

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Promoting Sports: A Defence and Safeguard for the Nation

Promoting sports can help cultivate a disciplined and healthy spirit, strengthening the nation's human resources, which can contribute to the country's success through unity and cooperation.



Fireworks light up the sky to mark the opening of the Fifth National Sports Festival following SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing's unveiling speech yesterday.

**S**ENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing noted that the successful sports achievements that have the potential to raise Myanmar's State flag to the top in international competitions signifi-

cantly enhance the nation's pride and dignity while elevating the country's status.

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the

opening ceremony of the Fifth National Sports Festival 2024 at Wunna Theik-di Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

In his speech, the Senior General

underscored the notion that 'promoting sports is akin to defending and safeguarding the nation' represents the highest principle.

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MoALI Union Minister receives ASEAN-China Centre Secretary-General



CBM Governor attends 60<sup>th</sup> SEACEN Governors Conference, Seminar, and BOG Meeting



YGN palm oil reference rate dips this week ending 15 Dec

# NATIONAL

## Youth Education: Essential for Personal and National Growth

IF youths lack educational knowledge, they cannot develop themselves, their families, society, the nation and nationals.

Therefore, in the basic education sector, it is crucial to ensure all youths and school-age children attend and complete their education.

*(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting to provide guidance to outstanding students in the 2023-2024 academic year on 26 April 2024)*

# Kalmykia Head tours key Yangon sites, pays homage to venerable Sayadaws

THE delegation led by Head of the Republic of Kalmykia Mr Batu Sergeevich Khassikov of the Russian Federation, together with Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and officials, paid homage to Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday morning.

The delegation visited religious edifices, the Buddhological Museum and Photo Gallery, viewed the historical data and pilgrimage guide at the pagoda and offered flowers, water, oil lights and joss sticks to the Buddha Image at the prayer hall.

They also visited the National Museum to view round the Thihathana throne, Yadanabon era exhibit, and royal accessories. They also toured significant venues in Yangon City such as the City Hall, the Ministers' Office, Kandawgyi Lake and Karaweik Hall as well as the jewellery shops of the Myanmar Gems Museum. In the afternoon, the Head of the Republic of Kalmykia and the party paid homage to members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee led by Chairman Sayadaw Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja



Mr Batu Sergeevich Khassikov (left), Head of the Republic of Kalmykia of the Russian Federation and the delegation pay homage to the Shwedagon Pagoda.



Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa at the hall on Kaba Aye Hill.

At the ceremony, the Chairman Sayadaw said that he had known the flourishing of culture, literature and fine arts of the Russian Federation. He is pleased with the cultural and social relations of Russia with Myanmar. He expressed his delightedness for better diplomatic relations between the two

countries in the time of the State Administration Council. And, the Sayadaw said he was also pleased with the bilateral relations between the two countries to allow the building of Buddha Images and pagodas of Theravada Buddhism in Russia.

The Head of the Republic of Kalmykia supplicated that the Republic of Kalmykia is striving for the propagation of Bud-

dhism. He invited the Chairman Sayadaw to attend the Buddhism Forum to be held in 2025. He expressed his belief that his republic will propagate Buddhism like Myanmar and he expects the cooperation of the SSMNC in propagation of the Buddhism.

The guests offered Dhamma gifts and alms to the Chairman Sayadaw who returned a picture of the Bagan Ancient Cultural

Heritage Zone as a Dhamma gift.

Also present at the ceremony were Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Islander Azizov and officials from the Department of Religious Affairs.

In the evening, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein hosted a dinner in honour of the Head of the Republic of Kalmykia and the delegation. — MNA/TTA

**COVID-19 report, 9 December 2024**

NEW TESTS	NEW CASE	CASUALTIES
4,519	one	NIL

*Myanmar National Centre for Diseases Control  
Department of Public Health*

**Gold Market Rate as of 9 December 2024**

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with a density of 19.25 and above is K5,310,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

**Low-Pressure Area Condition**

Issued at (19:00) hours MST on 9 December 2024

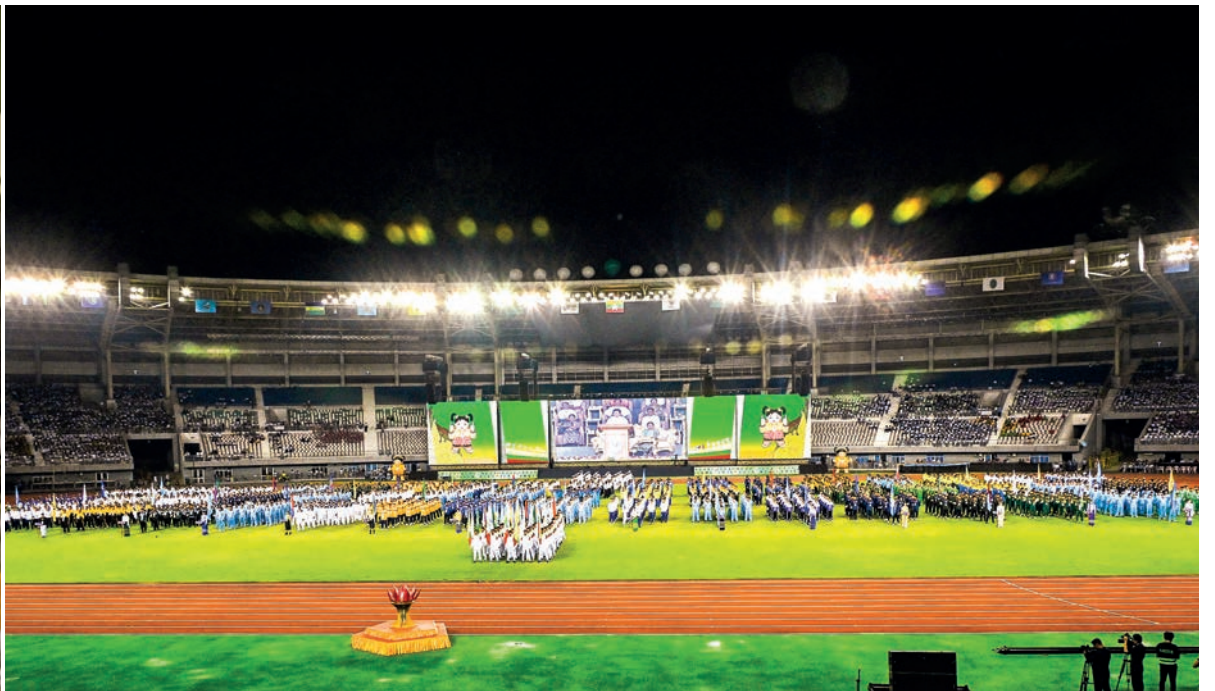
ACCORDING to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the low-pressure area over South Bay of Bengal and adjoining East Equatorial India Ocean still persists. It is likely to move west-northwestwards and may further intensify during next 24 hours. Thereafter, it is likely to reach over Southwest Bay of Bengal (off Sri Lanka - Tamil Nadu Coast, India) around 11 December 2024. — DMH

## 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)*

## Promoting Sports: A Defence and Safeguard ...



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks on the inaugural occasion of the Fifth National Sports Festival in Nay Pyi Taw.

### FROM PAGE 1

He highlighted that it is necessary for the entire population, including students, youth, and persons with disabilities, to actively participate in the process of implementing programmes that transition from mass sports to excellent sports, aiming to nurture outstanding athletes.

He emphasized that the successful sports achievements that have the potential to raise Myanmar's State flag to the top in international competitions significantly enhance the nation's pride and dignity while elevating the country's status. Hence, it is emphasized that all citizens should actively collaborate in promoting the sports sector.

He continued to say that the government is making efforts to appropriately enhance the recognition and rewards, including cash awards, for national athletes who have won prestigious prizes in international competitions.

Moreover, the Senior General disclosed that the government is providing monthly allowances and honorary titles to veteran athletes who have once brought glory to the nation.

As such, he urged athletes participating in the sports festival to strive for success, and aim to become nationally selected players in order to bring pride to the country.

By including sports in the scoring system, he added, the government manages to facilitate outstanding student-athletes to attend sports and physical education institutes, and awarding sports scholarships.

The Senior General stressed that the Ministry of Education should implement plans to encourage every student and youth to participate in various sports, organize a sports calendar, and systematically arrange annual competitions from the basic education level to college and university levels.

He pointed out that only then will the integration of sports and education-related activities become smoother, leading to the emergence of a new generation of athletes and supporting the continuous development of sustainable sports development of the nation.

He urged entire people including student youths and people with disabilities to join the process of upgrading the mass

sports level to an excellent sports level.

In Myanmar, he explained that it is necessary to organize sports competitions for students and youth in the coming years, as well as inter-ministerial competitions and advanced sports events. These should be included in the sports calendar, and efforts must be made to enhance the level of Myanmar's sports.

mar's sports.

The Senior General stressed the need to systematically train and prepare outstanding athletes who emerge from various competitions, in order to develop Myanmar's top athletes capable of competing in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Southeast Asian Games and international competitions.

**SEE PAGE 4**



Spectators crowd the stands at Wunna Theikdi Stadium.

# NATIONAL

## Promoting Sports: A Defence and Safeguard ...



Sports contingents march into Wunna Theikdi Stadium for the launch of the Fifth National Sports Festival yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

### FROM PAGE 3

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla planted a Gangaw sapling (*Mesua ferrea*) to mark the opening of the 2024 National Sports Festival.

After the Senior General delivered a speech, fireworks were displayed to mark the festival's opening ceremony.

At the opening ceremony, paratroopers from the free-fall squad, carrying the flag of the National Sports Festival along with regional and state flags, landed on the ground and saluted the Senior General.

The renowned singer Htoo L Linn sang the song "Our Myanmar, a modern nation". A lighting show was presented to accompany a traditional Myanmar orchestra and musical instruments, with music played in a lively and rhythmic fashion. The event continued with a grand opening, during which fireworks were launched. The Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, in collaboration with the Department of Basic Education under the Ministry of Education, presented the song "Beautiful, Beloved Golden Myanmar", with a performance.

After the State Military Band took the position in the stadium, the sports contingents from ministries, regions and states led by the flag bearers took the positions in the stadium. They hoisted the State flag and saluted it.

Veteran selection athletes conveyed the flag of the National Sports Festival into the stadium.

Chairman of the National Sports Festival U Than Tun Oo ignited the torch to mark the festival and handed it over to Myanmar's selected player Police Major Aung Cho Myint. The decorated float bearing the torch flanked by ethnic national people headed from the City Hall to Wunna Theikdi Stadium. Selected athletes relayed the torch along the designated route and ignited it at the dais in front of the grandstand. At that moment, the commemorative torch, positioned at the southeast corner of the stadium, was also ignited.

On behalf of athletes and referees, an athlete and a referee took Sports oaths and the flag bearers and athletes left the stadium.

The Senior General and his wife, and dignitaries enjoyed choral dances representing six eras of Myanmar performed by artistes from the Fine Arts Department, demonstrated entertainment and songs by members from the Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation, students from Nay Pyi Taw State Technical High School, Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, Myanmar Chinlone Federation, Myanmar Theatrical Association, Myanmar Comedians' Association, students from University for Development of National Races, and Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College, performances of students from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The fireworks were displayed to mark the successful completion of the opening

ceremony of the National Sports Festival. The Senior General and his wife waved to the attendees and cordially greeted the veteran athletes and artistes.

Also present at the ceremony were SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Council Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe and his wife, Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo and his wife, council members and their wives, union ministers, union-level dignitaries and their wives, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, Olympic Committee members, presidents and officials of sports federations, guests, athletes and sports fans.

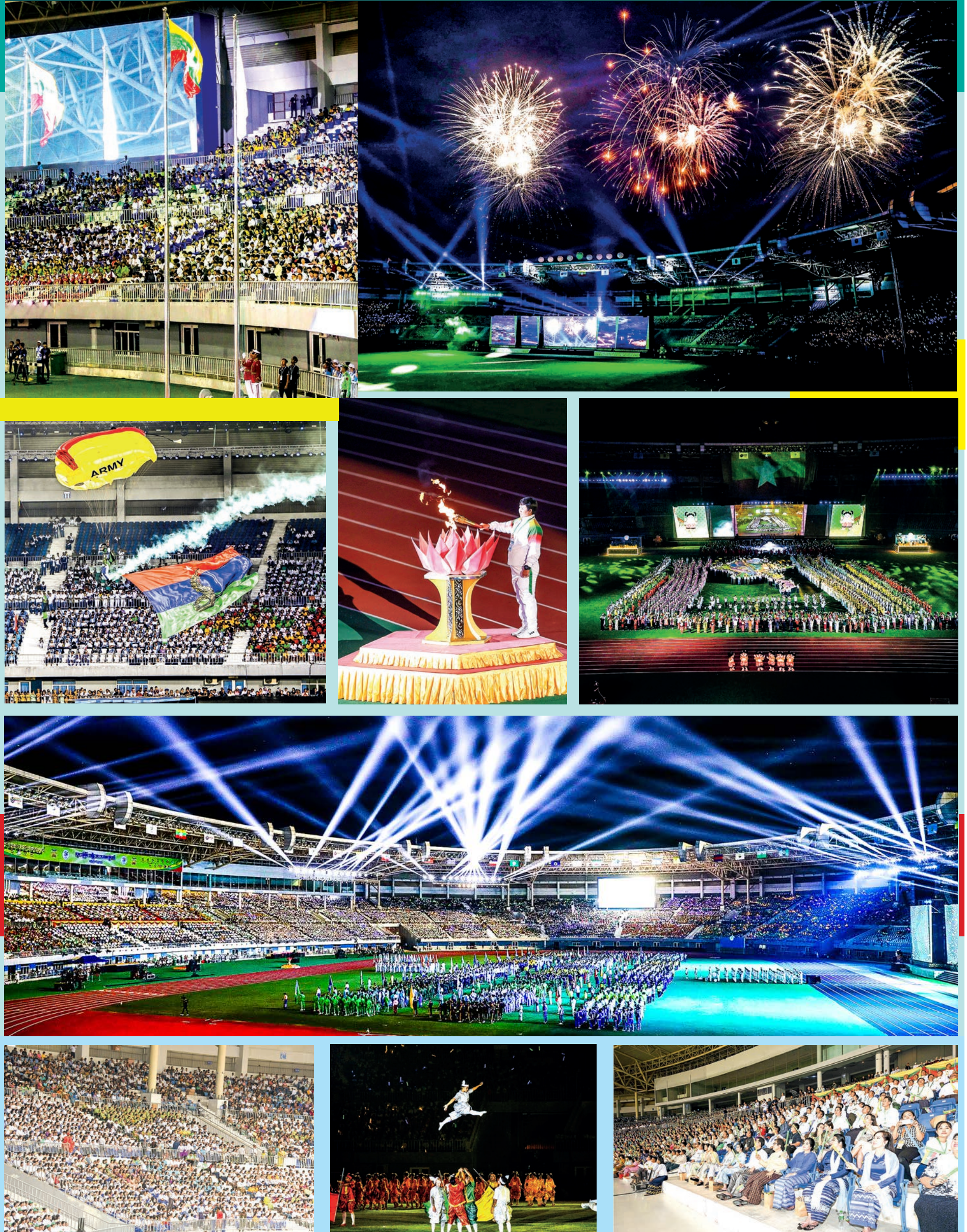
The first National Sports Festival was held in Yangon from 3 to 16 May 1992 with 22 sports events, the second in Yangon from 25 January to 6 February 1994 with 24 sports events, the third in Yangon from

11 to 24 January 1997 with 29 sports events, and the fourth in Nay Pyi Taw from 13 to 28 February 2015 with 27 sports events. In 2024, the Fifth National Sports Festival is being held on a grand scale to aim at enhancing the nation's sports standards, achieving success in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Southeast Asian Games and other international competitions, and turning out outstanding athletes and new-generation athletes who can bring national honour, fostering greater collaboration and unity between regions, states, and ministries in order to further promote sports activities and stipulating public interest in sports to join in sports activities. The festival is in progress with six sports at the ministerial level and 23 sports at the regional and state level as well as four sports for athletes with disabilities, totalling 33, starting from early December. The para-sports events were held from 5 to 8 December. And, ministerial and regional and state level sports competitions are being held. — MNA/TTA

### Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the opening of Fifth National Sports Festival

1. All citizens should actively collaborate in promoting the sports sector.
2. The government manages to facilitate outstanding student-athletes to attend sports and physical education science schools and award sports scholarships.
3. It is necessary to organize sports competitions for students and youth in the coming years, as well as inter-ministerial competitions and advanced sports events.
4. The government is making efforts to appropriately enhance the recognition and rewards, including monetary awards, for national athletes who have won prestigious prizes in international competitions.

# This photo display captures the entire action of the Fifth National Sports Festival.



# NATIONAL

## Government aims to shape an uncorrupted society

Corruption is rooted not only in government bodies and the private sector but at non-profit charity organizations in developed and developing countries worldwide.

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing highlighted that corruption can not only hinder the achievement of national development goals but also harm the rule of law, peace and stability.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said so in his speech marking the International Anti-Corruption Day ceremony at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General pointed out that corruption can not only hinder the achievement of national development goals but also harm the rule of law, peace and stability.

He noted that corruption is rooted in government bodies and the private sector, as well as non-profit charity organizations in developed and developing countries worldwide.

The Senior General disclosed that the government strives to combat corruption with goodwill for the State by implementing the missions and visions to decline corruption, shape a corruption-free society and protect the public interest.

He unveiled that the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science and Technology jointly organize edutainment programmes and youth discussions at basic education schools and universities to promote the



State Administration Council Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the International Anti-Corruption Day ceremony yesterday.

youths' righteousness and integrity.

According to the Anti-Corruption Law, he stressed that action will be taken against offenders in corruption cases and their property based on corruption will be confiscated under the law.

The Senior General underscored that as corruption is a global problem harming the rule of law and democracy worldwide, justice disappears

in society, causing harm to the nation and the general public.

In accord with the motto of the Anti-Corruption Commission "Eliminating Corruption, Prosperous Nation", the Senior General urged the entire people to cooperate with the government in operating anti-corruption measures to ensure the prosperity of society as well as the entire nation.

The Senior General unveiled the signboard of the

opening ceremony to mark International Anti-Corruption Day and presented prizes to winners in the poster, video and article contests to mark the significant day.

Commission Chair U Sis Aye reported to the Senior General on the work progress of the commission and its plans.

The Senior General and dignitaries watched a video clip on International Anti-Corruption Day and viewed round docu-

mentary photos in combatting corrupted measures.

Also present at the ceremony were SAC Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, council members, union-level dignitaries, union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers and officials of Anti-Corruption Commission. — MNA/TTA

## MoALI Union Minister receives ASEAN-China Centre Secretary-General

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung received a delegation led by Mr Shi Zhongjun, Secretary-General of the ASEAN-China Centre, at the parlour of the Union Minister's Office yesterday afternoon.



The Secretary-General of the ASEAN-China Centre calls on Union Minister U Min Naung yesterday.

The meeting discussed ASEAN-China cooperation in the food and agriculture sector; narrowing the development gap among ASEAN member countries, exporting agricultural products from Myanmar to the People's Republic of China, investing in small agricultural machinery manufacturing factories in Myanmar; human resource development and technology exchange in agriculture and livestock, use

of digital agricultural technology and infrastructure development, prevention and control of cross-border animal diseases and providing technical and financial support, establishing a hybrid crop research centre, establishing an agricultural product quality control centre, issuing pest-free certificates (e-phyto) in Myanmar; and implementing a laboratory upgrading project. — MNA/TKO

# NATIONAL

## MoHT Union Minister meets ACC delegation, heads to tourism conference

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine met Mr Shi Zhongjun, Secretary-General of the Beijing-based ASEAN-China Centre (ACC), and his delegation at Sedona Hotel, Yangon, on 8 December. The delegation arrived in Yangon to attend the opening ceremony of the Fifth National Sports Festival in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting featured open and cordial discussions on several key topics, including raising awareness among Chinese tourists about Myanmar's travel destinations, organizing Chinese language training courses to improve service quality, and encouraging greater private sector involvement in bilateral tourism initiatives. Discussions also



Secretary-General Mr Shi Zhongjun of the Beijing-based ASEAN-China Centre calls on Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine yesterday.

addressed fostering Chinese investment in Myanmar's hotels and tourism sectors, enhancing bilateral cooperation

in tourism, and strengthening collaboration between the Ministry and the ASEAN-China Centre to support Myanmar's tourism development. Following the discussions, the Union Minister hosted a dinner in honour of the Secretary-General and his delegation.

On 9 December, the Union Minister departed Yangon by air to attend the first Rural Development Tourism Conference in Hoi An, Vietnam. The conference, scheduled for 10-11 December, is jointly organized by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and Vietnam's Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism. — MNA/TMT

## MoFA Deputy Minister receives ASEAN-China Centre Secretary-General



The ASEAN-China Centre Secretary-General calls on Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Kyaw yesterday.

DEPUTY Foreign Affairs Minister U Ko Ko Kyaw received Mr Shi Zhongjun, Secretary-General of the ASEAN-China Centre (ACC), and members of the delegation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

They cordially discussed relevant matters on further deepening mutual understanding and friendship under the six priority cooperation areas of the

ASEAN-China Centre (ACC), which are trade, investment, education, culture, tourism, information and media. Both sides emphasized the crucial role of the ACC while highlighting the success of projects and activities which were completed in 2024.

The deputy minister appreciated the ACC's support for offering Chinese language training to young diplomats which

has been commenced online upon the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to explore the possibility of despatching the Chinese language mobile training team to benefit more trainees in Myanmar. He also discussed further exchanges in areas of agriculture productivity, trade promotion, and renewable energy technology.

Mr Shi Zhongjun also expressed appreciation for Myanmar's commitment to enhancing the ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations to new heights while focusing on the critical role of Myanmar in realizing the joint initiatives and activities included in the ACC Work Plan. Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Kyaw and the Secretary-General agreed to further promote people-to-people exchanges through the ACC programmes to enhance mutual understanding and build closer bonds among the peoples of ASEAN and China. — MNA

## CBM Governor attends 60<sup>th</sup> SEACEN Governors Conference, Seminar, and BOG Meeting

THE Myanmar delegation led by Central Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe attended the 60<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Governors of the South East Asian Central Banks (SEACEN), the senior official seminar and the 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEACEN Board of Governors (BOG) meeting held in Korea on 6-7 December.

On 6 December, the Myanmar delegation discussed the condition and potential of the

global economic and financial market in 2025 and the impacts on the Asian economy due to geopolitical tensions.

On 7 December, they discussed the launching of in-person and online training courses by SEACEN Centre in 2025, research projects, the estimated budget for 2025 approved by EXCO, and rules and regulations for Senior Managements of SEACEN at the closed-door session of SEACEN. — MNA/KTZH



The 60<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Governors of the South East Asian Central Banks, Seminar, and BOG meeting in progress on 6-7 December in South Korea.

### Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise





# NATIONAL

1. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which outlines human rights and fundamental freedoms for all human beings, was adopted by the United Nations on 10 December 1948. Today marks the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that declaration, celebrated as International Human Rights Day.
2. Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, countries around the world have made efforts to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of their citizens. Myanmar, not only supported the adoption of the Declaration but also incorporated the human rights standards from the Declaration into the State Constitution and domestic laws. Additionally, Myanmar is a party to several core international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant

## Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Statement 12/2024

3. In 2024, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) carried out activities to promote and protect human rights in accordance with its legal mandate. The Commission successfully organized 63 human rights awareness talks and lectures, reaching a total of 8,391 participants. It also screened 214 complaints related to human rights violations. Inspection visits were conducted at 10

prisons, 12 labour camps, 18 police detention centres, 15 court detention centres, 10 homes for the aged, three women's vocational training schools, a school for children with disabilities, and five youth training schools. Following these inspections, the Commission sent 293 recommendations regarding human rights protection to the relevant ministries and organizations. Additionally, the MNHRC provided six legal opinions on human rights issues related to existing and proposed domestic laws. It also translated and published the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

(CRPD). The Commission participated in 28 international and regional meetings on human rights. Moreover, the Commission also issued 12 public statements and released 103 news items about its activities.

4. The theme laid down by the United Nations for the 76<sup>th</sup> International Human Rights Day in 2024 is "Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now".
5. In honour of International Human Rights Day, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission urges everyone to create a brighter future for all by respecting and practising human rights while building a peaceful, stable, socioeconomically developed, pleasant and prosperous nation where the rule of law prevails.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Date: 10 December 2024

## ME urges Myanmar migrant workers to extend passport, C of I for work permits

MYANMAR migrants will be granted two-year work permit in Thailand and their passport and Certificate of Identity (C of I) are required to be extended, Myanmar Embassy to Thailand said.

Generally, it is required to have at least two years and six months of passport validity for extension, however Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok and the Consulate General in Chiang Mai will help Myanmar nationals in passport renewing or will grant recommendation to prove that the holder of two passports is the same person (if necessary), when the passport gets expired, if Thailand authorities would grant the temporary work permit/visa during the passport still validates.

In order for factories and construction sites not to stop and for workers not to lose their daily wages, mobile teams would come to workplaces where 400 and above workers are present and who are in need of passport extension. Along with HR manager recommendation, the worker list is required to submit to the embassy or the Consulate-General from 9 December.

Further announcement on C of I extension will be continued and Myanmar migrant workers in factories and construction sites are required to inform it to respective HR managers, said the embassy. — MT/ZS

## Electric fences implemented to mitigate human-elephant conflicts



Schoolchildren participate in campaign to reduce human-elephant conflicts. PHOTO: ZWE MARN

THE Forest Department and NGO jointly install electric fences and conduct awareness campaigns to reduce the death cases through human-elephant conflicts in Yangon Region, according to Taikkyi Township Forest Department.

About 30 wild elephants are residing in fields in the parts of Bago Yoma, Taikkyi and Hlegu. The entry of wild elephants causes human casualties yearly, and at

least one wild elephant dies every two or three years.

"Wild elephants enter the village fields this season, and we install the electric fences, and conduct public awareness programmes like preventive measures. Human and wild elephant conflicts are common in the Mahura reserve forest, western Taikkyi, Bago Yoma and reserve forest. We also demonstrate that the elec-

tric fences are not harmful to humans and elephants at all aiming to make students and young people know about it. The interest of villagers in electric fences is high this year," said a department official.

Elephants and humans mostly encounter in the evening, night and dawn, and the people should go to the opposite side of the sound of elephants. The elephants cannot tolerate the turmeric, sesame, ginger, chilli, lemon and jute, so the people should grow chilli around their fields as preventive measures.

Elephants are considered a completely protected species in Myanmar, and hunting is also banned. The wild elephant-human coexistence can be found mostly in rural areas, and human-wild-elephant conflicts frequently occur due to the human population growth and encroachment into elephant habitats. The Forest Department always conducts proper measures to reduce human-elephant conflicts through the understanding of the manners of elephants. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

## Counter-argument to false information

### False reports of security forces burning villages in Bago

MALICIOUS media spread fake news, claiming that security forces torched the Wahphyuchaung and Chaungsauk villages in Okpo Township, Bago Region, on 8 December.

According to a security official, security forces did not conduct security measures near the vicinity of these two villages and they did not make an arson attack.

Subversive media outlets intentionally circulate wrong and fake news, misleading people about security forces. — MNA/KTZH

# NATIONAL

## Discussion on Thai Princess Supankahlya's historical ties to Toungoo set for Phitsanulok



Photos capture the ceremony for Princess Supankahlya of Thailand at Kyaikkaloh Pagoda.

A discussion exploring the life of Princess Supankahlya, who is linked to the history of Toungoo, Myanmar, will take place on 21 December in the ancient city of Phitsanulok, Thailand.

Princess Supankahlya was the daughter of King Maha Thammaracha, the viceroy of Phitsanulok, and became a queen of King Bayintnaung of Toungoo. King Maha Thammaracha offered his daughter as part of an alliance, but Myanmar historical records contain limited information about her.

Phitsanulok, the capital of the province of the same name in northern Thailand, was founded in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and is considered one of the oldest capitals of Thailand.

The event will feature notable speakers, including U Nyo Myint Htun, Deputy Director-General of Myanmar's Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture; Dr Mya Thaung, a historian specializing in Toungoo's history from the Bago Region Archaeology and Cultural Restoration Team; Daw Ohn Mar Myo, a senior research officer from SEAMEO SPAFA; and U Than Win, a scholar focusing on Toungoo's history.

Princess Supankahlya's legacy continues to resonate in both Myanmar and Thailand. Believers from both countries pay homage at a shrine dedicated to her at the Kyaikkaloh Pagoda in Mingaladon Township, Yangon, where an urn is thought to contain her ashes. — ASH/MKKS

## Yangon hosts intellectual property rights awareness programme



The awareness-raising seminar on sharing knowledge about Trademark Law, Industrial Design Law, Patent Law and Copyright Law (IP Laws) is in progress on 7 December 2024.

AN awareness-raising seminar on the Trademark Law, Industrial Design Law, Patent Law, and Copyright Law (collec-

tively referred to as the IP Laws) was held in Yangon on 7 December.

During the event, U Kyaw Kyaw,

the Yangon Region Judicial officer, delivered a presentation on the "Judicial Review" of the IP Laws. Daw Mie Mie Htwe, Judge of the Kyauktada District Court, discussed the "Prosecution and Adjudication of Offences under the IP Laws."

Deputy Judge 3 of the Kyauktada District Court, Daw Thae Moh Moh Swe, addressed the "Prosecution and Adjudication of Offences Related to Counterfeit Products under the IP Laws," while Deputy District Judge 4, U Thant Sin Nyein, spoke on "Prosecution and Adjudication of Offences Related to Fake Registrations and Certificates under the IP Laws." Additionally, writer U Than Maung (Sittway) explored the "Relationship Between IP Rights and the Judiciary".

The seminar was attended by Yangon Region High Court judges, personnel from the Intellectual Property Department, advocates, and other guests. — ASH/TMT

## Myanmar drama film to premiere nationwide in Dec

THE Myanmar drama film 'A Myo Ko Chit Par' is set to premiere in major cinemas across the country in December, according to lead actor Tyron.

Maung Thura (Zarganar) wrote the story and screenplay, he also directed it, with shooting direction by Nyar Latt Taw and Min Ko Soe (Nat Than Kwin). Academy-winning director Mee Pwar and assistant director Aung Kyaw Thant oversaw the production for Mata Mikhin.

The cast features Tyron in the lead role alongside Htet Htet Htun, A Yine, Khin Hlaing, Academy Award-winning actress Soe Myat Thuzar, Mo Kham, Lin Lin, Than Tha Nyi, Myo Thantar Zaw, and Moe Pyae Thet Chel. Special guest appearances include Ye Ko Ko, Academy Award winners Kyaw Ye Aung and Lwin Moe, and Nay San. — ASH/TKO



This image showcases the poster of the 'A Myo Ko Chit Par' movie.

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 BUSINESS

## YGN palm oil reference rate dips this week ending 15 Dec

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market indicated a slight decline to K7,255 per viss for the week ending 15 December from K7,305 per viss last week ending 8 December.

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 weekly.

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



Workers prepare for distribution at the local cooking oil mill.

centre hotline in late August. The Department urges 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.

Complaints for overcharging can be lodged at hotline 1535 of the Consumers Affairs Department's call centre or sent to the department's Facebook page and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic palm oil consumption 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

## 'Salay' plum trade sees positive start to season

DESPITE the production is still low, the 'Salay' plum which is a seasonal fruit of Magway Township has been traded well.

Salay plum is just produced this month in Magway and people enjoy its sweet taste.

"Salay plum is harvested now from farms in Magway. It is just the beginning of the season so the production is not yet plentiful. Orders are mounting but the fruit production is still low," said an official from Shwe Thun Eain

fruit wholesale trading centre in Kyaukpadaung Township.

Based at Kyaukpadaung, Salay plums are transported to all regions and states and most orders go to Mawlamyine Township.

"Orders are placed from different regions and states but the major destination is Mawlamyine. The price is pretty good. It can't say about the production now but can predict at late December," she added. — Thit Taw/ZS



This image depicts sweet 'Salay' plums at the Kyaukpadaung fruit market.

## YSX stock trading hit K933M+ in Nov



Shareholders observe the index panel at Yangon Bourse.

THE grand trading value of the eight listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) exceeded K933 million with 247,803 shares in November, according to the monthly report released by the exchange.

The trading value in October was K527.928 million with 175,656 shares. Trading volume in November is way down, yet the trading value is K405 million higher than that of October.

At present, shares of eight listed companies – First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co Ltd (EFR), Amata Holding Public Co Ltd. (AMATA) and Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX) are traded in the security market.

MTSH topped the trad-

ing with 81,468 shares worth K267.278 million, followed by 58,668 shares of MAEX worth over K189.628 million, 21,712 shares of FMI worth over K184.857 million, 18,285 shares of MCB worth over K151.94 million, 44,696 shares of FPB worth K85.57 million, 15,528 shares of EFR worth over \$26.65 million, 4,520 shares of TMH worth over K13.98 million and 2,926 shares of Amata worth over K13 million respectively last month. — KK

## Singapore's labour market sees strong growth in Q3

SINGAPORE'S labour market showed strong growth in the third quarter of 2024, with total employment nearly doubling the increase seen in the previous quarter, according to the latest Labour Market Report by the Ministry of Manpower published Monday. By September, total employment, excluding migrant domestic workers, reached 3,736,900, reflecting an increase of 22,300 in the third quarter.

Both resident and nonresident employment saw growth. The ministry noted that resident employment expanded in outward-oriented sec-

tors such as information and communications, professional services, and financial services, as workers moved away from domestic-focused industries like retail and food services.

The growth in non-resident employment was driven primarily by the hiring of work permit holders in the construction and manufacturing sectors.

Unemployment rates showed a slight decline. The overall unemployment rate in September was 1.9 per cent, with resident and citizen unemployment rates standing at 2.6 per cent and 2.7 per

cent, respectively.

Job vacancies dropped to 63,400 in September, down from 81,200 in June, largely due to fewer openings in lower-skilled roles within sectors like construction, transport, storage, and manufacturing, which have largely been filled by work pass holders.

Despite the decline, vacancies continued to outnumber unemployed persons, with 1.39 jobs available per jobseeker.

"The upcoming yearend festivities are expected to give a further boost to labour demand," the ministry said. — Xinhua



Excavators are seen at a construction site with the city's skyline in the background in Singapore on 23 October 2024. PHOTO: AFP

## Over 218,500 firms newly established, resume operations in Vietnam in 11 months

MORE than 218,500 enterprises were newly established or resumed operations in Vietnam in the past 11 months of 2024, a year-on-year increase of 7.4 per cent, according to the General Statistics Office (GSO).

During the January-November period, the country saw over 147,200 new enterprises set up with a total registered capital of over 1.45 quadrillion Vietnamese dong (US\$57.1 billion), a reduction of 0.5 per cent in the number of enterprises while the registered capital is relatively



This photo taken on 7 November 2024 shows workers assembling electric motorbikes at the Selex factory in Hanoi. PHOTO: AFP

equal to that of the same period last year.

The average registered capital of a newly established enterprise during the cited peri-

od reached 9.9 billion dong (\$0.39 million), an increase of 0.5 per cent compared to the same period in 2023, said GSO. — Xinhua

### “TRADEMARK CAUTION”

NOTICE is hereby given that PARADISE PRODUCTS COMPANY LIMITED, Company Register No.(160507144) situated at No.(260), Zaykabar, 6<sup>th</sup> street, Yangon Industrial Zone, Mingalardon Township, Yangon is the owner and Sole Proprietor of the trademark mentioned below registered at Yangon Deeds Registration Office.



Deed No. 9443 / 2024 ( Date 22-11-2024 )

The above trademark “BASILK” is used in respect of – cosmetics, household products, shampoos, soaps products produced by the company.

Any unauthorized use, imitation, infringements or fraudulent intentions of the above mark will be dealt with according to Law.

Under instruction of Paradise Products Company Limited,

Daw Aye Min Min Theint (LL.B, D.B.L, D.I.L, D.M.L) Advocate (Sr. 14537)  
Daw Khaing Su Wai (LL.B) Higher Grade Pleader (Sr. 52065)  
No.(19), 9<sup>th</sup> Shwegabar Housing Street, MinDama Road, Mayangone Township, Yangon.  
Ph: 09-5098942, 09-795921932

## ADB, Asialink sign deal to boost women-owned businesses in Philippines

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Monday said it has signed a US\$115-million financing package with Asialink Finance Corporation to expand its working capital and support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Philippines.

The project is expected to increase Asialink's total loans to SMEs from 8.8

billion pesos (around \$150 million) to around 13 billion pesos (roughly \$223.75 million), with more than half of the financing dedicated to women-owned SMEs. "This will nearly double Asialink's female entrepreneur borrowers to at least 20,000 and introduce tailored offerings to women business owners," the ADB said. — Xinhua

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL-4 VOY.NO. (10N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL-4 VOY. NO. (10N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-12-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMT** 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 MAWLAMYINE CENTURY LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BUKITTINGGI VOY.NO. (033N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BUKITTINGGI VOY.NO. (033N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-12-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** 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 LINES**

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD



(from L) Terumi Tanaka, Toshiyuki Mimaki and Shigemitsu Tanaka, all representatives of Nihon Hidankyo, Japan's leading organization of atomic bomb survivors and winner of the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize, pose for a photo upon arriving in an airport near Oslo on 8 December 2024. They will attend the award ceremony on 10 December. **PHOTO: KYODO**

## A-bomb survivors group to hold presser before Nobel prize ceremony

MEMBERS of Nihon Hidankyo, Japan's leading group of atomic bomb survivors and this year's Nobel Peace Prize winner, are set to hold a press conference in Oslo on Monday ahead of the award ceremony. The delegation totals 30 people, including 17 atomic bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with some members travelling to the Norwegian capital from abroad, according to the organization. Terumi Tanaka, cochair of the group, also known as the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations, is expected to deliver a speech at Tuesday's ceremony.

Before departing for Oslo, the 92-year-old expressed his desire to showcase to the world the activism of the survivors, or hibakusha, who

have consistently advocated for nuclear abolition.

Representatives of the group Toshiyuki Mimaki, 82, and Shigemitsu Tanaka, 84, will also join the stage at Tuesday's event.

Members of the delegation have a packed schedule during their stay in Oslo through Thursday, including interviews and school visits, with some expected to meet members of the Norwegian royal family.

The organization, founded in 1956, won the prize "for its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again", according to the Norwegian Nobel Committee. — Kyodo

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Death toll rises to 6 as search continues after The Hague explosion

A sixth body has been recovered from the rubble of the apartment building in The Hague, the Netherlands, that partially collapsed after a powerful explosion on Saturday, Dutch emergency services said Monday.

The explosion and subsequent fire at the apartment building have claimed the lives of six people so far. Emergency services continue to search for additional victims, with a small section of the disaster site still to be examined. Police have identified four of the six victims, including a child. Authorities noted that the identification process has been challenging due to the intense fire that burned in the rubble for hours after the explosion.

Five people were rescued from the rubble, with four of them hospitalized.

Efforts to determine the cause of the explosion are ongoing. Local authorities have announced the launch of a criminal investigation. — Xinhua

#### Philippine volcano erupts, spews plume of ash, gas

THE Kanlaon volcano in central Philippines erupted on Monday, spewing a column of ash and gas into the sky, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said. An explosive eruption occurred at the summit vent of the Kanlaon Volcano on Monday afternoon, the institute said in an alert-level bulletin.

"The eruption produced a voluminous plume that rapidly rose to 3,000 metres above the vent and drifted west-southwest," it read. — Xinhua

#### Flu, flu-like illnesses surge in Mongolia's capital amid severe air pollution

THE prevalence of flu and flu-like illnesses is surging in Ulan Bator, the capital of Mongolia, amid severe air pollution, according to the country's National Centre for Communicable Diseases (NCCD) on Monday.

Nationwide, 277,000 people sought outpatient care in the past week, with 7.7 per cent showing symptoms of influenza or influenza-like illness, the NCCD said in a statement.

The NCCD urged the public to take strict infection prevention measures, including wearing masks, to combat the high prevalence of flu and flu-like illnesses amid the worsening air pollution. — Xinhua

## Trade war under Trump could inflict major losses on California agriculture, economists warn

ECONOMISTS have warned that US President-elect Donald Trump's proposed tariffs could trigger retaliatory measures, leading to significant losses for California's agriculture industry, The Los Angeles Times reported on Sunday. A recent analysis, published by the University of California's Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics, examined potential scenarios involving tariffs and retaliation.

If a major trade war were to erupt, the report said, Califor-



In an aerial view, an irrigation canal runs between almond orchards on 26 May 2021 in Snelling, California. **PHOTO: JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES/AFP**

nia's agricultural exports could decline by as much as 25 per cent, resulting in annual losses of up to US\$6 billion. California's agricultural sector generates billions of dollars from exporting products such as pistachios, wine, and other goods to countries including China, Mexico, and Canada.

The study also pointed to some of the most vulnerable commodities, including pistachios, dairy products, wine, and almonds, all of which are exported in large quantities to China.

Researchers from the University of California, Davis, and North Dakota State University identified these products as especially at risk in the event of a trade war.

"The worst-case scenario is pretty bleak," Sandro Steinbach, director of North Dakota State University's Centre for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies was quoted as saying. "Basically, tariffs are harmful to US agriculture, and to California agriculture in particular, because they will invite tariff retaliation." — Xinhua

# SPORTS



## Myanmar loses to Indonesia at home in ASEAN Cup opener

HOST Myanmar national football team lost to Indonesian team 0-1 in the first match of Group B in the ASEAN Cup 2024 held on 9 December.

Myanmar could manage the best response to attacks of the Indonesian team but it missed chances to transform deserved opportunities into goals. The host lost to the guest due to a goal conceded in the second half. As such, Myanmar missed its chance to secure at least one point from a draw.

Some foreign clubs did not send Myanmar players to the group match while the Myanmar national team

temporarily removed injured players from the lineup. Hence, the Myanmar team deployed goalkeeper Zin Nyi Nyi Aung together with other players Hein Phyo Win, Thet Hein Soe, Thiha Htet Aung, Nanda Kyaw, Zaw Win Thein, Wai Lin Aung, Lwin Moe Aung, Thiha Zaw, Maung Maung Lwin and Aung Kaung Marn.

From the start to 30 minutes, Myanmar could impose pressure on Indonesia one-sidedly. During the period, Lwin Moe Aung, Aung Kaung Marn, Thiha Zaw and Nanda Kyaw wasted opportunities in their kicks missing the net. After 30 minutes, Indonesia threatened the goalmouth

of the Myanmar team.

In the second half, both teams used some substituted players to raise their tempos. But, Myanmar conceded a single goal to Indonesia in 76 minutes. Myanmar keeper Zin Nyi Nyi Aung was unable to save the kick of Indonesia's captain.

In Laos, Vietnam thrashed Laos 4-1. Myanmar will play against the Philippines at away match as the second group match on 12 December.

— Ko Nyi Lay/TTA

Players of Myanmar and Indonesia in action. **PHOTO: THAW GYI**



## Chelsea closes in on Liverpool, Fulham holds Arsenal in Premier League



Chelsea's teammates celebrate at the end of the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, on 8 December 2024. Chelsea wins 4 - 3 against Tottenham. **PHOTO: AFP**

CHELSEA moved to just four points behind Liverpool at the top of the Premier League after winning a wild game 4-3 over Tottenham on Sunday.

The result highlighted how Enzo Maresca's side is adapting to his style of football, while at the same time showed the limits of the style of Spurs coach Ange Postecoglou.

Loyal to their coach's all-out attacking style, Tottenham began the match like an express train and led 2-0 after just 11 minutes thanks to goals from Dominic Solanke and Dejan Kulusevski.

Jadon Sancho pulled a goal back for Chelsea six minutes later with a long-range effort, and Cole Palmer made it 2-2 from the penalty spot in the 61<sup>st</sup> minute after Yves Bis-

souma's wild sliding challenge on Moises Caicedo.

Palmer then set up Enzo Fernandez to complete the turnaround in the 73<sup>rd</sup> minute, before scoring a cheeky 'Panenka' style penalty for Chelsea's fourth after he had been brought down in the Spurs' area. Son Heung-min scored Tottenham's third in the 96<sup>th</sup> minute, but it was too late for his side to save a point.

Fulham held Arsenal to a 1-1 draw at Craven Cottage in a thrilling game, which saw each side have the better of one half.

Fulham had the better of the first 45 minutes, and took the lead in the 11<sup>th</sup> minute when Raul Jimenez was set free down the right channel to score with a low shot.

Arsenal controlled the

second half and saved a point when William Saliba scored in the 52<sup>nd</sup> minute after a well-worked free kick. Bukayo Saka thought he had won the game for Arsenal at the death, but his effort was ruled out for offside.

Leicester City came back from 2-0 down at home to Brighton to draw 2-2 in Ruud van Nistelrooy's second game in charge.

Brighton controlled much of the game and was rewarded by goals from Tariq Lamptey and Yankuba Minteh, who looked to have assured the win 11 minutes from time.

However, Jamie Vardy gave Leicester hope with four minutes left to play and then helped set up Bobby De Cordova-Reid to save a point in injury time. — Xinhua

## Asia Cup third stage qualifiers: Myanmar in Group E

THE drawing-lots event for the AFC Asian Cup 2024 was held on 9 December in Malaysia, and the Myanmar team fell into Group E.

The qualifiers will kick off in March 2025 until March 2026 with the teams to play on a home and away basis. In this stage, a total of 24 teams were divided into six groups with only the group winners to advance to the finals.

According to the fixtures, Group A sees Tajikistan, the Philippines, Maldives and Timor-Leste; Group B features Lebanon, Yemen, Bhutan, and

Brunei Darussalam; Group C consists of India, Hong Kong, Singapore and Bangladesh; Group D comprises Thailand, Turkmenistan, Chinese Taipei and Sri Lanka; Group E includes Syria, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Pakistan; and Group F features Vietnam, Malaysia, Nepal and Laos.

Myanmar will face Syria again during the second-stage qualifiers. During the second stage, Myanmar drew at home and lost away match. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Delicate issues remain for German record champion Bayern Munich

WHILE Bayern Munich's revenue surged to a record 1.017 billion euros in the previous business year, challenges remain for the German record champions.

Ahead of Tuesday's UEFA Champions League match against Donetsk, contract extensions for Jamal Musiala, Joshua Kimmich, Alphonso Davies, and Manuel Neuer remain unresolved.

The Bavarians announced plans to meet their financial limits for Musiala and Kimmich while aiming to outpace European rivals. Recent reports suggest several offers from leading clubs,

including Real Madrid, Manchester City, and Liverpool.

Board member for sports Max Eberl likened the team's reliance on Musiala to "Messi at Barcelona and Ronaldo for Real".

While critical personnel decisions loom, Bayern is burdened by their German Cup exit and a string of injuries. Star striker Harry Kane, Thomas Müller, and Manuel Neuer are sidelined, while recent injuries to Alphonso Davies and French international Kingsley Coman have further complicated matters for head coach Vincent Kompany. — Xinhua

A-bomb survivors group to hold presser before Nobel prize ceremony

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# WORLD

CHINESE scientists have discovered dozens of human fossils dating back 300,000 years, which are the earliest ones found in East Asia in terms of the evolution process towards Homo sapiens, the species to which all modern human beings belong.

The human fossils, along with a large number of fossilized animal bones and stone tools, have been unearthed at the Hualongdong site in Dongzhi County, east China's Anhui Province.

Chinese researchers reported their latest discoveries and studies concerning the Hualongdong ancient human site at an academic conference held in Dongzhi County from Friday to Sunday this week. Nearly 100 researchers and scholars, including over a



International experts attending the Hualongdong site academic conference visit the exhibition hall of the Hualongdong site in Dongzhi County of Chizhou City, east China's Anhui Province, 6 December 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

of the Hualongdong excavation team, said these discoveries show that a large family of more than 20 individuals lived at the site.

"They had a 'dining hall' where they cut, chopped and processed food. A karst cave was probably their bedroom for hiding from wild beasts at night, but it has collapsed, and we have not yet excavated it. We hope to discover more fossils in the future," Wu added. She also explained that the human fossils at Hualongdong belong to ancient humans with physical characteristics between the Homo erectus and modern human stages — which is unlike any other premodern human fossil ever found.

A skull fossil unearthed in 2015 is one of the most important discoveries made at Hualongdong to date. Researchers inferred that the skull belonged to a girl of 13 or 14 years old.

"The fossil displays a unique blend of primitive and modern characteristics," Wu noted. "The facial structure and mandible show early evolution towards modern humans, including a flat face, high eye sockets, slender skull, and a jawbone that displays the early development of a chin — a defining feature of modern humans." — Xinhua

## China discovers landmark human evolution fossils

dozen international experts, attended the event. Discovered in late 1988, the Hualongdong site has yielded remarkable finds during continuous excavations since 2013. Approximately 20 individual ancient human fossils, including a

relatively complete skull, over 400 stone artifacts, numerous bone fragments with evidence of artificial cutting and chopping, and more than 80 vertebrate fossils have been unearthed at this site.

From April to November

2024, an archaeological team conducted a new round of excavations, covering an area of 40 square metres. A total of 11 human fossils were unearthed, including one well-preserved foot metatarsal bone, one broken fron-

tal bone, one middle femur fragment and eight skull fragments.

Wu Xiujie, a researcher at the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (IVPP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and leader

## Syria's future should be decided only by its people: Iranian president



Locals rally in a street in Damascus, Syria, 8 December 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday that Syria's future, including its political and ruling systems, should be decided only by the Syrian people.

Pezeshkian made the remarks at a cabinet meeting in Tehran while addressing the latest developments in Syria, according to a statement published on the website of

his office.

He highlighted the necessity to hold dialogue among different segments of the Syrian society to reach a consensus, expressing hope that military conflicts and violence would end in the Arab state as soon as possible so that its people could decide their fate in a calm, peaceful and worryless environment and in the absence of any "destructive" external interference.

He stressed the need to maintain Syria's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity, emphasizing the importance of ensuring the security of all Syrian and foreign citizens in the country and protecting sacred and religious places as well as diplomatic and consular premises in accordance with international law.

Iran would continue diplomatic consultations with relevant parties as well as the United Nations to help stabilize the situation and ensure stability and security in Syria and the West Asia region, Pezeshkian added. — Xinhua

## COP16 report warns three-quarters of global land 'permanently drier'

JUST over 75 per cent of the world's land has been left "permanently drier" over the last three decades, a UN-backed report coinciding with COP16 talks on desertification in Saudi Arabia warned on Monday.

Dry land now covers 40 per cent of the Earth's landmass, excluding Antarctica, the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) study found, cautioning the shift could affect up to five billion people by 2100. — AFP