

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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By Yin Nwe Ko

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China, Myanmar explore rural tourism development, collaboration



Myanmar receives UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List certificate in Asuncion, Paraguay.

UNESCO inscribes Myanmar Thingyan on ICH List

The nomination was officially approved on 5 December 2024 during the 19th Session of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee, held in Asunción, Paraguay, from 2 to 7 December.



Revellers with a decorated vehicle enjoying the traditional Myanmar Thingyan Festival in Mandalay.

AT the 19th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, held in Asunción, Paraguay, on 2-7 December 2024, Myanmar's Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture proposed the nomination file of "Myanmar's Traditional Ata Thingyan Festival" to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The decision was officially made to include it, marking the first time that Myanmar's "Traditional Ata Thingyan Festival" has been officially added to the world list of intangible cultural heritage.

SEE PAGE 2

NATIONAL

Promoting Forest Establishment: A Collaborative Effort to Reduce Disaster Risk and Combat Deforestation

- Establishing forests can help reduce disaster risk; therefore, forest plantations should be developed in relevant village-tracts. Officials must collaborate with the community to successfully establish forests nationwide.
- A united effort is needed to prevent deforestation and to promote stewardship with a national spirit.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the Union government meeting 4/2024 on 22 April 2024)

MoRAC acknowledges contributors to adding Myanmar's Thingyan Festival to UNESCO list

THE 19th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, held in Asunción, Paraguay, on 2-7 December, decided to add the Myanmar Traditional Ata Thingyan Festival, also known as the Myanmar Traditional New Year Water Festival, to UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture issued a press release on acknowledgement of active participation of the Myanmar cultural heritage preservation body, ethnic literature and culture groups from regions and states, Bagan heritage protection group, the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees, the Botahtaung Pagoda Board of Trustees, Bagan's Ananda Temple Board of Trustees, Myanmar Inter-Faith

Dialogue Group (Central), Botahtaung Township, Myanmar Music Association, Myanmar Theatrical Association, Myanmar Artists Association, Myanmar Sculptors Association, Withakha Foundation, TMW Enterprise Limited, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Network (Yangon), Myanmar Veda Research Group, Hninsigon Home for Aged Trusteeship Board (Bahan Township), Myanmar Restaurants Association, Myint Myat Thu Cetana Blood Donor Association, Bramaso Social Welfare Association and other associations, all contributors, the Ministry of Information and Living Myanmar Media Group which provided records on Thingyan festival and performed narration, the French Language Department of the Yangon University of Foreign Languages under the Ministry of Education

for necessary translation in submitting the nomination file, the Myanmar Ambassador to France and embassy staff giving information and technological data for the dossiers, officers and staff from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, entire people who have been preserving the Myanmar traditional Thingyan festival from the Bagan era to date, the organizations, persons and all contributors who were unintentionally omitted from the acknowledgement for adding Myanmar Traditional Ata Thingyan Festival to UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage as the first-ever identification on the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage. — Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture

Konbaung era's royal meals restored in original style

SEVERAL royal meals from the Konbaung era have been rediscovered and recreated to match their original recipes, according to Ko Htaketin Sithu Hein from Queen Pyinsi House.

Taking inspiration from the book titled Maha Satawun by author Win Htut Yan Naing (penname-Nga Kyan Thin), which describes the names of royal meals, and after conducting one-year research with the writer, he was able to identify more than 20 types of royal meals.

"The royal meals of Konbaung have long since disappeared. I would say that they were only eaten by royal family members. Ordinary people didn't eat them. That is why we carefully researched and rediscovered the lost cuisine so that other people could also



This image showcases the sample royal meals rediscovered in their original style.

eat them," he said after his appraisal work.

These meals include Montkyaleikkyaw, pork and eastern gooseberry dish, and fried shredded sheatfish that were consumed in the palaces during the Bagan and Nyaungyan eras.

"They were the meals of the Yadanabon and Konbaung era. Some of them such as freshwater lobster and fried pork were from the Bagan period," he said. — Thit Taw/ZN

UNESCO inscribes Myanmar Thingyan on ICH list

FROM PAGE 1

On 24 March 2023, a nomination file containing information related to Myanmar's Traditional Ata Thingyan Festival, communities' statements about Myanmar, and video recordings of the Thingyan celebrations and traditional practices were submitted to the UNESCO Committee of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The successful completion of the submission process was made possible by the support and cooperation of the government, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the Myanmar Cultural Heritage Preservation Committee and its chairman and members, NGOs from regions and states, ethnic communities, media and social media users, and the public who value Myanmar's cultural heritage, as well as relevant experts and organizations.

This achievement was the result of the enthusiastic collaboration of the local com-

munities.

The "Myanmar's Traditional Ata Thingyan Festival" has been included in the list of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This recognition highlights the ongoing efforts to preserve and pass down the traditions of "Myanmar's Traditional Ata Thingyan Festival" from the Bagan period to the present day.

With increased global awareness, it is expected to attract more international tourists, contribute to national development, and offer opportunities for the younger generations to inherit this cultural heritage.

It also aims to raise public awareness to help preserve and celebrate the Thingyan Festival in its traditional form. Furthermore, this recognition may lead to more opportunities and experiences for Myanmar to nominate other intangible cultural heritage elements for inclusion in the global list. — MNA/TTA

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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)

State Administration Council Members watched the para-sports events of the Fifth National Sports Festival and awarded the winners at Wunna Theikdi swimming pool and Lewe TC-2 Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

State Administration Council Members Dr Hmuh Thang and Dr Ba Shwe, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, Deputy Ministers, members of Myanmar Swimming Federation, coaches and athletes first watched the final matches of 50-metre freestyle and breaststroke para-swimming events (men and women).

After the matches, Deputy Minister U Htein Lin presented the first prize of the women's S6/10 50-metre event to Ayeyawady Region, the second prize to Yangon Region and the third prize to Bago Region, and Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi awarded first, second and third prize winners of men's S9/10 50-metre breaststroke event to Bago, Mandalay and Bago Regions.

Union Minister U Min Thein Zan then presented awards to the first prize-winning Bago Region, second prize and third prize-winning Yangon Region for men's S9/10 50-metre events.

SAC Member Dr Ba Shwe awarded the first, second and third prize-winning Ayeyawady, Bago and Mandalay regions in men's S6/7 50-metres freestyle and first, second and third prize-winning Bago, Ayeyawady

SAC members watch para-sports events, award winners



Para-sports athletes compete in para-volleyball (left) as SAC members observe yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

and Mandalay regions in men's S6/7 50-metre breaststroke.

SAC Member Dr Hmuh Thang also presented prizes to the first and second-prize-winning Yangon Region and third-prize-winning Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory in men's S4/5 50-metre freestyle events, and first, second and third prizes winning Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory in men's S4/5 50-metre breaststroke events.

SAC members Khun San Lwin, U Shwe Kyein and U Yan Kyaw, Union Ministers U Min Thein Zan and Jeng Phang Naw Taung, deputy ministers and officials watched the volleyball competition between Yangon Region team and Bago Region team at Lewe TC-2 stadium.

The awarding ceremony

of para-athletics was held at Lewe TC-2 stadium, and the SAC members, Union ministers, deputy ministers and relevant officials were present at the ceremony.

Deputy Minister U Zaw Aye Maung awarded the first, second and third prize winners from Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Bago and Mandalay regions in men's F64 shot put, and Deputy Minister U Win Pe awarded the first, second and third winners from Yangon and Mandalay regions in women's F54/55 discus events.

Union Minister Jeng Phang Naw Taung awarded the first, second and third prize winners from Ayeyawady region and Mon State in men's shot put F46, while Union Minister U Min Thein Zan

awarded the first and second prize winners from Union Territory Nay Pyi Taw and Bago Region in men's high jump F42, and another first, second and third prize winners from Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Bago regions in men's 1,500 metres race T 46/47.

SAC Member U Yan Kyaw awarded the first, second and third prize winners from Ayeyawady region, Mon state and Yangon region in men's discus event F 56/57, and another first, second, and third prize winners from Mon state, Mandalay Region and Ayeyawady Region in men's 200 metres T64 race.

Moreover, SAC Member U Shwe Kyein presented prizes to first, second and third winners from Mon State, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory and Bago

Region in women's shot put F 44/62/63/64, and first, second and third prize winners from Ayeyawady Region, Mon State and Ayeyawady Region in women's 200 metres T44/64 racing events.

SAC Member Khun San Lwin gave prizes to first, second and third prize winners from Mandalay, Bago and Mon state in men's javelin F62/63, and another first, second and third prize winners from Bago and Mandalay regions in men's 200 metres T46/47 race.

The para-sports events of men's and women's athletics, men's and women's swimming competition, men's sitting volleyball event and men's and women's chess events will be on 6 and 8 December at the designated places. — MNA/KTZH

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NATIONAL

DPM MoPF Union Minister attends Thai National Day



Deputy Prime Minister MoPF Union Minister U Win Shein poses for the documentary group photo alongside the Thai ambassador and attendees at yesterday's event.

THE ceremony to commemorate the birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Thailand's National Day and Thailand's Father's Day was held at 5:30 pm yesterday at the Thai Ambassador's residence at No 94, Pyay Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein and his wife were present on the occasion.

The ceremony first opened with the national anthems of Thailand and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Mongkol Visitstump, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar, delivered a speech.

Afterwards, the Deputy Prime Minister and his wife,

and the ambassador and his wife, had a group photo taken with those attending the ceremony.

Then, the guests watched the performances of the Thai cultural troupe.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister 2 for the SAC Chairman Office U Ko Ko Hlaing, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw, members of the State Administration Council's Central Advisory Body U Saw Htun Aung Myint, and Dr Banyar Aung Moe, Mayor of Yangon City U Bo Htay, diplomats, UN Resident Coordinators and invitees. — MNA/TS

MoIP Union Minister receives UNHCR Resident Representative

UNION Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing received Ms Noriko Takagi, Resident Representative of UNHCR to Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They exchanged views on effective measures for repatriation of refugees from Rakhine State in line with the framework of the tripartite MoU between the ministry and UNDP-UNHCR, the extension of the MoU, UNHCR's support to scrutinize documents regarding living in the country in repatriation processes, arrival visa permits for UNHCR foreigner staff per procedures, travel arrangement and accommodation of locally appointed staff and further cooperation between the ministry and UNDP-UNHCR in repatriation processes. Also present at the meeting were Deputy Ministers U Htay Hlaing and Dr Myo Thant, Permanent Secretary U Win Zaw Aung and relevant officials. — MNA/KTZH



The UNHCR Resident Representative calls on Union Minister U Myint Kyaing yesterday.

Indian Ambassador calls on DPM MoFA Union Minister



Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe receives Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur yesterday.

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Than Swe received Mr Abhay Thakur, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

They engaged in a cordial and constructive exchange of views on strengthening the traditional bonds of friendship between the two countries through the existing bilateral mechanisms across various sectors of common interest, advancing cooperation on regional and international matters of mutual interest. — MNA

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NATIONAL

NSPNC and registered political parties meet in Nay Pyi Taw

A meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and registered political parties was held yesterday morning at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Border Affairs and Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, along with members of the Committee, and representatives from 51 registered political parties, including chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, secretaries, and central executive committee members.

In his opening remarks, Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung emphasized the importance of understanding and accepting differences to implement a federal system compatible with Myanmar. He highlighted the need to resolve disputes through negotiation based on the spirit of the Union, eliminate regional racial and ideological bias, and promote nationalism. He also discussed the circumstances of meetings with political parties, proposed amendments to the 2008 Constitution, the status of the peace process based on the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), dissemination of the peace process in the public, and achieving stability



The meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and registered political parties underway yesterday.

ties, proposed amendments to the 2008 Constitution, the status of the peace process based on the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), dissemination of the peace process in the public, and achieving stability

and peace. Additionally, he addressed building a Union based on democracy and federalism and successfully holding a free and fair multiparty democratic general election.

NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen

Min Naing explained the meeting's objectives and agenda, the NSPNC's organization, mission, vision, and peace dialogue activities. He also discussed the role of NSPNC and political parties, strengthening political parties,

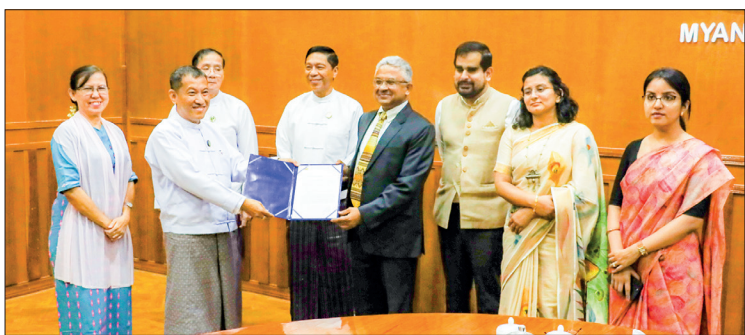
and enhancing the performance of party members.

In the first week of November, six political party representatives who visited India for a constitutional dialogue discussed the roles of the president and governors under the Indian constitution, federal reorganization, federal power sharing and tax sharing, regional experiences in constitutional law, local self-government, language, and living in harmony with differences within a modern country. Attendees asked questions and engaged in discussions.

NSPNC Member Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein (Retd) explained the points of consensus reached between the committee and the working group of political parties to amend the 2008 Constitution. Attendees asked questions and discussed these points.

The 15 political party representatives who attended had a cordial and open discussion on issues related to building a union based on democracy and federalism. The first day of the meeting was adjourned, and the second day will continue on 6 December. — MNA/TS

MSWRR Union Minister receives Indian Ambassador



Union Minister Dr Soe Win meets Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur in Nay Pyi Taw.

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win received Mr Abhay Thakur, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Both sides discussed the progress in project operations in Rakhine State under the MoU of the two countries.

The launching ceremony of two second-year projects implemented in Rakhine State was organized in a hybrid format, and Rakhine State Economic Minister U San Shwe Maung joined online.

The Union minister clari-

fied the India-aided development projects and appreciated the support of the Indian government in humanitarian assistance and scholarships to develop human resources, and the Indian Ambassador discussed the current situation of development projects. The deputy director-general of the Disaster Management Department reported on the condition of second-year projects and clarified the two projects – the construction of an incinerator at Public Hospital and the water distribution project. — MNA/KTZH

Union Health Minister visits Beijing's Fuwai Hospital for cardiovascular collaboration talks

ON 4 December, Union Minister for Health Professor Dr Thet Khaing Win, currently in China, led a delegation to visit Fuwai Hospital in Beijing, accompanied by officials from the Myanmar Embassy.

During the visit, officials from Fuwai Hospital provided an overview of their collaboration with the National Centre for Cardiovascular Diseases under the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China. They discussed the hospital's work in treating cardiovascular diseases, conducting research, and offering both short-term and long-term training programmes for international trainees. As one of the largest cardiology-specialized hospitals in the world, Fuwai Hospital also shared details of its ongoing cooperation with



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win touring Fuwai Hospital in Beijing, China.

Myanmar in the field of cardiovascular treatment. Both sides held discussions on further opportunities for medical training and treatment collaboration.

The Union Minister and his delegation also toured several key areas of the hospital, including the coronary care unit, catheterization laboratory, ambulatory surgery centre, global training centre for

cardiac intervention imaging, and the outpatient cardiology department.

Fuwai Hospital is a large facility with over 1,500 beds, 15 catheterization labs, and 36 cardiac surgery rooms. Each year, the hospital performs around 20,000 cardiac surgeries and 50,000 cardiac catheterization operations. — MNA/TMT

NATIONAL

National Sports Festival heats up with group matches and quarterfinals

THE Fifth National Sports Festival, including group stage and quarterfinal matches, continued yesterday morning at designated venues in Nay Pyi Taw. Various sports events, including badminton, cricket, basketball, volleyball, futsal and Sepak Takraw were held.

In the Inter-State and Region Men's Badminton matches at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex C, teams from Bago Region defeated Ayeyawady Region 3-1, Shan State beat Mon State 3-0, Kachin State outperformed Taninthayi Region 3-2, Sagaing Region triumphed over Kayin State 3-0, and Kayah State bested Magway Region 3-1. Similarly, Chin State defeated Nay Pyi Taw 3-0, Yangon Region overwhelmed Taninthayi Region 3-0, Ayeyawady Region outplayed Kayin State 3-1, Shan State defeated Kayah State 3-0, Mandalay Region won against Chin State 3-0, Bago Region overcame Sagaing Region 3-1, and Mon State triumphed over Magway Region 3-2.

In the women's Inter-State and Region Badminton matches, Sagaing Region defeated Kayin State 3-0, Ayeyawady Region outperformed Nay Pyi Taw 3-1, Mandalay Region triumphed

MIFER presents victory flag, financial support to athletes



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw presents the victory flag to the ministry's contingent for the fifth National Sports Festival yesterday.

A ceremony to present the victory flag and financial support to athletes representing the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations in the Fifth National

Sports Festival was held yesterday morning at the ministry's meeting hall.

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw, along with senior officials, team managers, coaches, and athletes, attended the event. During the ceremony, the Union minister encouraged the athletes to compete with full sportsmanship and determination, emphasizing that their achievements not only enhance the ministry's reputation but also contribute to the advancement of Myanmar's sports sector.

He then presented the victory flag and financial support to team leaders.

The ministry's team will compete in Sepak Takraw, athletics, and golf events in the sports festival. — MNA/KZL

over Kayin State 3-0, and Bago Region defeated Ayeyawady Region 3-0.

In the U-25 men's cricket tournament at Wunna Theikdi Shooting Range, Nay Pyi Taw defeated Ayeyawady Region by 8 wickets, Yangon Region beat Mon State by 48 runs, Mandalay Region outperformed Magway Region by 36 runs, Rakhine State smashed Kayin State by 21 runs. In the women's cricket matches, Kayin State defeated

Mandalay Region by 109 runs, Ayeyawady Region overcame Bago Region by 64 runs, Yangon Region trounced Nay Pyi Taw by 8 wickets, and Rakhine State beat Shan State by 4 wickets.

The Inter-State and Region U-23 Men's Basketball Tournament at Shwe Kyar Pin Indoor Stadium saw Nay Pyi Taw defeating Taninthayi Region 57-40, Mandalay Region winning against Sagaing Region 96-54, Kayin State outplaying

Ayeyawady Region 86-52, Shan State beating Mon State 92-43, and Yangon Region triumphing over Kayin State 75-65.

The Inter-State and Region U-20 Volleyball matches at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex B included Kachin State defeating Rakhine State 3-1, Shan State beating Ayeyawady Region 3-0, and Kayin State overcoming Bago Region 3-1. In the women's matches, Shan State triumphed over Mandalay Region 3-1, while

Kachin State defeated Taninthayi Region 3-2.

The Inter-State and Region Futsal matches at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex continued with Taninthayi Region defeating Kayin State 2-1, Ayeyawady Region winning against Rakhine State 1-0, Sagaing Region beating Mon State 5-1, Magway Region triumphing over Shan State 1-0, and Bago Region Team overcoming Nay Pyi Taw Union

SEE PAGE 7



Kachin versus Taninthayi in badminton.



Mon versus Yangon in cricket.



Men's footballers in action.



Mon versus Bago in Sepak Takraw.



Taninthayi versus Kachin in volleyball.



U-25 women's football match.

NATIONAL

National Sports Festival heats up with group matches and quarterfinals

MoL Union Minister meets athletes representing ministry



Union Minister U Myint Naung supports and encourages the ministry's contingent for the Fifth National Sports Festival.

UNION Minister for Labour U Myint Naung met athletes who will represent the ministry in the Fifth National Sports Festival 2024 during a gathering held yesterday morning at the ministry's main hall.

The deputy minister, the permanent secretary, departmental officials, team managers, and athletes joined the event. The Union Minister began by highlight-

ing the social objective "to elevate the health and sports sectors crucial for all the people, thus improving the nation's life expectancy and health." He encouraged the athletes to perform their best for the ministry during the competition.

Following this, the directors-general presented preparations for the respective sports disciplines. The Union minister and officials inspected sports equipment to be used by the ministry's athletes and encouraged.

Later, they observed the ministry's team practising for the opening and closing ceremonies of the festival.

The Ministry of Labour will participate in golf, futsal, Sepak Takraw and athletics events of the Fifth National Sports Festival. — MNA/KZL

saw the Kachin State team defeated Sagaing Region 3-0, while Taninthayi Region triumphed over Bago Region 3-1.

The Inter-State and Region U-25 women's football matches at Bawgawadi Sports Complex and Lewe Township Grounds featured a goalless draw between Ayeyawady Region and Kayah State, while Kayin State and Shan State shared a 2-2 result.

The Inter-Ministry men's football matches at Paunglaung Sports Complex, Shwe Kyar Pin Sports Complex, and Lewe TC-2 Grounds saw the Ministry of Border Affairs team defeated the Ministry of Home Affairs team 3-0. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Transport and Communications played to a 2-2 draw, while the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development team defeated the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement team 2-1.

Men's and women's doubles Sepak Takraw semifinals and finals will take place at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex A, while the regional and state boxing competitions will begin at the boxing arena on the morning of 6 December. Sports fans and the public are invited to attend and cheer on the athletes. — MNA/KZL

FROM PAGE 6

Territory Team 2-0. In the women's futsal matches, Ayeyawady Region and Mandalay Region drew 0-0, Sagaing Region and Rakhine State shared one goal each, Kachin State defeated Magway Region 2-0, Mon State beat Taninthayi Region 2-1, and Shan State triumphed over Bago Region 3-0.

The Inter-State and Region Sepak Takraw competitions at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex

A saw victories in the men's doubles as Magway Region defeated Bago Region 2-1, Mandalay Region beat Ayeyawady Region 2-0, Kayin State overcame Shan State 2-1, Yangon Region defeated Chin State 2-0, Mon State triumphed over Rakhine State 2-0, Taninthayi Region beat Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory Team 2-0, and Sagaing Region won against Kayah State 2-0.

In the Inter-State and Region Women's doubles Sepak

Takraw matches saw the Magway Region team defeat the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory Team 2-0, Mandalay Region triumph over Kayin State 2-1, Yangon Region secure a victory against Taninthayi Region 2-0, Bago Region overcome Mon State 2-1, and Shan State defeat Kachin State 2-0. In the men's doubles semifinals, the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory Team beat Bago Region 2-1, Kayin State triumphed over Kachin State 2-0, Manda-

lay Region defeated Taninthayi Region 2-0, and Sagaing Region overcame Yangon Region 2-0. In the women's doubles matches, Yangon Region defeated Shan State 2-0, Mon State triumphed over Magway Region 2-0, Bago Region beat Mandalay Region 2-0, and Rakhine State secured victory against Sagaing Region 2-0.

The Inter-State and Region U-21 men's football matches at Wunna Theikdi Training Ground



A glimpse of the high jump competition.



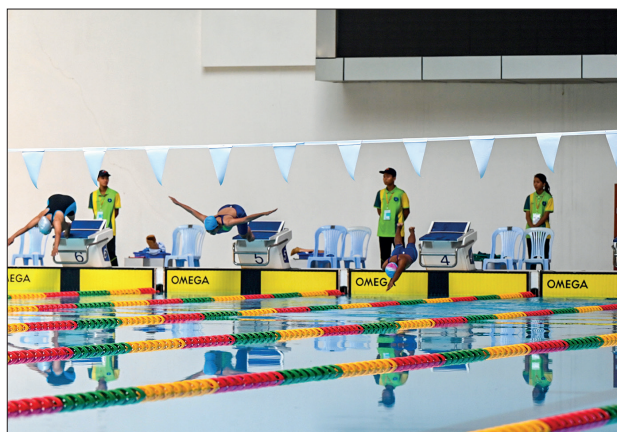
Para-sports athletes competing in para-volleyball.



Men's 200-metre sprint.



Ayeyawady versus Kayah in women's football.



Women's freestyle 50-metre swimming.



Inter-States & Regions football tournament.

OPINION

ARTICLE

Well organize the 2024 National Sports Festival

THE Fifth National Sports Festival 2024 will be a national-level sports activity on a grand scale from 9 to 20 December but some sports are in progress. Sports contingents from relevant teams representing ministries, regions and states have arrived in Nay Pyi Taw to continue their training with diligence and industriousness, holding the flags to ensure success.

Sports teams and athletes bound for the National Sports Festival have achieved success in sports competitions in regions and states as well as at ministries.

The fifth festival attracts the largest number of athletes due to the encouragement of relevant authorities and sports fans. Hence, arrangements have been made for sports fans at home and abroad to be able to watch sports competitions on TV channels. The government, indeed, has spent a large sum of money on holding the sports festival for the sake of new generation youths and athletes.

relevant authorities and sports fans. Hence, arrangements have been made for sports fans at home and abroad to be able to watch sports competitions on TV channels. The government, indeed, has spent a large sum of money on holding the sports festival for the sake of new generation youths and athletes.

The sports festival serves as a competitive platform for athletes to showcase their skills and talents in various competitions. As a result, they have the opportunity to be selected as national athletes to represent Myanmar in international sports events. Achieving success in these competitions will not only elevate the prestige of the nation but also enhance the athletes' accomplishments. These victories will mark significant milestones for both the individuals and the nation. Therefore, it is essential for athletes and the entire community to actively collaborate in ensuring the success of the National Sports Festival, bringing honour to the sports teams and pride to the State.

THE National Sports Festival of Myanmar stands as a symbol of unity, pride, and athletic excellence. Held every four years, it brings together athletes from across the nation to compete and showcase their talents. This grand event fosters not only sportsmanship but also the spirit of national unity and cooperation.

The upcoming Fifth National Sports Festival set to take place from 9 to 20 December 2024, holds special significance. It celebrates the growing prominence of sports in Myanmar, serving as a platform for identifying talent and inspiring the younger generation.

History of the National Sports Festival in Myanmar

The National Sports Festival traces its roots to 1992 when the government initiated the event to promote sports and physical education. Over the decades, it has evolved into a major celebration of athletic prowess, drawing thousands of participants and spectators.

Key milestones in the festival's history highlight its growth and impact. The inaugural event set a benchmark for fostering unity among the diverse regions of Myanmar. In later editions, advancements in organization, infrastructure, and athlete preparation marked significant progress. The third festival, for instance, introduced international-standard facilities, elevating the event's prestige.

The festival has also nurtured outstanding athletes who have gone on to represent Myanmar on global platforms. Figures such as (name), who excelled in (specific sport), began their journeys at this very event. Their success stories motivate aspiring athletes nationwide, underscoring the festival's role in shaping the future of Myanmar's sports.

Overview of Previous National Sports Festivals

The inaugural First National Sports Festival of Myanmar was held in 1992 in Yangon. It featured a variety of sports, including football, track and field, volleyball, and traditional Myanmar sports such as cane ball. The event drew a lot of athletes from all states and regions, emerging as the overall winner.

This first festival had a profound impact on Myanmar's sports culture. It ignited a nationwide interest in competitive

Myanmar's 5th National Sports Festival



PHOTO: MYANMAR ALIN DAILY

sports and set the stage for future events. It also laid the groundwork for a structured approach to athlete development and inspired young people to pursue sports as a profession.

The second edition took place in 1994 in Yangon, building on the foundation of the first festival. This event introduced new sports categories, such as swimming and gymnastics, while continuing with popular events from the previous festival.

Highlights included exceptional performances in football and athletics events, with records being broken in the 100-metre sprint by Than Than Htay, who set a new national record with a time of 11.54 seconds. Improvements from the inaugural festival included better organization, upgraded facilities, and a larger audience.

The festival fostered a stronger sense of regional pride and further encouraged the development of sports at the grassroots level.

Held in 1997 in Yangon, the Third National Sports Festival marked a turning point in the event's history. It showcased a greater variety of sports, including basketball and badminton,

alongside traditional favourites.

Key performances included Soe Soe Nyein's stunning victory in the long jump and the dominance of the Myanmar Women's National Volleyball Team in volleyball. Participation grew significantly, with more athletes and teams joining from across the country.

The audience size also increased, reflecting the festival's growing popularity. This edition further solidified the festival's role as a unifying force in Myanmar.

The fourth edition was hosted in 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw, setting a new standard for the event. Major sports included football, archery, and martial arts, while standout athletes such as Aung Zaw in swimming captured the nation's attention.

Innovations included the introduction of live broadcasts, enabling wider access to the event, and the use of advanced training facilities for athletes. These advancements highlighted Myanmar's commitment to enhancing its sports culture. The festival also emphasized inclusivity, featuring more events for female athletes and differently-abled participants.

Each edition of the National

Sports Festival has contributed to Myanmar's sporting legacy, building excitement for the upcoming Fifth National Sports Festival.

The Fifth National Sports Festival: 2024

The highly anticipated Fifth National Sports Festival of Myanmar is set to take place on 9 December 2024, promising to be the grandest edition yet. The festival will be held in Nay Pyi Taw with key venues including the newly refurbished stadiums, and sports complexes, equipped with modern facilities to accommodate various events. This year's festival will feature an impressive lineup of sports, encompassing traditional Myanmar games like cane ball, alongside international favourites such as football, athletics, swimming, basketball, and martial arts. A special highlight will be the inclusion of eSports, marking a significant step towards modernizing the festival.

The Fifth National Sports Festival is expected to draw participation from thousands of athletes representing all states and regions. In addition, numerous teams across various sports will compete for national glory, mak-

ing it a thrilling and diverse event. The festival aims to showcase the talents of Myanmar's finest athletes while fostering unity, sportsmanship, and national pride.

Preparations for the Fifth National Sports Festival

The success of the Fifth National Sports Festival relies heavily on meticulous planning and preparation. The organizing committee has been working tirelessly to ensure the event runs smoothly, collaborating with local governments, sports associations, and private sponsors. A major focus has been on infrastructure and facilities development. Existing venues have been upgraded to meet international standards, while new facilities have been constructed to accommodate emerging sports like eSports. Athlete accommodations have also been enhanced, ensuring comfort and convenience for participants.

The training and selection process for athletes began months in advance, with regional competitions serving as qualifiers for the national stage. Rigorous training camps have been established to prepare athletes for high-level competition, guid-

ed by expert coaches and sports scientists. Volunteer recruitment and training programmes have been initiated to ensure seamless event management. Efforts to promote the festival through media campaigns and community outreach aim to generate nationwide excitement and support for this prestigious event.

As Myanmar eagerly awaits the Fifth National Sports Festival, the combined efforts of organizers, athletes, and communities promise a celebration of excellence, unity, and the power of sports to inspire.

Key Highlights and Events to Look Forward To

The Fifth National Sports Festival of Myanmar promises an array of exciting highlights and events that will captivate audiences:

Special Events and Ceremonies

The festival will open with a grand Opening Ceremony, featuring traditional Myanmar cultural performances, a parade of athletes, and a torch-lighting event symbolizing the spirit of unity and competition. The Closing Ceremony will celebrate the winners

By Yin Nwe Ko

with medal presentations and a vibrant showcase of Myanmar's diverse cultural heritage.

High-Profile Sports and Anticipated Matches

Anticipation is high for key events, including football matches that will see fierce rivalries between top teams from major regions. Athletics, particularly the 100-metre sprint and marathon, are expected to draw significant attention, with record-breaking performances anticipated. Sports like swimming, volleyball, and martial arts will also feature intense competition, showcasing the athletes' exceptional skills.

Innovations and Changes in the Fifth Festival

The fifth edition introduces several innovations, such as the inclusion of eSports and adaptive sports for differently-abled athletes, broadening the festival's inclusivity and appeal. Live broadcasts and digital platforms will enable fans across the nation to follow the action in real-time, a significant upgrade from previous festivals.

Expected Improvements and New Features

Compared to earlier editions, this festival boasts enhanced facilities, including state-of-the-art stadiums and athlete accommodations. Improved organizational efforts, such as better scheduling and crowd management, are expected to elevate the overall experience for participants and spectators alike.

Growth in Scale and Significance

The fifth festival is significantly larger in scale, with an increase in the number of participating athletes, teams, and sports. The introduction of international-standard infrastructure and greater media coverage underscores the festival's growing significance as a national event. This year's festival not only builds on the success of its predecessors but also sets new benchmarks, promising to be a memorable celebration of sports and unity in Myanmar.

Impact of the National Sports

Festival

The National Sports Festival has played a pivotal role in shaping Myanmar's sports culture. By bringing together athletes from diverse regions, it promotes unity and highlights the nation's rich talent pool. The festival has elevated the status of sports in Myanmar, encouraging schools and local communities to prioritize athletic activities and inspire young individuals to pursue sports professionally.

Benefits for Athletes and the Community

For athletes, the festival provides an invaluable platform to showcase their skills, gain national recognition, and open pathways to international competitions. It fosters discipline, resilience, and teamwork – qualities that extend beyond the field of play. The community benefits through increased access to upgraded sports facilities and the economic boost from hosting such a large-scale event. Additionally, the festival promotes national pride and strengthens social cohesion.

The festival aligns with Myanmar's long-term goals of building a robust sports infrastructure and nurturing talent capable of excelling on global platforms. By consistently introducing new sports and adopting advanced training methods, the event aims to stay relevant and impactful. Future editions aspire to include more international collaborations, further enhancing the festival's prestige and Myanmar's presence in the global sports arena.

The National Sports Festival holds a special place in Myanmar's cultural and athletic landscape. It is a celebration of unity, talent, and the enduring spirit of sportsmanship. As the fifth edition approaches, the excitement and anticipation are palpable, promising a spectacular showcase of skills and teamwork.

In sum, this event is not just for athletes but for everyone who believes in the power of sports to inspire and transform. The public's participation and support are crucial in making the festival a resounding success. Whether as a spectator, volunteer, or supporter, every individual can contribute to this grand celebration of Myanmar's athletic excellence. Let us come together to cheer for our athletes and celebrate this momentous occasion.

Reference: Wikipedia

NATIONAL

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence commemorated

A ceremony to commemorate the 16-day campaign to eradicate violence against women was held at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw.

The event was attended by Union Minister and Chairperson of the All-Myanmar Women's Committee Dr Soe Win and his wife, deputy ministers and their wives, members of the Myanmar Women's Committee, members of the National Committee on Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence in Conflict, chairpersons of the Nay Pyi Taw Women's Committee, permanent secretaries, directors-general, and representatives from non-governmental women's organizations.

In his speech, the Union Minister noted that the '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence' is an annual global campaign, also observed



Union Minister Dr Soe Win addresses the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence commemoration yesterday.

in Myanmar. He highlighted the country's efforts to implement the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, commitments made at the World Conference on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention

women's development, rights, and the elimination of violence against women.

This year's theme, 'Let's Unite to End Violence Against Women and Mark the 30th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action', underscores the importance of collective action.

The campaign calls on government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to work together to combat violence against women and girls, ensure perpetrators are held accountable, and provide comprehensive support to victims, including legal protection, healthcare, and social services.

The ceremony also included the screening of a video on measures to eliminate violence against women and concluded successfully. — MNA/TKO

Russian State Duma delegation visits Bagan



The Russian State Duma delegation during their tour in Bagan.

THE Russian delegation led by Mr Sholban Kara-Ool, Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, arrived in Bagan ancient cultural zone in NyaungU township of Mandalay Region, by flight yesterday morning. They were welcomed by Mandalay Region Social Affairs Minister U Aung Kyaw Moe, Advocate-General U Myint Aung, Director-General of Archeology and National Museum Dr Kyaw Oo Lwin and relevant officials at Bagan-NyaungU airport.

Then, the Russian delegation visited the Shwezigon, Htilominlo and Ananda temples in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone,

the U Ba Nyein lacquerware shop and the Bagan Archeological Museum in Bagan Myothit.

At noon, the delegation headed to Pathein by flight and was welcomed by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win, the Commander of Pathein Airbase, regional ministers, officials concerned and students at Pathein Airport.

The Russian delegation then watched the talent show of elephants at Ngwehsaung Resort and Elephant Camp and visited Ngwehsaung Beach.

The regional chief minister hosted dinner for the Russian delegation at the Eskala Hotel. — MNA/KTZH

CBM sells over one million yuan on 4 Dec

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over 1.48 million yuan on 4 December again after sales of 1.43 million yuan on 3 December and US\$38 million, 1.48 million yuan and 107.46 million Thai baht 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

12th Iran Lab Expo 2024 invites Myanmar businesspeople

THE 12th Exhibition of Equipment, Laboratory Materials and Advanced Test (IRANLABEXPO) that is scheduled to be held at Tehran International Permanent Fairground on 13-16 December 2024 welcomes the participation of Myanmar businesspeople, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

The objective of the exhibition is to provide participants and exhibitors with information on the latest developments in laboratory material and equipment and create a platform to showcase products, solutions and services of the domestic and international market players. Individuals can enquire about details through www.iranlabexpo.ir and contact numbers +989122117624, +982183533555 and email int@iranlabexpo.ir. For registration, Myanmar businesspeople can contact the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization at 067 408622 or email event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

Myanma Ahla Art Gallery to host 'Hay Marn 24' group art exhibition

A group art exhibition titled 'Hay Marn 24', featuring artworks by 30 artists, will be held at the Myanma Ahla Art Gallery in Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region, from 7 to 12 December.

The exhibition will showcase a variety of paintings in different sizes by 30 renowned artists, offering visitors a diverse artistic experience.

"The exhibition will appeal to nature lovers, providing a serene escape into the beauty of nature. If you're drawn to the soft and soothing colours of watercolour and enchanting landscapes, we invite you to immerse yourself in this showcase. Featuring the works of over 30 artists, the 'Hay Marn 24' watercolour exhibition highlights the unique charm of watercolour art and the reasons these pieces are worth collecting," said a gallery organizer. — ASH/TRKM



This image showcases the catalogue of the 'Hay Marn 24' group art exhibition.

China, Myanmar explore rural tourism development, collaboration



This photo shows the China-Myanmar rural tourism development meeting.

ACCORDING to the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar, a meeting on China-Myanmar rural tourism development was held in Yangon on 3 December.

Attendees included representatives from the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar, Myanmar's Ministry of Ho-

tels and Tourism, the China Foundation for Rural Development (CFRD), and members of the regional tourism sector. Discussions focused on the current state of rural tourism development in China and Myanmar, policy measures, and opportunities for

cooperation.

Both sides acknowledged the positive impact of rural tourism development on enhancing the social and economic well-being of communities and preserving cultural traditions for future generations. Participants shared insights from their experiences in China and offered recommendations for advancing rural tourism collaboration between the two nations.

Recently, officials and representatives from Myanmar's tourism associations and companies participated in various training programmes and events in China. These included capacity-building training on high-quality rural development with culture and tourism (held in Beijing and Zhejiang), the China International Tourism Expo (Shanghai), the Lancang-Mekong Tourist Cities Cooperation Alliance Exchange Activity (Chongqing), and the Chongqing International Travel Agent Conference. — ASH/TMT

MMPO provides Nov cash assistance to elderly artistes

THE Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO) provides cash assistance to elderly artistes aged 75 and above, according to MMPO Vice-Chair U Aye Kyu Lay.

"We provide monthly cash assistance to 50 senior artistes, and the payments for November began on 3 December," U Aye Kyu Lay explained.

During the 104th Myanmar Motion Pictures Day and the 47th Re-

spect-Paying Ceremony for Aged Film Artistes on 13 October, the MMPO also contributed K400,000 in cash, along with foodstuffs and medical supplies, to each of the elderly artistes. — ASH/MKKS

The Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO) distributes cash contributions to elderly artistes.



This photo depicts director Maung Myo Min and actors at the introduction event of the 'Certainly a Man' film.

Myanmar film launch event highlights unique storyline, talented cast

THE launch event for the Myanmar film 'Yaukkya Aekan' (Certainly a Man), to be directed by Academy Award winner Maung Myo Min (Yindwin Phyt), took place on 4 December at the National Library in Pabedan Township, Yangon Region.

Maung Myo Min (Yindwin Phyt) conceptualized the story for this film, with the screen-

play crafted by Aung Gyi. The movie will be brought to life under the direction of Maung Myo Min (Yindwin Phyt).

"The character I portray in the 'Yaukkya Aekan' movie is unlike any role I've taken before," said actress Pan Yaung Chel, one of the lead performers. "This role is unique and different from the ones I usually play. It's a character type

I haven't explored much. The story itself is something the audience hasn't seen before. I decided to take on this project because I truly liked the story."

The film will feature an ensemble cast, including Alinn Yaung, Het Aung Shine, Nyi Nanda, Pan Yaung Chel, Wai Lar Yi, Tin Zar Win Pyae, guest actor Han Lay, and several other actors. — ASH/TKO

NATIONAL

FDA warns against 21 foods and 20 cosmetic products

THE Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Department notified the public on 5 December about 21 foods that should not be consumed and 20 cosmetic products that should not be used.

After checking food being sold in markets and schools, it was found that 21 types of foods contained illegal dyes that could harm consumers' health and that permitted food additives to be used in excess of the prescribed amount.

These 21 foods are Love Piunes brand berry, So Fresh Food brand Pineapple Flavoured carrageenan jelly, Orange Fruity Drink, Orange Natural Fruit, and Juice Soft Drink, Wesly brand Fruit Yogurt Milk, Wesly Brand Yogurt Milk, DJ-BIOJ brand strawberry drink and orange drink, Pyi Kyaw brand fruit jam, DGL Brand Juice, FAFA Brand Jelly Drink Orange, Khit Thit brand Pone Yay Thee, Shwe brand plum, The Shogun brand lychee drink, Somethong brand Pineapple drink, Strawberry Juice and Orange Juice, Win Win brand fish paste, 2 Hein brand chilli sauce (large package) and chilli sauce (small package), and Mya Hninsi brand

soya bean paste. If those foods are consumed for the long term, it may cause damage to the stomach, liver and kidney, leading to cancer.

Similarly, according to the Post-Marketing Alert System (PMAS) Report programme of the ASEAN region, 20 types of beauty products containing prohibited chemicals are not registered with the Food and Drug Administration Department and are unsuitable for public consumption.

These products are GB Night Cream Treatment (NA), GB Herbal Cream Treatment (NA), Antique Night Cream (NA), Touch Skin By DermaCare Skin Relief Treatment Cream (NA), Muko Alcohol Hand Spray Karisma Aqua Birds Nest(NA), Skin Revolution -PAP-Blemish Control Serum (NA), Skin Revolution -PAP-Blemish Fade Cream (NA), U Fora Daily Treatment 10g (NA), Dnars Gold Debalen Cream (Night) (NA), Q Nice Care Whitening Underarm Cream (NA), Beautywise Rejuvenating Toner, Skin Perfection Rejuvenating Toner Facial Cleanser, NG TONER FACIAL CLEANSER, the Porcelana Astringent Plus Porcelana,

Melya Matte lipgloas-Me-6058, Hair Treats hair Spa Double Active Keratin, Chic Nail Color Femme Fatale Brightest Skin Essentials Intensive Night Cream; Dixie Isopropyl Alcohol Scented Hand Sanitizer with Aloe Vera Extract and Skin Reborn REJUVENATING Cream.

These prohibited chemicals may cause skin irritation, swelling and white spots; Absorption into the body through the skin can lead to numbness, and muscle tremors, and in the long run, it may cause fatigue, headaches depression, kidney damage and other diseases.

Therefore, food producers and distributors are not allowed to use prohibited dyes in food and are instructed to use permitted food additives only within the specified amount, and if they do not comply, action will be taken according to Section 28(a) of the National Food Law.

In addition, if the import, distribution and sale of cosmetic products that are declared not to be used are not followed ethically, the relevant authority will take action against offenders under Section 3 (3) (d) of the Law on Public Health, the Food and Drug Administration said. — MT/ZN

Counter-argument to false information

Malicious news media spread false reports on airstrike in Nwathogyi

REPORTS claiming that an air attack in Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region, killing four locals and injuring 11 others, were widely circulated by malicious news media, which spread misinformation.

Upon enquiry with a local security official, it was revealed that insurgents in the area have resorted to violence and destruction. They are said to brutally kill and torture those who do not support them and burn villages. The public is reportedly becoming increasingly aware of these actions.

Subversive news media are accused of concealing the extremists' activities while spreading false claims to create public fear, disrupt regional stability, and sow division between security forces and civilians. The fabricated news appears to serve as propaganda aimed at furthering the extremists' agenda. — MNA/KZL



This screenshot reveals false claims.

Over 40 suspected scammers arrested in Shan State



Scammers - 18 Chinese nationals and 27 Myanmar citizens—being arrested along with weapons, munitions and scam-related items.

MORE than 40 suspected of being online scammers were arrested in Shan State on 2 December.

Acting on a tip-off, the security

forces raided a house in Naung Hee village in Tangyan Township, Shan State (North), and arrested 18 Chinese citizens including Chein Hla who ran online

frauds, 17 men including Myanmar national Ar Phyin (aka) Sauk Yee Chone from Laukkai Township and 10 women together with 26 computers and 26 types of materials, one Star Linkset, 130 mobile phones, one CZ 75 D 9MM pistol, eight bullets, one Beretta 9MM pistol, seven bullets, two Type-81 guns, three magazines, 40 bullets, one 40MM barrel, six walkie-talkie, two motorcycles, one generator, three WiFi devices and one DONG FENG vehicle.

Action was taken against these 45 suspects under Section 33 (a) of the Electronic Transactions Law and Section 13 (1) of the Myanmar Immigration Emergency Provisions Act. — MNA/KTZH

2-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K1.143B

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat the illicit trade are continued effectively by the law.

On 3 December, the combined on-duty teams impounded four unregistered motorbikes (worth approximately K800,000) in Magway and Thayet Districts, illegal teak weighing 5.14 tonnes, other illegal timbers weighing 28.193 tonnes, two engines, two three-wheel motorbikes and sawmill-related items (worth about K9.86 million) in Magway and Minbu Districts. The action was taken under the Export-Import Law and the Forest Law.

Additionally, on 4 December, the combined teams conducted inspections

and seized industrial materials (worth about K650.89 million) without official documents from 18 containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, three industrial materials (valued at K81.81 million) without official documents from three containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port, and industrial materials (valued at about K117.84 million) without official documents at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk). The action was carried out according to Customs procedures.

Additionally, the combined on-duty teams nabbed two vehicles and 20 motorbikes (estimated value of K23 million) carrying 484 gallons of smuggled petrol and 773 gallons of diesel (valued at about

K38.28 million) in Mogaung and Mohnyin Townships, smuggled foodstuffs (valued at K18.13 million) piled up in the Sinphyu market in Muse Township, unfinished bracelets (supposed to be made of jade) piled up by the side of road on Nankham-Muse road and Higer bus (estimated value of K50 million) carrying consumer goods (worth about K25.76 million) without official documents at the Milepost 364/1 on Yangon-Mandalay expressway. The action was conducted per Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 52 arrests on 3 and 4 December, seizing goods worth approximately K1.143 billion.— MNA/MKKS

Plunging EV demand drives down German car sales

NEW car sales in Germany dropped in November, driven by a sharp fall in demand for electric vehicles, official data showed Wednesday, a further sign of the troubled EV transition. A total of 244,544 vehicles were registered in Europe's biggest auto market last month, half a percent down from a year earlier, the KBA federal transport authority said.

Apart from an uptick in October, new car sales in Germany have been trending down for months. In November sales of battery-powered electric vehicles plunged by nearly 22 per cent, with EVs making up around 14 per cent of the total — down sharply from the average in 2023.

After many years of growth, demand for elec-

tric vehicles in Germany has been decelerating since the phaseout of government subsidies at the end of 2023.

Falling sales in Germany reflects a broader trend in Europe, where the transition away from combustion engines is moving slower than expected.

High EV prices, sometimes expensive charging, patchy charging infrastructure and insufficient driving range are all contributing to consumers' reluctance to dump their fossil-fuel models, according to Gall.

But he expects to see a rebound in EV sales as manufacturers race to meet stricter EU emissions requirements due to come into force in 2025.

— AFP



Manufacturers race to meet stricter EU emissions requirements due to come into force in 2025. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Japan's automaker Daihatsu recalls over 190,000 vehicles due to corrosion risks

JAPAN'S Daihatsu Motor Co has announced a recall of over 190,000 vehicles spanning six models due to a defect in suspension springs that can lead to corrosion.

The recall, filed with Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism, involves vehicles manufactured between August 2016 and October 2018.

The affected models include Daihatsu's Move Canbus, Hijet, and Hijet Deck Van, Subaru's Sambar and Sambar Open Deck, and Toyota's Pixis Van.

The issue arises from a potential peeling of the protective coating on the suspension springs, which can lead to corrosion. In severe cases, the springs could break, possibly causing contact with the tires and resulting in punctures.

Though no accidents have been reported, Daihatsu has received 608 reports of related problems. The company has committed to replacing the defective parts at no cost starting 6 December at dealerships across Japan. — Xinhua

Affected models include Daihatsu Move, Hijet, Subaru Sambar, and Toyota Pixis Van.



Daihatsu has received 608 reports of related problems. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC JUNDE VOY.NO. (2422S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC JUNDE VOY.NO. (2422S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-12-2024** 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: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2416S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2416S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-12-2024** 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.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (194N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (194N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-12-2024** 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.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (244N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (244N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-12-2024** 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.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB447A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB447A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-12-2024** 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.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

South Korean ruling party vows to fight impeachment against President Yoon

The Democratic Party, with five opposition parties, submitted an impeachment motion against Yoon, citing constitutional violations over martial law.



Yoon's popularity has slid since his election in 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

SOUTH Korea's main opposition Democratic Party of Korea said Thursday that it will push for a vote Saturday for an impeachment motion against President Yoon Suk-yeol over his shocking yet short-lived imposition of martial law.

Cho Seung-rae, the main opposition's senior spokesperson, said it plans to hold a vote

on the motion at around 7 pm local time Saturday to give ruling party lawmakers enough time to deliberate over their decision on Yoon's actions, Yonhap news agency reported.

The Democratic Party, which holds a majority in the 300-seat parliament, has submitted the impeachment motion with the backing of five

smaller opposition parties, arguing Yoon's martial law declaration constituted violations of the constitution and other laws.

The vote on the impeachment motion requires a two-thirds majority to pass, which would need eight of the 108 ruling party lawmakers to vote with opposition parties. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Romanian pro-European parties form coalition

SEVERAL pro-European political parties in Romania have agreed to form a coalition, including the National Liberal Party (PNL), the Social Democratic Party (PSD), the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania (UDMR), the Save Romania Union (USR), and representatives of national minorities, according to PNL interim chair Ilie Bolojan on Wednesday.

Speaking at the Palace of Parliament, Bolojan stated that the coalition's primary goal is to ensure governmental stability and implement key reforms to advance Romania's modernization. — Xinhua

Search continues after reported shooting on Czech university campus

POLICE search continued after a report of gunshots heard on a university campus in the western Czech city of Pilsen on Wednesday, authorities said.

Czech police said at around 5 pm they received a report about shots fired on the premises of the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, and "a large number of police forces and resources immediately went to the scene".

"The reported shooting has not yet been confirmed and no one was injured at the scene. We had to close and create a safe perimeter around the university. Now we will search the whole area," police said in the latest update on X. — Xinhua

Australian police investigating explosions, fire north of Sydney

AUSTRALIAN police are investigating several explosions and a building fire in north of Sydney.

The centre of the city of Gosford, 50 kilometres north of Sydney, was closed to the public on Thursday afternoon after the explosions and fire forced the evacuation of employees from two office buildings.

Police in the state of New South Wales (NSW) said in a statement that emergency services were called to an office building on Donnison Street, Gosford at about 2:20 pm local time following reports of several explosions. A short time later police were called to another building on the same street following reports of a fire. "At the scene, police were told that a man entered the office before allegedly lighting a fire and fleeing the scene," NSW Police said. — Xinhua

UNESCO grants heritage status to Aleppo soap as Syria war flares

THE UN's cultural organization added Aleppo's famous soap to its intangible cultural heritage list Tuesday with Syria's second city again wracked by war.

Artisans have brewed olive and laurel oil in large pots for some 3,000 years in the city — which fell to Islamist-led rebels last week — allowing the mixture to cool before cutting it into blocks, and stamping them by hand.

Aleppo soap joins the city's traditional music, Al-Qudoud

al-Halabiya, on UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage, while the city itself — declared a world heritage site in 1986 — was added to the organization's endangered list in 2013 amid the country's civil war.

Makers craft the product using "traditional knowledge and skills", said UNESCO, adding they rely on a mix of natural, locally produced ingredients and a drying process that can take up to nine months.

Aleppo had been slowly re-

covering from the wounds inflicted by more than a decade of civil war when Islamist-led rebels captured the city last week in a shock offensive that put forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad to flight.

Of the 100 soap factories in the city only about 10 remain, with many having relocated to Damascus or neighbouring Turkey.

But the soap remains essential to the families and communities involved in the trade. — AFP



A Syrian worker stacks laurel soap at the Jbaili soap factory, an 800-year-old artisanal soap manufacturer, in the old city of Syria's northern city of Aleppo. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS



Atalanta are on a high after eight straight wins in all competitions. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Atalanta eye Serie A summit as title challenge takes off

ATALANTA take on AC Milan on Friday night with Serie A's top spot in their sights and a growing belief that this could be their year for unprecedented Scudetto glory.

A point behind current leaders Napoli, Atalanta are gunning for a club record-equaling ninth straight win in Italy's top flight and are, for the first time in their history, genuine title challengers.

Atalanta have never finished higher than third in Serie

A, which they did three seasons in a row between 2019 and 2021 with a thrilling team featuring an all-action attack of Josip Ilicic, Duvan Zapata and Papu Gomez.

However the current lineup, still on a high from last year's historic Europa League triumph and the division's top scorers with 36 goals, looks capable of going even further in Gian Piero Gasperini's ninth season as coach.

Atalanta have won 11 of 12

matches in all competitions — drawing the other — since the start of October and after Monday night's 2-0 success at Roma, Claudio Ranieri said they were "ready, really ready" to fight for the league crown. "Winning the Europa League really helped those who took part in it grow as players, and a lot of new faces have arrived who are also developing. That's the reason for these results," said Gasperini after his team hit Young Boys for six last month. — AFP

Germany keeper Neuer facing his career's toughest decision

FOR Manuel Neuer, overcoming challenges has been a defining feature of his decades-long career. From acrobatic saves to enduring injuries and setbacks, the 38-year-old Bayern Munich goalkeeper has consistently found ways to prevail - often in a manner that earns widespread admiration.

Now, Neuer faces perhaps the toughest decision of his storied career: determining when

to step away from professional football.

Widely credited with revolutionizing the goalkeeper role by acting as a sweeper far beyond the penalty area, Neuer has left an indelible mark on the game. As a 2014 FIFA World Cup champion and two-time UEFA Champions League winner, his accomplishments are unparalleled - yet time may be catching up with him. — Xinhua

Leipzig down Frankfurt to reach German Cup quarters, Cologne strike late

LOIS Openda scored a brace as RB Leipzig roared back into form with a 3-0 home win over Eintracht Frankfurt in the German Cup last 16 on Wednesday, while Cologne found a winner in the 121st minute to advance.

Leipzig and their coach Marco Rose came into the game under pressure, after five losses and a draw during a winless November, against a Frankfurt side sitting second in the league.

The hosts, however, started with a flurry and had two goals ruled out for offside before Benjamin Sesko broke through after

31 minutes.

The Slovenian striker collected an Antonio Nusa pass on the turn and bewitched the Frankfurt defence with some clever footwork before tapping home.

Nusa was the provider again to double Leipzig's lead four minutes after half-time, sliding the ball into the path of Openda, who hammered home.

Nusa, still just 19, collected his third assist of the game nine minutes later, again finding Openda who rifled in from long range. — AFP

LPGA, USGA new policy requires female at birth or pre-puberty change

THE LPGA and US Golf Association (USGA) announced updated gender policies on Wednesday requiring players be born female or transition before reaching male puberty for women's tournaments.

Both new policies regarding transgender athletes will begin with the 2025 season.

The LPGA changes aimed at settling transgender competitive fairness issues, were informed by

a working group of top experts in medicine, science, sport physiology, golf performance and gender policy law, the tour said.

"Our policy is reflective of an extensive, science-based and inclusive approach," LPGA commissioner Mollie Marcoux Samaan said. "The policy represents our continued commitment to ensuring that all feel welcome within our organization, while preserving the fairness and

competitive equity of our elite competitions." The LPGA's working group advised that "effects of male puberty confer competitive advantages in golf performance compared to players who have not undergone male puberty.

"Accordingly, under the new policy, athletes who are assigned female at birth are eligible to compete" in LPGA, Epson Tour, Ladies European Tour and all elite LPGA competitions. — AFP



The US Golf Association and LPGA Tour announced updated gender policies requiring players be born female for women's events or complete gender transition before reaching male puberty.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE



Putin lauds India's leadership in providing "stable conditions" for SMEs through "Make in India"

Russian President praises India's "Make in India" initiative, citing stable conditions and profitable investment opportunities under Modi's leadership.



The "Make in India" initiative, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25 September 2014, aims to transform India into a global design and manufacturing hub. PHOTO: PMINDIA.GOV.IN/ ANI/FILE

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin lauded the Indian government and its leadership for its efforts in creating "stable conditions" for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), highlighting India's economic initiatives, particularly the "Make in India" initiative led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing the VTB Investment

Forum in Moscow on Wednesday, Putin drew similarities between Russia's import substitution programme to India's "Make in India" initiative and expressed Russia's readiness to establish manufacturing operations in India. Putin also noted that India's leadership focused on a policy of prioritizing its interests.

"Prime Minister Modi has a sim-

ilar programme called Make in India. We are also ready to place our manufacturing site in India... The Prime Minister of India and the Government of India have been creating stable conditions and this is because the Indian leadership has been pursuing India comes first policy and we believe that investments in India are profitable," the Russian President said. — ANI

UNIQUE CULTURAL ELEMENTS

UNESCO inscribes Spring Festival on intangible cultural heritage list

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on Wednesday inscribed Spring Festival, social practices of the Chinese people in celebration of the traditional new year, on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The decision was made during the 19th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, taking place in Paraguay from 2 to 7 December. The committee recognized the festival for its wide array of rituals and unique cultural elements that engage all of Chinese society.

UNESCO highlighted that the Spring Festival, marking the start of the traditional Chinese Lunar New Year, involves various social practices, including prayers for good fortune and family reunions. It also features activities planned by elders and festive public events organized by communities. — Xinhua

Russia-North Korea strategic agreement enters into force



View of Kim Il-sung Square and the Grand People's Study House from the observation deck of the Juche Tower in Pyongyang. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

DEPUTY Foreign Minister of the DPRK, Kim Jong Gyu, and Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Andrey Rudenko, signed the protocol on the exchange of ratification instruments.

The treaty takes effect from 4 December 2024, when the ratification instruments were exchanged according to Article 22 of the treaty, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

"The strong DPRK-Russia

relations, based on the treaty on comprehensive strategic partnership, will be a powerful security mechanism that promotes the well-being of the peoples of the two countries, eases the regional situation, guarantees international strategic stability, and will serve as a strong driving force accelerating the establishment of an independent and just multipolar world order without domination, subjugation, and hegemony," KCNA said.

During the visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin to Pyongyang on 18-19 June, Russia and the DPRK signed the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty, the fourth article of which states: "If one of the Parties is subjected to an armed attack by any state or several states and thus finds itself in a state of war, the other Party will immediately provide military and other assistance by all means at its disposal." — SPUTNIK