in Sagaing yesterday.

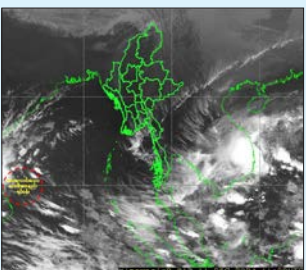
ya, Shwegyin Nikaya Chairman, and Chancellor of Sitagu World Buddhist Universities and Sitagu Hospitals. Discussions focused on Buddhism promotion and propagation.

Returning to Mandalay, the delegation toured various religious sites, including the Kusinara Pagoda, the Maha Lawkamarazein Jade Buddha Image, and the Pagoda on Mandalay Hill, where they paid respects and admired the landmarks.

In the evening, Chief Minister U Myo Aung hosted a dinner in honour of Mr Batu Khasikov and his delegation at the Mingala Mandalay Hotel. — MNA/TMT

Well Marked Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (19:00) hours MST on 11 December 2024



ACCORDING to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the Well Marked Low-Pressure Area over Southwest Bay of Bengal (off Sri Lanka Coast) still persists. It is likely to move west-northwestwards and may reach over Sri Lanka - Tamil Nadu Coasts, India, during next 12 hrs. — DMH

Earthquake News

(Issued at 10:50 hours MST)



A slight earthquake of magnitude (3.1) Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar ((20) miles northwest of Monghpyak), latitude 21.01 °N, longitude 99.65 °E, depth (38) kilometres, about (20) miles south-southeast of

Kengtung seismological observatory was recorded at (10) hr (26) min (20) sec MST on 11 December 2024. — DMH

Mount Popa welcomes foreign tourists this year

ACCORDING to locals, some foreign tourists have been visiting Mount Popa via Bagan with great interest.

Hundreds of travellers visited Mount Popa this year on festivals and religious days, and an influx of foreign tourists was among these visits.

“This year, there has been a significant increase in the number of tourists to Mount Popa. Some travellers spent the night while hiking and some went on a day trip from Bagan. A lot of people who come to Bagan also visit Popa. Among them, we also see foreigners.

When they visit Bagan, they come to Popa,” said a Popa resident.

There were five or six foreign tourists on some days for day trips, and locals were happy to welcome foreign tourists.

“This year, we saw as many as four, five or six foreign tourists on some days. We didn’t see many tourists in the past years. We are happy to see such visitors. It would be great if more people became aware of Popa through them,” he continued.

Trips to Mount Popa include tours of students from

international schools, visits by young people fond of mountain climbing for overnight trips, day trips to Popa from Bagan pilgrims, and visits by some foreign tourists.

Mount Popa is located in the northernmost part of Myanmar’s central Yoma, on the Kyaukpadaung-Taungtha-Myingyan highway, about 11 miles northeast of Kyaukpadaung Township, NyaungU District, Mandalay Region. The Popa area has many peaks and hills, surrounded by more than 30 mountains, of which the highest is 4,981 feet. — MT/ZN

Gold Market Rate as of 11 December 2024

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with a density of 19.25 and above is K5,380,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

SAC members award winners in different sports competitions

STATE Administration Council Members watched the final matches of the Inter-Ministerial and Inter-State and Regional sports competitions of the Fifth National Sports Festival at the relevant stadiums and gymnasiums in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the awarding ceremony for the Inter-Ministries golf tournament at the City Golf Course in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar Golf Federation Chairman U Ko Ko Aye presented awards to the hole-in-one prize winner from the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Then, Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister U Than Swe presented first, second and third prizes to the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Planning and Finance and Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in single events (hand-

icap). Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister U Win Shein presented first, second and third prizes to the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Transport and Communications and Ministry of Defence in single events (scratch).

Moreover, SAC Member General Nyo Saw awarded the first, second and third prizes to the winning teams: Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development in the team-wise handicap event. SAC Member Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae also gave first, second and third prizes to the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Planning and Finance and Ministry of Labour in the team-wise scratch event.

Similarly, the awarding ceremony for the Inter-State and



SAC Member General Nyo Saw presents the first prize to the Ministry of Defence's golf team for winning the team-wise handicap event.



SAC Member Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae hands over the first prize to the Ministry of Transport and Communications' golf team for winning the team-wise scratch event.

Region futsal tournament was held at the futsal court in Wunna Theikdi Stadium. At the event, Deputy Minister U Htein Lin presented awards to the third-place winning Ayeyawady Region team, while Union Minister Jeng Phang Naw Taung to second-prize winning Kachin State team and SAC member Daw Dwe Bu to first-prize winning Yangon Region team in women's futsal tournament.

For the men's futsal tour-

namment, Deputy Minister U Zin Min Htet awarded the first-prize-winning Taninthayi Region team, whereas Union Minister U Myint Naung to second-prize-winning Yangon Region team and Union Minister U Min Thein Zan to first-prize winning Shan State team.

The Inter-State and Region Judo final matches also took place at Stadium C of Wunna Theikdi Stadium on the same day. After the final matches, Kachin State Social Affairs Min-

ister U Moe Min Thein presented the first prize to the Yangon Region team, the second to the Sagaing Region and the third to Kachin and Kayin states in the Inter-State and Region Judo tournament. Deputy Minister U Zin Min Htet awarded first, second and third prizes to the Kachin State team, Mon State team, Rakhine State team and Nay Pyi Taw team in women's judo demonstration events.

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SAC members award winners in different ...

From page 3

Deputy Minister Dr Moe Zaw Tun presented first, second and third prizes to the Kachin State team, the Yangon Region team, the Ayeyawady Region team and Kayin State team in the men's 66-kilogramme judo event. Deputy Minister U Aye Kyaw also awarded the first, second and third prize-winning teams to the Yangon Region team, Kachin State team, Ayeyawady Region team and the Kayin State team in the men's 60-kilogramme judo event.

Union Minister U Min Thein Zan presented the first prize to the Shan State team, the second to the Ayeyawady Region team, and the third to the Nay Pyi Taw team and Kachin State team in the men's 73-kilogramme judo event, whereas Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win, the first prize to the Sagaing Region team, the second to the Kayin State team and the third to the Rakhine State team and the Yangon Region team in the men's 66-kilogramme judo event.

Union Minister and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo presented the first prize to the Kachin State team, the second to the Sagaing Region team and the third to Bago Region and Man-



DPM Union Minister U Win Shein, DPM Union Minister U Than Swe and Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn present the prizes to the winning teams during the awarding ceremonies at the Fifth National Sports Festival in Nay Pyi Taw.

dalay Region teams in women's 45-kilogramme judo event, SAC member U Yan Kyaw, the first prize to the Kachin State team, the second to the Ayeyawady Region team and the third to Mandalay Region and Yangon Region teams in the women's 48-kilogramme judo event.

For the women's 52-kilogramme judo event, SAC member U Shwe Kyein presented first, second and third prizes to the Ayeyawady Region team, Mon State team, the Chin State team and the Kachin State team, whereas SAC member Daw Dwe

Bu, presented the first prize to Sagaing Region team, the second to Kachin State team, and the third to Mandalay Region team and Shan State team in women's 57-kilogramme judo event.

The award ceremony of Inter-States and Regions Martial Art competitions took place at Shwe Kyar Pin ground.

Myanmar Taing Federation Chairman U Ye Myint awarded the first, second and third place winners from Yangon Region team, Sagaing Region team and Shan State team in joint-coach level men's singles.

Director-General U Tun Myint Oo of Sports and Physical Education Department also presented the first prize to the Sagaing Region team, the second to the Mandalay Region team and the third to the Yangon Region team in joint-coach level men's singles (knife).

Mon State Social Affairs Minister U Saw Kyi Naing also presented the first prize to the Shan State team, the second to the Yangon Region team and the third to the Taninthayi Region team in assistant coach level women's singles (two swords). Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Myint Soe awarded the first, second and third prize winners from the Shan State team, Yangon Region team and Magway Region team in assistant coach level women's single event (long stick or Bojutsu). Moreover, the athletes from the Yangon Region, Bago Region and Shan State teams were also awarded first, second and third prizes in company-head level men's singles (spear).

Deputy Minister U Min Thu presented first, second and third prizes to the Yangon Region team, Shan State team and Mandalay Region team in company-head level women's singles (spear), and another first, second and third prizes to the Mandalay Region team, Sagaing Region team and Mandalay Region team in joint-coach level women's singles (martial arts).

Moreover, Union Minister U Tun Ohn presented first, second and third prizes to the Yangon Region team, Kayin State team and Mandalay Region team in joint-coach level women's singles (knife), and the first, second and third prize winners from Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Shan State in men's and women's unarmed and dagger event were also awarded.

Union Minister U Myint Kyaing also awarded the prizes to the Yangon Region team, Shan State team and Sagaing Region team in men's and women's unarmed, dagger and sword events, and another first, second and third prizes to the Magway Region team, Shan State team and Yangon Region team in assistant-coach level men's two-sword singles.

SAC member Khun San Lwin presented the first prize to the Yangon Region team, the second to the Mon State team and the third to the Shan State team in assistant-coach level men's singles (long stick), and another first, second and third prizes to the Kachin State team, Ayeyawady Region team and Shan State team in men's and

women's unarmed, dagger, sword and long stick event.

Moreover, the award ceremony of Inter-States and Regions U-21 javelin was held in Wunna Theikdi Stadium, and Deputy Minister U Zin Min Htet gave first, second and third prizes to the Magway Region team and Shan State team in the women's shot put.

Deputy Minister U Min Min awarded first, second and third prizes winning the Ayeyawady Region team, Nay Pyi Taw team and Sagaing Region team in the women's triple jump event.

Union Minister U Min Thein Zan presented the first prize to the Mandalay Region team, the second to the Sagaing Region team and the third to the Yangon Region team in the men's shot put event, Union Minister U Nyan Tun, the first to Taninthayi Region team, the second and third to Bago Region team in women's 10,000-metre race, whereas Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, the first to Shan State team, the second to Yangon Region team and the third to Kachin State team in men's 10,000-metre race.

Myanmar Athletics Federation's Secretary U Kyaw Htoo Aung awarded the first, second and third prize winners of the Ayeyawady Region team, Kachin State team and Shan State team in the men's triple jump event, and another first, second and third prize winners of the Shan State team, the Bago Region team and the Taninthayi Region team in women's 400-metre race. — MNA/KTZH



A Myanmar Taing team seen at the Myanmar Taing competition.

NATIONAL

Focus on equitable development across all regions/ states: MoBA Union Minister

THE coordination meeting 2/2024 of the Implementation Committee on the Development of Border Regions and National Races was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Border Affairs yesterday afternoon.

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Implementation Committee on the Development of Border Regions and National Races, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries and officials from seven working subcommittees were present at the event, and state and regional government's security and border affairs ministers, and chairpersons from the state and regional working subcommittees participated online.

The Union minister highlighted the accelerated border development activities in line with the guidelines and policies



The coordination meeting 2/2024 of the Implementation Committee on the Development of Border Regions and National Races in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

set by the central committee, transport, education, health, agriculture, energy and electricity generation, human resource de-

velopment, and development of small, micro, and medium-sized industries, improvement of international cooperation, strenuous

efforts of working subcommittees and regional working committees and project implementation depending on allocated budgets.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung also mentioned that in carrying out border development activities, it is necessary to focus on ethnic unity and equitable development among all regions and states without gaps and today's meeting would verify and approve the activities to be carried out with the allocated funds in the 2025-2026 financial year.

Afterwards, meeting participants explained the activities of the current financial year, the projects to be carried out with the 2025-2026 financial year appropriation of funds, the reasons for the increase in funding, and the strengths and weaknesses encountered in executing the activities in each relevant sector. The Union minister coordinated the necessary measures before concluding the meeting. — MNA/TS

MoST Deputy Minister attends Tengchong Scientists Forum 2024



Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Zeya takes part in International Intellectual Property Innovative Cooperation Seminar in South and Southeast Asia in Tengchong, Yunnan Province, China on 7 December.

DEPUTY Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Zeya led the Myanmar delegation to participate in the second day's events of the Tengchong Sci-

tists Forum 2024 in Tengchong, Yunnan Province, China, on 7 December.

In the morning, local officials introduced the delegation

to Ginkgo Village, a notable site with over 1,300 years of history and ancient ginkgo trees, some over 1,100 years old. The village, home to around 4,000 residents,

integrates traditional craftsmanship with modern industrial techniques to produce food, household goods, and medicinal products.

During the afternoon, the International Intellectual Property Innovative Cooperation Seminar in South and Southeast Asia opened as part of the forum. Representatives from seven South and Southeast Asian nations attended. Deputy Minister Dr Aung Zeya highlighted the critical role of intellectual property protection in fostering innovation, research, and technological development. He detailed Myanmar's progress, including the establishment of IP-related laws since 1996, its 2001 membership in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Trade Organiza-

tion (WTO), and the enactment of the Patent Law in 2019.

Dr Aung Zeya emphasized the Ministry of Science and Technology's initiatives, including the Technology Transfer Centre to support Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and ongoing collaborations with international organizations to strengthen intellectual property frameworks. He invited investment in Myanmar's industrial and commercial sectors.

The seminar included keynote speeches and presentations by international and national leaders, such as the Director-General of Myanmar's Intellectual Property Department. Discussions concluded in the evening with a call for further cooperation among the participating countries. — MNA/KZL

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NATIONAL

Competitions heat up at 5th National Sports Festival

THE Fifth National Sports Festival competitions continued yesterday morning, with competitions taking place at designated sports fields and halls within the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

The Inter-State and Region U-21 Athletics competitions were held at Wunna Theikdi Stadium. In the men's javelin event, Zin Min Khin from Mandalay Region secured first place, Bo Bo Shain from Sagaing Region took second, and Htet Lin Oo from Yangon Region claimed third. In the women's javelin event, The Aei Htwe from Magway Region finished first, Win Ei Phyo from Magway secured second, and Than Dim Hkine from Chin State earned third.

In the Inter-State and Region Athletics Men's 10,000-metre race, Kyaw Min Aung from Shan State won first place, Myat Win Hlaing from Yangon Region took second, and Joe Sassy from Kachin State finished third. In the women's 10,000-meter race, Ei Ei Win from Tanintharyi Region took the top spot, May Myat Noe Zin

Pyae Phyo May from Sagaing Region took third.

In the Inter-State and Region Athletics Men's 400-metre hurdles, Myo Min Htun from Sagaing Region took first place, Nanda Kyaung from Mandalay Region earned second, and Rin Htun Soe from Tanintharyi Region came in third. In the women's 400-metre hurdles, Ei Thaw Tar Khine from Shan State finished first, Khine Phyo Lwin from Bago Region took second, and Nyo Nyo Thein from Tanintharyi Region claimed third.



Judoka from Ayeyawady Region and Shan State compete at their event.



Women boxers compete at the Inter-State and Region event.



Teams from Yangon contest during the Taekwondo men's team poomsae (right photo) and women's team poomsae (left photo) during the Inter-State and Region events at the Fifth National Sports Festival yesterday.



Men hurdlers (left photo) and women hurdlers (right photo) contend during the Inter-State and Region 400-metre hurdles at the Fifth National Sports Festival yesterday.

from Bago Region came second, and May Myat Noe Khin, also from Bago, secured third.

In the Inter-State and Region Athletics Men's triple jump, Hla Myo Naing from Ayeyawady Region won first place, Nay Zaw Lin from Kachin State took second, and Hein Htet Aung from Shan State came in third. In the women's triple jump, Ei Ei Phyo from Ayeyawady Region claimed first, Aye Aye Moe from Nay Pyi Taw finished second, and

In the Inter-State and Region Myanmar Thaing (MMA) competition at the Shwe Kyar Bin Sports Hall, the men's two-handed sword skill competition saw success for the first-place winner from Magway Region, the second-place finisher from Shan State, and the third-place winner from Yangon Region. In the men's longbow competition, Aung Khant Paing from Yangon Region took first, Kaung Myat San from Mon State earned sec-

ond, and Khant Si Thu from Shan State came in third. In the men's two-handed sword skill competition, Kyaw Win Hlaing from Magway Region secured first place, Khant Si Thu from Shan State took second, and Aung Khant Paing from Yangon Region won third. The individual long bow competition for men ended with Yangon Region's top finish, Mon State's second, and Shan State's third place.

In the Inter-State and Region Men's Volleyball semifi-

nals for athletes under the age of 20, held at Wunna Theikdi Stadium B, the Mandalay Region team defeated the Kayin State team 3-0, while the Shan State team also triumphed over Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory team 3-0.

In the Inter-State and Region Women's Volleyball competition, the Shan State team won 3-0 against the Kachin State team, and the Tanintharyi Region team defeated the Mandalay Region team 3-0.

In the Inter-State and Region Taekwondo competitions held at Wunna Theikdi Stadium Taekwondo Hall, in the men's sparring event, Phyo Han Kyaw from Yangon Region secured first place, Thant Sin Thu from Mon State took second, and Hein Yan Htun from Shan State and Myint Myat Shwe from Kayin State shared third place. In the women's sparring event, Win Theingi Htun from Yangon Region claimed first

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NATIONAL

Competitions heat up at 5th National Sports Festival

FROM PAGE 6

place, Thet Htar Thuza from Bago Region came second, and Naw April Phaw from Shan State and Phyu Sin Thu from Chin State shared third place.

In the mixed pair sparring competition, Sai Nay Zin Htun and Lin Let Kyar Phyu from Yangon Region took first place, Thant Sin Thu and Kyal Sin Thaw from Mon State secured second, and Hein Yan Htun and Naw April Phaw from Shan State, along with Saw Lu Ka Kyaw and May Yadana Aung from Mandalay Region, shared third place.

In the Inter-Ministerial Men's Volleyball competitions held at Wunna Theikdi Stadium, the Ministry of Health team defeated the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development team with a score of 3-1, while the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation team triumphed over the Ministry of Border Affairs team with a score of 3-1. The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs team won 3-0 against the Ministry of Immigration and Population team, while the Ministry of Home Affairs team defeated the Ministry of Education team 3-0. The Ministry of Planning and Finance team secured a 3-0 victory over the Ministry of Energy team, and the Ministry of Defence team triumphed 3-0 over the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement team. The Ministry of Construction team won 3-0 against the Ministry of Science and Technology team, and the Central Bank of Myanmar team defeated the Ministry of Elec-



A football match between the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.



A futsal game between the Ministry of Construction and the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.



The Inter-State and Region Sepak Takraw competition.



The Inter-State and Region long jump competition.

tric Power team 3-2.

In the Inter-Ministerial Women's Volleyball competition, the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development team won 3-0 against the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs team, while the Ministry of Commerce team defeated the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement team 3-0. The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs team secured a 3-0 victory over the Ministry of Agriculture, Live-

stock and Irrigation team.

In the Inter-Ministerial Football Group Stage competitions, held at various sports grounds, including the Golden Star Sports Ground, the Ministry of Defence team and the Ministry of Home Affairs team drew with a score of 2-2, while the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement team defeated the Ministry of Science and Technology team 2-1. The Ministry of Livestock

and Rural Development team won 4-1 against the Ministry of Health team.

The Inter-Ministerial Golf Tournament was held at the Capital Golf Course, where the individual (handicap) competition saw U Myo Lwin from the Ministry of Transport and Communications securing first place, U Kyaw Naing Oo from the Ministry of Planning and Finance finishing second, and U Hein Zeya from the Ministry

of Religious Affairs and Culture claiming third place.

In the individual (scratch) competition, U Thet Htut Oo from the Ministry of Defence took first place, U Chan Nyein from the Ministry of Transport and Communications came second, and U Yan Naing Aye from the Ministry of Defence secured third place.

In the team (handicap) competition, the Ministry of Defence team won first place, the Ministry of Home Affairs team came second, and the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development team finished third. In the team (scratch) competition, the Ministry of Transport and Communications team claimed first place, the Ministry of Planning and Finance team took second, and the Ministry of Labour team finished third.

The hole-in-one prize was awarded to U Myo Lwin from the Ministry of Transport and Communications, who achieved the hole-in-one at hole 12. — MNA/KZL



Players battle during the men's Taekwondo 68-74-kilogramme fixture (left photo) and the women's 51-56-kilogramme fixture (right photo) during the Inter-State and Region events at the Fifth National Sports Festival yesterday.

OPINION

Improve universal health coverage nationwide

INTERNATIONAL Universal Health Coverage Day, observed annually on 12 December, aims to raise awareness about the importance of strong and resilient health systems and universal health coverage (UHC). Advocates use this day to amplify the voices of millions still waiting for access to essential health services, urging leaders to make smarter, more substantial investments in health. It also encourages diverse stakeholders to commit to advancing UHC, with the ultimate goal of achieving it globally by 2030.

Universal health coverage (UHC) aims to ensure that all people globally have access to quality, affordable healthcare. In fact, the United Nations designated 12 December as International Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC Day). Since then, this day has been observed to promote access to healthcare services in countries worldwide.

Hospitals at various levels and rural health centres must be equipped with essential medicines and medical equipment to ensure they are always ready to provide healthcare services. Moreover, human resources for health, including physicians, nurses, medical doctors, and medical technologists, must be deployed. Reducing gaps in health coverage will undoubtedly promote a healthier lifestyle for the community. Consequently, the community will surely turn out healthy and fit people in coming generations.

human right to health, political leaders have to make the right choices, the rational economic, financial and social choices of universal health coverage.

Governments around the world are responsible for managing healthcare services for their populations by creating opportunities and incentives to attract private healthcare organizations, ensuring proper healthcare facilities. Universal health coverage processes can only be achieved when government-run health organizations collaborate with private healthcare businesses.

Hospitals at various levels and rural health centres must be equipped with essential medicines and medical equipment to ensure they are always ready to provide healthcare services. Moreover, human resources for health, including physicians, nurses, medical doctors, and medical technologists, must be deployed. Reducing gaps in health coverage will undoubtedly promote a healthier lifestyle for the community. Consequently, the community will surely turn out healthy and fit people in coming generations.

The COVID-19 pandemic has again shown us that UHC and health security are intertwined goals to protect everyone, everywhere, that we achieve through the same health system – in crisis and calm. For health systems to work, they must work for everyone – no matter who they are, where they live, or how much money they have. Equitable health coverage puts women, children, adolescents, and the most vulnerable first because they face the most significant barriers to essential care.

The goal of universal health coverage (UHC) has become more attainable as the world has become richer, leading to greater access to health services and technologies, such as vaccines and antibiotics, and to the most dramatic decline in poverty ever achieved. To ensure that every person benefits from the

Connecting on the Universal Dance of Words

IDIOMS are important in everyday spoken language because they express ideas succinctly and reflect cultural nuances and creativity.

ဗာရာဏသီ ချဲ့
/ barrarnase hkyae



- **Traces back to Benares.**
- **If a small incident is exaggerated, it is said to be traced back to Benares.**

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

ဗာရာဏသီမြို့သည် ကာသီတိုင်း၏ မင်းနေပြည်တော်ဖြစ်သည်။ ဗုဒ္ဓခေတ်မတိုင်မီ ကာလက ရှိခဲ့သောမြို့အားဖြင့် - သုရုဒ္ဓနု, သုဒဿနု, ဗြဟ္မဝဋ္ဌနု, ပုပ္ဖဝတီ, မောလိနီ နှင့် ရမ္မနဂရ ဟူသော အမည်များဖြင့် တည်ရှိခဲ့ဖူးသည်။ ယင်းမြို့၏အကျယ်အဝန်းမှာ ၁၂ ယူဇနာ ရှိခဲ့သည်။ ဗာရာဏသီမြို့သည် ဂင်္ဂါမြစ်ဘေးတွင် တည်ရှိသည်။ ဗာရာဏသီမြို့အနီး ကူသီပတန မိဂဒါယ (ခေါ်) ဆာရိနတ်၌ ဗုဒ္ဓဘုရားရှင်က တရားစကြာ တရားဟောကြားခဲ့သဖြင့် အလေးပြုထိုက်သော မြင့်မြတ်သောမြို့၊ ဗုဒ္ဓဓမ္မ ပြန့်ပွားရာ မြတ်သောဆိပ်ကမ်း ဖြစ်ပေသည်။

ဗာရာဏသီမြို့သည် လက်မှပညာသိပ္ပံအတတ်၊ အသက်မွေးမှု၊ ကုန်ရောင်းကုန်ဝယ်အတတ်၊ နှုတ်မှပညာ၊ ဝိနာအတတ် စသည်၏လွန်စွာကြီးကျယ်သော ဗဟိုဌာနကြီးဖြစ်ခဲ့သည်။ ထိုမြို့မှ စန္ဒကူး၊ ကာသီတိုင်းဖြစ် ရောင်စုံအဝတ်၊ ပိုးထည်၊ ချည်ထည်များသည် လွန်စွာထင်ထင်ကျော်ကြားခဲ့ကုန်သည်။

Varanasi was once the kingdom of Kashi and has been known by various names in the pre-Buddhist era, including Surudhana, Sudasana, Brahmavadhana, Pappavati, Molini, and Ramnagara. The city's area spanned 12 yojanas. Yojana is an ancient Indian unit of measurement thought to represent the distance a royal army could march in a day, approximately seven kilometres. Located along the banks of the Ganges River, Varanasi holds great significance in Buddhist history, as it was here that Lord Buddha delivered his teachings at Isipatana Migadaya, also known as Sarnath. Sarnath, located near the city, is home to the Deer Park. Varanasi remains an important city where Buddhism spread and continues to be a centre of spiritual significance.

Varanasi is also known for its crafts. People made a living by trading goods and practising oratory skills. It was a major centre for mysticism. The city was famous for its colourful and fine fabrics, including silk and cotton, especially its beautiful textiles.

Traces back to Benares

Many Myanmar folk tales begin by referencing Benares, much like the Jataka tales in Buddhism, which also often start there. Benares plays a prominent role in the Jataka tales because many of their events occurred there. As a result, when a small incident is exaggerated or made to seem more significant than it really is, people say that it “traces back to Benares”. This Myanmar idiom implies that the incident is being blown out of proportion or is far-fetched.

This idiom originates from the tradition of Myanmar folk tales and is tied to the Jataka tales in Buddhism, where Benares is a central location. Benares, an ancient city in India, is often mentioned in these stories as the place where important events took place.

This idiom conveys the idea of embellishing or distorting reality to make something seem more significant than it actually is, often with a sense of irony.

USAGES:

- 1. Making a mountain out of a molehill**
Definition: To exaggerate a small issue into something much bigger.
Example: She made a mountain out of a molehill when she said missing the meeting was the end of the world.
- 2. Blowing things out of proportion**
Definition: To exaggerate the importance of something.
Example: His complaint about the coffee was blown out of proportion, considering how minor the issue was.
- 3. Making a fuss over nothing**
Definition: To react with unnecessary emotion or attention to something trivial.
Example: Stop making a fuss over nothing; it's just a small mistake!
- 4. Turning a small thing into a big deal**
Definition: To exaggerate the importance of a minor issue.
Example: She turned the delay into a big deal, even though it was only five minutes.
- 5. Cry over spilled milk**
Definition: To make a big issue over something that cannot be undone.
Example: It's no use crying over spilt milk; the report is late, but let's fix it.
- 6. Making a big deal out of nothing**
Definition: To treat something insignificant as if it were important.
Example: You're making a big deal out of nothing. It was just a simple mistake.
- 7. Turning a minor problem into a catastrophe**
Definition: To blow a small issue out of proportion.
Example: Stop turning every little inconvenience into a catastrophe. It's really not that serious.

နဖူးစာ
/ na.hpu:ca /



- **Literal meaning:** “forehead writing”
- **Figurative meaning:** Destiny, fate, or predestination, especially in relation to romantic relationships.

BY AUGUSTIN

• **If fate brings two people together, distance cannot keep them apart.**

- မိန်းမနှင့်ယောက်ျားပေါင်းသင်းရအောင် ဖန်တီးပေးသောကံ။ ရှေးရေစက်။ ရှေးကံ နဖူးစာက နှိုးဆော်စေစပ်ပါမူကား.....
- နဖူးစာ ရွာလည်
- ဖူးစာဖက်မှန်လျှင် မည်မျှပင် ရေမြေဒေသ ကွာဝေးခြားနားပါစေ တွေ့ဆုံပေါင်းဖက်ရပြန် ဖြစ်သည်။
- အချစ်နတ်ဘုရား သို့မဟုတ် မြားနတ်မောင် သို့မဟုတ် ကံကြမ္မာက ကြိုတင် စီစဉ်ပေးထားသည်ဟူသော ယုံကြည်ချက်ကို ရည်ညွှန်းသည်။ မြားနတ်မောင် (Cupid) သည် ရောမနတ်ဘုရားဖြစ်ပြီး လူများကို မြားပစ်သည့် ထွားကြိုင်းသော အတောင်ပံရှိ ကလေးလေးအဖြစ် မကြာခဏ ပုံဖော်လေ့ရှိသည်။

The letters on the forehead

The Myanmar idiom “the letters on the forehead” refers to the belief that two individuals are destined to be lifelong partners. In this context, when a man and a woman marry, it is said that their union has been arranged by the God of Love or Cupid, who is thought to inscribe their fate on their foreheads at the time of their birth. This figurative phrase symbolizes the notion that some relationships are predestined and that these two individuals are meant to be life partners.

The idiom “the letters on the forehead” conveys the idea that love and marriage are often fated or destined, a belief rooted in the concept that certain individuals are meant to be together.

USAGES:

- 1. “Written in the stars”**
Definition: The belief that a relationship or event is predestined or meant to happen, as though it was written by a higher power or fate.
Example: “It feels like our love was written in the stars; we’ve been together forever.”
- 2. “Meant to be”**
Definition: The idea that two people are destined to be together, regardless of circumstances.
Example: “We met by chance, but I believe we were meant to be together.”
- 3. “Soulmate”**
Definition: A person who is perfectly suited to another, often believed to be predestined or fated.
Example: “I truly believe she’s my soulmate – we just understand each other completely.”
- 4. “Destined for each other”**
Definition: A belief that two people are fated to be together as if it was always meant to happen.
Example: “Despite all the challenges, they are destined for each other.”
- 5. “A match made in heaven”**
Definition: A perfect and destined relationship, often used to describe a couple that seems ideally suited for each other.
Example: “They’ve been through so much together, and yet they are a match made in heaven.”
- 6. “Fate brought us together”**
Definition: The belief that a relationship is not just a matter of chance, but rather something that was meant to happen by fate.
Example: “I never expected to meet her, but fate brought us together.”
- 7. “The one”**
Definition: The person who is believed to be the perfect partner for someone, often thought of as a predestined match.

Example: “I knew from the first time I saw him that he was the one.”

နို့သက်ခံ
/nou. dhe’ khan/



နို့စို့ကလေး နို့စို့ရာတွင် အားစိုက်မစို့ဘဲ မိခင်နို့သက်သည်ကို စောင့်၍ သောက်သည်။ အချို့ကလေးသည် နို့သက်ခံ စို့တတ်သည်။

To swallow the drops of milk oozing out

This Myanmar idiom refers to a child who, instead of making an effort to suckle from their mother’s breast, simply waits for the milk to drip freely and then swallows it without any active effort. The phrase is used to describe someone who seeks to gain benefits or rewards without putting in the necessary effort or hard work. Just as a baby might wait for the milk to flow out effortlessly rather than suck for it, this idiom suggests a person who passively takes advantage of an opportunity without exerting the necessary diligence or energy.

The idiom “To swallow the drops of milk oozing out” reflects the idea of someone seeking rewards or benefits without putting in the required effort or hard work. It conveys the message that effort is essential to achieving success and that passive or effortless actions are generally seen as less admirable.

USAGES:

- 1. “Take the easy way out”**
Definition: To choose a solution that requires the least effort or commitment.
Example: He always takes the easy way out instead of facing the tough decisions head-on.
- 2. “Sit back and relax”**
Definition: To refrain from active involvement or effort, allowing things to happen without personal contribution.
Example: He prefers to sit back and relax while others do the hard work.
- 3. “Let someone else do the heavy lifting”**
Definition: To avoid doing the hard work and leave it to others.
Example: She always expects her teammates to do the heavy lifting during the project.
- 4. “Rest on your laurels”**
Definition: To rely on past achievements and avoid putting in more effort.
Example: After winning the championship, he rested on his laurels and didn’t improve his skills.
- 5. “Coast along”**
Definition: To proceed without making a lot of effort or facing challenges.
Example: He coasted along in the company, doing the bare minimum to get by.
- 6. “Get something on a silver platter”**
Definition: To receive something with little or no effort, often implying it is undeserved.
Example: She got the promotion on a silver platter because of her connections, not her work.

NATIONAL

Thailand's demand for mantis shrimp surges

MANTIS shrimps are being exported to Thailand through Yangon and demand is on the rise at present.

Exports of live mantis shrimp, spiny lobsters, and dead hilsa fish are being conducted through Yangon to Thailand.

"At present, mantis shrimp is a major export item and next is spiny lobster and hilsa fish, they are being exported to Thailand by air. Thailand's demand for these three items is pretty good now. They order premium-quality hilsa fish which weighs a viss and above per one and we can fetch nearly K250,000 a viss," said an official from Shwepuzun Myeik-produced kinds of seafood retail and wholesale distribution.

According to a Yangon-based trader, mantis shrimp have high consumption in Thailand, and traders

have expressed interest in exporting.

"Many traders are interested in exporting fishery products. Myanmar is rich in marine resources and my friends have also expressed interest in it," he said. — Thit Taw/ZS



This image reveals an export mantis shrimp.

2-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K937M

SUPERVISED by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, action is being taken under the law against illicit trading across the nation.

During inspections on 9 December, the combined on-duty Customs teams impounded industrial materials and consumer goods (worth K734.82 million) without official documents at the Myanmar Industrial Port, a motorbike (worth approximately K900,000) carrying 12 gallons of smuggled crude oil (valued at K42,000) in Minbu Township and an unregistered New Anbo125 (worth approximately K250,000) in Magway Township. The action was taken under the Public Property Protection Law, the Export-Import Law, and Customs procedures.

Similarly, on 10 December, the combined teams nabbed a Toyota HiAce (worth ap-



Photos show confiscated items from different states and regions.

proximately K30 million) carrying foodstuffs (valued at K9.56 million) without official documents at the Zathapyin combined checkpoint, three unregistered vehicles (valued at K113 million) at the Yadanabon bridge combined checkpoint, 2.824 tonnes of illegal teak, 1.433 tonnes of illegal hardwood and 0.716 tonne of other wood (valued at K3.55 million) in Bago, Nyaunglebin, Toungoo and Pyay Districts

and two Pickups (estimated value of K40 million) carrying eight barrels of illegal petrol at the Yadanabon bridge (Mandalay) checkpoint. The action was conducted under the Export-Import Law, the Forest Law, and Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 25 arrests on 9 and 10 December, confiscating illegal goods worth K937.73 million. — MNA/MKKS

Two tonnes of restricted caffeine seized in Ywangan

AROUND two tonnes of illegal caffeine, which was intended to be transported to Shan State (North), were seized in Ywangan Township, according to reports from the Myanmar Police Force.

Following a tip-off, a combined team, including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force, stopped two 12-wheel vehicles driven by Than Hteik Aung and Kyaw Win near Myogyi village in Ywangan Town-

ship at 5 pm on 3 December. During the search, they discovered two tonnes of prohibited caffeine hidden beneath cow dung.

During questioning, the drivers revealed the involvement of Nay Aung in the drug transportation. Police then arrested Aike Soe Pauk (aka) Sai Htun Htun and Yin Aung Thu, who were travelling in a Ford Ranger near Myogyit village in Ywangan Township. A Toyota

Land Cruiser registered to Yin Aung Thu, was also confiscated at his house in Chanmyathazi Township.

Additionally, on 6 December, further arrests were made in connection with the drug operation. Aung Soe Lin (aka) Aung Aung was detained in Amarapura Township, Sai Thiha Nge (aka) Thiha or Mauk Song in Patheingyi Township, Sai Nay Min Htun, together with a Parado used in carrying bags of caffeine, in Aungmyaythazan Township, and Chit Sein, owner of a godown used for storing caffeine in Mahaangmyay Township.

Offenders admitted that the caffeine was to be transported from Mandalay Region to Shan State, under the supervision of Yon Kaw in Muse Township. Legal action has been initiated against offenders, and investigations are ongoing to apprehend additional individuals involved in the case. — MNA/MKKS



Offenders are seen alongside seized caffeine and vehicles.

Counter-argument to false information

Subversive media spreads false claims of aerial bombardment in Hakha

SUBVERSIVE media outlets spread false claims that Khun-kyon village in Hakha Township, Chin State, was attacked by aerial bombardment, resulting in the deaths of four people, including children, and injuries to nine others.

According to security officials, when reports indicated that terrorists were hiding in the area, security forces carried out aerial surveillance to assess the situation. This included determining whether terrorists were present and whether locals were still in the area. Following this, appropriate action was taken. Terrorists used heavy weapons and small arms and dropped bombs on the villages to disrupt peace and security, killing and injuring innocent civilians. Ma-



Screenshot of Tachileik News Agency validates misinformation.

licious media outlets use social media to circulate false information, attempting to cover up terrorists' actions and distorting public perception of Tatmadaw. — MNA/TKO

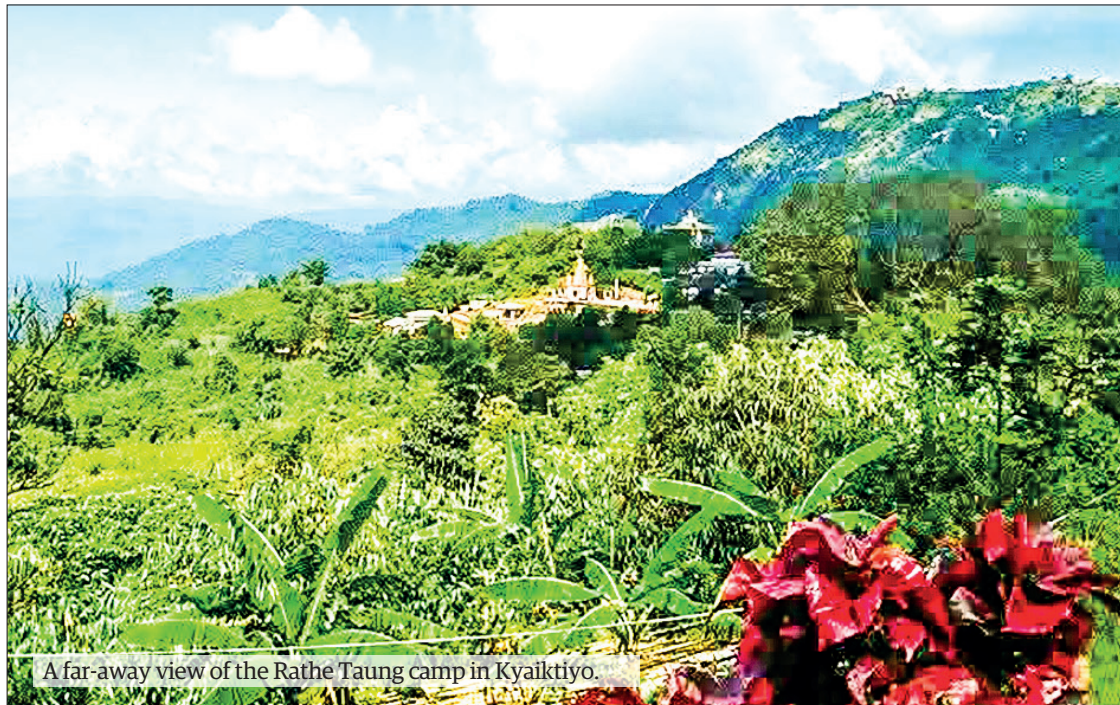
NATIONAL

Kyaiktiyo's six hills see increased pilgrimage this year

ACCORDING to locals, numerous pilgrims have visited six hills in Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Mon State.

The number of pilgrims visiting Kyaiktiyo has increased since the dry season, with significantly higher numbers at the historic six hills – Rathe Hill, Myasein Hill, Sun Hill, Sinkyan Hill, Weikza Hill, Sama Hill, and Sama Fall – this year.

“This year, many pilgrims went to the six hills, which they could only see by binoculars from the pagoda platform. There are many pilgrims to the Kyaiktiyo area. Some visitors didn't even get guest rooms to stay during long Thadingyut holidays,” said a local.



A far-away view of the Rathe Taung camp in Kyaiktiyo.

During public holidays and festival periods, pilgrims from all over the country, including Yangon Region, thronged to Kyaiktiyo and there is currently a large influx of pilgrims. In addition, some companies have started making travel plans with domestic tourists preparing and packing to go on pilgrimages and leisure trips for the coming New Year period.

Major destinations of this year enjoyed by domestic tourists include Shan State, Taunggyi, Inlay, Kalaw, Bagan, Popa, Chaungtha, Ngwehsaung, Ngwetaung beaches in Ayeyawady, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Inwa, Bago, and Kyaiktiyo. — MT/ZN

CHID Bank launches construction/housing loans to boost sector growth

THE Construction, Housing, and Infrastructure Development (CHID) Bank has announced that construction business owners and contractors can now access construction loans to support their operational needs.

Additionally, CHID Bank offers housing loans for individuals interested in purchasing houses or apartments from housing projects currently being developed under the management of the Ministry of Construction.

“We aim to promote the growth and development of the construction and housing sectors, thereby contributing to an improved quality of life,” stated a CHID Bank representative.

To apply for a construction loan, applicants must submit the following: a loan application form, a copy of their Citizenship Scrutiny Card (CSC), a copy of their household certificate, two passport-sized photographs, audited financial statements, a management financial report, a cash flow statement, tax clearance records for the past three years, map records (Form 105 or 106) issued within the last six months, documents related to their business or company, photographs of collateral items, and other supporting documents.

The CHID Bank operates 16 branches across Myanmar, including its headquarters in Yangon, offering a variety of banking services to customers nationwide. — ASH/TMT



Myanmar Cultural Heritage Trust hosts 8 Ata Thingyan festivals since establishment

SINCE the onset of the Myanmar Cultural Heritage Trust, it has managed to conduct the Ata Thingyan Festival eight times in cooperation with its partner civil society organizations, according to Chairperson Daw Sanda Khin of the trust.

Students and individuals who should attend were invited to study these festival events.

“Thingyan festivals have been held in a community-based manner. Our teams in

the whole country held in their respective region, state, township, ward, street and group. In local events, foreigners joined in and celebrated with great joy, and we heard that even Myanmar people abroad didn't forget to hold this festival. All the citizens in that foreign country were interested. That's why this heritage is deservedly recognized as the first intangible cultural heritage,” she said at the press conference at the Sein Lan Soe Pyay Garden in

Kamayut Township at noon on 10 December.

“In addition, the fact that our Thingyan is full of essence and unique is undeniable, so UNESCO accepted the nomination. Other factors that all Myanmar people take proud value in it and all the people regardless of age, sex and ethnicity participate in Thingyan are very powerful conditions for being recognized as a world heritage,” she elaborated. — MT/ZN



This photo showcases Daw Sanda Khin speaking at the press conference.

NATIONAL BUSINESS



Export rice bags being loaded onto the overseas merchant vessel at Yangon Port.

CAD announces reasonable rice market prices for Dec

THE Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce stated that reasonable market prices of rice for December have been announced, and non-compliance with that is subject to legal action.

The Ministry of Commerce issued reasonable prices for all varieties such as non-premium rice (Aemahta, Ngasein, Sinthukha, Ngasein Yakyaw, Kayinma, Yadanatone, Tunpu, GW-11, 747, Theepu, Shweman, and Nankauk among others), locally consumed and export-designated rice groups (Zeeya, Ngwetoe, Shweman, Shwethwe, Hmawby-2 and Hmawby-3, 90-day short matured rice, and Manawthukha among others),

moderate quality rice produced from Ayeyawady, Bago and Yangon regions (Magyanta, Ayeyamin, Ayeyapadetha rice varieties), high-quality rice from Mandalay, Magway, Sagaing, Nay Pyi Taw and upper Myanmar regions, and premium Pawsan rice (Ayeyawady Pawsan, Shwebo Pawsan). The retailers are not allowed to make profits more than eight per cent of the set reasonable market prices, the ministry announced.

The ministry determined reasonable market prices by considering the following factors; fair profit for the farmers, millers and distributors, reasonable prices for consumers, last year's market price, global market prices and other com-

modities prices. There are separate prices for modern trade with consumer packaging at mini-marts and supermarkets.

If individuals have difficulty buying rice, they are urged to contact the Myanmar Rice Federation. The buyers can complain about overpricing to the Consumer Affairs Department and MRF.

MRF warned that overpricing, sales with inaccurate measurement and quality and non-compliance with directives are subjected to fines, taxation and prosecution under section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law. Thus, rice millers, rice shops, traders and merchants are encouraged to strictly adhere to the rules. — NN/KK

MGMA to provide Supervisor-Level Industrial Engineering (IE) course

MYANMAR Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) will conduct a Supervisor-Level Industrial Engineering (IE) course (Batch 83) from 16 to 27 December at Myanmar Garment Human Resources Development Training Centre (MGHRDC).

Experts will share the economic climate of global garment businesses, the importance of line balance, administrator roles, designs, production analysis, operation rate and practical knowledge about clothing materials.

Those who want to attend the training can enrol through

contact numbers 09 940858350, 09 450723262, 09 9403912570, 09 784085794 and 09 952802635.

MGMA is offering the Basic Sewing Machine Operator Training Course (Batch 247) from 9 to 27 December at MGHRDC.

The course will provide practical and technical approaches to sewing machines, different sewing methods, labour laws and practices.

This training will also help those hunting jobs from regions outside Yangon connect with the garment factories to create job opportunities. — NN/KK

CBM to sell US\$35M, 40M baht to importers

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 10 December that it would sell US\$35 million and 40 million baht through the foreign exchange trading platform.

CBM sold about 900,000 yuan on 10 December, \$15 million, over one million yuan and 200 million baht on 6 December, over 1.55 million yuan on 5 December after sales of 1.48 million yuan on 4 December and 1.43 million yuan on 3 December.

Furthermore, CBM injected \$38 million, 1.48 million yuan and 107.46 million baht online foreign exchange trading platforms on 2 December. CBM sold 16.54 million baht and announced the sale of 10 million yuan to importers on 29 November. CBM sold over \$59

million, over 280 million baht and 8.78 million yuan in November.

CBM injected over \$91 million, over 9.8 million yuan and over 610 million baht into the financial market in October 2024.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and the currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been joining hands with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

BRIC attracts US\$2.28M FDI in early Dec

THE Bago Region Investment Committee (BRIC) drew US\$2.28 million in investments in early December, according to its sixth meeting held on 9 December 2024.

BRIC gave the green light to one joint venture with a capital of \$0.586 million and two foreign enterprises with capital expansion of \$1.69 million, creating 140 jobs.

Between 1 February 2021

and December 2024, \$201.802 million and K106.84 billion flowed into the region, creating 12,857 jobs for locals.

Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win gave a remark at the meeting that agriculture and livestock businesses are the backbone of the region and value-adding processing factories and warehouses designated for exports will be prioritized. The region will invite foreign

investors to spur investments into manufacturing working on a Cutting, Making, and Packing basis, feedstuff processing, agricultural input production, power generation and solar businesses.

He also instructed officials concerned to monitor approved factories and enterprises if they run the businesses within the set timeframe and to collect revenue from businesses. Then, he also urged to enhance the

job-creating tourism service industry and other investment sectors.

The director of the Bago Region Investment and Company Administration Department also explained matters regarding an increase in capital and labour force and two domestic electric vehicle assembling businesses.

Additionally, U Tin Oo, regional minister for Economic Affairs addressed ensuring

accurate investment data and statistics and carrying out on-ground inspections. The Bago Region chief minister also coordinated the related departments to facilitate the operations of the industries in line with existing laws, rules and regulations. BRIC endorses some enterprises in the region after social and environmental impact assessments in line with rules and regulations. — IPRD/KK

Jewar Airport nears completion, expected to commence in April 2025

The Jewar Airport's validation flight was successful, with construction nearing completion and plans for licencing soon to offer additional airport access.

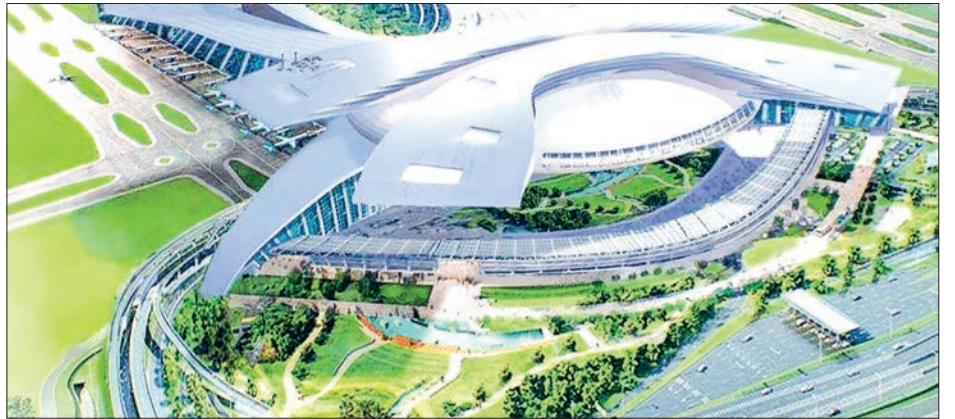
THE Jewar Airport project, a key infrastructure initiative aimed at bolstering connectivity in the National Capital Region (NCR) and western Uttar Pradesh, is on the cusp of completion and is expected to commence the operations in April 2025 said Union Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu on Wednesday.

He said, "Yesterday, Jewar Airport validation flight has happened. It went

through very successfully and all the construction is also coming very close to the end of it. And we are also looking to licence it as soon as possible so that the people of NCR, Delhi and western Uttar Pradesh can have the access to an additional airport other than the Indira Gandhi International Airport."

He added, "Because the city has grown and there is a lot of potential for

having another airport. So Jewar is a very strategic location. We see it becoming very, very viable. So initially, only they want to operate with 12 million capacity. So they are going very well and we are expecting it to start in April. With licensing processes underway, the airport is expected to commence operations by April 2024, initially catering to a capacity of 12 million passengers annually. — ANI



The Jewar Airport project, a key infrastructure initiative aimed at bolstering connectivity in the National Capital Region (NCR) and western Uttar Pradesh, is on the cusp of completion and is expected to commence the operations in April 2025. **PHOTO: YOUTUBE**

US courts block Kroger's \$25 bln supermarket mega-merger

TWO US courts ruled against supermarket giant Kroger's planned \$24.6 billion acquisition of rival chain Albertsons on Tuesday, dealing an existential threat to the merger in a win for the Federal Trade Commission, which had argued the deal would

harm consumers.

The first order implemented a temporary block after a three-week federal trial in Portland, Oregon, a significant blow to what would have been one of the largest retail grocery deals in US history.

"Plaintiffs are likely to succeed on the merits and the equities weigh in favor of an injunction," US District Judge Adrienne Watson wrote in a court filing confirming the preliminary injunction, which delays the deal but does not kill it. — AFP



Kroger, the supermarket giant which owns Food 4 Less among other grocery brands, was blocked by a US judge in its proposed merger with rival chain Albertsons. **PHOTO: AFP**

Boeing resumes 737 MAX production

BOEING said Tuesday that it has resumed production of the 737 MAX in Renton after a major strike left its factories in the Puget Sound region idle from September to

mid-November. The company expects to resume production of the 767 and 777/777X planes in Everett in the days ahead, Boeing said Tuesday in a monthly announcement detailing

orders and deliveries of its aircraft. As it recovered from the Machinists strike, Boeing delivered 13 planes, mostly from its inventory in November; the company said. — Xinhua

Marriage announcement

With love and joy,

May Thu

(Co-founder/Principal, Queen's English School)

Master of Development Studies (Yangon Institute of Economics), CELTA (Cambridge University) – daughter of Dr. Maung Maung Latt and Dr. Thin Wah Kyi, living at F-3, Chan Thar Shwe Pyi Housing, Ward 10, East Dagon Tsp, Yangon, and

Nyi Lynn Htet

BA Economics (University of Southern California), MSc East Asian Relations (University of Edinburgh), MArts Screen Arts (Curtin University) – son of U Win Naing and Dr. Aye Mar Oo, living at 23 Naturaliste Grove, Ballajura, Western Australia, 6066 Australia

are thrilled to announce their common-law marriage, which took place on November 15, 2024, in Bangkok, Thailand, in the presence of their beloved parents and siblings.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SOL PIONEER VOY.NO. (057N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SOL PIONEER VOY.NO. (057N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-12-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Syria calls for unity amid transition to new government

A spokesperson for the Department of Political Affairs in Damascus in Syria on Wednesday issued a statement urging unity in the country as it transitions away from the Assad government's administration of Syria, as per Al Jazeera.

The spokesperson said that Syria needed efforts of its people in the times to come.

"Syria needs the efforts of all its people in the coming period. The revolution has many cadres," the spokesperson said, as per Al Jazeera.

"We do not accept a divided Syria, and everyone must prepare themselves for the change that has



Mohammed Al Bashir will supervise the creation of a transition government for Syria. **PHOTO: AFP**

occurred. There will be no room for carrying weapons outside the state," Al Jazeera reported.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz affirmed his support for the people of Syria in a video address. "Today we stand alongside all Syrians who are full of hope for a free, just and safe Syria," he said in a post on X.

Mohammed al-Bashir was appointed Syria's new Interim Prime Minister on Tuesday, tasked with facilitating a political transition. Meanwhile, Israel conducted 480 strikes on Syrian military sites, including airports and infrastructure in Damascus — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

S Korean court issues arrest warrant for ex-defence minister

A South Korean court issued an arrest warrant for former Defence Minister Kim Yong-hyun, who allegedly proposed last week's martial law declaration to President Yoon Suk-yeol, for a treason charge, multiple media outlets said early Wednesday. The Seoul Central District Court granted the prosecution's request to arrest Kim, saying it was worried that he would destroy evidence.

Kim was charged with engaging in an important mission during the insurrection, triggered by Yoon's declaration of an emergency martial law on the night of 3 December that was rescinded by the National Assembly hours later. The former defense chief waived a court hearing to review the arrest warrant, in which prosecutors reportedly called Yoon a "ringleader" of the "rebellion". — Xinhua

Pakistan condemns Israel's illegal seizure of Syrian territory

PAKISTAN on Tuesday strongly condemned Israel's illegal seizure of Syrian territory, saying the assault on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria is a grave breach of international law.

Israel's actions are a dangerous development in an already volatile region, the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement, adding that these actions are a violation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions and international law. Pakistan expresses full support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria and rejects Israeli acquisition of territory by force, the statement said. — Xinhua

Biden calls Trump's tariff approach "a major mistake"

US President Joe Biden on Tuesday called President-elect Donald Trump's tariff approach "a major mistake".

"He seems determined to impose steep universal tariffs on all imported goods brought to this country on the mistaken belief that foreign countries will bear the cost of those tariffs rather than the American consumer," Biden said in a speech at the Washington, DC-based think tank Brookings Institution. "Who do you think pays for this? I believe this approach is a major mistake. I believe we have proven that approach is a mistake over the past four years," said Biden.

In the speech, the outgoing US president reflected on the economy he inherited from Trump and his administration's work following the COVID-19 pandemic. He also criticized Trump's economic plan, warn-



Trump has vowed to impose new import tariffs. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ing that it means "another tax cut for the very wealthy".

"(By) all accounts the incoming administration is determined to return the country to another round of trickle-down economics and another tax cut for the very wealthy that will not be paid for or, if paid for, is going to have a real cost," Biden said.

At a Wall Street Journal CEO Council event on Tuesday, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen also expressed concerns about Trump's proposal to impose widespread import tariffs, warning that it could hinder progress in reducing inflation and lead to higher costs for both consumers and businesses. — Xinhua



French and Chadian soldiers prepare to board a Chadian national army transport plane at Faya-Largeau airport in northern Chad in 2022. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

French forces begin withdrawal from Chad

FRANCE started the withdrawal of its troops from Chad on Tuesday, with some fighter jets taking off from a French base in the Chadian capital of N'Djamena, according to the Chadian army.

In a brief statement,

Chanane Issakha Acheikh, Chadian army spokesperson, said the public would be informed of each stage of the withdrawal until the final departure of all French forces.

Last month, Chad announced that it had ended

a security and defence cooperation agreement with France, stressing that it was time for Chad to assert its full sovereignty and redefine its strategic partners according to national priorities. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Myanmar wins bronze at Thailand's Princess Cup

MYANMAR equestrian Phyo Kyaw Myint Than secured a bronze medal at the Thailand Princess Cup — FEI SEA Cup — CSIJ-B Pattaya 2024, held in Pattaya, Thailand, from 7 to 10 December. The junior competition for participants aged 14 to 18 featured competitors from seven countries. Thailand won gold, Cambodia took silver, and Myanmar claimed bronze.



This photo showcases Myanmar equestrian Phyo Kyaw Myint Than with a bronze medal.

Phyo Kyaw Myint Than participated under the Myanmar Equestrian Federation, accompanied by coach Ma Ei Thet Mon. Myanmar Equestrian Federation President U Pyone Maung Maung also attended to support

the athlete and returned to Yangon yesterday evening.

They were warmly wel-



comed by the Principal of the Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon), U Aung Myo

Win, officials, members of the Myanmar Equestrian Federation, faculty members and students

from the Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon). — Arkar Linn/KZL

FIFA is set to confirm on Wednesday that Saudi Arabia will host the 2034 World Cup while a joint bid by Morocco, Spain and Portugal which also features matches in South America will be awarded the 2030 tournament. The awarding of hosting rights for both tournaments will go to a vote during

ing a rival.

As for 2034, FIFA invoked its principle of rotating its flagship tournament between continents, only welcoming bids from Asia or Oceania — the 2026 World Cup, the first involving 48 teams, will take place across North

America. Controversially, the body gave potential bidders barely a month last year to submit candidacies, and Australia and Indonesia quickly abandoned their interest.

That left Saudi Arabia as the sole candidate, clearing the way for the World Cup to



FIFA to confirm Saudi Arabia as 2034 World Cup hosts

FIFA president Gianni Infantino pictured at the draw for the Club World Cup last week — FIFA will confirm the hosts for the 2030 and 2034 World Cups on Wednesday. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

return to the Gulf region so soon after Qatar hosted in 2022.

The kingdom's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, has been using sport for some time to amass influence and improve its global image — critics though say he is effectively "sportswashing" by diverting attention from Saudi Arabia's rights record. — AFP

Japan organizers say 2026 Asian Games on track after reports

PREPARATIONS for the 2026 Asian Games in Japan are going "smoothly", its chairman said Wednesday, after reports the governing body told organisers to make significant improvements.

Japanese media said the Olympic Council of Asia is not happy with preparations

for the event in Nagoya and the wider Aichi Prefecture area and has accused organizers of not sticking to the host city contract. Aichi governor Hideaki Omura, who also serves as chairman of the local organizing committee, told reporters that preparations were on schedule. — AFP

ASEAN Cup Group B matches to be held today



This photo shows Myanmar's head coach Myo Hlaing Win (centre to the right) and midfielder Lwin Moe Aung (right) at the pre-match press conference. PHOTO: MFF

THE second day of the 2024 ASEAN Cup Group (B) will take place today with team Myanmar facing the Philippines in an away match. The match will be held at the Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila, Philippines, at 5 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

Later in the evening, Indonesia will play Laos at the Manahan Stadium in Surakarta, Indonesia, at 7:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

These matches are crucial for progressing to the next round. For Indonesia, who have won their previous match, the pressure is on to continue their winning streak at home. Meanwhile, both Myanmar and Laos, who have faced defeats, will aim to avoid any further mistakes and secure vital points. The Philippines, hosting their first match,

will also be striving to earn points against Myanmar, making for an exciting competition.

Before the match, Myanmar's head coach Myo Hlaing Win and midfielder Lwin Moe Aung attended a press briefing on 11 December. Coach Myo Hlaing Win emphasized the importance of this match following their first-game loss, stating, "This match is crucial for us to secure three points, and we respect the Philippines as a strong team.

Midfielder Lwin Moe Aung added, "We understand the situation we are in, and as a team, we are fully prepared and working hard to give our best performance tomorrow". The match is expected to be a thrilling contest between both teams as they fight for valuable points in the group stage. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



WORLD

LA NINA MAY IMPACT TEMPERATURES

Possible cooling
La Nina will
be 'weak',
'short-lived': UN

THE cooling weather phenomenon La Nina could appear in coming months, but if it does it will likely be too "weak and short-lived" to significantly impact soaring global temperatures, the UN said Wednesday.

There is currently a 55-per-cent likelihood of La Nina conditions emerging by the end of February, the United Nations' World Meteorological Organization said in its latest update.

There was a similar chance of the phenomenon developing between February and April, it added.

The WMO had earlier this year voiced hope the return of La Nina would help lower temperatures slightly after months of global heat records fuelled in part by La Nina's opposite number, the warming El Nino weather pattern, which gripped the planet for a year from June 2023.

But WMO chief Celeste Saulo warned in Wednesday's statement that a possible La Nina would have little impact following a 2024, which is on track to be the hottest year on record.

La Nina refers to a naturally occurring climate phenomenon that cools the ocean surface temperatures in large swathes of the tropical Pacific Ocean, coupled with winds, rains and changes in atmospheric pressure. — AFP

Stellantis, CATL to invest 4.1 bln euros for battery plant in Spain



Aerial photo taken on 24 June 2022 shows the headquarters of Contemporary Amperex Technology Co., Ltd (CATL) and its manufacturing base in Ningde, southeast China's Fujian Province. PHOTO: LIN SHANCHUAN/XINHUA/FILE

A Chinese company plans to start production by 2026 at Stellantis' Zaragoza, Spain site, with a potential 50 GWh capacity.

STELLANTIS and Chinese battery producer CATL on Tuesday announced an agreement to invest up to 4.1 billion euros (US\$4.31 billion) to form a joint venture for building a large-scale European lithium iron phosphate (LFP) battery plant in Spain.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez hailed the accord, saying he

is "very satisfied" about the announcement. Posting on social media, he expressed gratitude to Stellantis and CATL for their commitment to Spain and their strong support for the country "to give an impulse to a de-carbonized future".

Speaking to the press on Tuesday, Spanish government spokesperson Pi-

lar Alegria also praised the deal, highlighting the "investment, money and employment" it will generate.

According to CATL, the 50-50 joint venture is designed to be completely carbon neutral and will be implemented in several phases and investment plans.

"Targeted to start production by end of 2026 at Stellantis' Zaragoza, Spain site, the facility could reach up to 50 GWh capacity, subject to the evolution of the electrical market in Europe and continued support from authorities in Spain and the European Union," the Chinese company said in a press release posted on its website. — Xinhua



A village malaria worker fixes a mosquito warning sign at a village in Pailin province, some 350 kilometres northwest of the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh. PHOTO: TANG CHHIN SOTHY/AFP/FILE

WHO calls for continued efforts against malaria in Southeast Asia Region, amid progress

LAUDING progress being made against malaria in WHO Southeast Asia Region, the World Health Organization on Wednesday emphasized on continued concerted efforts by Member countries, focusing on the vulnerable population, to ensure equitable access to malaria prevention, diagnosis

and treatment, as per an official statement.

As per the World Malaria Report 2024, estimated malaria cases in the Region fell from 22.8 million in 2000 to four million in 2023 – a reduction of 82.4 per cent. The Region, home to a quarter of the world's population, accounted

for 1.5 per cent global malaria cases in 2023. Estimated malaria deaths in the Region fell by 82.9 per cent, from 35,000 in 2000 to 6,000 in 2023. More than 270 million malaria cases and 4,20,000 malaria deaths have been averted in the Region between 2000 and 2023, as per the statement. — ANI