

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Article

The Importance of Public Relations in Public Hospitals

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

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MRCS opens 2 children's amusement centres in Taunggyi

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Domestic oil mills resume operations at 70% capacity



The file photo shows that trading activities of the fish market in Myeik. PHOTO: MYINT OO (MYEIK)

Myeik octopus sales surge despite price drops

Octopus from Myeik is currently the best seller as the price has dropped, according to the information asked in the seafood market.

Octopus prices have been good for more than a month, and since the beginning of December, the price has been decreasing, so it has become the best seller.

“The biggest seller in the seafood industry is octopus. There are two main reasons for high sales — one is that the price decreased a lot from the peak of K50,000 per viss in early December after the Myanmar’s seasonal festivals. Another point is that Octopus is a type of

traditional Myanmar seafood. So, octopus is selling the most. The best seller is octopus from Myeik,” said an official from the Shwe Pazun seafood distribution in Myeik.

Octopus, which used to have a good price, is now affordable and abundant in the market, so Mookata (Thai BBQ hot pot) buffet and hot pot restaurants are restoring it in their menus.

“Mookata and hotpot shops are restoring octopus in their menus. At present, octopus is the best seller. Other items such as cuttlefish and squid are going as usual, so they are not among the popular products. Yangon tops among the orders. We also have a branch in Yangon,



Octopuses from Myeik.

so we distribute Octopus to all places from Yangon, including Shwe Padauk fish market and Kyimyindine fish market,” he explained. — Thit Taw/ZN

Winners awarded in ISR sport competitions, para-sports events of 5th National Sports Festival

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

In the ISR golf tournament at the City Golf Course in Nay

Pyi Taw, Union Minister U Aung Kyaw Hoe presented the first, second, and third prizes to the winners from Mandalay, Taninthayi, and Yangon regions in the men’s singles scratch event. State Administration Council Member U Yan Kyaw awarded the first, second, and third prizes to the winners from Taninthayi and Nay Pyi Taw Union

Territory in the men’s singles handicap event. SAC Member U Shwe Kyein also presented the first, second, and third prizes to the winning teams from Yangon, Taninthayi, and Mandalay regions in the team-wise scratch event.

Then, SAC member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo awarded

the first, second, and third prizes to winning teams from Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Shan State, and Bago Region in the team-wise handicap event.

In addition, the finals of the para-sports events were held at the Lewe TC-2 Stadium, attended by SAC member Khun San Lwin, deputy ministers, and officials from the Myanmar

Para-sports Federation.

Afterwards, Minister for Social Affairs of the Ayeyawady Region Government U Khin Maung Kyi presented the first, second, and third prize-winning Bago Region, Mandalay Region, and Mon State, in men’s F 62/63 shot put. Bago Region Minister for Social Affairs U Myo Aung, presented the first, second, and third medals to winners from Ayeyawady Region, Mon State, and Yangon Region in the men’s F 56/57 javelin.

SEE PAGE 3


NATIONAL

Towards a Prosperous Future: Achieving Harmonious Development in Myanmar's Key Sectors

MYANMAR must achieve harmonious development across the economic, social, educational, and health sectors to become a peaceful, prosperous, modern, and developed nation.

Education is essential for all.

(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 for the 2023-2024 academic year on 26 April 2024)



Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 19:00 hours MST on 8 December 2024

ACCORDING to the observations at 17:30 hours 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

Gold Market Rate as of 8 December 2024


THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with a density of 19.25 and above is K5,330,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.



(၇၆) နှစ်မြောက် အပြည့်ဖြည့်ဆိုင်ရာလူ့အခွင့်အရေးနေ့

Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now.

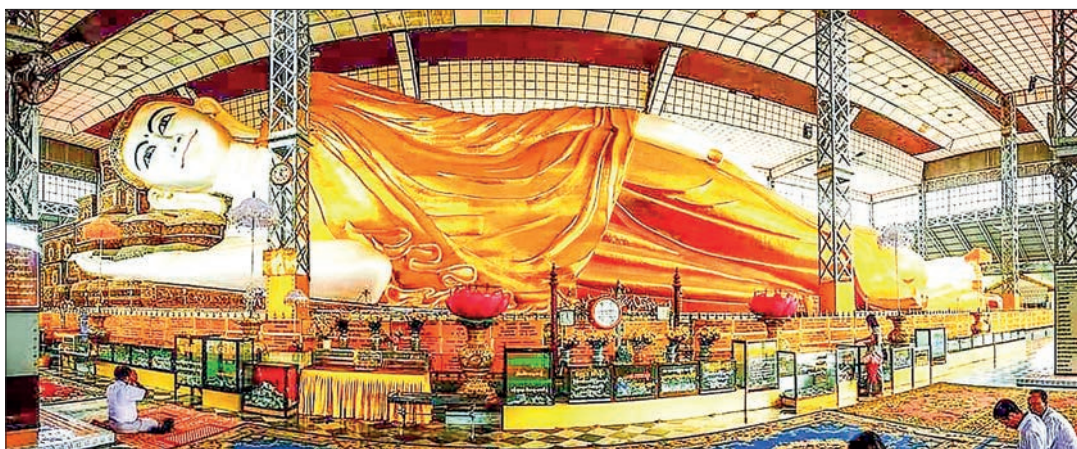
၂၀၂၄ ခုနှစ်၊ ဒီဇင်ဘာလ ၁၀ ရက်



အမျိုးသမီးများအပေါ် အကြမ်းဖက်မှုပျောက်ရေး(၁၆)ရက်တာ လှုပ်ရှားမှု
၂၅-၁၁-၂၀၂၄ ရက်မှ ၁၀-၁၂-၂၀၂၄ ရက်ထိ

“အမျိုးသမီးများအပေါ်အကြမ်းဖက်မှု ရပ်တန့်ဖို့ အားလုံးပေါင်းစု ကြိုးပမ်းလို့
ဘေးကင်းကြေညာစာတမ်းနှင့် လုပ်ငန်းစီမံချက် နှစ်(၃၀)ပြည့်ဆီ အရောက်လှမ်းဖို့”

“ Towards 30 years of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action:
UNITE to End Violence Against Women”



This image shows the Shwethalyaung Reclining Buddha Image.

Bago Shwethalyaung to host 99th Buddha Pujaniya festival

THE Buddha Pujaniya Festival will be held at the Shwethalyaung Reclining Buddha Image in Bago Township from 9th waxing to the 1st waning of Nattaw (on 9-16 December). A large number of pilgrims from various areas are expected to join the festival, according to U Soe Aung, a member of the Shwethalyaung Reclining Buddha Image Board of Trustees.

As part of the festival, a consecration ceremony will take place on the morning of the full moon of Nattaw. From the 9th to the 12th waxing of Nattaw, Pathana treatises will be recited as a Dhamma Puja. On the full moon of Nattaw, well-wishers will offer alms to over 100 members of the Sangha and more than 50 nuns from Bago Township.

Although the festival officially begins on the 9th waxing of Nattaw (9 December), the market festival has already been attracting pilgrims from the Bago Region since 4 December. Over 2,000 visitors visit there daily, with numbers rising to as many as 5,000 during public holidays. Pilgrims from across the region are invited to pay homage during the festival, said U Soe Aung.

The Buddha Image, measuring 180 feet in length and 52 feet in height, was built by King Migadeikba (Min Nge), the 13th ruler of the First Hanthawady Era. The Buddha Pujaniya Festival is the second-longest festival in the Bago Region, surpassed only by the Shwemawdaw Pagoda Festival. — ASH/KZL

Sports enthusiasts can enjoy free admission to Fifth National Sports Festival

THE Fifth National Sports Festival, featuring six sports at the ministerial level and 23 sports at the state and regional levels, is being held at various sports stadiums and gymnasiums in Nay Pyi Taw, including the Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium, the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory stadiums and gymnasiums (Shwekyabin), Paunglaung Sports Ground, Nay Pyi Taw Training Ground 2 (Lewe), the Lewe Township Sports Ground, and the

Bawgawadi Sports Ground in Pyinmana Township.

Sports enthusiasts who wish to enjoy the various competitions can enter for free through Gate No 3 of the Wunna Theikdi Stadium and the entrance gates to other competition venues by exchanging their Citizenship Scrutiny Card (CSC) or driving licence for a temporary entry card. — MNA/TH

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

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

FROM PAGE 1

Next, Deputy Minister for Construction U Win Pe presented the first, second, and third prizes to the winners from Mandalay Region, Ayeyawady, and Bago Region in men's T 46/47 800-metre race; to the first, second, and third prize winners from Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory and Bago Region in the men's T 42 long jump; and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun awarded the first, second, and third prize medals to the contestants from Mon State, Bago Region, and Nay Pyi Taw in the women's F 44/62/63/64 javelin, as well as to the contestants from Mon State (first prize) and Ayeyawady Region (second and third prizes) in the women's T 44/64 100-metre race.

Then, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Jeng Phang Naw Taung awarded the first, second, and third prizes to the winners from Ayeyawady Region, Mon State, and Yangon Region in the men's F46 discus, as well as to the competitors from Yangon Region (first prize), Mandalay Region (second prize), and Yangon Region (third prize) in the women's F54/55 javelin.

SAC member Khun San Lwin presented medals to the competitors from Bago, Mandalay, and Ayeyawady regions, who won the first, second, and third prizes in the men's T46/47 100-metre race, as well as to the winners from Bago Region, Nay Pyi Taw, and Mandalay Region, who won the first, second, and third prizes in the men's F64 javelin, and to the competitors from Mon State, Mandalay, and Ayeyawady regions, who won the first, second, and third prizes in the men's T64 100-metre race.

Similarly, the award cer-

Winners awarded in ISR competitions, para-sports events of 5th National Sports Festival



State Administration Council Member U Yan Kyaw presents first prize to Taninthayi Region's golfer Win Cho.

emony for the para-sports sitting volleyball competition was held at the volleyball court in Lewe TC-2 Sports Ground, where Maj-Gen Hla Moe, President of the Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation, and Brig-Gen Soe Kyaw Htet presented awards to the athletes who won the best individual honours.

Subsequently, Bago Region Minister for Social Affairs U Myo Aung awarded the third prize to the Yangon Region team, Deputy Minister U Zin Min Htet presented the second prize to the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory team, and Union Minister U Min Thein Zan presented the first prize to the Bago Region team.

The award ceremony of the Inter-States and Regions basketball tournament was held at Shwekyabin Stadium. Shan State Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Aung Kyi Win awarded third place to the Mandalay Region team, Deputy Minister U Zin Min Htet presented third place to the Kachin State team, Union Minister U Myo Thant presented second place to the Yangon Region team, and Union Minister U Min Thein Zan presented first place to the Shan State team.

The ISR badminton championship awarding ceremony was held at the Wunna Theikdi Stadium C. Bago Region Minister for Social Affairs U Myo Aung and Shan State Minister for Social Affairs U Min Min Lwin awarded third place to the contestants from Mandalay and Bago regions, who jointly won third place in

the women's badminton event. Deputy Minister U Htein Lin presented second place to the contestants from Shan State, and Union Minister and Union Attorney General Dr Thida Oo presented first place to the contestants from the Yangon Region team.

Then, Director-General of the Department of Sports and Physical Education U Tun Myint Oo and Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs U Htay Aung presented third place to the competitors from the Mandalay Region and Bago Region teams, who jointly won third place in men's team competition. Deputy Minister U Zin Min Htet presented second place to the competitors from the Shan State team, and Union Minister U Min Thein Zan presented first medals to the competitors from the Yangon Region team. — MNA/TH



Union Minister U Min Thein Zan presents first prize medals to the competitors from the Yangon Region's Badminton team.



An officials from Bago Region presents first prize medal to a javelin competitor, Htoo Htoo Aung from the Ayeyawady Region.

NATIONAL

Para-Sports of 5th National Sports Festival conclude

Inter-States and Regions sports competitions continue

FOUR para-sports events such as athletics, swimming, chess and sitting volleyball of the Fifth National Sports Federation were held on 5-8 December. After the competition, Ayeyawady Region swept 13 gold, seven silver and seven bronze medals, followed by Bago Region with 12 gold, seven silver and nine bronze, Yangon Region with eight gold, seven silver and nine bronze, Mon State with seven gold, 11 silver and 12 bronze, Mandalay Region with five gold, 11 silver and five bronze and Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory five gold, seven silver and seven bronze medals.

The standing table of medallist regions and states on 8 December was as follows: -

NO	STATE/REGION	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	YANGON	3	1	2	6
2	SHAN	1	3	-	4
3	TANINTHAYI	1	2	-	3
4	NAY PYI TAW	1	1	1	3
5	MANDALAY	1	-	5	6
6	MON	1	-	-	1
7	SAGAING	1	-	-	1
8	KAYIN	-	1	-	1
9	RAKHINE	-	1	-	1
10	BAGO	-	-	3	3
11	KACHIN	-	-	1	1
Total		9	9	12	30

— MNA/TTA

1M stimulant tablets worth of K400M seized in Monghsat of Shan State



The offender seen alongside confiscated stimulant tablets and a vehicle.

THE Myanmar Police Force seized one million stimulant tablets worth K400 million in Monghsat Township, Shan State (East).

A combined team seized the tablets from a Hilux Revo driven by Aik Khae near Mahongloi village, Monghsat Township, Shan State (East), on 5 December, according to reports. The tablets had been trafficked from Tachilek to Monghsat. Legal action was taken against the offender, and further investigation is ongoing. — MNA/TRKM

Meeting emphasizes to standardize industrial zone specifications



A meeting between Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than and chairmen of the Industrial Zone Management Committees in progress in Yangon on 7 December 2024.

A meeting among chairmen of the Industrial Zone Management Committees in Yangon Region to standardize the size, type, and status of industrial zones was held on 7 December at the Pharmaceutical Factory in Insein Township, Yangon Region.

In the meeting, Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than began by stating that, according to the decision made at the Central Committee meeting 1/2024 on 29 May 2024, “Regional Industrial Zone Development and Supervisory Committees” have been formed in each region and state, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. He noted that the Industrial Zone Law and Rules stipulate that the size, type, and status of industrial zones, once established and declared, must be determined and re-declared as new industrial zones. Therefore, to declare industrial zones again as new, it is necessary to verify the land conditions. Furthermore, the Central Committee meeting 1/2024 decided to cross-check the established industrial zones in each region and state to assess the ground conditions of these zones.

To assess the ground conditions of the established industrial zones and to determine their size, type, and standards, mutual inspections are being conduct-

ed across each region and state. Checklists for these inspections have been compiled and distributed. The cross-check process is set to last for one month, from 15 November to 15 December. It is requested that all concerned industrial zone managers cooperate fully, ensuring they are aware of and comply with the guidelines. They are also encouraged to engage in open and systematic discussions for the effective development of industrial zones and industries. Next, the chairperson of the Yangon Region Industrial Zone Development and Supervisory Committee who is also region minister for economic affairs presented the conditions of industrial zones in Yangon Region. The director-general of the Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department discussed the cross-check process for industrial zones. The chairmen of the Industrial Zone Management Committees in Yangon Region shared insights into the mutual inspection activities and the challenges. The Union minister coordinated necessary measures.

In the afternoon, the Union minister visited No 24 Heavy Industry (Dagon) in Dagon Myothit (South) Township and inspected production of jeans pants being operated by Golden Theraprage Co Ltd. — MNA/TKO

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

Delegation from Naval War College of India visits Myanmar

A delegation led by Deputy Commandant of Naval War College (NWC) of India, Commodore Prashant Chandrasekharan arrived in Myanmar on 2 December on a study tour.

During their visit to Myanmar, they paid visit to the India Centre in Yangon and met with staff from the Indian Embassy to Myanmar on 3 December. On 4 December, they met with officials from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Office of the Chief of Armed Forces Training. Additionally, they toured significant

sites such as the Defence Services Museum in Nay Pyi Taw, the National Defence College, the Myanmar Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw), the Uppatasanti Pagoda, and the Maravijaya Buddha Image. These visits provided them an opportunity to observe and appreciate Myanmar's heritage and culture.

On 5 December, the delegation visited the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone exploring the historic city of Bagan and the Bagan Cultural Museum. On 6 and 7 December, they conducted further activities



A delegation led by Deputy Commandant of Naval War College (NWC) of India, Commodore Prashant Chandrasekharan visits the Maravijaya Buddha Image, in Nay Pyi Taw on 4 December.

in Yangon, including a visit to the Shwedagon Pagoda for observation and reverence, as

well as a study tour to the naval vessel Mayu.

They departed for India

from the Yangon International Airport yesterday. — MNA/TMT

Kalmykia delegation from Russian Federation arrives in Myanmar



A welcome event for the Republic of Kalmykia of the Russian Federation delegation in progress at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

A delegation led by Mr Batu Sergeevich Khassikov, Head of Russia's the Republic of Kalmykia, arrived in Yangon by air yesterday.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar Mr Iskander Azizov, regional ministers and officials from the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture welcomed the delegation at Yangon International Airport.

Ethnic national people from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture welcomed the delegation with waving miniature flags of the two countries. — MNA/KZL

S&T Deputy Minister attends opening ceremony of Techong Scientists Forum

THE opening ceremony of the Techong Scientists Forum 2024 was held on 6 December in Techong, Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China, was attended by a Myanmar delegation led by Dr Aung Zeya, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology.

The forum was organized by the Yunnan Provincial Government and the China Academy of Science and Technology under the theme "Science Global Innovation and the Mission of Scientists-Empowering High-Quality Development," and was attended by provincial party chiefs and senior officials, science and technology officials from South and Southeast Asian countries, rectors and scientists from top international universities, young scientists, entrepreneurs, and guests.

The forum featured discussions by renowned scholars in Chinese and international science and technology, including Professor George Smoot, winner of the 2006 Nobel Prize in Physics.

During the forum, the Deputy Minister discussed and answered questions regarding sectors of coopera-

tion and work plans for the development of scientific and technological innovation of Yunnan Central Broadcasting and Television Headquarters, digital transformation, and AI technology.

He visited Chenguang Biotech Group, which applies biotechnology to produce food and pharmaceutical products from chrysanthemum, chilli, jute, and grape seed raw materials, and Huayu Bio Tech Group, which has been researching biotechnology since 1993 and has been producing vaccines for foot-and-mouth disease and swine flu since 2022. They dis-

cussed research collaboration and technological sharing with the Biotechnology Research Centre of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

In the evening, the Deputy Minister visited a traditional medicine manufacturing company and viewed round the biotechnological research on cockroaches since 1994, the ability to produce medicines, cardiac medicines, skin drugs, etc., the research activities, the compilation of papers, the acquisition of seven patents, and the cooperation with entrepreneurs in Myitkyina. — MNA/TKO



Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Zeya participates the Techong Scientists Forum 2024 in Techong, Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China on 6 December.

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NATIONAL

Competitions gear up at 5th National Sports Festival

THE fifth National Sports Festival continued its competitions yesterday morning at designated stadiums and gymnasiums in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

In the Inter-States and Regions basketball tournament final, held at Shwekyabin Gymnasium, Shan State defeated Yangon Region by a narrow score of 67-66 to secure the championship. Yangon Region took second place, while Kachin State and Mandalay Region shared third place honours.

Quarterfinal matches of the Inter-States and Regions under-20 volleyball tournament took place at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (B). In the men's division, Kayin State beat over Yangon Region in a 3-2 match, Mandalay Region



Cricketers from Kayin and Shan state teams are competing in Inter-States and Regions cricket event.

Mandalay Region defeated Ye Naing of Shan State, Bawm Sowng of Kachin State overcame Khant Phyo Kyaw of Yangon Region, Thura of Sagaing Region triumphed over Ye Yint Htwe of Chin State, and Saw Shwe Win of Kayin State bested Akar Htet Win of Rakhine State.

In the men's 54-kilogramme category, Akar Phyo of Taninthayi Region defeated Kaung Sett Naing of Magway Region, Zaw Zaw Naing of Mandalay Region triumphed over Saw Lin Aung of Ayeyawady Region, Shine Nge of Shan State overcame Ko Ko Tun of Sagaing Region, and Win Htike of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory defeated Tuu Maung of Bago Region.

In the men's 57-kilogramme category, Min Sett Tha Oo of Sagaing Region defeated Hein Lin Tun of Mon State, Shein Htet Ko Ko of Kachin State triumphed over Hein Htut Kyaw of Bago Region, La Min Ko Ko of Yangon Region defeated Kyaw Swa Moe of Ayeyawady Region, and Gin Shan Mowng of Chin State overcame Saw Hla Han Aye of Kayin State.

In the men's 63.5-kilogramme category, Nok Mar of Kachin State defeated Htoo Aung Ye Yint of Rakhine State, Phone Myint Maung of Bago Region triumphed over Lin Htet of Ayeyawady Region, Sai Naung of Mandalay Region overcame Saw Hae Do Sae of Kayin State, and Kyaw Myo Han of Sagaing Region defeated Yazar Nay Win of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

SEE PAGE 7



Women's football match at Inter-States and Regions level.



Sagaing Region and Yangon Region meet in women's futsal event.

defeated Bago Region 3-1, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory overcame Kachin State 3-0, and Shan State bested Sagaing Region 3-0.

In the semifinals of the Inter-States and Regions badminton tournament, held at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (C), Yangon Region defeated Bago Region 3-1, while Shan State edged out Mandalay Region 3-2 in the men's division. In the women's category, Yangon Region won against Mandalay Region 3-1, and Shan State defeated Bago Region 3-2.

In the men's badminton final, Yangon Region claimed the championship by defeating Shan State 3-1. Shan State secured second place, while Mandalay Region and Bago Region shared third place. In the women's final, Yangon Re-

gion also emerged victorious, beating Shan State 3-1 to take the championship. Shan State placed second, and Mandalay

Region and Bago Region shared third place honours.

The ISR men's and women's Lethwei events took place

at the Wunna Theikdi Indoor Boxing Area.

In the men's 51-kilogramme category, Hein Htut Aung of



Women boxers fighting in women's 50-kilogramme event.



Men boxers seen in men's 51-Kilogramme event.

NATIONAL

FROM PAGE 6

In the women's 50-kilogramme category, Aye Aye Mu of Taninthayi Region defeated Kay Thwe Win of Chin State, Pyae Sone Win of Sagaing Region triumphed over Eindray Kyaw of Bago Region, Eaint Myat Kyaw of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory overcame Khine Thazin Tun of Mandalay Region, and Mya Moe Thu of Yangon Region bested Thel Myat Mon of Shan State.

The Under-25 Cricket Tournament group matches were held at the Wunna Theikdi shooting range. In the men's event, the Kayin State team defeated the Shan State team by 16 runs, Mandalay Region overcame Bago Region by 14 runs, Rakhine State triumphed over Mon State by a wide margin of 139 runs, and Ayeyawady Region secured victory against Magway Region by 10 wickets. In the women's event, Rakhine State defeated Magway Region by 51 runs, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory overcame Mon State by four wickets, Ayeyawady Region beat Shan State by 14 runs, and Kayin State narrowly triumphed over Yangon Region by two runs.

In the group matches of Under-21 Men's Football Tournament were held at Wunna Theikdi Training Grounds 3 and 4. Chin State and Magway Region teams ended in a 3-3 draw, while Mandalay Region defeated Sagaing Region with a score of 4-1.

In the Under-25 Women's Football Tournament, held at the Bawgawadi Sports Ground and Lewe Township Sports Ground, Bago Region and Kayah State teams ended at a goalless draw, while Ayeyawady Region secured a 2-0 victory against Rakhine State.

In the women's futsal sem-



Players of Sagaing Region and Rakhine State meet at men's Sepak Takraw event.



Women's Sepak Takraw event.

ifinals held at Wunna Theikdi Futsal Ground, the Yangon Region women's futsal team defeated Sagaing Region 11-0, and Kachin State edged out Ayeyawady Region 7-5.

In the men's Sepak Takraw regu matches at Wunna Theikdi Stadium A, Shan State beat Bago Region in two straight games, Sagaing Region overcame Rakhine State 2-0, Nay Pyi Taw triumphed over Kayin State, and Kachin State secured a win against Kayah

State. Other results included Mon State defeating Chin State, Yangon Region prevailing over Ayeyawady Region, and Mandalay Region winning against Magway Region.

In the women's Sepak Takraw regu matches, Mon State defeated Magway Region 2-1, Sagaing Region beat Taninthayi Region in straight games, Rakhine State triumphed over Yangon Region in two games, Mandalay Region overcame Shan State, and Kayin State de-

feated Kachin State in straight matches.

In the men's Sepak Takraw regu quarterfinals, at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium A, Yangon Region won against Sagaing Region 2-1. Magway Region defeated Kachin State 2-1, Mandalay Region overcame Nay Pyi Taw in straight games, and Shan State triumphed over Mon State. In the women's Sepak Takraw regu matches, Bago Region defeated Sagaing Region in straight matches, Ayeyawady

Region beat Yangon Region, Rakhine State overcame Kayin State 2-1, and Mon State defeated Mandalay Region in straight matches.

The Inter-Ministry Open Men's Football Tournament group matches were held at Paunglaung, Shwekyabin, and Lewe TC-2 grounds. The Ministry of Education and Ministry of Construction teams played to a goalless draw, while the Ministry of Science and Technology defeated the Ministry of Health 2-1. The Ministry of Transport and Communications secured a 3-1 victory over the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

In the group matches of ISR Futsal Tournament held at Wunna Theikdi Futsal Arena, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement teams drew 3-3. The Ministry of Commerce thrashed the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs 2-0, the Ministry of Education defeated the Ministry of Information 5-4, and the Ministry of Health triumphed over the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture with a score of 3-1. — MNA/KZL



A football match between Ministry of Transport and Communications and Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.



Ministerial futsal matches Labour versus SWRR, Ethnic Affairs versus Commerce, and Health versus RAC.

OPINION

Raise anti-corruption for the interests of entire people

CORRUPTION never yields positive outcomes; instead, it creates challenges, tragedies, inequalities, and injustices in society. It disregards the suffering of victims, promotes biased and unequal decisions, and triggers regrettable consequences. By turning wrong into right and unfair into fair, corruption undermines all ethical considerations.

The United Nations stated that the campaign for International Anti-Corruption Day 2024-2025 focuses on the role young guardians of integrity play as advocates, raising awareness about corruption and its impacts on their communities. They will actively participate in discussions, share their experiences and propose

innovative solutions to combat corruption. The campaign will amplify the voices of integrity leaders of tomorrow, allowing them to express their concerns and aspirations, with the hope that their appeals will be heard and acted upon.

The theme for the 2024 International Anti-Corruption Day is "Uniting with Youth against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity". This theme emphasizes the crucial role of young people in anti-corruption efforts. Raising awareness among youth is essential to inspire their determination and spirit to combat corruption in all areas. Equipping them with knowledge and strategies to protect society from corruption is vital for fostering individual integrity and uplifting societal values.

Anti-corruption commissions or bodies should be established in every country worldwide. These entities must operate under impartial rules and regulations. Officials within these commissions must perform their duties free from corruption. Only by ensuring their integrity can the mission and vision of eradicating corruption be truly achieved.

On the other hand, poor decisions by relevant anti-corruption bodies cannot contribute to building a society free from corruption. Even if these bodies ignore, neglect, or remain silent on corrupt cases, it can be argued that they are complicit in corruption. This is because the State has entrusted these bodies with the authority to determine right from wrong in corruption cases. Only when anti-corruption authorities are free from corruption will society prosper.

Although any society cannot totally eradicate corruption, everybody needs to participate in efforts of anti-corruption as much as possible. Anti-corruption efforts in Myanmar are progressing gradually. These efforts are essential for building a modern, developed nation and establishing a Union based on democracy and federalism, which the people aspire to. If the country is largely free from corruption, citizens will be able to conduct their work and businesses without fear. As a result, the rule of law will prevail, fostering safe and secure societies for all.

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PUBLIC Relations (PR) plays a crucial role in the success of public hospitals by helping to establish and maintain a positive relationship between the hospital, patients, staff, and the community. The Ministry of Health (MOH) conducted a workshop on Improving Public Relations in Public Hospitals at the Department of Medical Services, Nay Pyi Taw on 27 and 28 November 2024. The Union minister attended the workshop and addressed the opening speech.

In the opening speech, the Union minister mentioned that MOH is providing public healthcare services and as hospitals have become more trusted by the public, the number of patients has increased, making it necessary for staff to foster good relationships with patients and their families. In particular, there is a need to provide training for new doctors and nurses for public relations. Those attending this workshop should share their experiences and exchange ideas upon returning to their respective hospitals. It is important to understand that hospitals are different from other places, as people come when they are unwell, and patients often have expectations and anxieties. Therefore, our staff should engage in respectful communication and professional conduct, ensuring they are trained at all levels of the health service. The Ministry is also fulfilling its responsibility to provide necessary human resources, with plans to recruit approximately 1,800 nurses in December this year, and doctors and other skilled medical staff will continue to be appointed.

The deputy minister also provided guidance on the do's and don'ts regarding warm and welcoming interactions with patients at public hospitals. The Department of Medical Services has conducted the workshop to improve relations with the public, ensuring smooth and effective interactions. The following are several key ways in which public relations are important for public hospitals:

Building Trust and Credibility: Public hospitals often face the challenge of earning and maintaining the trust of the communities they serve. PR helps in communicating the hospital's values, mission, and commitment to patient care. Regularly sharing success stories, patient testimonials, and healthcare innovations builds credibility and helps improve public perception.

Effective Crisis Management: Hospitals, particularly public ones, can face crises, such as disease outbreaks, medical errors, or facility-related issues. A strong PR strategy ensures that the hospital can effectively manage such situations by providing timely and transparent communication. Clear and empathetic messaging can mitigate negative media coverage and maintain public confidence.

Community Engagement and Education: Public hospitals serve a diverse range of populations, and effective PR can help educate the public about health services, preventive care, and new treatments. Through community outreach, health seminars, social media, and other channels, public relations professionals help hospitals connect with the community, offering valuable health education that promotes overall well-being.

Attracting and Retaining Patients: In the competitive healthcare landscape, even public hospitals need to attract and retain patients. PR can help hospitals communicate the quality of their services, highlight special

The Importance of Public Relations in Public Hospitals

By Dr Than Lwin Tun



Group Work Discussion for improving relations with the public, ensuring smooth and effective interactions.

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Attracting and Retaining Patients: In the competitive healthcare landscape, even public hospitals need to attract and retain patients. PR can help hospitals communicate the quality of their services, highlight special

programs, and promote patient-centric care. A strong public relations campaign can improve patient acquisition by emphasizing the hospital's expertise, compassionate care, and modern facilities.

Internal Communication and Staff Morale: PR is also vital for internal communication within a hospital. It ensures that hospital staff are informed about important updates, guidelines, and achievements. Additionally, public relations strategies can help boost staff morale by recognizing their hard work and celebrating their contributions to patient care. This can improve employee satisfaction and reduce turnover, which ultimately benefits patients.

Building Relationships with Stakeholders: Good PR fosters collaboration, encourages investment, and ensures that stakeholders are aligned with the hospital's missions.

Managing Reputation: A public hospital's reputation can be fragile, and any negative news can have far-reaching consequences. PR professionals work proactively to build a strong reputation through positive media cover-

age, community involvement, and transparent communication. By managing the hospital's image, they ensure that it remains a trusted institution in the eyes of the public.

Leveraging Digital Media: In today's digital age, public hospitals must engage with their audiences online. Public relations efforts that include active social media presence, blogs, email newsletters, and online patient reviews help hospitals reach a wider audience, increase visibility, and facilitate patient engagement. Digital PR is also useful in addressing patient concerns, sharing health tips, and promoting

Moreover, Public Relations are essential for the ongoing success of public hospitals. By managing communication, building relationships, enhancing trust, and addressing issues proactively, PR professionals ensure that hospitals are well-positioned to serve their communities effectively. In a time of rapid technological change and evolving healthcare needs, the strategic use of PR helps public hospitals maintain their role as trusted healthcare providers.

Let's unite to reduce and eliminate illegal trade by protecting and preventing it

By Alinn Young (Ba Than)



Governments around the world are increasingly focusing on taking special measures to eradicate illegal trade that threatens macroeconomic stability. **ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY**

THE State Administration Council is working towards the complete eradication of illegal trade with the goal of increasing national revenue, preventing the loss of taxes and duties, and ensuring the availability of safe and secure goods for the public. In any country, the government, business entrepreneurs, and consumers play a key role in implementing and advancing the nation's market economy system.

Governments around the world are increasingly focusing on taking special measures to eradicate illegal trade that threatens macroeconomic stability. As for Myanmar, in fulfilling domestic needs, the country is working to increase the production of import substitution goods from micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and industrial zones, to strengthen export performance to ensure more equitable national income and expenditure, and to export value-added products, such as finished goods, rather than raw materials in order to boost national revenue.

In foreign countries, due to the large-scale production of industrial goods to reach market

demands, it is observed that the cost per unit of each product tends to be lower. In Myanmar, if there are limitations or weaknesses when producing industrial goods, the cost per unit of each product tends to be higher, making them lose their competitiveness with the goods imported from abroad illegally. On the other hand, it could cause significant setbacks for the production of industrial zones. Therefore, it is essential to increase the production of finished goods for both domestic use and export, while also systematically preventing and controlling the illegal importation of goods from abroad.

Due to the inflow of illegal goods through border areas, micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises face difficulties when selling their goods in competing with illegal goods, making it harder for them to survive in the long term. Therefore, it is necessary to implement effective measures to restrain illegal trade in the regions and two states adjacent to border areas. In previous times, tax evasion led to the emergence of black markets, which in the present day can be seen as illegal trade. It can be assumed that illegal trade occurs when

businesses attempt to avoid paying taxes that should be legitimately remitted to the state.

Efforts to restrain illegal imports also help prevent the smuggling of illegal weapons by terrorist groups, contributing significantly to national security. These actions have also helped prevent the outflow of foreign currency that could arise from illegal trade. Furthermore, by preventing illegal logging activities, the country has been able to protect its national finances from substantial losses and support efforts for forest conservation. In addition to taking effective measures against illegal trade, units involved in investigation, surveillance, and arrests are being rewarded with a fixed percentage.

Illegal trade results in various negative impacts, such as the loss of taxes and duties that should be collected for the country, potential errors in trade data and statistics leading to wrong decisions, disruptions to the national banking system and currency flow, and instability in foreign exchange rates. Additionally, illegal imports can reduce the competitiveness of domestic industries, decrease

foreign investment, and lead to a loss of job opportunities. There is also the risk of counterfeit medicines, food products, and cosmetics entering the market, as well as expired goods, which could harm consumers. These harmful effects, combined with the potential harm to the country's key industries like production and trade, make it clear that fighting illegal trade should be regarded as a "national duty" by all of us for the economic development and prosperity of the nation.

Informants have been promptly and generously rewarded, and there is a need to establish a network for information and effectively utilize the gathered information to take decisive action in preventing and investigating illegal trade.

Therefore, it is important to recognize that the livelihoods of the people are being harmed and lost due to illegal trade, and we encourage everyone to work together to expose and apprehend those involved in illegal trade in order to uplift and strengthen the nation's social and economic sectors.

NATIONAL



This photo showcases donated goods by the Chinese Embassy and the Myanmar-China Buddhist Friendship Association to the Inlay region.

Chinese Embassy donates food, cash for flood-hit villages in Inlay

THE Chinese Embassy to Myanmar and the Myanmar-China Buddhist Friendship Association donated food supplies and cash donations to support the rehabilitation of flood-hit villages in the Inlay region, located in Nyaungshwe Township, southern Shan State, according to the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar.

The donations included food supplies and financial aid for 693 households in flood-affected villages in the Inlay region. In addition to the

flood-impacted households, donations of food items, robes, and cash for nine prerequisites were also made to five monasteries, including the Namhu Sein and Mya Monastery and South Ohgon Monastery.

China continues monitoring the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in flood-battered areas of Myanmar and is striving to provide all possible support to help improve the livelihoods of the people in Myanmar. — ASH/TMT

Thanbyuzayat to start salt production early next year

AS Thanbyuzayat Township is a major salt producer in Mon State, all salt farmers have run their salt farms to commence new salt production early next year. Despite the labour shortage, all salt farmers in the township have prepared for salt manufacturing as of September and coarse salt will be produced in January next year from some 50 salt farms.

“Salt manufacturing began in September. Sun-drying will start in December and new salt will be generated around January next year. Like previous years, all salt farmers in Thanbyuzayat Township have run their salt manufacturing,” said a salt trader.

Of more than 400,000 tonnes of sun-dried salt produced from Mon State, about 25,000 tonnes

are produced from Thanbyuzayat Township. Salt production was good as expected last year as the weather was fine, he said. At present, salt produced from Mon State is mainly distributed to some areas where the fishery business is operated and for domestic use only.



This photo shows salt farmers at the salt farm in Thanbyuzayat Township.

This year, salt trade has been slow compared to the same period last year, and the price of coarse salt is just K160 per viss now, declining from around K220 per viss in the same period last year, said a salt farmer in Thanbyuzayat. — MT/ZS

MRCSS opens 2 children’s amusement centres in Taunggyi

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society’s Health Department opened two amusement centres for children in Taunggyi Township, Shan State (South), in November.

The centres were established to provide emotional support to children, help them adopt good health, water, and environmentally hygienic practices, and offer a space where they can play freely and happily.

Similarly, in March, amusement centres were opened for children in the Sagaing and Magway regions, as well as Chin State.

The Myanmar Red Cross Society will continue to open similar centres as part of its humanitarian response to children affected by various challenges in Myanmar. — ASH/TKO



This photo reveals Myanmar Red Cross Society providing care to children.

Izana Art Gallery to host ‘Is it Abstract? II’ group art exhibition

THE Izana Art Gallery, located in Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region, will host a group art exhibition titled ‘Is it Abstract? II’ from 9 to 13 December, according to artist Kaung Kyaw Khine.

Nearly 70 diverse paintings by artists Maung Di, Nay Tun, Tun Unt, Ba Sai Wunna, and Daniel Yel Zett will be displayed at the exposition.

“Five senior artists will participate in the exhibition. The audience will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of abstract paintings on different themes. I invite everyone to visit the gallery and personally experience these creations,” said artist Kaung Kyaw Khine.

The paintings on display will come in a variety of sizes,



This photo showcases the exhibition announcement for ‘Is it Abstract? II’ group art exhibition.

including 24 by 24 inches, 36 by 24 inches, 18 by 24 inches, and 18 by 18 inches. Prices will range from a minimum of K700,000 to a maximum of K2 million. — ASH/TRKM

NATIONAL

Domestic oil mills resume operations at 70% capacity

ACCORDING to U Tun Tun Naing, Vice-Chair of the Myanmar Edible Oil Millers Association, domestic oil mills have resumed operations at up to 70 per cent capacity following changes to policies on edible oil imports.

Edible oil imports began in 1990, and by 2020, annual imports had risen sharply to between 900,000 tonnes and one million tonnes. This significant increase led to the closure of many domestic oil mills.

“In the past, the large volume of edible oil imports had a severe impact, forcing domestic mills to shut down. However, since 2021, policy changes regarding imports have allowed the market share

of domestic oils to recover. Consequently, many oil mills have gradually resumed operations, and now they are running at up to 70 per cent capacity,” said U Tun Tun Naing.

The reduction in edible oil imports aligns with the improved availability of raw materials for domestic production. Additionally, the narrowing price gap between imported and locally produced edible oil has played a crucial role in restoring market share for domestic products.

Myanmar is home to over 4,000 small, medium, and large-scale oil mills, with approximately 70 per cent currently in operation. — ASH/TMT



A domestic oil mill.

Cast of Eainmat Karyan hosts meet-and-greet event with fans in Yangon

THE cast of the Myanmar film ‘Eainmat Karyan’ hosted a memorable meet-and-greet event with audiences yesterday at Junction City J Cineplex in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Region. Produced by Reddy Film Production, the movie has been screening in major cinemas across the country since 6 December.

The film’s storyline, penned by singer Ni Ni Khin Zaw, was adapted into a screenplay by Moe Ni Lwin. The production was led by Academy Award-winning director Win Lwin Htet, with music direction by Academy Award-winning Dhiria Mo. Filming began in 2020, with final refinements completed in 2024 to ensure the highest quality for audiences.

Speaking at the event, producer and singer Ni Ni Khin Zaw shared, “Today, fans expressed their gratitude for this unique and emotional film. They enjoyed the music and shared how deeply they were moved by the storyline. This film intertwines reality and dreams, delving into themes of love, hatred, sorrow, and regret. It features



Cast members of “Eainmat Karyan” meeting fans.

24 exceptional musical tracks”.

The event was attended by the film’s stars, including Academy Award-winning director Win Lwin Htet, as well as Ni Ni Khin Zaw, Sai Sai Twan Khant, Wyne Lay, Yoon Shwe Yee, Hsu Myat Noe Oo, Cynthia, Shwe Poe Kaung, Sweet, and Aung Ko Moe. Special guest appearances

were made by singers May Khalar, Tin Zar Maw, Chaw Su Khin, Aung Htet, and many other artistes.

The cast also visited Mingalar Cinema at Gamone Pwint (San Yeik Nyein), where they engaged with fans, further strengthening their bond with the audience. — ASH/KZL

National Sports Festival 2024 opening ceremony to be broadcast live

THE opening ceremony of the National Sports Festival 2024 will be held today (5 pm) at the Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex in Nay Pyi Taw. The event, which will be conducted with national-level grandeur, is set to feature performances by renowned artistes and musicians.

The ceremony will be broadcast live starting at 3:30 pm across multiple channels, including MRTV-HD, MRTV Sports, MRTV Parliament, MRTV Farmers’, MWD-HD, MWD Variety HD, Channel 7, 5 plus, Sports 2, MNTV, M Channel, and Myanmar Radio, Padamyar FM Cherry FM, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Bagan FM, Star FM, and Thazin FM. It will also be available on the Ministry of Information’s website and YouTube, as well as through the MRTV App and MRTV online platform.

In addition, the event will be delayed for broadcast by Channel K, Fortune TV, and YTV for the convenience of viewers.

— MNA/KZL

Press event introduces top 19 contestants for Mister & Miss Christmas Star 2024



Some contestants seen in Mister and Miss Christmas Star 2024.

A press event for the Top 19 contestants in the Mister and Miss Christmas Star 2024 was held on 7 December at the Chatrium Hotel in Dagon Township, Yangon Region.

The Mister and Miss Christmas Star 2024 is organized by Global Star Entertainment, with the grand finale scheduled for 21 December in front of the Time City Jewellery Mall in Kamayut Township, Yangon.

“This competition is held annually

in December. Previously, it was titled Miss Christmas Star, but this year, male contestants are also participating, making it Mister and Miss Christmas Star. A total of nine judges will assess contestants based on beauty, talent, knowledge, and performance. Ultimately, one each of winner mister and miss will be crowned. This year’s competition is unique because we have pre-selected special contestants and provided them with intensive training

in catwalk and opening dance performances. The audience will witness the contestants’ genuine talents,” explained Ko Thant Zin Aung, CEO of Global Star Entertainment.

Nine Misters out of 30 applicants and ten Misses out of 50 have been selected to compete as the final 19 contestants. The judging panel includes Han Lay, Ma Htet (Pop Soul), Ko Zin Aung, John Lwin, and nine other judges. — ASH/TKO

ECON: WORLD

UK retailers feed off public affection for festive ads

Christmas ads have become a cultural phenomenon in Britain, captivating audiences and driving economic growth.



The Christmas lights are already on all over Britain. **PHOTO: AFP**

THEY come with big budgets, are wrapped in sentimentality and boost company revenues — Britain's latest instalment of eagerly awaited Christmas television advertisements has a nation tuned in.

Known for talking about the weather 12 months a year, Britons will begin sharing thoughts on the latest festive commercials as soon as they hit screens, usually once the Halloween pumpkins are discarded.

"It's the time of year when media budgets swell, and creative teams pull out all the stops

to deliver memorable messaging that resonates," noted James McDonald, director of data, intelligence & forecasting at marketing strategists WARC.

Companies are to spend a record £10.5 billion (\$13.3 billion) on mostly online UK promotion of products during the present Christmas season, according to data from WARC and the Advertising Association, a British trade body. "Brands know that a well-crafted Christmas campaign can boost salience, anchor loyalty and drive impressive sales results," McDonald added.

Tesco's 2024 Christmas ad transforms people, animals, and buildings into gingerbread, blending nostalgia, family grief, and festive joy.

The campaign supports food charities, with sales from gingerbread items contributing to these efforts. Tesco reported an 8.1 per cent increase in UK sales during its third-quarter and Christmas period, reaching £16.8 billion. Richard Lim, CEO of Retail Economics, highlighted the complexity of measuring ad ROI but noted that flagship campaigns effectively leverage multiple platforms. — AFP

US panel urges greater crypto asset regulation

A US federal panel called Friday for legislation that would give regulators more authority over certain crypto assets, weeks before President-elect Donald Trump returns to the White House.

Trump has vowed that the United States would be the "crypto capital of the planet," and during his election campaign drew heavy financial support from cryptocurrency backers.

On Friday, the Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC) recommended that Congress pass legislation "providing federal financial regulators with explicit rulemaking authority over the spot market for crypto assets that are not securities."

It also urged lawmakers to approve rules creating a federal framework for stablecoin issuers.

Stablecoins are crypto-

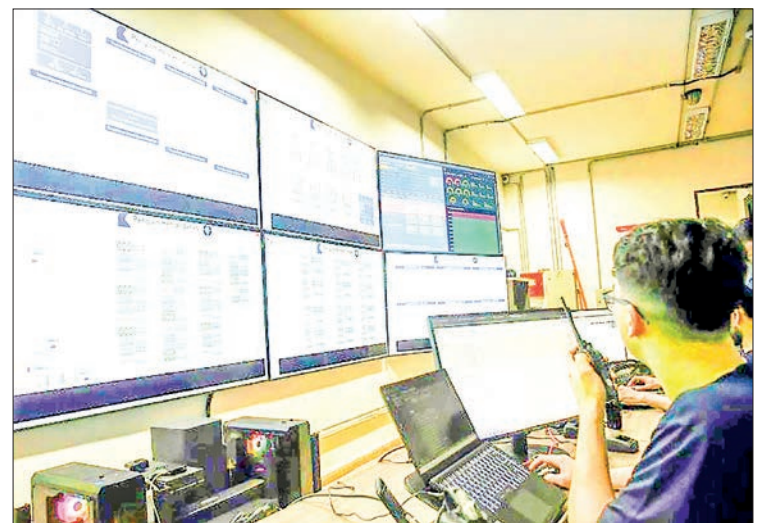
currencies typically pegged to real-world units such as the dollar and are seen as less volatile than other cryptocurrencies — though the FSOC noted they could be a risk to financial stability.

The council noted the need for "appropriate risk management standards," saying stablecoins could be vulnerable to runs.

The FSOC is chaired by Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and consists of members including Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell and other regulators.

Their recommendations come amid growing interest in digital assets, with Trump appointing an "AI and Crypto Czar" this week — to advise the incoming administration on cryptocurrency and artificial intelligence.

— AFP



Cryptocurrencies are 'mined' at digital plants like this one in Paraguay. **PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AFP/FILE**

Afghanistan's central bank to auction US\$ 16 mln to stabilize local currency

AFGHANISTAN'S central bank announced in a statement that it will auction US\$16 million on Monday in a bid to maintain the stability of the national currency, the afghani.

"The bidders, including moneychangers and private banks, should deposit the necessary money in cash in the form of afghani in the central bank — Da Afghanistan Bank," the central bank said in a statement posted on the social media

account X.

According to the statement, the bank requested all eligible banks, foreign exchanges and monetary service providers to participate in the auction.

Afghanistan's central bank has pumped millions of dollars into the local money exchange market over the past three years, aiming to prevent the decline in the value of the afghani against foreign currencies. — Xinhua

South African Airways pilots suspends strike

SOUTH African Airways (SAA) pilots called off their strike Saturday after receiving a salary increment, the airline said.

The SAA pilots started the strike Thursday following a breakdown in salary negotiations with the company. This resulted in the cancellation of nearly half the carrier's flights on that day.

The SAA said the strike was suspended Saturday morning after the pilots reached an agreement with the South African Airways Pilots Association (SAAPA).

The airline said they offered an additional 1 per cent salary increase, resulting in a total salary increase of 9.47 per cent for the pilots.

"As part of the agreement

that broke the deadlock in wage negotiations, engagements on a continuous enterprise improvement program will continue over the next eight weeks. We are committed to implementing work-life concessions that should enhance the productivity of our world-acclaimed pilots," said John Lamola, chief executive officer of the SAA. — Xinhua

JR East to increase fares by 7%, 1st rise since 1987 privatization

EAST Japan Railway Co. said Friday it has applied to the transport ministry to raise its train fares by an average 7.1 per cent beginning March 2026, its first blanket fare hike since the company's establishment in 1987.

The railway company, created following the breakup and privatization of the Japanese National Railways, seeks to hike fares for standard tickets and commuter passes, estimating the plan will boost its annual revenue by 88.1 billion yen (\$585 million). The starting fare will increase by 10 yen from the current 150 yen for distances between 1 to 3 kilometres on lines such as the busy Yamanote loop line in Tokyo.

"The business environment continues to be harsh as there has been a decline in the use of railways since COVID-19," Chiharu Watari, executive vice president of the company, said at a press conference. If approved, it will be the first time JR East has raised prices in its entire service area, which includes Tokyo and its surrounding prefectures, barring the introduction of consumption tax and tax increases. — Kyodo



JR East plans to raise the price of standard tickets by an average 7.8 per cent, commuter passes by 12.0 per cent and school commuter passes by 4.9 per cent. PHOTO: KYODO

UK bans daytime TV ads for cereals, muffins and burgers

THE UK government is banning daytime TV adverts for sugary foods like granola and muffins in its battle against child obesity, branding such popular items as junk food. Under measures unveiled on Tuesday, ads showing "less healthy" food and drinks will only be allowed to be aired after the 9:00 pm watershed from October next year.

According to the National Health Service, obesity is rising among British kids with one in 10 four-year-olds now considered

to be obese. And one in five five-year-olds suffers from tooth decay from eating too much sugar. Also included on the government's list — which uses a scoring system based on each item's sugar, fat and salt content — are pre-packaged popular sugary breakfast foods such as croissants, pancakes and waffles.

"Breakfast cereals including ready-to-eat cereals, granola, muesli, porridge oats and other oat-based cereals" are included, the government said. — AFP

UK's Guardian agrees sale of world's oldest Sunday paper

THE Guardian Media Group (GMG) announced on Friday that it had agreed to sell The Observer, the world's oldest Sunday newspaper, to Tortoise Media, an online news company. This decision came despite a 48-hour strike earlier this week by over 500 journalists at The Guardian and The Observer, who opposed the sale. GMG and its owner, the Scott Trust, stated that the sale would ensure the future of The Observer while continuing to champion liberal values and invest in quality journalism.

Tortoise, known for its "slow news" approach, plans to invest £25 million (\$32 million) over five years to renew the editorial and commercial aspects of the publication. Tortoise's founder, James Harding, emphasized that they

Despite a 48-hour strike by over 500 journalists, GMG announced the sale to Tortoise, which plans to invest £25 million.



The Observer newspaper. PHOTO: THE GUARDIAN

would continue to publish The Observer on Sundays, integrating it with their own podcasts and live events.

Despite the strike by

unionized staff, who voted overwhelmingly in favor of the action, GMG remains confident in the sale.

Tortoise's investment

is expected to protect The Observer's 233-year legacy while creating at least a dozen new roles for reporters. — AFP

Japanese gov't plans additional US\$ 36.7 mln for Osaka Expo security

THE Japanese government plans to increase the security budget for the 2025 World Exposition in Osaka by 5.5 billion yen (about US\$36.7 million), citing an expect-

ed rise in the number of international dignitaries attending the event, local media reported Sunday.

The adjustment brings the total government expenditure for

security and other expo-related costs to approximately 25.5 billion yen, according to National Broadcaster NHK.

The budget increase, deemed essential for the

smooth operation of the expo, has been included in a supplementary budget proposal to be submitted to the Diet next week, the report said. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V WISDOM VOY.NO. (003N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V WISDOM VOY.NO. (003N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-12-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S K.NAVIGATE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC SHUNDE VOY.NO. (2422S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-12-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO.,LTD

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Disappointment mounts following failed impeachment motion against S Korean president

DESPITE bitter cold winds, large crowds of people have gathered around the National Assembly in Seoul, capital of South Korea, since early morning of Saturday, the day of an impeachment motion vote against President Yoon Suk-yeol.

Holding up banners reading “Reject Yoon Suk-yeol,” “Arrest Yoon Suk-yeol who is guilty of treason,” the crowds demanded immediate resignation of Yoon, who declared an emergency martial law Tuesday night before repealing it early Wednesday as the parliament voted against it.

“This has nothing to do with political camps or partisanship, but a matter of common sense. I hope the lawmakers can understand the people’s will and make correct judgments,” Yoo Hwa-jeong, who traveled to the capital from Cheonan in South Chungcheong province, told Xinhua.

The road in front of the main gate

The parliament session proceeded as scheduled, with most ruling party lawmakers leaving after voting against a bill regarding Yoon’s wife.



of the National Assembly building was packed with rally crowds, as 200,000 people reportedly took to the street, chanting slogans.

The parliament held a plenary session as scheduled at 5:00 pm local time. After voting against a bill to investigate scandals involving Yoon’s wife, most of the 108 ruling party lawmakers left the parliament hall. One ruling party lawmaker remained at the hall and two came back after leaving.

Lawmakers of the opposition parties, including the main liberal Democratic Party, named the ruling party lawmakers one by one in unison, calling on them to come back and cast ballots. — Xinhua

South Korean National Assembly lawmakers listen to a statement on President Yoon Suk-yeol’s impeachment motion in Seoul, South Korea, 7 December 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Syrian, Russian forces launch massive attacks on terrorist positions near Homs and Hama

SYRIAN troops, together with the Russian Aerospace Forces, launched massive strikes on terrorist positions and supply routes in the provinces of Homs and Hama, the Syrian Defense Ministry said.

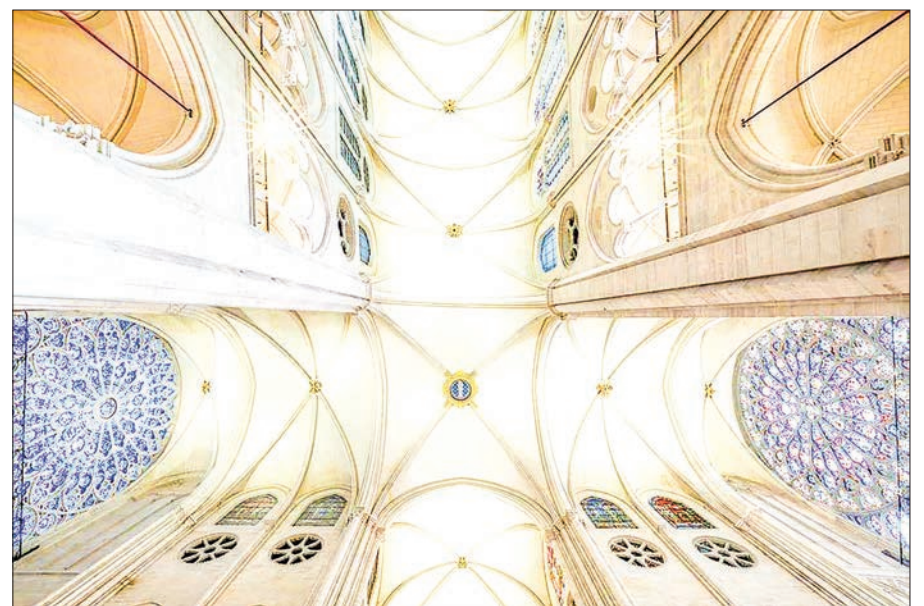
“Our forces operating in the provinces of Hama and Homs are carrying out massive strikes with cannon and rocket artillery on [terrorist] positions and supply routes. Additionally, the Syrian and Russian combat aircraft carried out joint strikes on terrorist concentrations in the northeast of the province of Homs. Ten militants and their equipment were eliminated,” the statement read. — SPUTNIK

Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral officially reopens after restoration

FIVE years after being devastated by a fire, the restored Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral officially reopened on Saturday with a grand inauguration ceremony attended by world leaders, believers, and non-believers alike.

The ceremony began with a tribute film, honoring all those who played a role in the rescue and restoration of Notre-Dame. “Thank You” was projected in multiple languages on the cathedral’s iconic facade.

French President Emmanuel Macron, speaking at the event, expressed France’s deep gratitude to “all those who saved, helped, and rebuilt Notre-Dame de Paris,” and to those present to witness the return of the cathedral “to Paris, to France, and to the whole world.” — Xinhua



This photo shows the interior view of Notre-Dame Cathedral before its reopening in Paris, France, 30 November 2024. **PHOTO: JULIO PIATTI/XINHUA**

Over 1,000 EU citizens join lawsuit against EU President over COVID-19 vaccine spending

MORE than 1,000 EU citizens have joined the legal action against European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in the case of violations during the purchase of COVID-19 vaccines, the Belgian activist who filed the complaint, Frederic Baldan, said on Saturday.

“We have over 1,000 plaintiffs,”

Baldan told reporters. These people include members of non-governmental organizations and professional organizations, such as trade unions of pilots, as well as Hungarian and Polish officials, the activist said.

There is evidence that the vaccines approved for use in the European Union “have not been sufficiently tested” for

effectiveness in combating the pandemic, although Brussels introduced restrictive measures against those who opposed mandatory vaccination, Baldan added.

“This proves that the European Commission violated the rights of citizens from the very beginning,” he said.

A Belgian court in Liege was un-

able to consider the charges against von der Leyen on Friday and had to postpone the hearings on the case indefinitely. The European Prosecutor’s Office has protested the fact that the case against von der Leyen was considered by the Belgian justice, insisting that she had immunity, since it was related to her professional activities. — SPUTNIK

SPORTS

Man Utd sporting director Ashworth leaves after just five months



Dan Ashworth (centre) has left as Manchester United's sporting director after just five months in the role. **PHOTO: AFP**

MANCHESTER United confirmed the shock departure of sporting director Dan Ashworth on Sunday, just five months after he took up the role at Old Trafford.

Ashworth's exit was reportedly agreed after Saturday's disappointing 3-2 home defeat to Nottingham Forest.

His appointment was seen as a major coup among sweeping changes to the Red Devils' sporting structure made since Jim Ratcliffe bought a minority share in the English giants in December 2023.

Ashworth, 53, officially joined the club on 1 July after spending five months on gardening leave at Newcastle as Manchester United pursued their interest.

However, the Athletic reported tensions had emerged between Ashworth and Ratcliffe over the return on the field from a near £200 million (\$255 million) spending spree in the summer transfer window.

None of the new signings — Leny Yoro, Manuel Ugarte, Matthijs De Ligt, Noussair Mazraoui and Joshua Zirkzee — have hit the ground running. — AFP

Olympic Summit hears updates on anti-doping work from WADA, ITA

THE 13th Olympic Summit was held here on Saturday as participants discussed a series of topics related to the Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement, including the anti-doping work of World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the International Testing Agency (ITA).

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) released the communique of the Summit, which has 30 items under various topics including the achievements of Paris 2024, the 2026 Milano Cortina Olympic Winter Games, and the Olympic Esports Games.

According to the communique, WADA president Witold Banka delivered a report emphasizing the importance of collaboration of all the athletes around the world to fight against doping. He gave an update on the process of adopting the Cottier Report and the World Aquatics Audit Report as part of the World Anti-Doping Code, as well as the review of the 2027 Code.

Banka noted 85 operations of WADA's Intelligence and Investigations Department were jointly conducted by European National Anti-Doping Agencies and law enforcement agencies, which helped to remove an estimated 450 million doses of potentially dangerous drugs from circulation. — Xinhua

THE 2024 ASEAN Cup Group B matches are set to begin today. Myanmar national football team will play against Indonesia at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon at 7 pm local time. Additionally, Laos will face Vietnam at 7:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time in Vientiane's National Sports Complex.

Team Myanmar finds itself in a challenging group, starting the tournament against Indonesia, a formidable team currently competing in the third round of the 2026 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers. Notably, Indonesia is



Myanmar footballers seen under cheerful manner. **PHOTO: THAW GYI**

ASEAN Cup Group B matches kick off today

the only ASEAN team to reach that stage and has secured victories over several top-tier Asian teams. However, due to club commitments, Indonesia will primarily rely on U-22 players for this tournament.

Similarly, Myanmar faces its own challenges. Key play-

ers, including defender Soe Moe Kyaw, are unavailable due to injuries.

Additionally, Hein Htet Aung, who plays for Negeri Sembilan FC in Malaysia, and striker Than Paing, representing Kanchanaburi FC in Thai League 2, will miss the tour-

namment as their clubs did not release them.

This match marks the first time in 16 years that Myanmar and Indonesia are meeting at the group stage of the ASEAN Cup, with their last encounter taking place in 2008. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Bayern pass 1 bln euros in revenue after trophyless season



Bayern Munich celebrated club legend Franz Beckenbauer at their annual general meeting. **PHOTO: AFP**

BAYERN Munich announced record-breaking annual revenue of over €1 billion for the first time, highlighting economic growth despite a trophyless season and honouring club legend Franz Beckenbauer with the retirement of his iconic number 5.

Bayern Munich announced on Sunday that their total annual revenue topped 1 billion euros for the first time, with the football club contrib-

uting 951.5 million euros (1.006 billion dollars).

Chairman Herbert Hainer told the general meeting of the member-owned club, whose other activities include a basketball team, that the 2023-24 financial revenue of 1.017 billion euros continued the growth of revenues which were 690 million euros in 2021-22 and 882 million euros in 2022-23.

Net profit increased by

21 per cent to 43.1 million euros, but that figure is below the club record total of 52.5 million euros in the 2018-19 season, the last full one before the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We are not only reaching a new record, but also a new dimension, into which Bayern has never gone before," said Hainer.

The club said they had enjoyed an explosion in membership numbers.

In February 2023, Bayern passed the 300,000-member mark and this year hit 382,000. Hainer said the club were aiming for 400,000 by the time the club, founded on 27 February, 1900, celebrates their 125th anniversary.

The results come after a season in which Bayern won no trophies for the first time since 2011-12. "This outstanding annual result shows that we continue to be one of the absolute top clubs in Europe in economic terms," CEO Jan-Christian Dreesen said. "At the same time, however, it should not obscure the fact that we were not satisfied with a season without a trophy". — AFP

Disappointment mounts following failed impeachment motion against S Korean president

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WORLD

Robots, plants and photovoltaic panels — China fortifies “green Great Wall” to contain desert

FOR Saydi Emin, a farmer living on the southern edge of the Taklimakan Desert, known as the “Sea of Death,” sandstorms were a constant menace.

They would rip away the plastic film covering his fields and destroy cotton seedlings, often leading to reduced or zero yields. These challenges left him with lingering fears. But now, with the recent completion of a desert control project in northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Saydi Emin sees hope for a future free from such risks.

The largest desert in China, the Taklimakan is now completely encircled by a green belt stretching 3,046 kilometres as of late November, thanks to more than four decades of efforts as part of China’s Three-North Shelterbelt Forest Program, the world’s largest afforestation program to tackle desertification.

The programme was launched in 1978 and is scheduled to be completed by 2050. In June 2023, China proposed to turn the program into a fully functional and unbreakable “green Great Wall” and ecological security barrier in northern China.

Over the past 46 years, China has expanded its afforestation area by 32 million hectares under the programme. The afforestation area under the programme is projected to encompass over 4 million square kilometres across 13 provincial-level

China combats Taklimakan Desert’s threats with green belts and technology.



People fix straw checkerboards on sandy land in Qiemo County, northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, 6 October 2014.

PHOTO: JIANG WENYAO/XINHUA

regions by 2050, accounting for 42.4 per cent of the country’s total land area.

The Taklimakan Desert, threatening ecosystems and farmland, is being con-

tained by China’s Three-North Shelterbelt Forest Program, which has created a green belt. Technological innovations like irrigation, sand barriers, robots, and

photovoltaic panels help combat desertification, improving local livelihoods and reinforcing the “green Great Wall” against desert expansion. — Xinhua

UNESCO adds Mongolia’s Mongol nomad migration to intangible cultural heritage list

UNESCO highlights Mongolian nomadic culture’s interdependence between pastures and herders.



This photo taken on 25 September 2023 shows a group of sculptures depicting a caravan of camels in Ulan Bator, Mongolia. PHOTO: A SIGANG/XINHUA

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has added Mongolia’s Mongol nomad migration and its associated practices to its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, according to a statement from the country’s Ministry of Culture, Sports, Tourism and Youth on Friday.

The UNESCO’s decision was made during the 19th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, taking place in Asuncion, the capital city of Paraguay, from 2 to 7 December.

Mongolian nomadic culture is rooted in the interdependence between pastures, livestock and herders, and herder families moving between pastures to give the earth time to rejuvenate, as noted by UNESCO. The migration process is steeped in tradition.

The head of the household determines the date for relocation, and the entire family contributes to the preparations, which include cleaning the area and readying the animals, said UNESCO. — Xinhua

CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Japanese atomic bomb survivors depart for Nobel Peace Prize ceremony

A group of Japanese atomic bomb survivors from the Nobel Peace Prize-winning group Nihon Hidankyo left Tokyo on Sunday for Oslo to attend the award ceremony. Terumi Tanaka, a representative of the group, will deliver a speech on the survivors’ ongoing campaign for nuclear disarmament.

The delegation includes 30 people, with 17 survivors from Japan and abroad. Hidankyo, founded after the 1945 atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, received the Nobel Prize for its advocacy for a nuclear-free world and sharing survivor testimonies to demonstrate the horrors of nuclear weapons. — Kyodo