

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Myanmar and China collaborate on border peace and stability, eradication of online gambling, money scams, and illicit activities.

## Myanmar, China focus on Myanmar's internal peace measures



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Special Envoy for Asian Affairs Mr Deng Xijun of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing explained that the State Administration Council is implementing objectives and a five-point roadmap to ensure peace and stability of the State and development undertakings.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Mr Deng Xijun, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, at the Office of the SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, both sides cordially talked about friendly ties and diplomatic relations between Myanmar and China, internal peace processes in Myanmar, peace and stability measures in the border region, bilateral relations to eradicate online gam-

bling and online scams and other money scams, as well as illegal businesses.

The Senior General explained the implementation of ob-

jectives and a five-point roadmap in order to ensure peace, stability and development of the country.

They also frankly discussed preparations for holding a free

and fair multiparty democratic general election.

Also present at the meeting were Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Deputy Prime Minister

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe and officials. The Chinese Special Envoy was accompanied by his delegation members. — MNA/TTA

## CBM eases forex rules for exporters

THE Central Bank of Myanmar relaxed the mandatory foreign currency conversion rule to 25 per cent from 35 per cent for exporters to convert them into kyat in the exercise of the power conferred by Section 49 (B) of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, according to its Notification 37/2024 dated 7 August 2024.

According to the previously issued Notification 26/2023 dated 6 December 2023, the percentage for currency conversion requirements for exporters was earlier amended to 35 per cent of hard currency they earned into local currency as per CBM's reference exchange rate in line with instructions laid out in Notification 12/2022.

Therefore, exporters need to exchange 25 per cent of earnings into kyat at the set rate according to Notification 12/2022.

The newly issued notification came into effect on 8 August 2024, CBM stated. — NN/KK



The office building of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Yangon.

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200+ Japanese companies hire 700+ Myanmar workers

BUSINESS

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MEODA extends services for door-to-door distribution scheme

# NATIONAL



**အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာလူငယ်များနေ့**  
**International Youth Day**

“စဉ်ဆက်မပြတ်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေး  
လူငယ်များရဲ့ ဒစ်ဂျစ်တယ် ကျွမ်းကျင်မှုဖြင့် ဖော်ဆောင်ပေး”  
“From Clicks To Progress: Youth Digital Pathways  
For Sustainable Development”

၁၂-၈-၂၀၂၄ ရက်နေ့ (တနင်္လာနေ့) ဝတ္ထုသိဒ္ဓိအားကစားရုံ (C)

**Myanmar Gazette**

### Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed U Kyaw Htwe from the Ministry of Defence as Rector of the Civil Service Academy Lower Myanmar of the Union Civil Service Board on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

### Statement of Myanmar Health Assistant Association

8 August 2024

THE Myanmar Health Assistant Association expresses deep regret and condemnation over the recent attacks by terrorists in Lashio, northern Shan State, as they targeted the Tatmadaw hospital, a non-military facility, with rockets, heavy weapons, and drones, resulting in the deaths and injuries of residents, departmental staff, and family members of security personnel who were receiving medical treatment at the hospital.

The association emphasizes that healthcare services should be accessible and safe for all individuals, regardless of their location or circumstances. It firmly opposes any attacks on healthcare facilities.

The Myanmar Health Assistant Association issues a statement emphasizing the need for heightened protection and safety measures to ensure that patients, including mothers and children, as well as healthcare workers, are not harmed.

*Myanmar Health Assistant Association*

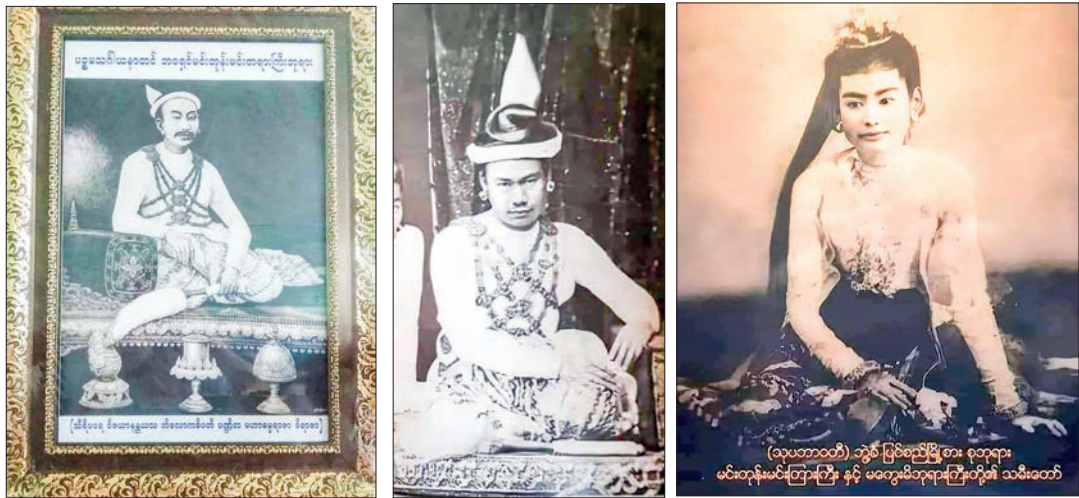
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## Konbaung royal families' Waso Robe donation ceremony on 17 August



King Mindon                      King Thibaw                      Pyinsi Princess Suphaya

THE Waso robe donation ceremony of the relatives of the Konbaung Dynasty will be held at the Shwekyin Monastery in Bahan Township, in the religious compound donated by King Mindon, on 17 August.

It will be funded by the Lai-Hka Queen's house and the Pyinsi Suphaya house to hold robe-offering events together with royal families.

"Actually, this ceremony is funded by two royal houses — Lai-Hka Queen's house and Pyinsi Suphaya house. Then, the rest of the relatives

donate money. As we don't accept cash, they donate in kinds such as robes or meals. As we combine them, it happens to be a Waso robe donation ceremony of the royal families," said Htake Tin Sithu Hein (Pyinsi Suphaya house).

In commemoration of late kings, queens, their sons, daughters, relatives, nobles, ministers, Saophas, town and village heads, generals of the Konbaung Kingdom, and ancestors such as great-grandma Myin Hmu Tin Tin Kyi, Nyaung Oak Htake

Tin Si, Myo Kyi Htake Tin San, Thonezel Htake Tin Kyi, and Myingun U Maung, with the unique attribute to King Mindon, Lai-Hka Queen, Prince Nyaungyan, Prince Nyaunggoak, King Thibaw, and Pyinsi Princess Suphaya, and all parents and grandparents from both sides, the ceremony will be held, led by Nyaungyan Htake Tin Htay.

"This year, we initiated a fund to hold it as a family donation. It will start at 9 am on Saturday," said Htake Tin Sithu Hein. — Thit Taw/ZS

## Indian navy and Norwegian embassy delegations visit National Museum of Myanmar (Yangon) in early August

TWO study groups, an expert team led by Rear-Admiral Ankur Sharma of the Indian Navy and the other by Mr Paul Gulleik Larsen, Head of Mission of the Norwegian Embassy and party, visited the National Museum of Myanmar (Yangon) separately in the first week of August, according to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum.

During their visits, they toured the exhibits, with museum staff providing explanations and answering their questions. — ASH/TMT



Rear-Admiral Ankur Sharma of the Indian Navy signs the guestbook of the National Museum of Myanmar (Yangon) recently.

# NATIONAL

## SAC Secretary attends final match and awarding for 2024 Inter-State/Region U-21 Men's Football Tournament

THE final match and awarding ceremony of the 2024 Inter-State and Region U-21 Men's Football Tournament was held at Wunna Theikdhi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Secretary of the State Administration Council Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe enjoyed the match and joined the awarding ceremony.

Kachin State team beat Mon State team 6-1 in the final match. Next, an awarding ceremony was held, and officials presented cash awards and medals to the best athletes, fourth-prize winning Nay Pyi Taw team, third-prize winning Yangon Region team and second-prize winning Mon State team respectively.

State Administration Council Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae

presented individual medals to the players of the first prize-winning Kachin State team.

State Administration Council Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe presented cash awards and the championship trophy to the first prize-winning Kachin State. After the prize-awarding ceremony, the Secretary cordially greeted the athletes.

The 2024 Inter-State and Region U-21 Men's Football Tournament was held with 15 teams starting from 23 July to 8 August, aiming to develop Myanmar sports and turn out outstanding young athletes. — MNA/KTZH

State Administration Council Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe offers cash awards to the first prize-winning Kachin State yesterday.



## MoH Union Minister attends 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting, related meetings

THE 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting was held yesterday at the National Convention Centre in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic. Attendees included health ministers from ASEAN member countries, the Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, the Myanmar ambassador to Laos, senior health officials, and representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat.

At the opening ceremony, ASEAN Health Sector Alternate Chair Mr Bounfeng Phoummaysith, Minister of Health of Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the Deputy ASEAN Secretary-General delivered welcome speeches. Following the opening, the ASEAN Smoke-Free Award was presented by the Laotian Minister in collaboration with the Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance and the ASEAN Secretariat. The award was received by the director of non-communicable diseases at the Myanmar Ministry of Health and the head of the Public Health Department of Bagan NyaungU District.



The commemorative group picture of the 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Health Ministers' meeting and relevant meetings held yesterday in Vientiane, Laos.

Attendees, including ASEAN Health Ministers, ASEAN Secretariat officials, and ambassadors to Lao, also participated

in the 57<sup>th</sup> ASEAN anniversary celebration and took a group photo.

The meeting, themed "Building a Strong Health System by Improving the Health Care Capacity for Epidemics", focused on current health chal-

lenges. Dr Thet Khaing Win highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed both weaknesses and strengths in global health systems, including in the ASEAN region. The meeting emphasized the need to strengthen health systems

to address health challenges, manage rising healthcare demands, enhance health worker capacity, build resilient health infrastructure, increase diagnostic laboratories, and ensure the timely availability of essential medicines and vaccines. Additionally, there is a need to accelerate cooperation in promoting healthy lifestyles and preventing non-communicable diseases, as well as collaborating on infectious disease management and sharing best practices among member countries.

The joint declaration of the 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting was approved, with participation from health ministers, deputy ministers, high-ranking officials from ASEAN countries, the WHO Regional Director for Southeast Asia, the Western Pacific Regional Director, the Deputy ASEAN Secretary-General, and other key officials. — MNA/TKO

# NATIONAL

## Frontline Tatmadaw, security force members receive food supplies

PEOPLE and departmental personnel donate foodstuffs daily to members of Tatmadaw and security forces who are serving the state's defence and security duties with sacrifices on the frontline.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications donated K30 million worth of foodstuffs at the Nay Pyi Taw Command Headquarters on 7 August.

The Ministry of Labour also carried out the processing and packaging of foodstuffs with goodwill and loving-kindness for members of Tatmadaw and security forces on the frontline at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 August. Union Minister U Myint Naung and Deputy Minister U Win Shein inspected the processes.

The ministry will distribute foodstuffs worth K13 million to members of Tatmadaw and security forces on the frontline.



Union Ministers and officials encourage preparatory work for food donations to frontline Tatmadaw and security force members.

On 6 August, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan and deputy ministers observed the food preparation processes, and the ministry will donate K11.2 million worth of foodstuffs.

On the same day, the ceremony to present cash awards and foodstuffs for members of Tatmadaw and security forces on the frontline was held in Dawei of Taninthayi Region with the presence of region Chief

Minister U Myat Ko and relevant officials.

Dawei District donated K12,940,000 and foodstuffs worth K24,131,300, totalling K37,071,300. Myeik District donated foodstuffs worth K23,005,540, while

K11,183,000 worth of foodstuffs by Kawthoung District and K23,005,540 worth of foodstuffs by Bokpyin District.

On 5 August, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung inspected the processing and packaging of foodstuffs donated by the well-wishers at the City Hall.

The donation included nine types of foodstuffs worth K31.2million.

On 6 August, Mon State Chief Minister U Aung Kyi Thein and relevant officials observed the processing and packaging of foodstuffs at the State government office.

The donation included foodstuffs and medicines worth K21,252,500.

The well-wishers and departmental staff also sent their messages of encouragement to Tatmadaw members and security forces. — MNA/KTZH

## Myanmar hosts Seminar on Conservation Management of Literary Collections for ASEAN

MINISTRY of Religious Affairs and Culture hosted the Seminar on Conservation Management of Literary Collections for ASEAN with ASEAN Cultural Fund 2024 in Yangon yesterday.

First, Deputy Minister Daw Nu Mra Zan said the theme of the seminar is "New Challenges and Different Methods for the Conservation of ASEAN Literary Heritage: Current Perspectives and the Best Findings".

Conservation management of literary collections is the most critical factor for libraries. Libraries are the places where they distribute knowledge to people, and the ASEAN member countries possess precious literary heritage.

She added that sharing library-related



The Seminar on Conservation Management of Literary Collections for ASEAN in progress yesterday in Yangon.

experiences among ASEAN countries is the best way to develop libraries and highlighted the benefits brought by the seminar.

Then, representatives from ASEAN

countries read out one paper respectively.

ASEAN representatives will visit the National Library, National Museum, National Archives of Myanmar and the Shwedagon Pagoda. — MNA/KTZH

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



# NATIONAL

## Myanmar participates in Pakistan, ASEAN partnership roundtable discussion

MYANMAR participated in the “Pakistan and ASEAN: A Growing Partnership” roundtable discussion held at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 7 August, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the discussion, Myanmar Ambassador U Wunna Han spoke on the topic “Myanmar’s Active Participation in ASEAN and Its Relations with Pakistan as a Sectoral Dialogue Partner”. The panel included Dr Talat Shabbir,



Participants of Pakistan and ASEAN: A growing partnership roundtable discussion is in progress in Pakistan.

Director of the China-Pakistan Study Centre; ISSI Director-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood; Dr Usman W Chohan, CASS Economics Director; and Ambassador Mr Khalid Mahmood, Chairman of the Board of Governors of ISSI. The Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Ambassador Mr Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, attended as a special guest. Heads of Pakistani embassies in ASEAN countries participated and discussed the topic online. — ASH/TH

## Banana trade rises despite low production

IT is the period that banana production has been low; however, the trading has increased.

In the monsoon season, banana trees require a lot of care; as a result, the yield is low. However, the trading is doing well now, according to the Toungoo banana market.

“It is the period that fruits have been scarce. While farmers are struggling to care for trees, despite the low fruit production, the trading is doing well,” said a banana farmer from Toungoo Township.

Bananas available on the market are produced from banana trees left at last year’s plantation. At present, insufficient fruit production has led to the price getting much higher, said farmers.

“Fruit production will be abundant when monsoons end, and trading will be more active. Now, there is production, but there are just a few. These are leftover trees from last year, and they yield fruits now after receiving care,” said a banana farmer from Toungoo. — Thit Taw/ZS



Several bunches of bananas produced from Toungoo.

## Donors advised against packing hot food and ensuring no leaks for flood victims

WHEN donors want to provide meals for flood victims, they are advised not to pack food immediately after it is cooked and also to ensure no water enters the room, Shwe Myitta Social Relief Association Chair Daw Shwe Le suggested.

She suggested it because the conveyance of food packs takes time during the journey, and food needs to withstand the heat of the vehicle and the possibility of getting wet during the trip by boat, she said.

“Some are afraid of being late. Most use disposable food packs, put foods inside shortly after being cooked and close them immediately. That is why I want to suggest waiting for a while before they close the container; if not, foods can easily rot due to heat along the journey. It also needs to make sure that food containers do not leak when they are carried by boat. I want to suggest donors to ensure proper packaging and conveying,” she said.

She said she wants donors to pro-



Social workers are distributing food packs to flood victims.

vide sanitary napkins for women and also wants to help pets in flood-affected areas.

“We mostly ferry along Letpadan, Okkan, Taikkyi and Monyo. Along the route, we have set up a team that cooks food at a location nearest the flood-affected area and donates warm foods to

victims on behalf of donors. As emergency aid, sanitary napkins should be provided, too. Women quite get into trouble during their period amid flood. And I also want to urge donors to consider dogs and cats when they are going to deliver foods to flood-affected areas,” she said. — Thit Taw/ZS

### Flood Warning

(Issued at 13:30 hrs MST on 8-8-2024)

**Flood condition of Sittoung River:** According to the 12:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk has exceeded by about 3 feet (88 centimetres) above its danger level 35.10 feet (1,070 cm). It may fall from the present water level by about ½ foot during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

**Flood condition of Thanlwin River:** According to the 12:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an has exceeded by more than three feet (98 cm) above its danger level 24.61 feet (750 cm). It may fall from the present water level by about 1½ foot during the next one day and may remain above its danger level. — DMH

# NATIONAL



This image depicts the Shwezigon Pagoda.

## Gold robe offerings begin at Bagan's Shwezigon

THE offering of gold plate to the entire Shwezigon Pagoda in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone, NyaungU

Township, began in October 2023.

Well-wishers can contribute by donating K1.2 million for

one gold plate, K150,000 for a packet of two-square-inch gold foils, or K15,000 for a packet of 10 gold foils. — TWA/MKKS

## MSME products exhibition to be held at year-end



This picture shows the MSME product exhibition held in December 2023 in Nay Pyi Taw, where local handmade jewellery products are displayed.

THE Ministry of Industry stated that the Central Committee for Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has been planning to hold an MSME products exhibition by the end of the year in Nay Pyi Taw.

The MSME products exhibition aims to enhance production, trade, investment, business networks and MSME resilience, effectuate the development of MSMEs, observe innovation and product quality, find solutions in the production chain to fulfil requirements, have closer relations between public, private and MSME sectors and penetrating international market beyond

regional trade promotion.

The Ministry of Industry is committed to MSME development across the country. It also acts as a focal ministry for the development of the industrial sector. It also finances entrepreneurs through an MSME development fund and helps them get access to technical assistance through workshops, raw materials sourcing, and digital technology support.

Additionally, the ministry established an e-market platform to explore markets and opened SME centres in Yangon Region, showcasing MSME products across the country. — ASH/KK

## 200+ Japanese companies hire 700+ Myanmar workers

THE Myanmar Embassy to Japan reported that on 5 August, over 200 Japanese companies offered jobs to more than 700 Myanmar workers.

The Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo authenticated 206 job offer letters submitted by Japanese companies and forwarded the verified information to the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The document verification process confirmed that the Japanese labour supervision company and the recruiting factories or companies offering employment to over 760 Myanmar workers are officially registered in Japan. — TWA/TRKM



The photo shows Myanmar workers working in Japan.

## MMMC to offer diploma courses for 2025-2026 academic year

MYANMAR Mercantile Marine College (MMMC) will begin offering diploma courses for cadets in January 2025 for the 2025-2026 academic year.

These two-year courses include the Mercantile Marine Cadet Course (CD/52), Mercantile Marine Engineering Cadet Course (CE/50), and Mercantile Marine Electrical Cadet Course (CME/05). Upon successful completion, cadets will be awarded diplomas in nautical studies, maritime technology, or marine electrical engineering.

Applicants must have passed the Grade-12 examination and must not be older than 21 years of age as of 31 December 2024. Those applying for the Mercantile Marine Cadet Course and Marine Engineering Cadet Course must have passed with subject combinations including chemistry

and physics, and must have achieved a total score of at least 400 marks. Applicants for the Mercantile Marine Electrical Cadet Course must have passed with subject combinations including chemistry and physics, and must have a minimum total score of 390 marks.

Applications can be submitted in person until 31 August. The college will admit

130 trainees for the Mercantile Marine Cadet Course, 130 for the Marine Engineering Cadet Course, and 40 for the Mercantile Marine Electrical Cadet Course.

Applicants will be selected through personal interviews, and more detailed information can be obtained from the Office of the Registrar and the Training Department during office hours. — TWA/TKO



Myanmar Mercantile Marine College.

## Kayin State plans 1,000 acres of Robusta coffee cultivation for 2024-25

ACCORDING to the Kayin State Agriculture Department, up to 1,000 acres of Robusta coffee are planned to be grown in Kayin State during the 2024-25 Financial Year, particularly in areas suitable for lowland coffee varieties.

Lowland coffee is mainly cultivated in Thandaunggyi and Kyainseikgyi townships, where over 240 acres have already been planted. The report indicates that coffee is primarily grown in shade areas, as coffee plants need to be grown alongside shade trees.

Additionally, the Kayin State

Agriculture Department provides coffee seedlings to farmers free of charge and offers training in agricultural techniques. Coffee is typically planted during the monsoon season, from May to August, with flowers blooming in three years and fruiting in four years. As a perennial crop, coffee can produce beans for up to thirty years.

There is a coffee powder manufacturing factory in Thandaunggyi Township, and the coffee produced there is both consumed domestically and exported to Thailand. — ASH/TMT



Coffee plants alongside shade trees.



## Passion fruit suppliers urged to contact MFVP for joint production

MYANMAR Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association (MFVP) informed interested passion fruit suppliers of connecting with them by 10 August to conduct large-scale and collaborative models of production and develop business linkages.

MFVP brought up passion fruit production activities during a discussion of fruit and vegetable trade and cooperation matters when Myanmar and China elaborated on bilateral trade and investment

conditions.

Consequently, MFVP notified passion fruit suppliers, companies and associations, especially from northern, southern and eastern Shan State, to dial 09 43127656 or mail [mffvpea.office@gmail.com](mailto:mffvpea.office@gmail.com) by 10 August to engage in joint production activities.

MFVP was established on 11 August 2006. Throughout 18 years of the association, MFVP aimed to facilitate stakeholders in the supply chains, including growers,

producers, traders, exporters and experts.

Additionally, MFVP has been joining hands with affiliated associations to develop value-added production, get access to technology and market and grant food safety certificates to producers. They enhance horticulture supply, create business linkages, hold horticulture festivals (mango, pomelo, avocado, watermelon, muskmelon, tea leaf) and endeavour for future progress. — NN/KK

## MEODA extends services for door-to-door distribution scheme

MYANMAR Edible Oil Dealers' Association extended customer service for the door-to-door distribution scheme by adding one more phone number with nine extension lines, allowing customers to connect with them and facilitate order placement, according to its notification declared on 7 August.

Under the guidance of the Yangon Region Palm Oil Door-to-Door Distribution Committee, the association has received orders from 31 July 2024. Earlier, the orders could be placed through the call centre phone at 012399222 (seven extension lines) from Monday to Saturday (except Sundays and public holidays) from 9 am to 4 pm. On 8 August, one more contact number was added to improve sales.

The association announced on 30 July that palm oil importing committees, under the guidance of the supervision committee on edible oil import

and distribution, have been distributing palm oil to consumers through wholesale and retail shops across 44 townships of Yangon Region. Yet, some still find difficulty in buying palm oil at shops, prompting the association to provide door-to-door service in which each household can buy two visses of palm oil per month.

The price will depend on wholesale reference prices issued on a weekly basis on Monday-issued newspapers, and only packaging costs will be added. The customer must bear the delivery fee. The association offers cash on delivery sales. The goods will arrive three days after order placement.

The wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market is set at K5,780 per viss this week, ending 11 August, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.



Plastic bottles of cooking oil. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

Despite the reference price,

the market price is way too high.

To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed the consumers of lodging the complaints for overcharging through the call centre's hotline in late August. The department urged consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices. The committee notified that any

person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

# OPINION

## Protect product manufacturing of legal industries and trade

**T**HE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee is actively overseeing efforts to combat illegal trade and penalize those involved, as frequently reported in State media. The primary goal of these efforts is to reduce the influx of illicit and smuggled goods, thereby protecting the integrity and productivity of legitimate trade operations. To achieve this, officials from one-stop service (OSS) centres and special task forces are tasked with effectively intercepting and seizing illegal imports and exports in accordance with the law.

Illegal trade has far-reaching consequences, impacting various sectors of the economy and the environment. In May and June 2024, the Customs Department, along with other law enforcement agencies, managed to seize a significant amount of illegal goods.

Notably, it is necessary to recognize dutiful service personnel and informant people in actively combatting illegal trade with the allocation of rewards as quickly as possible. As such, officials need to disseminate knowledge about the danger of the illicit trade against the State and private economy to the people.

to a lack of mandatory regulations.

In response to this challenge, the Ministry of Commerce formed a task force in June 2024 to coordinate and implement NTMs. During the third meeting of 2024 held by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee on 1 August 2024, the committee urged the ministry to issue notifications to relevant departments to enforce the standards for imported goods. This initiative is seen as a crucial step in enhancing the control and quality of imported commodities, ultimately supporting the fight against illegal trade and protecting the country's legal industries.

During the limited time frame, it is necessary to raise tariffs on imported goods so as to reduce illegal trade and encourage the long-term existence of domestic industries. Moreover, the e-Lock Phase 2 must be implemented continuously in order to restrict illicit trade measures.

Notably, it is necessary to recognize dutiful service personnel and informant people in actively combatting illegal trade with the allocation of rewards as quickly as possible. As such, officials need to disseminate knowledge about the danger of the illicit trade against the State and private economy to the people.

### Introduction

According to ancient chronicles such as the *Mahāvamsa* and various archaeological excavations in India and Sri Lanka, the bodily relics of the Buddha, including hair, a tooth, the collarbone, and the larynx, were enshrined in stupas across these regions. Enshrining the relics of the Buddha, the remains of Buddhist saints, and the ashes of heroic kings in Buddhist stupas serves the purpose of worship and the veneration of the religious ideals embodied by these figures.

In Thailand, Buddhist stupas have historically been expanded over time by encasing older stupas within new shells. Secondary donors in Thailand often choose to encase stupas to protect their inner stupas, which enshrine valuables such as large golden Buddha images, jewellery, gold artefacts, and amulets.

In Myanmar, relics of the Buddha, such as the tooth relic duplicate gifted by the King of Sri Lanka, the collarbone, and the frontlet relic, are enshrined in Buddhist stupas. Additionally, the ashes of Buddhist saints, like the monk Shin Arahan in Bagan, as well as the ashes of renowned kings and queens from Srikshestra, are similarly enshrined. These practices are undertaken to worship and venerate the stupas for religious purposes (Aung Thaw, Myint Aung, Sein Maung Oo, and Than Swe, 1993).

### Religious Idea in India

A brick stupa, possibly built in pre-Asokan times, is located at Piprahwa in the Siddharthnagar district of Uttar Pradesh, India. This stupa, constructed from large bricks, measures 35 metres in diameter and stands at an extant height of 6.6 metres. Among its relics, a gold relief figure of the mother goddess in a frontal pose, a crystal casket (see Figure 1), an inscribed steatite casket, and a vase with inscriptions believed to date back to pre-Asokan times were recovered. According to the inscriptions on the relic casket, these relics are associated with Buddha himself (ASI, 1996, p. 88). The inscriptional evidence suggests that in pre-Asokan times, the Buddha's relics were placed inside an inscribed reliquary enshrined within the stupa for worship and veneration. This provides strong evidence for the religious use of Buddha's relics. Archaeological evidence from India (Mitra, 1971) indicates that there are other encased stupas, such as those at Sanchi, Satdhara, Bharhut, and the Buddha relic stupa at Vaishali. These stupas enshrine the relics of the Buddha and Buddhist saints, including the Buddha's chief disciples, inside the inner stupas to facilitate worship and veneration for religious purposes.

There is a Buddha relic stupa located in the Vaishali district of Bihar, India. It is one of the eight original relic stupas built over the corporeal remains of the Buddha. According to Buddhist traditions, after the Buddha's demise, his body was cremated by the Mallas of Kushinagar with a royal ceremony befitting a universal king, and the mortal remains were distributed among eight claimants, including the Lichchhavis of Vaishali. Originally, this stupa was a small mud structure measuring 8.07 metres in diameter, built in the 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE. It was subsequently encased with bricks and enlarged four times, increasing its diameter to 12 metres during the Maurya, Sunga, and Kushan periods (Mitra, 1971). The Ayaka projections noticed towards the south and east possibly provide the earliest example of Ayakapattas. The most remarkable discovery in this stupa is the soapstone relic casket, partly filled with ashy earth, along with a small conch, two glass beads, a fragmentary piece of gold leaf, and a copper punch-marked coin. The discoveries of the Buddha's relic stupa, along

# ENCASEMENTS AND MULTIPLE LAYERS OF RELIQUARIES: THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO RELIGIOUS CONCEPTS

Dr Myo Nyunt Aung

Researcher (Archaeology), Bagan

with the associated wares, provide concrete archaeological evidence of worship and religious ideas regarding traditional customs.

Archaeological excavations in India have uncovered various relic caskets, such as a large round stone box with a green marble relic casket inside, recovered from the Dharmarajika stupa at Sarnath. Other finds include a copper relic casket from the Nandangarh stupa, a soapstone relic casket from a stupa at Vaishali, and gold, crystal, and ivory relic caskets from the Amravati stupa (Mitra, 1971). These relic caskets are made of different materials, each diminishing in size to the innermost layer. The relics of the Buddha found in India were also enshrined in stupas. To protect and preserve them from natural disasters and vandalism, these relics were placed in reliquaries composed of multiple layers. According to archaeological excavations in India, these reliquaries are often found at the centre and bottom of stupas to secure the Buddha's relics. The placement and enshrinement of the Buddha's relics inside multiple layers of reliquaries within Buddhist stupas in India were done to facilitate worship and express religious devotion.



Figure 1: Crystal Casket Found at Piprahwa Stupa, India

### Religious Idea in Sri Lanka

Archaeological evidence from Sri Lanka (Ministry of Cultural Affairs, 1981; Ministry of Cultural Affairs, 1982) describes several encased stupas, including Mahiyangana, Thuparama, Dekkhina, Mirisawetiya, Ruwanveli, and Vatadage in Polonnaruwa. The Mahiyangana stupa enshrines the hair and larynx relics of the Buddha, while the Thuparama stupa contains the Buddha's right collarbone. The ashes of King Duthagamani are housed in the Dekkhina stupa, and the relics of the Buddha are enshrined in the Mirisawetiya, Ruwanveli, and Vatadage stupas. These relics are preserved in

the stupas for religious purposes. Some relic caskets (see Figure 2) have been found in Ruwanveli Dagaba, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka (Fernando, 1965). The relics of the Buddha may have been placed inside multiple layers of relic caskets made from various substances to ensure their security and protection, reflecting religious objectives. According to archaeological excavations in Sri Lanka, the relics of the Buddha with their reliquaries have mostly been discovered at the centre of stupas, on the floors or platforms, possibly as consecrated deposits. These relic caskets, unearthed in Sri Lanka, also diminish in size toward the innermost layer. It can be assumed that the multiple layers of the reliquaries are similar to the concept of encasements.



Figure 2: Reliquaries Found at Ruwanveli Stupa, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka

### Religious Idea in Thailand

The relics of the Buddha are also enshrined in stupas at significant temples throughout Thailand for religious veneration. Archaeological excavations have uncovered Buddha relics from nine major sites spanning the Dvaravati, Sukhothai, Lanna, Ayutthaya, and Rattanakosin periods. Some of these relics are now housed in the Ratchaburi National Museum, the Ramkhamhaeng National Museum, the Chiang Mai National Museum, the Chao Sam Phraya National Museum, and the National Museum in Bangkok (Svasti, 2016). In Thailand, the Buddha's relics are often placed in the inner chambers of stupas, along with miniature statues of the Buddha, votive tablets, and sometimes gold and silver amulets, which are added during the stupa's construction. Additionally, the ashes of kings, royal families, and devout Thais are enshrined in smaller stupas within temple compounds. In Thailand, the secondary donors mostly enlarged to protect the inner stupas, which enshrined valuables such as large golden Buddha images, pieces of jewellery, golden materials, and amulets so that due to encasement, the treasure seekers and thieves cannot loot them (Byrne 1995, pp. 266-279). This practice provides strong archaeological evidence of encasement for religious purposes aimed at safeguarding the Buddha's relics. Reliquary-type

stupas (see Figure 3) used for religious purposes have also been found at the Eastern Stupa, Wat Phra Si Sanphet, in Ayutthaya.



Figure 3: Reliquary-Type Stupas Found at the Eastern Stupa, Wat Phra Si Sanphet, Ayutthaya, Thailand

### Religious Idea in Myanmar

The Manuha stone inscription notes that in 1067 CE, King Manuha constructed a small stupa known as the Mahtaw or Moathtaw stupa, which enshrined the Buddha's relics. To protect these relics, he encased the stupa with three large seated Buddha images and one recumbent Buddha image. These images were completed within six months and six days after King Manuha sold his ring to a wealthy man from Myinkaba (Nyein Maung, 1972, Vol-1, pp. 322-323). Inscriptional evidence suggests that King Manuha built the Mahtaw stupa specifically for the worship of the Buddha's relics. The Shwe Kon Cha temple stone inscription, dating to 1141 CE (Nyein Maung, 1972, Vol-1, pp. 143-151), indicates that Buddha's relics were placed inside two golden Patho (miniature stupas) and other Patho made from various substances along with three golden umbrellas and nine white umbrellas within the reliquary. This inscription reveals that the relics were enshrined with miniature stupas for religious worship. The Anantathuya Couple stone inscription, dated 1223 CE (Nyein Maung, 1972, Vol-1, pp. 151-163), describes the relics of the Buddha being placed inside eight layers of reliquaries made from different materials at the Lemyethna temple in Minnanthu village, Bagan. Similarly, the Thaman Star stone inscription, dated 1343 CE (Nyein Maung, 1983, Vol-4, pp. 50-54), mentions that the relics of the Buddha, belonging to both the monk Maha Upalawun and Thaman Star, were encased in three layers of reliquaries: a golden relic casket, a silver casket, and a small stone stupa with a golden umbrella, enshrined at the Thaman Star temple. These inscriptions collectively document the traditional custom of placing and enshrining Bud-

dha's relics in reliquaries for worship and veneration according to religious ideals.

There are four tooth relic stupas in the Bagan region: Shwezigon, Tantkyi Hill, Lokananda, and Turintaung, all built by King Anawrahta in the 11<sup>th</sup> century CE. Among these, the Shwezigon and Tant Kyi Taung stupas are notable as encased stupas. The tooth relics of the Buddha, presented by the King of Sri Lanka, are enshrined in these stupas. According to tradition, the collarbone and frontlet relic of the Buddha were also enshrined in the Shwezigon stupa in 1059 CE (Aung Kyaing, 2002). The purpose of enshrining these relics in encased stupas was to facilitate worship and veneration for religious practice and the preservation of the religion. After the earthquake in 1975, reliquaries (see Figure 4) made of various substances such as gold, silver, bronze, and sandstone were discovered at the Lokananda stupa (Aung Kyaing, 1992) and the Mahabodhi temple at Bagan. These discoveries provide strong archaeological evidence of the concept of encasement for religious purposes dating back to the Bagan period. It is assumed that these reliquaries were used to place and enshrine the Buddha's relics for religious purposes during the Bagan period. According to legend, a number of Moathtaw stupas may have been built by King Asoka in Myanmar (Bo-Kay, 1981, pp. 220-222), with relics of the Buddha enshrined in each during his reign for worship and religious devotion.

The history of the Shwedagon stupa in Myanmar also records the discovery of relics associated with the three preceding Buddhas, namely the staff, water-dipper, and lower garment, during excavations at the site. These relics, along with the eight sacred hairs of the Gotama Buddha brought by the brothers Taphussa and Bhallika from Okkala (Yangon), were re-enshrined in the Shwedagon stupa (Aung Thaw, 1972). The Shwedagon stupa is one of Myanmar's encased stupas, and successive Myanmar kings and donors have ritually re-enshrined these relics multiple times for the purposes of worship and veneration.



Figure 4: Relic Caskets Found at Lokananda Stupa, Bagan, Myanmar

### Conclusion

Archaeological evidence across various regions highlights the practice of encasing stupas to enshrine the relics of the Buddha and other significant Buddhist figures. In India, encased stupas such as those at Sanchi, Satdhara, Bharhut, and the Buddha's relic stupa at Vaishali reveal that relics of the Buddha and his chief disciples were placed inside inner stupas for religious worship and veneration.

In Sri Lanka, encased stupas like Mahiyangana, Thuparama, Dekkhina, Mirisawetiya, and Ruwanveli feature relics of the Buddha, including the hair and larynx relics in Mahiyangana, the right collarbone in

SEE PAGE 11



# NATIONAL

## Myanmar citizens repatriated from UAE after facing difficulties



Ma Ei Zin Htun



Ma Ei Ei Htun. PHOTOS: KANU

TWO Myanmar nationals, Ma Ei Ei Htun and Ma Ei Zin Htun, who encountered hardships while working in Abu Dhabi, the UAE, were successfully repatriated to Myanmar. The Myanmar government shows its commitment to the welfare of its citizens abroad by facilitating their return under challenging circumstances.

The Myanmar consulate-general in the UAE, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant embassies, worked diligently to ensure the safe return of the two individuals. They left Dubai on 7 August and arrived

in Yangon at 10:10 pm via a flight from Dubai to Yangon.

The government continues to support Myanmar citizens facing difficulties overseas, and the timely repatriation of those nationals reflects the government's ongoing efforts to assist its people in need. Individuals and their families expressed sincere appreciation for the support provided by the Myanmar government, the consulate-general and the embassy in ensuring their safe return to Myanmar. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KZL

## Counter-argument to false information

### Tatmadaw accused of being responsible for Phayaungtwaw village attacks

MALICIOUS media outlets are falsely reporting that a Tatmadaw airstrike in Phayaungtwaw village, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region, resulted in seven deaths on 6 August.

In reality, during the counter-terrorism operation, the Tatmadaw targeted only locations where terrorists were hiding, based on reports from residents. The terrorists, however,

attacked non-military targets using dropped bombs, rockets, and heavy weapons. In this instance, it was the terrorists who used heavy weapons against residents. At the same time, subversive media outlets deliberately spread fabricated stories to cover up the terrorists' actions, misrepresent the Tatmadaw, and mislead the international community. — MNA/TRKM

### Unfounded rumours of imminent attacks on PyinOoLwin addressed

RECENT rumours suggesting imminent attacks by terrorists on PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region, caused concern among some families of Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force members, and government employees, leading to their reported relocation. However, it confirmed that these reports are baseless and part of a deliberate misinformation circulation.

The security forces assured that misinformation is intended to create fear, disrupt regional stability, and lower the morale of Tatmadaw and law enforcement personnel. In response, security teams work diligently with local

people to ensure the safety and security of PyinOoLwin and its surrounding areas.

A resident from Ward 19 in PyinOoLwin clarified the situation, stating, "The town is calm and peaceful. Security forces are effectively maintaining order. The circulating news is simply unfounded rumours aimed at disrupting our community's stability".

Authorities urge the public to disregard these false reports and continue with their everyday activities. The situation remains stable, and efforts to maintain security and public confidence are ongoing, he commented. — MNA/KZL

## Illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K265.96M in early August

UNDER the supervision and control of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, illegal trade is being effectively combatted in accordance with the law.

On 6 August, a combined team under the management of the Customs Department conducted inspections at Yangon Airport (warehouse) and seized 44 vials of laboratory fragrance oil samples from Singapore, one engine generator controller from the United Kingdom (estimated value is K2.8 million) was confiscated, and the action



Confiscated illegal items in different states and regions.

was taken in accordance with Customs procedures.

Similarly, on 6 and 7 Au-

gust, a combined team under the management of the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade

Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections. It seized 6,060 packets of Wai Wai instant noodles from Thailand, 24,000 bottles of Mistine whitening lotion, 450 20-litre cans of VAS vegetable oil from Indonesia and other commodities (estimated value of K113.64 million) at the Myitnge inspection station, one Sunlong bus, one Mitsubishi Fuso truck and one Isuzu Giga truck carrying these items (estimated value of K148 million). The action was carried out in line with Customs procedures.

In addition, on 7 August, a combined team under the management of the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections and seized 1.73 tonnes of illegal teak (estimated value of K1.52 million) in Toungoo District, and the action was taken under the Forest Law. The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that ten arrests were made on 6 and 7 August, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods worth approximately K265.96 million. — MNA/TKO

### Daily newspapers available online

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

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# ARTICLE/SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

## Encasements and Multiple Layers of Reliquaries: Their Contribution to Religious Concepts

### FROM PAGE 9

Thuparama, and the ashes of King Duthagamani in Dekkhina. These stupas were built to preserve and honour the Buddha's relics for religious purposes.

Thailand also reflects this tradition, where the Buddha's relics are enshrined in inner chambers of stupas along with miniature Buddha statues, votive tablets, and sometimes gold and silver amulets. Ashes of kings, royal families, and devout Thais are also enshrined in smaller stupas within temple compounds. Over time, older stupas are encased in new shells, with secondary donors protecting inner stupas containing valuables to prevent theft. This practice provides strong archaeological evidence of encasement to protect the relics of the Buddha.

Excavations in India and Sri Lanka have uncovered various relic caskets made from materials like stone, copper, soapstone, and gold, often diminishing in size to the innermost layer. The relics of the Buddha found in these regions,

as well as in Thailand and Myanmar, were enshrined in multi-layered reliquaries to safeguard against natural disasters and vandalism. In Myanmar, the legend of Moathtaw stupas suggests that relics were enshrined during King Asoka's reign to support religious practices. These customs across different cultures underscore the importance of encasing and preserving Buddha's relics for worship and veneration.

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## Amazon deforestation rises for first time in 15 months

*Despite the recent rise, deforestation has dropped 45.7 per cent over the past year, reflecting a significant overall reduction.*



The Amazon rainforest, home to numerous indigenous communities, has been experiencing rapid deforestation, threatening the very survival of these ancient cultures and the delicate ecosystem they inhabit. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

DEFORESTATION in Brazil's Amazon rainforest increased in July for the first time in 15 months, according to official data released Wednesday.

An area of 666 square

kilometres (250 square miles) was destroyed in the Amazon last month, up 33 per cent from the 500 square kilometres lost in July 2023. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio

Lula da Silva has pledged to put a stop to illegal deforestation of the Amazon by 2030. The practice had dramatically worsened under his far-right predecessor Jair Bolsonaro. Among the factors that contributed to the increase in July, according to the government, was a strike by public employees in the environmental agency IBAMA.

In addition, "in July last year the decrease (in deforestation) was very high," Joao Paulo Capobianco, executive secretary of the environment ministry, said during a press conference explaining this July's poor results. During the last 12 months, deforestation decreased 45.7 per cent compared to the previous period. — AFP

## Chinese researchers quantify global carbon emissions from biomass burning

A Chinese research team has employed the country's Fengyun-3D satellite's global fire spot monitoring data to quantify global carbon emissions from open biomass burning (OBB) and develop a global high-resolution daily OBB emission inventory.

The study, conducted by researchers from the Aerospace Information Research Institute under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, was published in the journal *Earth System Science Data*.

OBB — characterized by its periodic nature, randomness, multiple sources, broad impact, and challenges in monitoring — is a major source of global carbon emissions, including forest fires, grassland fires, shrub fires, and crop residue burning. Accurately quantifying carbon emissions from OBB is crucial for understanding terrestrial ecosystem carbon cycles and is essential for determining carbon budget balances on both global and regional scales. — Xinhua

## NASA weighs SpaceX rescue for stranded Boeing Starliner crew

WHAT was meant to be a weeklong trip to the International Space Station (ISS) for the first NASA astronauts to fly with Boeing could extend to eight months, with the agency considering bringing them home on a SpaceX spaceship. A final decision on whether to persist with Boeing's troubled Starliner — which experienced worrying propulsion issues as it flew up to the orbital platform in June — is expected later this month, officials said Wednesday in a call with reporters.

Detailed planning is already underway with Boeing's rival SpaceX, owned by Elon Musk, to potentially launch their scheduled Crew-9 mission on 24 September with just two astronauts rather than the usual four.

The Crew Dragon capsule would then be able to return to Earth with Starliner's crew of Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams in February 2025 — in what would amount to a major embarrassment for aerospace giant Boeing. — AFP

# ECONOMY WORLD



Visitors enjoy the displays in the private pop-up installation showcasing the complete works of Japanese animation filmmaker Makoto Shinkai in Los Angeles on 19 November 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

## PM Kishida vows to set up committee to promote Japan's film industry

*While Japanese anime and manga-based films are highly praised internationally, the domestic content industry struggles with issues such as low wages and inadequate working conditions.*

PRIME Minister Fumio Kishida pledged Wednesday that his government will set up a committee as early as September aimed at promoting Japan's film industry, with participation from filmmakers and relevant ministries.

Japanese anime and films based on popular manga enjoy widespread acclaim abroad, but the content industry has faced challenges at home, including low wages and the need for im-

proved working conditions.

Kishida said the government will implement necessary measures to assist creators, enabling them to work sustainably and with confidence, while investigating the actual situation in the content industry "with a sense of speed".

The government is also planning to integrate related policies overseen by the culture ministry and the industry ministry to efficiently execute them,

Kishida said, adding the newly established committee is expected to hold its first meeting in early September.

On Wednesday, Kishida toured a site in Tokyo where junior high school students work with professional filmmakers to create their films, accompanied by Japanese director Hirokazu Koreeda, who won the top award at the Cannes International Film Festival in 2018. — Kyodo

## India signs bilateral air services agreements with 116 countries to enhance global connectivity

INDIA has executed Bilateral Air Services Agreements (ASAs) with a total of 116 foreign countries. The agreements facilitate the operation of international flights between India and these nations, aiming to boost global connectivity and support economic and tourism growth.

In a recent Rajya Sabha session, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, represented by Minister of State Murlidhar Mohol, provided

comprehensive details regarding India's Bilateral Air Services Agreements (ASAs) with foreign countries.

The information was presented in response to a question by Dr John Brittas.

Contrary to the query's specifics, the ASAs do not designate individual airports as points of call (PoC). Instead, the agreements typically specify cities as points of call. — ANI



Mumbai International Airport is a major hub for international travellers, connecting the bustling city with destinations around the globe.

**PHOTO: ANI/FILE**

### BRIEF: ECON

#### Sri Lanka to gradually lift vehicle import ban in 2025 to boost revenue

SRI LANKA will permit the import of vehicles in stages starting in 2025, as the country seeks to boost revenue through Customs duties, President Ranil Wickremesinghe said on Wednesday during a meeting with heads of media organizations.

Wickremesinghe said that the nation's reserves were being built up, allowing for the gradual lifting of the ongoing ban on vehicle imports. — Xinhua



## World's 1<sup>st</sup> large, ultra-shallow gas field in ultra-deep waters has OGIP of over 100 bln cubic metres

THE original gas in place (OGIP) of the Lingshui 36-1 gas field — the world's first large, ultra-shallow gas field in ultra-deep waters — has been

estimated at more than 100 billion cubic metres, according to the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC).

CNOOC, one of China's

three biggest oil companies, on Wednesday said that the relevant government authorities have approved the data.

The Lingshui 36-1 gas field is located in waters southeast of Hainan, China's southernmost island province. — Xinhua

This undated photo provided by CNOOC shows the Lingshui 36-1 gas field in waters southeast of Hainan, China's southernmost island province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SEOUL GLOW VOY.NO. (429W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Embassy of India, Yangon  
Welcomes  
The Indian Community/Diaspora in Myanmar  
& Friends of India in Myanmar to  
The Flag hoisting ceremony on the  
**78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of India**  
@ India House, Dagon Township  
On 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Programme:	Time
Flag hoisting by Ambassador of India followed by National Anthem	: 08:30 hours
Reading of the Presidents' address to the nation	: 08:35 hours
Cultural Programme	: 08:45 hours
Refreshments	: 09:00 hours

All Guests are requested to be present latest by 08:25 hours and requested to fill the online registration form at  
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# Siemens profits soar on software demand, AI 'boom'

GERMAN industrial giant Siemens said Thursday its quarterly profits jumped sharply, driven by demand for production software as well as the "boom" in artificial intelligence and customers upgrading power grids.

Net profit was 1.98 billion euros (\$2.2 billion) from April to June — up about 50 percent from a year earlier and higher than analyst forecasts — on revenue of 18.9 billion euros.

Siemens, whose sprawling global business runs from making trains and factory equipment to systems that manage



Siemens CEO Roland Busch said the German group was 'benefiting from the boom in artificial intelligence'. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE**

data centres, said its software business performed strongly, winning a series of major contracts.

The electrification arm

of the group also grew by more than 20 per cent, said CEO Roland Busch.

"We are benefiting from the boom in artificial

intelligence, and the accelerated energy transition," he told journalists after the results were released.

"On the one hand, many new data centres are being built, and on the other, power grids are being expanded to accommodate more renewable energy."

The group's "smart infrastructure" division, which includes the electrification business, reported revenues were up 10 percent overall from a year earlier. But sales fell in its industrial automation business, which covers areas like automating factories. — AFP

## 4 automakers in S Korea to recall some 172,000 vehicles

Four domestic and foreign automakers in South Korea will voluntarily recall some 172,000 vehicles for manufacturing defects, the transport ministry said Thursday.

BMW Korea will recall 113,197 units of 98 different models, including BMW 320d, for faulty airbag module inflator, according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

A wiring error of the second-row seats prompted a recall on 43,926 units of two models, including Santa Fe, from Hyundai Motor. — Xinhua

## Shenzhen reports China-Europe freight train shipment volume increase in H1

A total of 96 China-Europe freight trains with a cumulative shipment value of 2.74 billion yuan (about 384.2 million US dollars) departed from Shenzhen in the first half of 2024, a year-on-year increase of 34.2 per cent, Shenzhen Customs said on Tuesday.

The trains passed through Russia, Belarus, Poland, Germany, and other European countries and regions, carrying more than 100 types of goods, including electronic products, mechanical equipment and clothing. — Xinhua

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## New Zealand PM calls on Indian President Murmu

*New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon and President Droupadi Murmu discussed cultural ties and regional and global security issues during her visit to New Zealand.*



NEW Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon called on President Droupadi Murmu and held discussions on issues ranging from cultural ties to regional and global security.

President Murmu, who is on a three-nation visit currently, reached New Zealand on Wednesday.

“Prime Minister Christopher Luxon of New Zealand called on President Droupadi Murmu. Both the leaders held discussions on various issues ranging from deepening cultural ties to commitment for regional and global security,” President Murmu said in a post on X.

Prime Minister Christopher

Luxon of New Zealand called on President Droupadi Murmu. Both the leaders held discussions on various issues ranging from deepening cultural ties to commitment for regional and global security.

Earlier, New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Winston Peters called on President Murmu.

Both leaders acknowledged the progress in bilateral relations and deliberated upon ways of enhancing cooperation in several areas. Moreover, they also laid a wreath at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park in Wellington, New Zealand.

New Zealand Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro warmly received President Murmu, who was welcomed with a traditional Maori “Powhiri” ceremony in Wellington. She was also accorded the Guard of Honour. — ANI

Both leaders emphasized enhancing bilateral relations and cooperation.  
**PHOTO: ANI**

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Nepal forms committee after deadly crash

THE Nepal government has formed a three-membered committee to investigate the second aviation accident after a helicopter crashed into the hills of Nepal on Wednesday killing all 5 on board.

An emergency cabinet meeting held earlier in the afternoon soon after the crash of the Air Dynasty helicopter formed the committee to be led by Senior Nepal Army Pilot Subhash Thapa.

“A three-membered committee has been formed to investigate the reason for the crash. The committee has 30 days to submit the report,” Prithivi Subba Gurung, the government spokesperson confirmed ANI.

The other members of the commission are aeronautical engineer Bishnu Basnet and Tanuja Pokharel.

The crash on Wednesday, which came less than a fortnight after the Saurya Airlines crash claimed the lives of 18 people on board on 24 July within the premises of Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu. — ANI

#### Tunisian president replaces prime minister

TUNISIAN President Kais Saied sacked his prime minister Ahmed Hachani without explanation on Wednesday and replaced him with social affairs minister Kamel Madouri, according to a statement from his office.

Hachani took office on 1 August last year, replacing Najla Bouden, who was also dismissed without an official reason by Saied.

His replacement Madouri had only taken on the social affairs portfolio in May. In a social media post from his office, Saied is shown shaking hands with Madouri with a brief statement saying only that the president had “decided to assign him to head the government, succeeding Mr Ahmed Hachani”. — AFP

## Nagasaki mayor says Israel exclusion from A-bomb event not political

THE mayor of the southwestern Japan city of Nagasaki reiterated Thursday that the lack of an invitation for Israel to attend an annual ceremony commemorating the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bombing of the city was not politically motivated and there would be no change to the decision.

The remarks by Nagasaki Mayor Shiro Suzuki came a day after it was revealed that the envoys of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the United States and the European Union had sent a letter to Nagasaki in mid-July saying “it would become difficult for us to have high-level participation” in the event if Israel was excluded.

They expressed concerns that the move “would result in placing Israel on the same level as countries such as Russia and Belarus”, which have not been invited to the ceremony for a third consecutive year over Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Suzuki cited security rea-

sons as behind the decision, including potential demonstrations against Israel’s attendance, and told reporters that he hoped the ceremony would be “conducted smoothly under a solemn atmosphere”, as ageing atomic bomb survivors make great efforts to attend the ceremony.

“I will continue to persevere and ask for understanding of the decision as often as necessary,” he said.

The mayor had initially postponed a decision on Israel’s participation, before announcing on 31 July that the country would not be invited. — Kyodo



People hold a rally at the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima on the evening of 6 August 2024, to protest against Israel having been invited to the annual peace ceremony held the same day in the western Japan city to mark the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its atomic bombing by the United States. **PHOTO: KYODO**

# SPORTS



Aung Myint Myat battles it out in the U-19 Open singles match.

## Myanmar sweeps gold, silver medals at Butterfly & SISB Thailand Table Tennis Open

MYANMAR'S table tennis team achieved impressive results at the Butterfly & SISB Thailand Table Tennis Open and secured one gold medal and two silver medals in the competition. The tournament took place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 31 July to 7 August.

In the individual U-40 Open category, Myanmar's Ko Kyi Myint won a silver medal, while in the U-50 Open category, he continued his strong performance by clinching a gold medal.

Additionally, Aung Myint Myat excelled in the U-19 Open category, where he earned a silver medal.

A total of ten players represented Myanmar at the Butterfly & SISB Thailand Table Tennis Open, demonstrating the country's growing prowess in the sport. The team's achievements underscore their competitive spirit and skill on the international stage. — Arkar Linn/KZL



The marathon swimming final took place despite some concerns over water quality. PHOTO: AFP

## Olympic swimmers plunge into Seine, Lyles eyes sprint double

*The Seine's water quality has been a concern, leading to cancelled training sessions and event postponements.*

OLYMPIC marathon swimmers dived into the Seine Thursday with the river deemed clean enough to compete, as US sprinter Noah Lyles hoped to pocket a 200-metre gold to go with his stunning 100-metre success.

As the Paris Games builds to a crescendo, LeBron James leads his dream team of US superstars into a semifinal against a Serbia powered by Nikola Jokic, a three-time NBA most valuable player.

After a running saga over the quality of the water in the Seine, 24 women took the plunge for the 10-kilometre marathon swim through the heart of the city.

Sharon van Rouwendaal from the Nether-

lands won a gruelling battle against her competitors and a strong current in 2hr 3min 34sec, devoting her gold to the memory of her pet dog, Rio, who died in May.

"Swimming is my everything, but so was he... My father said: 'swim one more time and do it for him. And that's what I did'," she added.

Water quality in the Seine has been in the spotlight during the Olympics despite a 1.4-billion-euro (\$1.5-billion) effort to improve sewerage and water treatment.

Organisers have been forced to scrap several training sessions and postpone the men's individual triathlon after assessing the water to be too dirty to swim in. — AFP

## Alvarez secures men's 63.5kg title for Cuba's first boxing gold at Paris 2024

CUBA'S Erislandy Alvarez triumphed in the boxing men's 63.5-kilogramme category to give Cuba its first boxing gold at Paris 2024, defeating home favourite Sofiane Ouhima in a close split decision 3-2 on Wednesday.

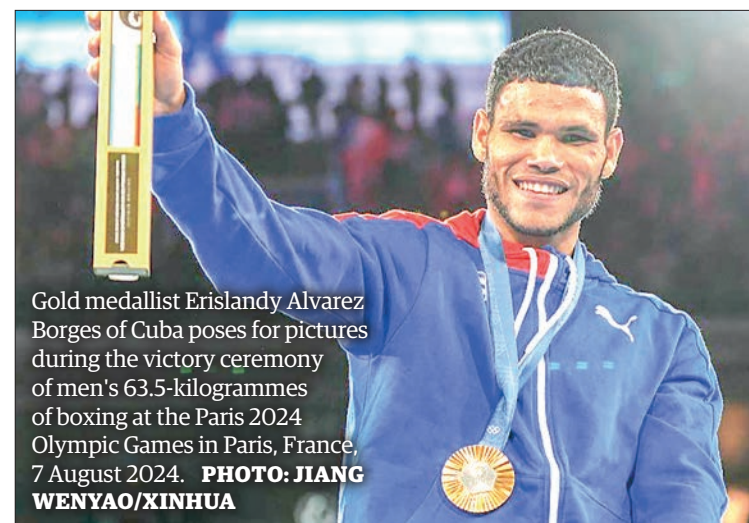
The Cuban was comfortably best in the first round, fighting at distance and beating Ouhima to the punch on multiple occasions, winning the round on every scorecard. The second and third rounds were much closer, with the Frenchman chasing down the slicker Cuban. However, much to the disagreement of the French crowd, Alvarez was able to outlast Ouhima through the third, winning three of the five judges' favour.

Ukraine's Oleksandr Khyzh-

niak claimed bronze in a tight split decision over Nurbek Oralbay of Kazakhstan in the 80-kilogramme event to win his country's first boxing medal at Paris.

The opening two rounds were very close, as neither was able to nullify the other's offence while remaining defensively secure. However, in the third round, Khyzhniak showed his class and began to pick Oralbay apart, winning the round on all of the judges' scorecards and securing a bitterly close 3-2 split decision.

In the men's 92-kilogramme + division, gold medal favorite Bakhodir Jalolov thoroughly outclassed Germany's Nelvie Raman Tiafack to win a unanimous decision and make the final. — Xinhua



Gold medalist Erislandy Alvarez Borges of Cuba poses for pictures during the victory ceremony of men's 63.5-kilogrammes of boxing at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France, 7 August 2024. PHOTO: JIANG WENYAO/XINHUA

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# WORLD

## FIRST CANCER MOONSHOT DIALOGUE

### US-India to strengthen biomedical research cooperation with focus on cancer

THE first-ever US-India Cancer Moonshot Dialogue was held in New Delhi, with a focus on cancer, strengthening US-India biomedical research cooperation, and jointly developing solutions to improve the health and well-being of the global community, according to US Embassy and Consulates in India press release.

The US Embassy in New Delhi facilitated the Moonshot Dialogue on August 5 and 6 at the National Institute of Immunology, in the national capital.

The US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, and Nobel Laureate Dr Jim Allison presented a scientific public lecture titled 'Beyond Checkpoint Inhibition'.

The participants of the dialogue included the US delegation, GOI senior officials, leadership from the American and Indian private sectors, NGOs and patient advocacy groups working in cancer-related fields, faculty members from various GOI institutions, and young researchers, including PhDs and postdocs from government universities.— ANI

## China-Cambodia cultural corridor injects energy into regional tourism



People visit a display showcasing the intangible cultural heritage of southwest China's Yunnan province and Cambodia at the launching ceremony of the China-Cambodia Cultural Corridor in Siem Reap Angkor International Airport in northwest Cambodia on 6 August 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

The event, part of the 2024 China-Cambodia people-to-people exchange year, featured exhibits of cultural heritage and artwork from China, Cambodia, and Lancang-Mekong countries.

THE China-Cambodia Cultural Corridor was launched on Tuesday at Siem Reap Angkor International Airport in northwest Cambodia, a new push for the development of regional tourism.

Themed "World Heritage Face to Face, Civilization Mutual Learning Hand in Hand", the cultural corridor aimed to further promote cultural diversity and heritage of the two countries as 2024 is the China-Cambodia people-to-people exchange year.

The launching ceremony was held at

the airport's international passenger departure terminal, displaying some 100 exquisite pictures of China and Cambodia as well as other Lancang-Mekong countries. Visitors can also enjoy a display, with a focus on three themes of "embroidery", "carving" and "colour", showcasing intangible cultural heritage of southwest China's Yunnan province and Cambodia.

At the event, the World Heritage Tour Plan, under the theme of "See 10 World Heritage Sites in 10 Days", was also launched.— Xinhua



The Eastern Economic Forum 2024 (EEF) will take place in the city of Vladivostok on 3-6 September under the slogan: Far East 2030. Let's join efforts and create opportunities. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

## BRICS role in multipolar world to top Eastern Economic Forum's agenda

THE gathering, organized by the Roscongress Foundation, aims to strengthen international business ties, promote Russian culture, and protect the country's national interests.

The Eastern Economic Forum 2024 (EEF) will take place in the city of Vladivostok on 3-6 September under the slogan: Far East 2030. Let's join efforts and

create opportunities.

The EEF 2024's business programme will encompass seven main topics, titled "New contours of international cooperation", "Technologies of independence", "Financial system of values", "Far Eastern Russia", "People, education and patriotism", "Transport and logistics: new routes", and "Master plans:

from architecture to economics."

Participants will discuss global challenges facing Russia and the countries of the Asia-Pacific region. They will also focus on the role of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the BRICS group, in building a multipolar world, as well as cooperation in investment and climate change issues.— SPUNIK