

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

**NATIONAL**

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International Migrants Day commemorated with awareness activities

**BUSINESS**

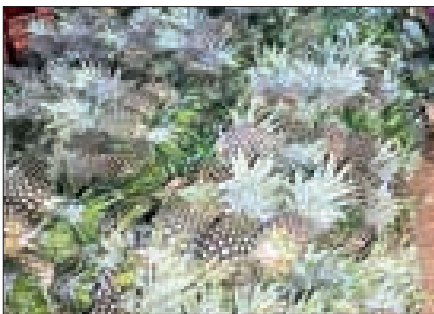
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MGMA invites member companies and factories to join Bharat Tex 2025

**NATIONAL**

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Rising demand for Shan State pineapples

## Bago Region welcomes 400,000+ tourists in 2024, boosting tourism revenue



Visitors at the magnificent Kambawzathadi Royal Palace, a popular tourist destination in Bago Region.

**F**rom January to November 2024, more than 400,000 domestic and international visitors travelled to tourist destinations in Bago Region, according to the Bago Region Tourism Committee.

Tourist sites in Bago Region hosted 399,637 domestic tourists and 6,329 international visitors, generating K4,909.34 million in tourism revenue. Compared to the same period in the previous year, the number of domestic tourists increased by 13,751, and revenue grew by K651.25

million.

The Bago Region Tourism Committee announced plans to boost regional tourism with the onset of the dry season. This includes intensifying efforts to promote tourism from multiple angles and developing new travel itineraries.

The region offers seasonal festivals, prominent religious festivals, cultural heritage sites, accommodation, dining, and leisure facilities to ensure a pleasant and fulfilling experience for both domestic and international travellers. Efforts have

also been made to maintain cleanliness, beauty, and a welcoming environment in these locations, including ensuring flower gardens bloom year-round and keeping public toilets consistently clean.

The tourism sector plays a vital role in supporting the growth of MSMEs (micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises) in the region. By ensuring visitor convenience, safety, and satisfaction, the Regional Tourism Committee is working to achieve the continued success of the region's tourism industry. — ASH/TMT

## Myanmar's fish exports total 240,000 tonnes in Apr-Nov

MYANMAR generated US\$256.6 million from 240,000 metric tonnes of various fish exports in the past eight months of the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April, according to the Fisheries Department.

The figures indicated a sharp increase of over \$39 million compared with that of the corresponding period last year.

Myanmar steadily exports seafood to 40 countries including China, Thailand, Bangladesh and Japan through maritime and border trade routes.

According to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation, Myanmar's seafood exports include hilsa, rohu, catfish, seabass, river catfish, eel, shrimp and crabs. There are over 140 fishery

product processing factories in Myanmar. The Department of Fisheries grants licence extensions every year. — NN/KK

Diligent workers meticulously sorting fishery products on the cold storage processing line.



# NATIONAL

## Empowering Citizens with Wisdom: Key to National Strength and Progress

Wisdom equips individuals with the ability to critically analyze right and wrong, good and bad, and cause and effect.

When every citizen possesses wisdom and knowledge, the nation can cultivate true strength that advances the interests of the State.

*(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony of presenting awards to outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination 2024 with distinctions in all subjects on 22 July 2024)*

### Well Marked Low-Pressure Area Condition

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

ACCORDING to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the Well Marked Low-Pressure Area over Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to move northwestwards and reach to North Tamil Nadu and South Andhra Pradesh Coasts, India during the next 12 hours. Thereafter, it is likely to move nearly northwards and move along Andhra Pradesh Coast during 36 hours. — DMH

### Special Weather News

Issued at (18:00) hours MST on 19 December 2024

ACCORDING to the observations at (16:30)hrs MST today, due to the convergence of warm air from the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal and cold air from the China high pressure system and the remanent of Well Marked Low-Pressure Area over Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bengal, rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated to scattered in Mandalay, Magway Regions and Rakhine State and fairly widespread to widespread in Sagaing Region and Kachin, Chin, Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls during 20 December 2024 upto 23 December 2024.

#### Advisory

People should be aware of the natural disasters such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, thunder, lightning strike, lightning, hails, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flight. — DMH

### Five National Objectives for 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence Day 2025

1. To address armed conflicts and differing perspectives lawfully, ensuring non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
2. To safeguard the State with unity and strength of all citizens, guided by the spirit of the Union
3. To conduct a free, fair, and credible general election to establish a genuine, disciplined democratic system
4. To promote balanced development across all sectors of the Union through the collective strength of the entire people
5. To collectively advance politics, the economy, defence, national identity, and spirit with perseverance, diligence, and dedication, guided by the motto: "Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal"

## Collapsing King Bagyidaw's Swetaw Sin Pagoda in ancient Inwa needs restoration



This photo shows the collapsed Swetaw Sin Pagoda built by King Bagyidaw in the ancient palace of Inwa.

WRITER and researcher Bo Shate (Yadanapura) stated that the Swetaw Sin Pagoda in the ancient Inwa palace, built during the reign of King Bagyidaw, is in ruins and needs to be restored to its original state.

It is located in the innermost part of the three-layered city wall and contains intricate carvings.

"In the Inwa Palace space where kings stayed, a pagoda was built with a rack for the Buddha's tooth relic. Swetaw Sin is a place that had to be built by the king himself. King Bagyidaw built it, and it is now over 200 years old," he said.

The collapsing pagoda is covered with trees and bushes, so donations are needed to maintain it without losing its original appearance.

"The collapsing pagoda looks like a hill. We need to restore it by blocking the sides in its original work. The current pagoda should be built in the same original work as the Inwa Swetaw Sin found in Parabaik. Many parts need to be repaired. We need to find donors to repair it," he said.

He added that the tradition of placing a tooth relic rank at the very entrance to the palace and worshipping it has emerged since the reign of King Bayintnaung. — MT/ZN

## Authentic preservation for 37 spirits' attire

THE costumes of 37 spirits will be restored based on the evidence of ancient style, according to Myanmar artisan Ko Htake Tin Sithu Hein.

The plan is to re-exhibit these costumes using models who wear them to have photographs taken.

"The aim is to re-make the costumes from the ancient records which has not been done by any designer. We want to re-invent those styles. Especially, we have the costumes of 37 spirits. We will make them again in the original style. The costumes are finished. We will conduct photo shooting within this month when the models are available," he said.

They will start filming the costume of the Min Mahagiri among 37 spirits.

"The costume of the Mahagiri, who is the interior household father among 37 spirits, will be started this month. We will start filming this costume. It is one of Myanmar's traditional costumes. We will reproduce it in its original form," he explained. — Thit Taw/ZN

# NATIONAL

THE door is open to all ethnic armed groups at all times for the sake of peace in the State. They are always welcomed to resolve the differences, not by military means, but through dialogue. Only when the entire population makes collective endeavours to achieve peace and stability, rule of law and socio-economic development, will Myanmar be able to stand tall in the world as a modern and developed country.

*(An excerpt from the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing on the occasion to mark the Kayin New Year Day held on 11 January 2024.)*



Yangon's night beauty. PHOTO BY AUNG KYAW MOE

## Winners awarded in volleyball, Sepak Takraw, Wushu, futsal sports

Winners were awarded in final matches of relevant sports at the Inter-Ministry and Inter-State and Region levels of the Fifth National Sports Festival 2024 at stadiums and gymnasiums in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, attended by members of the State Administration Council.

SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo, SAC Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, deputy ministers and officials watched the final matches of the men's and women's volleyball tournaments at the Inter-Ministry level



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo offers prizes.



SAC Member Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae presents prizes.



at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium B in Nay Pyi Taw.

Ministry of Defence clinched the title in the women's volleyball tourney while the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs secured champion in the men's event. SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo

**SEE PAGE 4**

Sports fans cheer the men's volleyball match.



SAC Member U Wunna Maung Lwin distributes prizes.

# 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)*

## Winners awarded in volleyball, Sepak Takraw, Wushu, futsal sports

### FROM PAGE 3

presented individual medals to players of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs team in the men's volleyball tournament. SAC Member Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung awarded the first-prize-winning Ministry of Defence in the women's event and the second-prize-winning Ministry of Home Affairs team in the men's event respectively. Deputy ministers Maj-Gen Toe Yi and Maj-Gen Phyo Thant, and the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs gave second and third prizes to relevant winning teams.

At Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium A, SAC Members U Wunna Maung Lwin and Dr Ba Shwe, and Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant handed over prizes to winning teams at the Inter-Ministry level Sepak Takraw sports. Ministry of Home Affairs claimed a champion in the men's four-player Sepak Takraw final



SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung delivers prizes.

with a 2-1 win over Ministry of Construction.

Shwepyapin Gymnasium hosted the women's and men's U-23 Wushu final matches at the Inter-State and Region level.

SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung and Dr Hmuh Thang, Un-

ion Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine, deputy ministers, state and regional ministers and officials awarded the prize-winning teams.

SAC Member Dr Hmuh Thang presented the first prize to Nay Pyi Taw, the second to



SAC Member Dr Ba Shwe bestows prizes.

Yangon Region and the joint third to Kayin State and Mandalay Region in the men's 56-kilogramme Sanshou event and the first to Mandalay Region, the second to Kayah State and the joint third to Kayin State and Bago Region in the men's 60-kilogramme San-

shou event. SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung handed over first, second and joint third prizes to Kayin State, Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region and Yangon Region in the men's 65-kilogramme Sanshou event and first, second and joint-third prizes to Nay Pyi Taw, Kayin State and Rakhine State and Yangon Region in the men's 70-kilogramme Sanshou event.

Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Jeng Phang Naw Taung, deputy ministers and officials as well as sports fans enjoyed the final match of the Inter-Ministry level men's futsal sports at Wunna Theikdi Stadium.

Union Minister Jeng Phang Naw Taung and Deputy Ministers Dr Tin Htut and U Phyo Zaw Soe presented first, second and third prizes to the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Planning and Finance and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, respectively.

— MNA/TTA



Enthusiastic spectators cheer on the men's futsal match at the Fifth National Sports Festival in Nay Pyi Taw.

# NATIONAL

## DPM MoFA Union Minister attends Informal Consultation in Bangkok

AT the invitation of Mr Maris Sangiampongsa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe participated in the Informal Consultation at the Ministerial Level between neighbouring countries of Myanmar – Bangladesh, China, India, the Lao PDR, and Thailand, on 19 December 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Foreign Ministers and representatives cordially discussed and exchanged views on cooperation in promoting border peace and security as well as combatting transnational crimes.

During the consultation, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs also updated the Myanmar Government's efforts to ensure peace, development and democracy in the country and the recent developments in Myanmar to the Heads of Delegations.

On the afternoon of 19 December 2024, Mr Maris Sangi-



Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe meets Mr Md Touhid Hossain, Adviser for Foreign Affairs of the Interim Government of Bangladesh on 18 December 2024.

ampongsa, Foreign Minister of Thailand, hosted an official lunch in honour of Heads of Delegation and delegates at the Capella Hotel in Bangkok.

Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe separately met Mr Sun Weidong, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of

the People's Republic of China and Mr Md Touhid Hossain, Adviser for Foreign Affairs of the Interim Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on 18 December 2024. The Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs also met Mr Thongsvanh Phomvihane, Minister of Foreign Affairs of

the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mr Shri Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India, and Mr Enrique A Manalo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines, who was in Bangkok to attend a separate meeting, on 19 December 2024

at the Capella Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand.

During the meetings, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs exchanged views on further enhancing peace and stability along the borders and combatting transnational crimes, strengthening cooperation of bilateral relations, continue maintaining peace and security in the border areas between the two countries, the advancement of the multi-sectoral cooperation, strengthening people-to-people contacts, as well as closer collaboration at both regional and multilateral arenas.

The Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe arrived back at Yangon International Airport on the evening of 19 December 2024 and the delegation was welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

## Medal tally on standing table of ministries at Fifth National Sports Festival on 19 December

No	Ministry	Number of medals				Remark
		Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	
1	Ministry of Defence	14	10	10	34	
2	Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs	12	7	9	28	
3	Ministry of Home Affairs	10	10	10	30	
4	Ministry of Construction	7	12	8	27	
5	Ministry of Transport and Communications	3	2	1	6	
6	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation	1	3	1	5	
7	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation	1	2	3	6	
8	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement	-	-	1	1	
9	Ministry of Ethnic Affairs	1	-	-	1	
10	Ministry of Education	1	-	-	1	
11	Ministry of Planning and Finance	-	3	-	3	
12	Ministry of Hotels and Tourism	-	1	-	1	
13	Ministry of Labour	-	-	3	3	
14	Ministry of Commerce	-	-	1	1	
15	Office of Union Auditor-General	-	-	1	1	
16	Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture	-	-	1	1	
17	Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development	-	-	1	1	
	Total	50	50	50	150	

## MyanTrade explores boosting cotton exports to Vietnam, Bangladesh

MYANMAR Trade Promotion Organization (MyanTrade) under the Ministry of Commerce held a virtual coordination meeting on 11 December at the meeting hall to bolster cotton exports to Vietnam and Bangladesh.

The MyanTrade director-general delivered an opening remark that the government is supporting cotton-based industrial development. Cotton export promotion aims to contribute to the State's economic development. He also urged related departments, associations and growers to coordinate matters to ensure accurate statistics about cotton cultivation, production and inputs. Systematic harvest and storage practices might help meet export targets this season. An awareness campaign to reduce wastage during cotton harvesting is required. MyanTrade will exert efforts to connect with the markets in Vietnam and Bangladesh.

Myanmar commercial attaches in India, China, Vietnam and Thailand also attended the meeting, according to the domestic trade division of MyanTrade. — NN/KK

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar domestic travel to surge in early 2025 following Dec boom at beaches, Bagan

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Tourism Federation (MTF), domestic travel in Myanmar is expected to increase further in early 2025, following a surge in beachgoers and visitors to the Bagan region during December 2024.

Since November, the Taunggyi Tazaungdine Hot-Air Balloon Festival has attracted domestic travellers to Shan State (South). Visitor numbers to beach destinations have risen steadily throughout the year, while the Bagan region has also experienced consistent monthly growth in tourist arrivals.

“In December, we saw more



This picture captures tourists visiting pagodas and temples in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone.

domestic visitors than anticipated. Hotels have been fully booked since the start of the month, leaving no vacancies. December and January are set to witness a significant rise in travel activity. The beaches are busier than usual, and many hotels in Bagan are already fully booked. Additionally, there is strong interest in short trips to destinations like Kyaiktiyo and Hpa-an. Travel to Shan State’s Kalaw, Pindaya, and Taunggyi is also particularly popular in December,” said an official from the MTF.

Meanwhile, the number of foreign visitors to Myanmar typically declines in December. During the 10 months, most international tourists came from Thailand, China, South Korea, Japan, India, and Vietnam, with 898,971 foreign arrivals reported. — ASH/MKKS

## International Migrants Day commemorated with awareness activities

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) organized nationwide activities to commemorate International Migrants Day.

As part of these commemorative activities, awareness campaigns were conducted on 18 December, and information leaflets were distributed in multiple locations, including Patheingyi in Ayeyawady Region, Mawlamyine in Mon State, Bahan Township in Yangon Region, Singaing Township in Kyaukse District, Mandalay Region, and Yenangyoung in Magway Region.

Commemorative activities also included awareness-raising sessions on family reunification. In Singaing Township, Kyaukse District, Mandalay Region, a session was held at the Daungkyia Basic Education Primary School, and seven teachers and 177 students attended the event.

Similarly, responsible personnel for family reunification and Red Cross volunteers from the township conducted awareness campaigns as part of the International Migrants Day activities on Gyatawya Road in Bahan Township, Yangon Region. — ASH/TKO

## 2<sup>nd</sup>-round selection for Academy Award escorts, tray bearers on 22 Dec

THE Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization has announced that the second-round selection for Academy award escorts and tray bearers will take place on 22 December 2024, according to U Aye Kyu Lay, Vice-Chairman of the organization.

On 15 December, more than 280 applicants participated in an initial in-person screening at the organization’s Shwe Yatu Hall, with 90 candidates selected for the second

round. This round will further narrow down the field of 90.

In the second round, candidates will be required to demonstrate their acting abilities in performances lasting no longer than three minutes. Candidates with skills in singing, dancing, playing musical instruments, sports, or any other art form will also have the opportunity to showcase their talents. Participants are advised to prepare thoroughly

and bring any necessary musical instruments or supporting materials.

The selection panel includes prominent figures in the industry, such as Academy Award winners Yan Aung, Ye Aung, Soe Myat Thuza, and May Than Nu. The Myanmar Academy Awards ceremony, which will honour outstanding achievements in cinema for 2024, is scheduled for February 2025. — ASH/TRKM

## Royal Thai Embassy announces cash-only visa fee payments at counter

THE Royal Thai Embassy to Myanmar announced on 18 December that it only accepts cash payments at the visa counter at the Thai Embassy and does not require online transfers such as KBZ Pay or Thai bank accounts.

Therefore, the embassy warned that it is not responsible for any payments made outside its prescribed

method as they are irrelevant to the embassy. Due to a line interruption, the visa section has not used the phone number 09 767470765 for about three months. This number is currently being exploited by fraudsters pretending to be embassy staff to provide visa-related information.

In addition, a Viber number 09 7599 28611 was also found to be re-

ceiving and answering visa-related information pretending to be an embassy employee. That person was not related to the embassy at all. Therefore, the embassy recommends that anyone who has transferred visa fees to the accounts of those fraudulent people using the aforesaid phone numbers report the incident to the police. — MT/ZN

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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.

## Blood clam supply from Pyapon to Yangon market increases in Nov

ABOUT 75,000 visses of blood clam from Pyapon Township, Ayeyawady Region, were delivered to the Yangon market in November 2024, up from 52,000 visses registered in October, according to news released by MyanTrade.

“The supply grew significantly in November. The majority of the fisheries from Ayeyawady Region are sent to Yangon. The blood clam has a strong domestic demand as well. Local fishery products including blood clam are highly demanded in Yangon this month,” said a fishery product trader.

This business thrives, allowing fishermen, hard labourers and traders to earn well.

Blood clam farming busi-

ness became trendy in the 2017-2018 financial year. The capacity of a clam farm is estimated at 30,000 clams. When the blood clams reach one kilogramme with less than 100 calms, it's the right size to deliver them to the market. There are around 100 clam farming ponds in Taninthayi Region, said Daw Ni Ni engaged in blood clam farming in Yaykantaung village-tract, Kyunsu Township, Taninthayi Region.

Some called them the blood cockles. Taninthayi residents widely called them Gin. The blood clam from Taninthayi Region is primarily exported to Thailand, generating foreign earnings and creating jobs for locals. — KK



This image shows blood clams at the market.

## MGMA invites member companies and factories to join Bharat Tex 2025



Manufacturing lines and diligent workers, particularly females, are pictured sewing garments at a workplace.

MYANMAR Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) cordially invited its member companies and factories to participate in India's largest textile show Bharat Tex 2025 which will take place on 14-17 February 2025 in New Delhi, India.

It is a great platform to connect textile buyers with suppliers and showcase India's complete textile value chain with manufacturing capacities and cutting-edge technologies, its extensive heritage and expertise in the textile industry

including handloom fabrics, embroidery and dyeing techniques. The comprehensive pavilions will exhibit fibres and yarns, fabrics, apparel and fashion blending traditional and contemporary styles, home textiles, handloom, technical textiles, handicrafts, carpets and intelligent manufacturing.

The textile shows will also include CEO roundtables, government-to-government (G2G) meetings, Business-to-Business (B2B) networks and textile tours.

Under the arrangement of MGMA and expo organizers, MGMA's members can join a buyer delegation visit, and a four-night stay, lunch at the expo, sightseeing agendas and transportation will be provided. They must bear flight ticket fares and other general costs themselves. Interested individuals can register to attend the Bharat Tex 2025 through Ma Khin Thandar Aung, Event and PR officer at 09 758451158 by 30 December, MGMA notified. — NN/KK

## CBM sells over \$30M, 2.14M baht on 18 Dec

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold \$30 million and 2.14 million baht on 18 December.

CBM injected \$150,000 and over 810,000 baht on 17 December and \$28 million, one million baht and over 710,000 yuan on 16 December, 340,000 yuan and 400,000 baht on 13 December, \$28.51 million and 600,000 baht on 12 December and 500,000 yuan again on 11 December into the financial market.

CBM announced on 10 December that it would sell \$35 million and 40 million baht through the foreign exchange trading platform. Then, it sold about 900,000 yuan on 10 December, \$15 million, over one million yuan and 200 million baht on 6 December, over 1.55 million yuan on 5 December after sales of 1.48 million yuan on 4 December and 1.43 million yuan on 3 December.

Furthermore, on 2 December, CBM injected \$38 million, 1.48 million yuan and 107.46 million baht into online foreign exchange trading platforms. CBM pumped over \$59 million, over 280 million baht and 8.78 million yuan in November and over \$91 million, over 610 million baht and 9.8 million yuan into the financial market in October.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange



The facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Nay Pyi Taw.

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

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# OPINION

## Take care of infectious pneumonia disease

**P**NEUMONIA is a fast-spreading lung infection affecting vulnerable groups like children and the elderly. It inflames the lungs, targeting tiny air sacs called alveoli. Symptoms include dry cough, chest pain, fever, and breathing difficulties, making it a serious societal health threat.

Pneumonia is deadlier for children than the combined mortality rates of AIDS, measles, and malaria. It is a widespread and life-threatening disease. According to a 2019 World Health Organization report, pneumonia caused over 2.5 million deaths worldwide, including 67,200 children.

Pneumonia, caused by viruses, bacteria, or fungi, is treatable with antibiotics, yet only a third of affected children receive them. The disease significantly impacts populations in African, Asian, and Latin American countries. Alarming, air pollution contributes to one-third of pneumonia-related deaths. Indoor air pollution accounts for 423,000 deaths, while outdoor pollution causes 326,000 fatalities. These figures highlight the urgent need for improved access to treatment and efforts to reduce environmental pollution, both critical in combating pneumonia's devastating impact worldwide.

That is why taking care of air pollution for pneumonia patients anywhere is necessary. The use of firewood at stoves as well as smoking inside the house can bring bad results to patients with pneumonia. Carbon Dioxide emitted from construction sites, industries, businesses and vehicles in addition to using generators in populous cities can cause some diseases in respiratory tracts.

Patients with pneumonia should follow physician-prescribed guidelines to prevent the spreading of the infection. Adhering to disciplined behaviours protects those around them from exposure. Patients must avoid crowded public places and wear masks to contribute to a hygienic environment. Such measures are essential not only for their recovery but also for the community's well-being. By practising responsible and systematic habits, patients with pneumonia – and those with other illnesses – can help maintain a healthier and safer environment for everyone. These actions are small yet impactful steps toward preventing the spread of infectious diseases and promoting public health.

To combat pneumonia and improve air quality, collaboration between the public, authorities, and health workers is essential. Healthcare departments must raise awareness by educating the public on proper practices for living with and caring for pneumonia patients. This includes sharing preventive measures and fostering understanding to ensure a supportive environment. Society can only overcome pneumonia when everyone adheres to the guidelines and regulations set by healthcare authorities. Collective action and discipline are crucial in creating a healthier and more harmonious community for all.

**C**HOOSING between a desktop computer and a laptop can be a challenging decision. Both options have their benefits and drawbacks, and the choice largely depends on an individual's needs and preferences. Therefore, let us explore the differences between desktop computers and laptops in terms of cost, convenience, and style to help you make an informed decision.

One of the primary factors to consider when choosing between a desktop and a laptop is the cost. Desktop computers are generally more affordable than laptops with similar specifications. This is because desktops do not need the same portability features as laptops. Manufacturers can focus on enhancing performance over compactness, which often results in a lower price for desktops with powerful hardware. Additionally, upgrading individual components, such as RAM or storage, is usually cheaper for desktops. This makes them more cost-effective in the long run.

On the other hand, laptops, especially high-performance or ultra-portable models, often come with a higher price tag due to their compact, lightweight design. The portability of laptops also means that repairs and upgrades can be more expensive, as components are smaller and more specialized. Therefore, while desktops are initially more budget-friendly, laptops may offer added value through their flexibility and portability, depending on the user's needs.

Another important factor to consider is the convenience of use. Laptops are inherently more convenient than desktops due to their portability. Users can easily carry laptops between home, office, and even public spaces, allowing for flexibility in where and how they work or study. This mobility suits people who often travel or need to work in multiple locations.

Desktops, on the other hand, are fixed in one place, making them ideal for those who do not require mobility and prefer a dedicated workspace. However, desktops offer other conveniences, such as larger screens, ergonomic setups, and the ability to connect multiple peripherals simultaneously. These factors can enhance productivity, especially for professionals requiring powerful hardware for graphic design or video editing tasks. In summary, while laptops offer portability and flexibility, desktops

## ON THE DESK OR ON THE LAP?

By Yin Nwe Ko

provide a more stable and customizable setup for specific tasks.

In addition, there is the subject of style. When it comes to style, laptops, and desktops offer different aesthetics and appeal to different preferences. Laptops tend to have a sleek, modern look, with brands often focusing on slim designs, lightweight frames, and high-quality finishes to attract users who value style and portability. Many laptops come in various colours and finishes, allowing users to choose one that suits their personal tastes.

Desktops, however, tend to be bulkier and less portable, with larger cases and multiple components. Despite this, desktops offer more customization options, such as LED lighting, transparent cases, and various add-ons that appeal to users who want a unique setup. In essence, laptops cater to those who prioritize minimalism and mobility, while desktops attract users who prefer a customizable, robust setup that reflects their individuality.

Apart from cost, convenience, and style, performance is another key aspect to consider. Generally, desktops have an edge over laptops in terms of performance. This is because desktops can house larger and more powerful components, such as CPUs and GPUs, without the limitations of space and cooling that laptops face. For tasks that require high processing power, like gaming, video editing, or 3D rendering, desktops are usually the better choice.

Laptops, while improving in performance, still cannot match the raw power of desktops. However, for everyday tasks like browsing, writing, or watching videos, modern laptops are more than sufficient. The trade-off in performance is often balanced by the benefits of portability and ease of use that laptops offer.

What is more, the choice between a desktop computer and a

laptop depends on various factors, including cost, convenience, style, and performance. Desktops are generally more affordable and offer better performance, especially for high-demand tasks, but they lack portability. Laptops, on the other hand, are portable and stylish, providing flexibility and convenience for users who need to work on the go. They are, however, more expensive and may not offer the same level of performance as desktops.

Ultimately, the decision comes down to personal preference and specific needs. If you require a powerful machine for demanding tasks and do not need to move it frequently, a desktop might be the best choice. If you value portability and flexibility and are willing to invest a bit more, a laptop could be the ideal option. Both desktops and laptops have their unique advantages, and understanding these can help you make the best decision for your computing needs.

In today's world, portable devices have become more popular, changing how people work, study, and communicate. Both laptops and desktops can do similar tasks, but many people now prefer laptops because they are easy to carry and use in different places. This change in preference shows that people want devices that fit their busy, on-the-go lifestyles. Although desktops have some advantages, the popularity of laptops is mainly due to their portability, versatility, and ability to meet the needs of modern users.

One main reason people choose laptops over desktops is portability. Laptops are lightweight and compact, allowing users to take them almost anywhere – to a café, library, or even on a trip. This flexibility is valuable for students, professionals, and freelancers who need to work in different places. Unlike desktops, which need a fixed setup with a monitor and other parts, laptops are made to



Cost is a key factor: desktops are more affordable, offer superior performance, and allow cheaper upgrades, making them more cost-effective than laptops with similar specifications.

work well in various settings. For example, a student can carry a laptop from home to campus, accessing their work easily wherever they go.

Another reason is that laptops can run on batteries, which makes them usable even without a power outlet nearby. Desktops need to stay plugged in to work, but laptops can last several hours on a single charge. This is very useful in places where power is not always available or where there are power outages. In areas with frequent power cuts, laptops allow students and workers to continue working without interruptions. In developing regions, laptops provide a way for people to stay connected and productive even when electricity is limited.

Advances in technology have also made laptops more powerful and useful for different tasks. In the past, people thought desktops were better for demanding tasks like gaming or graphic design. However, many laptops today can handle these tasks well. With powerful processors, good graphics, and large storage, laptops are now capable of managing various professional tasks. Industries like graphic design and data analysis now often use laptops in their daily work. Gaming laptops, for example, show that laptops can meet high-performance needs that were once only possible with desktops.

The space-saving design of laptops is another reason why people prefer them. Desktops need a large setup space and can create

clutter with multiple parts, but laptops are compact and include everything in one unit. This makes them ideal for small apartments, dorm rooms, or shared offices. Laptops also have a sleek, modern look that many people find attractive. In homes with limited space, laptops offer a practical solution without taking up much room.

While laptops have clear advantages, some people still prefer desktops for specific reasons. Desktops allow for greater customization, making it easy for users to upgrade parts like the processor, memory, or graphics card. This is especially useful for gamers, software developers, and others who need high performance and want to keep their computers up-to-date over time. Desktops also offer better cooling systems because they have more space for fans and airflow, which helps avoid overheating during heavy tasks like gaming or video editing. These qualities make desktops a strong choice for users who need high levels of performance.

However, for the average user, the convenience and flexibility of laptops are more important than these extra features. Most people do not need such high levels of customization and cooling, especially with modern laptops becoming more powerful and capable of handling everyday tasks. As technology improves, laptops are closing the gap with desktops in terms of performance, making desktops less necessary even for some intensive tasks.

Furthermore, the shift from desktops to laptops reflects the modern need for devices that are portable, flexible, and easy to use. Laptops provide these qualities, making them a good fit for both work and personal use. Desktops have their strengths, especially for users with specific needs, but laptops now meet the needs of most users better, making them the preferred choice. As technology advances, laptops will likely continue to improve, making desktops even less necessary for most people.

The paragraphs above reflect the general perceptions people have about desktops and laptops. Now, I'd like to share my perspective and personal feelings. I am truly a "desktop enthusiast". This admiration for desktops has been with me for a long time. However, my very first computer was just an old laptop. After using that laptop for about two years, I eventually managed to buy a desktop, and I loved it!

But a few years ago, I had to let go of my reliance on my desktop. This was due to the limited electricity access in my area; we only had power for about two to four hours during the day. In that situation, using a desktop became impractical, so I switched to using a laptop instead: which lasted for about four years. Now, I can say that I've come to appreciate and even love my laptop. With that, I'll end this long message.

## Astronomers find the smallest main-belt asteroids ever detected: Study

THE majority of known asteroids orbit in the main asteroid belt, located between Mars and Jupiter at an average distance of about 250 million kilometres from Earth. Since the first asteroid was discovered in 1801, around 750,000 asteroids have been identified, with a significant number being discovered in the last decade due to advanced optical surveys that scan the sky on clear nights.

Most of these asteroids are larger than one kilometre in diameter. The largest asteroid, Vesta, measures around 530 kilometres across, though millions of smaller asteroids are also thought to exist. Despite their size, the combined mass of all the asteroids is less than the mass of Earth's Moon.

Studying these small bodies is crucial for understanding the early solar system, especially the building blocks that preceded planet formation. Observing the smallest asteroids in the main belt can also provide insights into the origins of meteorites that fall to Earth.

Until now, however, only asteroids over one kilometre in size have been detected in this region.

Sometimes, asteroids are nudged into Earth's vicinity by the gravitational forces of nearby planets like Mars and Jupiter. These are called Near-Earth Asteroids (NEAs). Around 35,000 NEAs have been discovered, and many have impacted Earth and other planets, significantly influencing the geological history of the solar system and the evolution of life on Earth.

Today, the study of NEAs is a key part of planetary defence efforts.

Researchers such as de Wit and Burdanov, primarily focused on exoplanet studies, are now exploring whether the data used for studying exoplanets could also reveal nearby asteroids.

They employed an image processing technique called "shift and stack" to sift through over 10,000 images taken by the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) of the TRAPPIST-1 system. This technique allowed them to detect 138 new asteroids, including some of the smallest main-belt asteroids ever observed, and to identify potential near-Earth objects.

Their discovery highlights the potential of JWST's infrared capabilities, which are particularly sensitive to asteroids in the main belt, as they are much brighter in infrared than in visible light.

SOURCE: ANI



A significant number of these asteroids were discovered in the last decade due to advanced optical surveys. ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/



# NATIONAL

## Shuttle bus to replace Star Ferry on 1 Jan



Housing residents embark on Star Ferry that runs from Pansodan to Star City Thanlyin.

IN place of Star Ferry which will be stopped on 1 January next year, a shuttle bus service will be introduced to facilitate passengers more convenient.

Star City Thanlyin announced on its Facebook page that Star Ferry will be stopped on 1 January 2025.

It elaborated that Star Ferry was

launched in November 2021 to provide efficient transport for housing residents when Thanlyin Bridge 1 was only available. Star Ferry could help housing residents and all commuters reach downtown Yangon within 30 minutes, escaping traffic congestion.

It further explained that the new four-lane Thanlyin Bridge 3 was opened in June this year and road travel is now more efficient than Star Ferry. The shuttle bus service will replace the Star Ferry. Detailed information about shuttle bus schedules will be announced soon.

“It will be more convenient if each shuttle bus runs every at 15-minute s during peak hour. The resident population living at Star City has grown so passengers will increase if it reaches downtown Yangon like before,” said a comment. – MT/ZS



This image showcases strawberries at the Taunggyi market.

## Taunggyi's strawberry production peaks amid high demand

NOW, strawberries are being harvested abundantly in Shan State's Taunggyi and loads of orders have been on the rise.

Orders have been placed from Dawei, Hpa-an and Myawady and the price has fallen now compared to the beginning of harvest season in November.

“Strawberry production has been plentiful now. Orders have been on the rise too. Even we have to request to wait. We are unable to transport daily because the supply is inadequate,” said Ma Sandi Taya, a fruit retail and wholesale distributor from Taunggyi Township.

Strawberry is one of the most-consumed fruits and among the best-selling seasonal fruits in Myanmar. This year's strawberry production is larger than that of last year and it is mainly grown in Hopping Township. – Thit Taw/ZS

## Rising demand for Shan State pineapples

AMONG orders for pineapples grown in Shan State's Seikkhaung, the majority is placed from Yangon Region, said pineapple farmers.

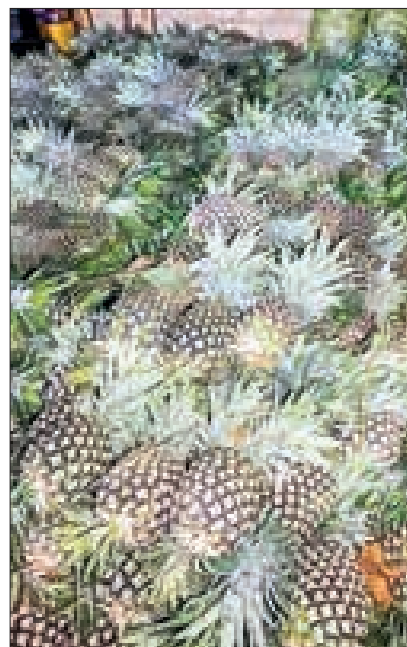
Pineapples produced from Seikkhaung are sweeter than those of other species, more popular, and more expensive.

“Pineapple is just harvested and Seikkhaung is the biggest producer. People prefer Seikkhaung pineapple. There are pineapple farms in Taunggyi but Seikkhaung fruits are sweeter, the yield is larger and the price is higher. The price varies depending on size,”

said a pineapple farmer.

Around Hsihseng Township, Seikkhaung pineapple also known as honey pineapple and other local pineapple species are mainly grown. Seikkhaung's pineapple is also called honey pineapple as it tastes as sweet as honey with thin skin and a small core.

Pineapples produced from southern Shan State are distributed inside the state and to Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, and Yangon. This year pineapple prices are better than in previous years, helping farmers earn more profits. – Thit Taw/ZS



This image shows pineapples produced from Seikkhaung.



This image reveals bamboo jelly, a natural food from Taninthayi Region.

## Taninthayi Region's bamboo jelly gains popularity and sales

ACCORDING to Myeik local food sellers, bamboo jelly, which is a natural food originating from Taninthayi Region, has become popular and sales have been good.

It has become popular in Yangon Region and is said to be beneficial to health, so orders from all over the area have increased.

“The best-selling product right now is bamboo jelly. It is made from short bamboo during the rainy sea-

son. Drinking it as a cold is good for the kidneys. It cools the heart. Many people order it as they like it. Locals also order it. This product is not available in December. Its production started in June. It is like a jelly. It is beneficial to health. It is not even as hard as jelly, but softer. Many people in Yangon now know about it,” said an official from the Shwelet Myeik food trading in Kyaukmyaung.

With a jelly-like or edible bird's

nest-like texture and a strong aroma of green bamboo, it is commonly used by Myeik locals to serve guests cold drinks.

“It can be stored in the refrigerator for about a month. Its taste has a slight bamboo smell. You can mix it with milk and sugar, or lemon and sugar. The price is cheap. Everyone can afford it. It costs only five thousand kyats for a one-litre bottle,” he explained. – Thit Taw/ZN

# NATIONAL

## MNHRC inspects Vocational Training Centre for Women (Yangon)

THE inspection team, led by U Kyaw Soe and U Than Win, Commissioners of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC), inspected the Vocational Training Centre for Women (Yangon) in Bahan Township, Yangon Region, yesterday under Sections 43 and 44 of the Commission Law.

The team inspected the conditions for women accommodated and trained at the facility. This included assessing healthcare services, food supply and nutrition, living conditions in dormitories, access to adequate personal hygiene items, availability of clean drinking

water, and the cleanliness and adequacy of bathing ponds. The team also reviewed efforts to enhance the women's mental and physical well-being through character-building programmes. Furthermore, they examined the women's access to fundamental rights, such as maintaining contact with their families, opportunities for family reunification, safety and livelihood security, vocational and educational opportunities, and freedom of religion and belief. The team additionally assessed the progress made in implementing recommendations from the Commission's previous in-



MNHRC Commissioners U Kyaw Soe and U Than Win view the Vocational Training Centre for Women (Yangon).

speciation visits. MNHRC will inform its findings and recommendations to the relevant department for necessary actions under the MNHRC law. — MNHRC

## 2-day illegal trade crackdown seizes items worth K1.415B

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

During inspections on 17 and 18 December, the joint on-duty teams impounded three unregistered motorbikes (worth K20.15 million) in Wakema and Maubin Townships, an unregistered motorbike (estimated value of K400,000) on the outskirts of the checkpoint Nyaungpintha in Minhla Township. The action was conducted under the Export-Import Law.

Similarly, the combined teams nabbed 3.006 tonnes of illegal hardwood and 2.17 tonnes other timbers (worth K1.392 million) in Taikkyi and Hlegu Townships, industrial materials (worth about K44 million) that were different from the Import Declaration (ID) on the Yangon-Mandalay Up train at Mandalay railway station, and a Hino Pro-fia truck (approximately



Confiscated illegal goods across states and regions.



worth K30 million) carrying consumer goods (worth K5.545 million) without official documents near the detour round Kyaukse. The action was taken under the Forest Law and Customs procedures.

Additionally, the combined on-duty teams seized a Sunlong bus and a Kinglong bus (approximately worth K80 million) carrying foodstuffs (valued at K8.71 million) at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray checkpoint, a Mitsubishi Canter truck (approximately worth K25 million) carrying industrial materials and foodstuffs

(worth K14.18 million) without official documents at the Yethaya temporary checkpoint and smuggled consumer goods (valued at K12 million) that were piled up by the side of road near Pankwe village in Kengtung Township. The action was conducted following Customs procedures.

Similarly, the Customs on-duty teams confiscated a Yutong bus (approximately worth K60 million) carrying foodstuffs (valued at K7.056 million) without official documents at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint, industrial ma-

terials and consumer goods (worth K797.388 million) without official documents from 14 containers at the Asia World Port container checkpoint, and industrial materials and consumer goods (worth K309.338 million) without official documents from eight containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port. The action was carried out per Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 29 arrests on 17 and 18 December with confiscated goods worth K1.415 billion. — MNA/MKKS

### Counter-argument to false information

## Security forces accused of killing one civilian, torching houses in Magway

MALICIOUS media outlets intentionally spread fake news, claiming that security forces arrested and killed one civilian in Kamma Township of Magway Region on 14 December, and torched Yaymyet village in Pakokku Township on 18 December.

According to a security official, security forces did not conduct security measures in the vicinity of Yaymyet village on 18 December and did not arrest nor kill any local of Kamma Township.

Subversive media outlets intentionally circulate false claims and misinformation as a propaganda campaign and mislead the public about security forces carrying out security duties. — MNA/KTZH



This screenshot validates misinformation.

### Gold Market Rate as of 19 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.

# ECONOMY

## WORLD/AD

## Israel destroyed 93% of bank branches in Gaza: World Bank

*The World Bank report revealed war destruction in Gaza, including 88 per cent of microfinance institutions and most services.*

THE World Bank reported that the Israeli war on the Gaza Strip has destroyed approximately 93 per cent of the branches of banks operating in the territory after 15 months of continuous conflict.

In a report distributed in Jerusalem, the World Bank added that the war has also destroyed 88 per cent of microfinance institutions, most money exchange services, and eight per cent of insurance companies. The report noted that only three out of 94 ATMs are currently operational across the Gaza Strip, according to consistent data from the World Bank and the Palestinian Monetary Authority.



The Bank of Palestine is the largest and oldest commercial bank in Palestine, established in 1960. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/FILE**

The report highlighted that Palestinians in Gaza are struggling to pay for basic goods and

services, including food and medicine, while the disruption to the banking system hampers private

sector efforts to resume production, create job opportunities, and pay employee salaries. — ANI

## Gas prices set to rise across Pakistan

THE Pakistani Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) approved significant hikes in gas prices, affecting consumers nationwide, ARY News reported.

The decision, sent to the federal government for final approval, seeks an average increase of

25.78 per cent for consumers in Sindh and Balochistan, while consumers in Islamabad, Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will experience an 8.71 per cent rise, ARY News reported on Tuesday.

Under the new tariff structure, the average gas price for Sui

Southern Gas Company (SSGC) has been set at Pakistani Rupees (PKR) 1,762.51 per MMBTU, and for Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL), it's PKR 1,778.35 per MMBTU. These changes aim to address financial needs totalling PKR 527.55 billion for SNGPL

and PKR 319.78 billion for SSGC, along with adjustments for prior receivables.

The companies had originally sought increases in gas prices as high as 208.67 per cent but were met with public hearings by OGRA last month. — ANI



The companies had originally sought increases in gas prices as high as 208.67 per cent but were met with public hearings by OGRA last month. **PHOTO: SUI NORTHERN GAS PIPELINES LIMITED (SNGPL)**

### MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

Open Tender Invitation for BARGE: CSF 2305, BARGE: CSF 2306 AND BARGE: CSF 2307

1. Three BARGES, namely CFS 2305, CSF 2306 and CFS 2307 controlled by the Myanmar Port Authority due to the Port Act 1908, and Myanmar Port Authority Law 2015, will be auctioned through an open tender system.

2. BARGE: CSF 2305 is as follows:

- (a) IMO NO. - NIL
- (b) LOA - 67.30 M
- (c) BREADTH - 19.51 M
- (d) DEPTH - 4.27 M
- (e) Type of Vessel - Iron
- (f) Gross Tonnage - 1481 GT
- (g) Net Tonnage - 445 GT
- (h) Flag - Former register in Mongolia, now Flagless

3. BARGE: CSF 2306 is as follows:

- (a) IMO NO. - NIL
- (b) LOA - 67.30 M
- (c) BREADTH - 19.51 M
- (d) DEPTH - 4.88 M
- (e) Type of Vessel - Iron
- (f) Gross Tonnage - 1644 GT
- (g) Net Tonnage - 494 GT
- (h) Flag - Former register in Mongolia, now Flagless

(4) BARGE: CSF 2307 is as follows:

- (a) IMO NO. - NIL
- (b) LOA - 67.30 M
- (c) BREADTH - 19.51 M
- (d) DEPTH - 4.88 M
- (e) Type of Vessel - Iron
- (f) Gross Tonnage - 1644 GT
- (g) Net Tonnage - 494 GT
- (h) Flag - Former register in Singapore, now Flagless

(5) The tender process will be taken place in accordance with Tender Directive No. (1/2017)/(1/2022).

(6) The companies (both local and international) those are interested in are invited to participate in this tender. The vessel can be inspected at Patheingyi Port and Yangon Port.

(7) The tender applications forms can be purchased and submitted in accordance with the following date, time, place: (Remark: International companies need to submit an endorsement by the Myanmar embassy in the respective country.)

- a) Address (to purchase): Store Department, Botataung township
- b) Date & Time (to purchase): 24-12-2024 to 21-1-2025 (formal day & time)
- c) Address (to submit): Myanmar Port Authority (Tender Room)
- d) Date & Time (to submit): 23-1-2025 (13:00) Hrs
- e) Date & Time (Tender opening): 23-1-2025 (13:15) Hrs

(8) Since the vessel will be auctioned in accordance with the Port Act 1908, and Myanmar Port Authority Law 2015, the Myanmar Port Authority has right to cancel either partially or as a whole of this tender at any time, if it is needed to do so for some applicable reasons.

(9) For detailed information, please contact the following contact points:

- a) Marine Department - 012301918 / 012301929
- b) Store Department - 018610230

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee

Advertise with us/  
Hotline: 09 4542 37515

# Spain targets Airbnb in illegal ads probe

*Spain's government investigates Airbnb for hosting ads of unlicensed apartments, amid concerns over mass tourism and housing affordability.*



Mass tourism is a hot topic in Spain as foreign visitors drive the economy but fuel anger about unaffordable housing. **PHOTO: JORGE GUERRERO / AFP**

SPAIN'S leftist government on Wednesday opened an investigation into holiday rental platform Airbnb for allegedly failing to take down adverts for thousands of apartments without a tourist licence.

Mass tourism is a hot topic in Spain, the world's second most-visited country, as foreign visitors fill the coffers of

businesses but fuel local anger about unaffordable housing.

The consumer rights authority is investigating a "tourist apartment rental platform" after previous warnings about the adverts went unheeded for several months, the government said in a statement without naming Airbnb. — AFP

# Sri Lanka to import 30,000MT of salt amid predicted shortage

SRI Lanka's cabinet has authorized the State Trading Corporation to import up to 30,000 metric tonnes of non-iodized salt to address the impending market shortage, a government spokesperson

announced on Thursday. Speaking to journalists in Colombo, cabinet spokesperson and Minister of Health and Mass Media Nalinda Jayatissa stated that the salt imports will be completed by 31

January, 2025.

Jayatissa said that although Sri Lanka is typically self-sufficient in salt production, recent months of rainy weather have caused a decline in output. — Xinhua

## Invitation for Expression of Interest

**Title :** Rehabilitation, Operation, Maintenance and Management (ROMM) of Ahlone Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) Power Plant of around 154MW Power Capacity  
**Project :** ROMM Project for Ahlone Power Plant  
**EOI No. :** EPGE-EoI-01/2024  
**Date :** 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2024

1. Ministry of Electric Power (MOEP) has planned the Rehabilitation, Operation, Maintenance and Management (ROMM) for existing Ministry owned Ahlone Combined Cycle Power Plant located in No.39, Kannar Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon Region (hereinafter referred to the Power Plant) to increase the power generation. MOEP intends to appoint a qualified Developer who can rehabilitate, operate, maintain, and manage the Power Plant, including the arrangement of the fuel supply (HFO fuel) for generating of the Power Plant by inviting the Expression of Interest (EOI).
2. Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) as the executing agency under MOEP intends to assign the Developers for the ROMM of the Power Plant by inviting the EoI. The Developer shall rehabilitate the Power Plant, using existing the combined cycle technology, operate with the qualified operators together with EPGE's employees, maintain the Power Plant to keep the best performance during the operating period and manage with the well-organized teams for safe and reliable operation. Furthermore, the scope of works for ROMM shall include its owned arrangement of fuel supply for the generating of Power Plant. The detailed scope of ROMM process is outlined in Section V of the EoI Document.
3. The tendering process shall be in two stages, first stage (EOI) is selection of qualified Applicants, and second stage (Request for Bid) is the bidding stage after selecting the qualified Applicants.
4. The expected commercial operation date of the ROMM project is targeted to achieve within [17] months after the issuance of Notice of Award to the winning Bidder. And Power Purchase Agreement shall be signed with EPGE for the ROMM project.
5. A complete set of the EoI document, available in English language, can be purchased for a fee of 100,000 MMK at the following address from the date of invitation and before submission of EoI:  
Procurement Department,  
Electric Power Generation Enterprise  
Ministry of Electric Power, Office 27, NayPyiTaw  
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
6. Applications for EoI should be submitted in sealed envelopes and delivered to the address below by 20th January, 2025, 14:00 hr Myanmar Standard Time and be clearly marked "Application to EoI for the ROMM (including fuel arrangement) of Ahlone Power Plant (EPGE-EoI-01/2024)". Late applications shall be rejected. Interested entity may enquire at the address below during office hours 09:30 to 16:30 Hrs.

Attn: Electric Power Generation Enterprise  
Ministry of Electric Power  
Office: No.27, Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Phone: +95 9688872872, E-mail: ahlonerommproject@gmail.com

**Advertise with us/ Hotline:**  **09 454237515**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (24020)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (24020)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-12-2024** 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 CONNEXT SHIPPING PTE LTD**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V SINAR BUKITTINGGI VOY.NO. (034N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BUKITTINGGI VOY.NO. (034N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-12-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:  
**M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0337-786N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0337-786N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-12-2024** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.**

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Trump says Canada would save on taxes, military protection by becoming 51<sup>st</sup> US state



Canada was scrambling on 26 November 2024 to blunt the impact of US President-elect Donald Trump's threat to implement steep tariffs once he takes office, as experts warned of a potentially "catastrophic" hit to the Canadian economy. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

*Donald Trump proposed making Canada the 51<sup>st</sup> state, claiming it would reduce costs for Canadians, including taxes and military protection.*

MAKING Canada the 51<sup>st</sup> state of the United States would significantly reduce costs for Canadians, who would save on taxes and military protection, US President-elect Donald Trump said on Wednesday.

"No one can answer why we subsidize Canada to the tune of over \$100,000,000 a year? Makes no sense! Many Canadians want Canada to become the 51<sup>st</sup> State. They would save massively on taxes and military protection. I think it is a great idea. 51<sup>st</sup> State!!!" Trump said on Truth Social.

On 10 December, Trump jokingly referred to Canadian Prime

Minister Justin Trudeau as the "governor" of the "Great State of Canada" amid tensions over the incoming US president's threat to slap tariffs on goods from the neighbouring nation.

In late November, Trump announced that upon taking office, he would impose 25 per cent tariffs on goods from Canada and Mexico due to unresolved issues related to illegal immigration and drug trafficking in the US. He also promised to add a 10 per cent export tariff on Chinese goods.

Last week, Trudeau vowed a response if Trump imposed a 25 per cent tariff on Canadian goods. — SPUTNIK

## First decline in global health spending since 2000: WHO

GLOBAL health spending fell to US\$9.8 trillion in 2022, or 9.9 per cent of the global gross domestic product, marking the first real-term decline since 2000, according to the 2024 Global Health Expenditure Report by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The report reveals that domestic public spending on health per capita decreased across all income groups in 2022 compared to 2021. Despite this, domestic public spending on health in 2022 remained six to seven per cent higher than 2019 levels in most income groups and 11 per cent higher in upper-middle-income countries.

Health priority in 2022 remained above pre-pandemic levels in upper-middle and high income countries but returned to pre-pandemic levels in low and lower-middle income countries. "While access to health

services has been improving globally, using those services is driving more and more people into financial hardship or poverty," said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "UHC Day reminds us that

health for all means everyone can access the health services they need without financial hardship." The report highlights the critical role of government health spending in achieving UHC. — Xinhua



Despite the decline in 2022, domestic public health spending was six-seven per cent higher than 2019 levels in most income groups and 11 per cent higher in upper-middle-income countries. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PEXELS**

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### At least 30 killed in stampede at Nigerian children carnival

AT least 30 children were killed and dozens of others injured on Wednesday in a stampede at a children's carnival organized in Ibadan, the capital of Oyo State in southwestern Nigeria, local media reported.

The carnival took a devastating turn after the private organizers of the event announced plans to distribute cash to 5,000 children, which triggered a chaotic rush to enter a high school, the venue of the funfair in the Basorun area of Ibadan on Wednesday morning, local TVC News reported. In a statement, Oyo State's Commissioner for Information Dotun Oyelade blamed the lack of proper planning and coordination by the event organizers for the loss of lives. He said the victims are mostly children. The government has not yet compiled a complete list of the victims, who were transported to various hospitals across Ibadan for treatment, the commissioner added. — Xinhua

#### 2 killed in jet crash near Argentine capital

A pilot and copilot were killed Wednesday when a private business jet crashed after overshooting the runway at a small airport near Buenos Aires, local media reported.

The jet, owned by the family of Jorge Brito, president of football club River Plate and head of Banco Macro, one of the country's largest banks, had only the two-man crew on board, said the country's transport safety authorities.

Authorities said they had dispatched investigators to the scene. — Xinhua

# SPORTS

## Maung Maung Lwin suspended for one match against Vietnam

WINGER Maung Maung Lwin will miss the group fixture's final match of the 2024 ASEAN Cup with Vietnam on 21 December.

Maung Maung Lwin received a second yellow card penalty during the match with Laos, which Myanmar won, and

was suspended for the game with Vietnam. He got the first yellow card penalty during the match with Indonesia. Therefore, almost all the players can play in the away match with Vietnam except Maung Maung Lwin. — Ko Nyi Lay/KTZH



Maung Maung Lwin (jersey 11) attempts to kick the ball into the net.

## Liverpool boss Slot urges patience with Chiesa return

LIVERPOOL manager Arne Slot has warned there will be no quick fix as pre-season signing Federico Chiesa looks to regain his best form following a lengthy injury lay-off.

The Italy forward played the second half of holders Liverpool's 2-1 League Cup quarter-final win at Southampton on Wednesday, having been sidelined for almost three months.

The 27-year-old has managed just four appearances since moving to Anfield from Juventus in a deal which could eventually be worth £12.5 million (\$15.7 million).

But Slot was encouraged by what he saw at St Mary's as he challenged Chiesa to compete for a place in the Premier League leaders' forward line with Mohamed Salah, Cody Gakpo, Luis Diaz, Darwin Nunez and Diogo Jota. — AFP

## ASEAN Cup 2024 semifinal group matches on 20-21 December

THE final group matches for the semifinals of the 2024 ASEAN Cup will be held on 20-21 December. The final day of Group A will be on 20 December at 7:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time (MST) in Thailand. Thailand will have to face Cambodia at the Rajamangala Stadium, and Malaysia will have to face Singapore at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium in Malaysia.

In Group A, Thailand led the

way with nine points after three matches and had already booked their ticket to the knockout stages, whereas Singapore got six points, Malaysia and Cambodia four points respectively, and Timor has come up empty-handed. In Group A, Singapore and Malaysia are in good condition for the semifinal and Cambodia has less chance as it will face Thailand in the away match. Therefore, the match between



Myanmar team celebrates after scoring in the previous match.

Malaysia and Singapore is the result and Malaysia can secure the next level only if they win the match, and Singapore has a chance even if the match be-

comes a draw.

The final day of Group B will be at 7:30 pm MST on 21 December, Vietnam will face Myanmar at Viet Tri Stadium in Vietnam

and Indonesia will face the Philippines at the Manahan Stadium.

In Group B, Vietnam received seven points after three matches, while Indonesia and Myanmar four points respectively, the Philippines three points, and Laos two points after four matches. Although the four teams had a strong chance at the semifinals, Vietnam ranked top. Myanmar will face Vietnam in the away match, and it has a chance to the next level after the draw. The points are not much different even if Myanmar makes a draw or a win, and so the audience has to wait for the result of the Indonesia-Philippines match. — Ko Nyi Lay/KTZH

## Win Naing Tun wins Best Player Award after Laos match

MYANMAR national team striker Win Naing Tun won the best player award in the ASEAN Cup group match against Laos on 18 December.

He was brought in as a substitute player after 20 minutes and scored two goals at 87 and 90+3 minutes. Therefore, he won the best award. He is now playing for Chiang Rai United of Thai Club and missed two matches of the national team for his club schedule. He started playing in the match against Laos.

Winger Maung Maung Lwin won the best player award after the away match against the Philippines that ended in a 1-1 draw. — MNA/KTZH

Win Naing Tun (jersey 9) in action during the match against Laos.



## Real Madrid wins over Pachuca to lift FIFA Intercontinental Cup

VINICIUS Jr and Kylian Mbappe both scored for Real Madrid as the Spanish club cruised through Pachuca from Mexico 3-0 to lift the 2024 FIFA Intercontinental Cup trophy in Doha on Wednesday.

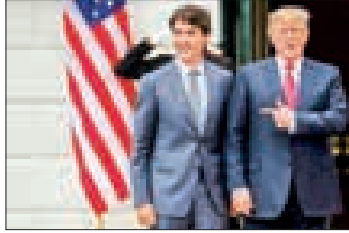
In the 37<sup>th</sup> minute, Vinicius Jr dribbled over Pachuca's goalkeeper and assisted Mbappe to score an open goal. Rodrygo fired from the edge of the box to double the lead for Real Madrid in the 53<sup>rd</sup> minute before Vinicius Jr sealed the 3-0 victory with a late penalty created by Lucas Vazquez.

Winning 15 titles with Real Madrid, Carlo Ancelotti became the most decorated coach in the club's history, surpassing Miguel Munoz, who had won 14 trophies. "I'm very pleased, very happy. It's a success. That's more than anyone else," said Ancelotti. — Xinhua



Players and coach of Real Madrid celebrate with the trophy after winning the FIFA Intercontinental Cup Qatar 2024 Final match between Spain's Real Madrid and Mexico's CF Pachuca at Lusail Stadium in Lusail, Qatar, on 18 December 2024. PHOTO: NIKKU/XINHUA

Trump says Canada would save on taxes, military protection by becoming 51<sup>st</sup> US state  
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# WORLD

**R**ESTORATION work on the third terrace at the southwest corner of Bayon Temple in Cambodia's Angkor Archaeological Park has been completed successfully, the APSARA National Authority said in a news release on Thursday.

Meng Sovanlylin, an architect in charge of the restoration work, said her team took four months to restore the terrace, focusing on repairing the damaged Naga balustrades, beams, and stone floors.

"The third terrace at the southwest corner is a significant area for tourists," she said. "Prior to the restoration, the structural integrity was compromised due to a broken beam and damage from tree roots, which posed risks of collapse."

Sovanlylin said the restoration aimed to reinforce the structure and prevent further damage.

"With the completion of this project, the third terrace has been restored to a strong condition, closely resembling its original form," she said. "This work not only enhances the site's safety but also preserves its historical significance for future visitors."

Built during the reign of Jayavarman VII in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century and early 13<sup>th</sup> century, Bayon Temple is one of the key temples in the 401-square-kilometre Angkor Archaeological Park in north-west Cambodia's Siem Reap province.

The Angkor Archaeological Park, which was inscribed on the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1992, is the most popular tourist destination in the Southeast Asian country. — Xinhua

## Restoration work on Bayon Temple's terrace in Cambodia's Angkor Park completed

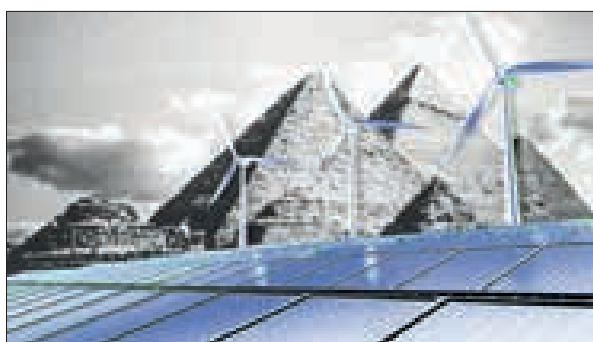
*The primary aim of the restoration was to reinforce the structure and prevent further damage to the terrace.*



Photo taken on 18 January 2022 shows Bayon temple in Siem Reap province, Cambodia. **PHOTO: APSARA NATIONAL AUTHORITY/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA/FILE**

## UAE firm to build US\$850-mln solar power project in Upper Egypt

*Abydos 1 Solar PV Park is located in Kom Ombo, a region in Aswan, Egypt.*



The project, to be built by Abydos for Renewable Energy, a subsidiary of the AMEA Power, will cover an area of 20 square kilometres in New Benban, Aswan. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ KRISHNA PRASAD/FAST COMPANY MIDDLE EAST**

THE Egyptian cabinet granted Wednesday a United Arab Emirates (UAE)-based renewable energy company the "Golden Licence" to build an US\$850-million photovoltaic (PV) power generation project in Upper Egypt's province of Aswan.

The project, to be built by Abydos for Renewable Energy, a subsidiary of the AMEA Power, will cover an area of 20 square kilometres in New Benban, Aswan, and is planned to generate 1,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity with a 600-MW/hour energy storage system, the Egyptian cabinet said in a statement. The Golden Licence is an all-inclusive approval provided by the Egyptian government for the establishment, operation, and management of a project, including building permits and the allocation of the necessary properties. — Xinhua

### INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS

#### China urges EU to advance EV price commitment talks

CHINA hopes that the European Union (EU) will take concrete steps as soon as possible to jointly advance consultations on a price commitment plan for Chinese electric vehicles (EVs), the Ministry of Commerce said on Thursday.

Ministry spokesperson He Yongqian made the remarks at a press conference in response to a question on the progress of the consultations. He noted that China always stands for the resolution of trade frictions through dialogue and consultation, and has been doing its utmost in the price commitment talks.

China and the EU have made progress in their consultations on a price commitment plan for Chinese EVs, and talks are still ongoing, a spokesperson with China's Ministry of Commerce said on 28 November. — Xinhua