

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives leaders of delegations from ASEANPOL member countries at the Credentials Hall of the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing noted that the police force is an organization which primarily takes responsibility for internal security.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said so at the ceremony to receive leaders of delegations from ASEANPOL member countries which have attended the 42nd ASEANPOL Conference hosted by Myanmar.

Those delegation leaders called on the Senior General at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the Senior General extended his greetings, saying that the police force is an organization that primarily assumes responsibility for internal security and that its role is very significant. He stressed that ASEANPOL member states need to cooperate with each other to eradicate transnational crimes. He highlighted that collaborative efforts of country-wise police forces can

ASEANPOL Member States urged to unite against transnational crime

Collaborative efforts of country-wise police forces can effectively combat illicit drug trafficking, smuggling of arms and ammunition, and online scams.

effectively combat illicit drug trafficking, smuggling of arms and ammunition, and online scams. The Senior General expressed his thanks to all delegations for their participation in the 42nd ASEANPOL Conference hosted by Myanmar.

The Chief of the Myanmar Police Force reported to the Senior General on convening the 42nd ASEANPOL Conference hosted by Myanmar and its missions.

Leaders of ASEANPOL member states and the executive director of the ASEANPOL Secretariat introduced themselves to the Senior General. They discussed the hospitality of Myanmar in holding the conference, the cooperation of ASEANPOL member states in training sessions, and future plans for collaborative efforts in combatting transnational crimes.

Also present at the meeting were

SAC Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Council Member Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Lt-Gen Win Zaw Moe and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Police chiefs and senior police officers from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam, as well as the executive director from the ASEANPOL Secretariat, also attended the meeting. — MNA/TTA

Article

Fraternity among true friends must be based on sincerity

By Aung Kyaw Thant

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NATIONAL

Communities Urged to Unite Against Armed Groups to Safeguard Peace and Security

RESIDENTS must work together to prevent the presence of armed groups in order to reduce acts of terror, as these groups undermine peace and stability in the region and threaten residents' security.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with members of the Kayah State government, state-level departmental officials, town elders and locals on 4 September 2024.)

CCDAC releases criteria on import, internal transport, storage and distribution of prohibited chemicals

THE Central Committee on Drug Abuse Control issued Notification 7/2024 on 30 September 2024 on the criteria for the import, internal transport, storage and distribution of prohibited precursor chemicals on 30 September 2024.

The notification mentioned criteria for authorized dealer companies. These companies must be registered in accordance with Myanmar Companies Law. They must submit types of prohibited chemicals and weights, as well as AD certificates from foreign manufacturing companies. The documents of AD must be attached to endorsements of the law enforcement body from relevant countries and embassies. The trademarks of these chemicals must be registered in relevant countries under the law. These ADs must follow the import disciplines of Myanmar. They must submit tax clearance from the Internal Revenue Department or documents on fully paid tax.

Moreover, companies that are not recognized as

ADs can purchase these chemicals from AD companies under the Prohibited Chemical Supervisory Rules and sell them locally. They must submit the documents related to applying for the import of prohibited chemicals and other documents on security plans of these chemicals for storage and transport to avoid dangers, hazards and side effects. The companies operating, manufacturing and distributing prohibited chemicals at home must strictly follow the Prohibited Chemical Supervisory Rules.

CCDAC released the criteria for the storage and distribution of these chemicals. It stated that the chemical warehouses must meet international standards. These warehouses must be located in separate zones, as allowed by relevant governments. Verifications and recommendations must be sought from different levels of drug abuse control and region/state-prohibited chemical inspection bodies for the warehouses. Security personnel who have attended the emergency pro-

hibited chemical skill courses must be assigned at the warehouses to be able to control unexpected measures in time. Warehouses must be checked for electricity, water and ventilation systems. Company officials must accept the inspection of relevant drug abuse control bodies and region/state inspection teams and follow directives.

Criteria for the transport of prohibited chemicals were released. These chemicals must be transported by standardized vehicles, which must have a Clearance Form 10 from the supervisory body and a licence and registration certificate from CCDAC. The vehicle must be registered for work at the Transport Planning Department under the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

The driver of the chemical conveying vehicle must have a C driving licence, and his conductor must have a conductor licence. They have to systematically abide by storage and transport systems for types of these chemicals. — GNLM/TTA

Severe Cyclonic Storm "DANA" News 2024

19:00 MST 24 October 2024

Severe Cyclonic Storm "DANA" Condition

According to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the Severe Cyclonic Storm "DANA" over Northwest Bay and adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bengal has moved north-northwestwards still persist over Northwest Bay of Bengal and it is centered at about 300 nautical miles west-northwest of Sittway-(Myanmar), 85 nautical miles south-southeast of Dhamara (India). The central pressure of Cyclonic Storm is 984 hPa and maximum wind speed near the center is 65-70 miles per hour.

It does not intend to move towards Myanmar coasts at the present stage and therefore the Severe Cyclonic Storm "DANA" is coded as yellow stage.

Forecast

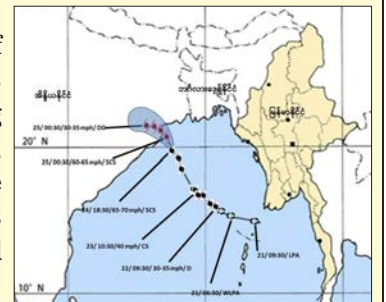
It is likely to continue to move north-northwestwards and cross North Odisha and West Bengal Coasts between Puri and Sagar Island close to Dhamara (India) early morning of 25 October 2024.

Due to the Severe Cyclonic Storm "DANA", rain or thunder-showers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and, Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, Northern Shan, Chin, and Rakhine States with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavyfalls and strong winds tonight up to next 24 hrs.

Frequently squalls with rough to very rough seas will be experienced in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 50-55 miles per hour and wave height will be about 11-15 feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts.

Advisory

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



Myanmar, Hong Kong women's football friendly match to be broadcast live

THE second FIFA international friendly match between the Myanmar women's national football team and the Hong Kong women's national team is set to take place at 3:30 pm on 26 October at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon.

The match will be broadcast live starting at 3:15 pm on MRTV HD Channel, MRTV Parliament Channel, and Myanmar Radio. Fans can tune in to catch all the action as both teams compete this exciting fixture. — MNA/KZL

MEB's e-Pension card service reaches 160 branches without service charge



The general view of the Myanmar Economic Bank.

MYANMA Economic Bank (MEB) notified that cash withdrawal from e-Pension cards can be undertaken at 160 branches equipped with a centralized e-Pension system without service charge.

MEB's e-Pension system has been upgraded to a centralized e-Pension system from September 2023. The

centralized e-Pension system has reached 160 banks as of October 2024.

MEB notified government pensioners to check the branches that operate the Centralized e-Pension system through www.meb.gov.mm and the Myanmar Economic Bank Facebook page in a timely manner. — NN/KK

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)

Myanmar bridges South Asia and Southeast Asia: A significant country for India



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks on the occasion to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of India Technical Economic Cooperation yesterday.

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the 60th Anniversary of ITEC

1. Myanmar, strategically located in the focal point the Neighbourhood First policy and the Act East policy of India meet, plays a vital role in Indian diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific region.
2. Myanmar, bridging South Asia and Southeast Asia, is a significant country for India.
3. ITEC has trained more than 200,000 staff from 160 countries in capacity-building courses since 15 September 1964.
4. ITEC is essential for the enhancement of the capacity and skills of Myanmar's public service personnel.

Myanmar, strategically located in the focal point the Neighbourhood First policy and the Act East policy of India meet, and plays a crucial role in Indian diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific region.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underscored that Myanmar-Indian relations benefit technological cooperation and all economic sectors of both countries.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the ceremony to mark the 60th Anniversary of India Technical and Economic Cooperation 2024 at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC II) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

A video clip on India Technical and Economic Cooperation was screened at the ceremony.

First, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur explained the pro-

gress of India's Technical and Economic Cooperation and expressed thanks to the Senior General and his wife for attending the ceremony to mark the 60th Anniversary of ITEC. The attendance of the Prime Minister showed the critical role of human resources in the sector-wise development and economic growth of Myanmar. In the coming week, India will organize Diwali Festival. Diwali and Thadingyut lighting festivals reflect friendly relations between Indian and Myanmar peoples. Hence, he prayed for strengthened relations between India and Myanmar and for lasting friendly ties.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that ITEC is a trademark of India to pledge to nurture human resource-

es for knowledge-sharing, partnership and global development.

He recounted that Myanmar and India established their diplomatic relations on 4 January 1948 with initiatives of close relations throughout history.

The Senior General noted that Myanmar, strategically located in the focal point the Neighbourhood First policy and the Act East policy of India meet, and plays a vital role in Indian diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific region. Geographically, Myanmar, bridging South Asia and Southeast Asia, is a significant country for India, he added.

He unveiled his view that ITEC is an essential force for the South-South Cooperation.

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Myanmar bridges South Asia and Southeast Asia: ...

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He retold that ITEC has trained more than 200,000 staff from 160 countries in capacity-building courses since 15 September 1964, adding that ITEC is vital for the enhancement of the capacity and skills of public service personnel of Myanmar.

The Senior General expressed his gratitude to the Indian government and officials for offering more than 900 scholarships to students from 2021 to January 2024. Moreover, ITEC arranged electoral capacity-building courses for staff from the Union Election Commission of Myanmar, he added.

He pointed out that Myanmar-Indian relations benefit technological cooperation and all economic sectors of both countries.

The Senior General highlighted that India, standing as the seventh trade part-

ner of Myanmar, conducted a total trade worth US\$1,150.181 million with Myanmar up to February of 2023-24 financial year. Moreover, India stands 11th in the chart of investments for 53 investor countries in Myanmar till January 2024.

The Senior General also expressed gratitude to the Indian government for providing humanitarian aid and relief supplies for Myanmar's flood-affected people suffering the impacts of Typhoon Yagi, showing its friendly relations and good neighbourliness.

The Senior General disclosed that if Myanmar had a chance to attend the courses on Geographic Information (GIS) and remote sensing technology with the necessary assistance to be applied in disaster risk reduction and early warning system, Myanmar would reduce its loss and damage in the disasters.

A ceremony to exchange the mem-

orandum of understanding on the implementation of the Quick Impact Projects-QIPs between Myanmar and India followed.

In the presence of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, officials from relevant ministries and the deputy head of mission of the Indian Embassy exchanged the MoUs on the upgrade of a digital criminal science laboratory, provision of teaching aid for Myanmar's management development school, rural water supply through solar energy in the villages facing water shortage in the dry region of Myanmar, construction of AI laboratory at Yangon University, and the making slow pyrolysis with the use of farming waste and the use of fuel from tar-free biomass pyrolysis experiments as witnesses of Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw and Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur.

The Senior General, his wife, and attendees enjoyed the cultural dance of students from Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), the Ramayana dance troupe, and Myanmar traditional dances.

Former trainees of ITEC shared their experiences.

The Senior General and his wife had the dinner to mark the 60th Anniversary of ITEC for 2024 together with attendees.

Also present at the ceremony were SAC Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo and his wife, council members and their wives, Union ministers, union-level dignitaries and their wives, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur and his wife, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, deputy ministers, Indian Defence Attachés to Myanmar and embassy officials. — MNA/TTA

42nd ASEANPOL Conference closing event held

THE 42nd ASEANPOL Conference hosted by the Myanmar Police Force was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 and 24 October. The closing ceremony of the conference was held yesterday evening at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I).

Police chiefs from ASEANPOL member countries attended the closing ceremony of the conference. High-ranking police officers, their wives, representative members, delegates of dialogue partners – Russia, Australia, China, INTERPOL and the ASEAN Secretariat, observers: Timor-Leste, ICRC and the UAE, and invitees were also present at the event.

At the closing ceremony of the conference, the following actions were held: the signing of the joint declaration of the 42nd ASEANPOL Conference and, transferring the plaque commemorating the ASEANPOL to the Royal Thai Police, which will



The concluding ceremony of the 42nd ASEANPOL Conference in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

host the 43rd ASEANPOL Conference. The leader of the delegation of the Royal Thai Police gave a welcome speech and a video clip on depicting the natural beauty of Thailand was screened and the Chief of Myanmar Police Force delivered a speech at the closing of the conference, and in the

evening, a farewell dinner was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I).

Myanmar Police Force successfully hosted the 42nd ASEANPOL Conference in Nay Pyi Taw from 21 to 24 October. On 23 October, a separate meeting be-

tween the Myanmar Police Force and Indonesian National Police, Lao Police Force and Royal Thai Police discussed how to increase police cooperation. The friendly sports tournaments were held. A friendly futsal football tournament between the current host Myanmar Police and the Royal

Thai Police was organized. The guests' wives were sent to the famous places in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, visiting the Maravijaya Buddha Image, Myanmar Gems Museum, the National Museum and observing environmental landscapes. — MNA/TS

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NATIONAL

Global Media & Information Literacy Week initiated in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Global Media and Information Literacy Week was held at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, departmental officials, teachers and students of basic education high schools of Zeyathiri and Zabuthiri townships and the Khit Shae Hsaung private high school were present on the occasion.

In his opening speech, the Union Minister said that UNESCO initiated the Global Media and Information Literacy Week in the fourth week of October, starting in 2012, and Myanmar joined it in 2018. The ceremo-

ny aims to promote awareness about the crucial role of media and information literacy in fostering a better understanding of access to covering news, honour the progress in understanding media and information literacy and stimulate and promote public awareness around the world.

This year's theme is "The New Digital Frontiers of Information: Media and Information Literacy for Public Interest Information", and the activities will be conducted on 24 and 25 October.

He then urged the youths to use social media effectively, spend their lives with proper knowledge of literary and skills and develop reading habits.

He also highlighted the priority the Prime Minister gave to youth sectors where the youths should learn and perfect modern technologies.

Then, he presented certificates of appreciation to the teachers who participated in talk shows on media and information literacy and donated media and information-related books to supervisor teachers.

During the talk show, participants discussed matters related to Artificial Intelligence (AI), the advantages and disadvantages of technology, AI and media role, social media that spread misinformation, disinformation and hate speech, good points and weak points of social



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn presents the certificate of appreciation to the participant yesterday.

media and telecommunication law. Students raised questions about what they wanted to know.

The deputy minister and teachers awarded the students who won in the question and

answer session of media and information.

He concluded the event and led the lot-drawing session for teachers and students. — MNA/KTZH

MSWRR Union Minister attends ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management in Brunei

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win attended the 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) and its related meetings held in Brunei from 23 to 25 October.

On 23 October, the Union Minister discussed the meeting-related matters with ASEAN Secretariat and joined the dinner hosted by Mr Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Admaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister for Home Affairs of Brunei, together with Deputy Prime Ministers and disaster management Ministers of ASEAN countries.

The Union Minister attended the first session of ceremony marking 2024 ASEAN Day and International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction yesterday morning and joined the 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management themed "Building Resilient ASEAN through Inclusive and



Union Minister Dr Soe Win (R) is pictured at the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management in Brunei on 23-25 October.

Sustainable Disaster Recovery".

During the meeting, the Union Minister highlighted the primary message of the meeting's theme, "Building Resilient ASEAN through Inclusive and Sustainable Disaster Recovery". He clarified the need to balance climate change and socio-economic development in ASEAN countries and create a resilient ASEAN community through the One ASEAN, One Response policy.

Then, the officials of the ASEAN Secretariat and AHA Centre explained the implementation of the ASEAN agreement on disaster management in 2024 and the utilization of the ASEAN disaster management and emergency relief fund.

Next, the Deputy Prime Ministers and Ministers of ASEAN visited the residence of the Crown Prince of Brunei and greeted Crown Prince Haji AL-Muhtadee Billah. — MNA/KTZH

Undocumented migrant workers can apply temporary work and residence permits in Thailand

MIGRANT workers who illegally migrated to Thailand, those who have official permits for work and live, although they expired, or those who officially migrated through working illegally can apply for temporary work and residence permits, the Myanmar Embassy announced.

This permit will allow foreigners to work and live in Thailand for one year. It is a plan which allows foreigners who hold a passport or CI to still validate until 13 February 2025 and will extend their work permit to work in Thailand until 13 February 2025. Under this plan, foreigners are allowed to continue applying for two-year work permits with another two-year extension.

As additional relaxation for the convenience of foreign-

ers, the period for finding a new job after leaving the old job is extended to 60 days from 30 days, and the requirement for submission of employment contract to the registrar is now removed.

Myanmar workers whose MoU expires will need to make sure that their passports are validated for at least two years, and CI holders will also need to make sure of at least two years of validity, it said.

Passport replacement service is provided at the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok and the Consulate General in Chiang Mai, and negotiation has been underway between the two countries on setting up a CI replacement station so that further announcements will be made, said the embassy. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

Myanmar exchanges experience at 5th International Conference on Agricultural Cooperation

CONSUL-GENERAL of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Nanning, Daw Khine Su Lin, along with a nine-member delegation from Agricultural Research Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Institute of Agriculture in the Mandalay Region, attended the fifth International Conference on Deepening ASEAN Cooperation in Agricultural Science and Technology, held at the Guangxi Wharton International Hotel in Nanning on 22 October.

The Guangxi Academy of Agricultural Sciences (GXAAS)



This photo captures the fifth International Conference on Deepening ASEAN Cooperation of Agricultural Science and Technology held at the Guangxi Wharton International Hotel in Nanning on 22 October.

hosted the conference to foster collaboration between China and ASEAN nations, focusing on agricultural research, modern farming practices, the production of high-quality seeds, green and smart agriculture, and the integration of digital technologies into the agricultural sector.

Experts and researchers from agricultural departments, organizations, and universities in China and ASEAN nations, such as Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Thailand, gathered to discuss and exchange experiences in various agricultural fields. — ASH/TH

Myanmar diplomat participates in “Maritime Heritage at ASEAN Heritage Parks” exhibition



This photo shows Permanent Representative to ASEAN U Aung Myo Myint posing for the group photo session of the event.

MYANMAR Permanent Representative to ASEAN U Aung Myo Myint attended the Maritime Heritage at the ASEAN Heritage Parks exhibition, held from 22 to 25 October in Indonesia, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The exhibition took place at the ASEAN Secretariat in Indonesia.

The event showcased ASEAN's maritime heritage, focusing on the rich biodiversity conserved and promoted through

the ASEAN Heritage Parks. It highlighted two parks from the Philippines, namely the Tubbataha Reef and the Agusan Marsh, along with other maritime or aquatic-related parks from the ASEAN Member States.

The exhibition was inaugurated by the ASEAN Secretary General and was attended by Permanent Representatives to ASEAN, as well as diplomatic missions based in Jakarta. — ASH/TMT

Kayin State govt to host 69th Kayin State Day in Nov

THE Kayin State government has announced that the 69th Kayin State Day celebration and the Kayin State Festival will take place in Hpa-an, the capital of Kayin State, in November.

Kayin State Day, which falls on 7 November, will be

marked with ceremonies and festivities from 5 to 10 November, as confirmed during the state government's meeting 2/2024 held at Meeting Hall 2.

The 69th Kayin State Day Ceremony will feature a variety of events, including a Kayin traditional Don dance competi-

tion, traditional boxing matches, traditional boat and dragon boat races, a market fair, a local food and snack market, a horticultural exhibition, theatrical performances, booths by government departments and MSMEs, and commemorative games. — ASH/MKKS

Filming of new series ‘Yan Kway’ begins at Kyaikkasan Pagoda, Yangon

THE opening ceremony for the filming of the series ‘Yan Kway’ (Rancour), produced by Shwe Nadi Shwe Yi Film Production, took place on 23 October at the Kyaikkasan Pagoda in Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region. This information was shared by Academy Award-winning director Win Lwin Htet, who will be in charge of directing the series.

The storyline for the series was written by Phyo Lay, with the screenplay adapted by Didi Htet Aung and Thurathawa. Win Lwin Htet remarked, “I have never worked on a series like ‘Yan Kway’ before. It’s a project that my friend Phyo Lay, who is like a brother to me, has been eager to shoot. We decided to collaborate on it. The plot includes some action and explores the themes of hatred and vengeance between two families, with important messages about the destructive nature of revenge.”

The series will consist of 16 episodes and feature a star-studded cast, including Academy



This photo showcases the cast in the ‘Yan Kyway’ series at the launch of filming.

Award winner Min Oo, Phyo Lay, Nay Htut, Su Sha Htoo Kyi, Charlie, Bo Lay, Thura Zaw, Zwe Wai Yan Htet, Shine Latt, Waso Moe Oo, Ya Min May Oo, Htet Htet Linlet, Yun Eindra Ko, Thae Nadi Zan, Zu Zu, Htet Thiri Kyaw, and many others. — ASH/TRKM

Malaysia agrees to buy frozen avocado pulp, growers see export potential

MALAYSIA has agreed to buy value-added frozen avocado pulp as well as locally produced avocado fruits, so export is about to happen, creating good potential for growers, said a representative of the Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association.

Myanmar has exported samples of frozen avocado pulp to Malaysia, and 90 per cent of the export process has been completed. Both parties are yet to negotiate the price.

Avocado pulp exports will

help growers create opportunities as those avocados that meet export criteria can be exported, and those rejected for inferior condition can be made into frozen pulp. It will generate foreign income and revenue for the State, he elaborated.

“There is a plan to export frozen avocado pulp to Malaysia this year, using the collective work of PyinOoLwin and Mandalay avocado businesspeople. Malaysia has agreed to buy them. Price negotiation is underway. We



This photo features export-quality avocados from PyinOoLwin.

will deliver them as frozen avocado pulp with value addition,” he added.

Additionally, PyinOoLwin’s Avocado Farming and Cooperative Society Limited has been

preparing to build infrastructure for frozen avocado pulp production to explore more foreign markets.

Avocado is primarily grown in northern and southern Shan

State and PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region. It is a perennial crop that can be harvested after three years of cultivation. The harvest season commences in October. — Maung Aye Chan/KK

CBM to sell 20M Thai baht to importers

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 23 October that it would sell 20 million Thai baht to importers. After that, it injected US\$2.5 million and 16.5 million baht into the financial market on that day.

It sold over \$7.5 million and 150 million baht on 22 October; \$2.2 million and 1.5 million yuan on 21 October after it announced to sell \$35 million for those engaged in the fuel oil and edible oil sectors as per its notification dated 20 October.

CBM injected \$6 million and 200 million baht on 15 October; \$730,000 on 11 October; \$12.4 million and 38.7 million baht on 10 October; 660,000 yuan on 9 October and over 10 million baht on 7 October into the private sector.

CBM also pumped \$13.1 million and 288,000 yuan on 4 October; \$780,000, 1.2 million yuan and one million baht on 3 October and over 1.2 million yuan and 10.2 million baht into the financial market on 2 October.

CBM also sold over \$76 million, 86 million baht and 4.8 million yuan in September. Moreover, CBM sold over \$190 million, 19 million yuan and 79 million baht in August.

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

Indonesia leads Myanmar rice imports in H1



Stevedores diligently load export rice bags onto an overseas-bound merchant vessel at Yangon Port.

INDONESIA is the largest importer of Myanmar’s rice, with over 210,000 tonnes in the first half of the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Myanmar conveyed over 217,600 tonnes of rice and broken rice to Indonesia, over 209,000 tonnes to China, over 162,900 tonnes to Belgium, over 72,600 tonnes to the Philippines, over 27,100 to Cameroon, over 26,500 to Mozambique, over 19,500 to Spain, 17,500 to the Netherlands, over 13,900 to Ivory Coast, over 13,300 to Italy and

over 12,300 to Poland.

Myanmar’s rice and broken rice exports to foreign countries reached over 930,000 tonnes worth US\$458 million in H1.

The federation aims to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice exports in the 2024-2025 financial year (April-March).

The Ministry of Commerce has been cooperating with departments and institutions concerned to achieve export targets and beyond depending on the supply volume of rice, broken rice, pulses, corn, rubber and fisheries from the respective companies.

Ministry of Commerce is working together with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association to meet monthly export targets and facilitate exports.

The federation is projected to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice export in the FY 2023-2024, generating one billion dollars. However, rice exports fell short of the target with 1.6 million tonnes worth \$845 million.

The Central Bank of Myanmar’s monetary policy to control export earnings impeded rice exports, hurting exporters financially. The El Nino weather condition also hampered rice export, the chairperson of the Myanmar Rice Federation said.

Myanmar exported 2,261,203 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners in the past 2022-2023 FY (April-March), with an estimated value of \$853.472 million. — NN/KK

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OPINION

Arrange fair prices for rice and paddy locally

AS MYANMAR relies heavily on paddy cultivation, rice is a staple food for most of its population. Therefore, the government and relevant authorities should ensure that rice production remains high and the agricultural costs are balanced with market prices to support farmers' economic growth. Similarly, stable rice prices will help consumers improve their socioeconomic well-being.

Paddy is a strategic crop in Myanmar, covering around 17 million acres or 34 per cent of the country's arable land. Annually, 80 per cent of the paddy is used for domestic consumption and food production, while the remaining 20 per cent is exported. Given its importance in the local market, ensuring price stability for rice and paddy is essential.

Excessive stockpiling of rice and paddy, along with price manipulation for profit, can lead to economic instability and hardships for consumers. Therefore, relevant organizations regulate rice and paddy prices to protect both farmers and consumers. Businesspersons should also consider the impact on consumers' daily lives when managing the storage and pricing of rice and paddy.

The government has enacted the law concerning the protection of farmers' rights and the enhancement of their interests. Meanwhile, the government monitors and controls prices of basic foodstuffs such as rice and paddy for the sake of the consumer people. Hence, businesspersons and farmers need to acknowledge the efforts of the government to trade rice and paddy at fair prices locally, considering the lives of consumers people from all walks of life.

Last summer, climate change, rising costs of agricultural inputs like pesticides and fertilizers, increasing wages for farm workers, and instability in farmland areas caused rice and paddy prices to rise in the domestic market. Additionally, some businesspersons spent large sums on stockpiling paddy to manipulate commodity prices. Fair prices for agricultural inputs and reasonable profit margins for businesses can help ensure affordable food prices for consumers.

The Steering Committee on the Protection of Farmers' Rights and Enhancement of Benefits announced basic reference prices for paddy on 19 October to help farmers avoid financial difficulties. Farmers can now sell their paddy at K950,000 per 100 baskets, which meets market standards. Such basic reference prices of paddy aim to manage prices of monsoon paddy produced in 2024 and summer paddy in 2025. It is essential to balance the interests of farmers, businesspersons, and consumers, ensuring price stability in the domestic market to ease the burden of rising commodity prices.

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NO ONE can stand alone in society. As living beings, humans inherently need to foster friendships and seek meaningful partnerships. In fact, individuals are not always saints or enlightened beings – those considered the noblest in various religions – who can maintain sincerity at all times. Our mindsets change constantly, and therefore, no one can guarantee that an individual can sustain genuine fraternity based on sincerity forever.

Forging genuine friendship among individuals

The term "genuine friendship" may seem unfamiliar to some people. In reality, genuine friendship can often be intertwined with insincere actions from those who feign a positive mindset in society while their true intentions are not sincere. Their motivations may be rooted in deceitful behaviours, and they do not seek to cultivate meaningful partnerships with others. Such actions are detrimental to social relationships. Unfortunately, those who advocate for the necessity of genuine friendship may sometimes fall victim to these deceitful individuals.

This topic does not focus on wanting to express genuine friendship between one person and another. Rather, it aims to address the insincerity often present, especially among young people, who might pretend to be friendly with someone they actually have romantic feelings for. For example, some guys pretend to be friendly with some girls in an attempt to propose their love to those girls one day. So, those guys initiate their movements before proposing their love for girls. It can be said that their actions are not sincere for friendship.

Those males and females culturing so-called friendliness are not concerned with this topic. The main point is that when two people become friends, regardless of whether they are of the same gender or different genders – they may be a male and another male or a male and a female or a female and another female. In this case, it is important for them to have a sincere attitude towards each other.

It is very important that between individuals, there should be no exploitation of each other's weaknesses, no harsh criticisms, and a focus on helping and sup-

porting one another. In fact, it is public ethics for all. Actually, such public ethics are being practised in Myanmar's society. It is important to respect each other and work together. If everybody has a good relationship, they should monitor the expectations somebody set for each other. Anybody should not act in ways that harm their friend's interests. If you discover any harm to someone's interests, you should speak up to prevent it. You should also avoid making negative comments. Even if you encounter misunderstandings from your friends regarding your actions, you must have the courage to intervene and prevent them from making mistakes or straying onto the wrong path for their own sake. Importantly, genuine friends must uphold a concept that they must dare to serve the interests of each other, avoiding inappropriate actions, pretending, one-sided exploitation and influence, and having no hegemony attitude.

Fake friendliness

Some people, who are only focused on finding weaknesses and exploiting them tend to jump at opportunities to enhance their own interests while overlooking the good of their friends. Those individuals will eventually end up on a list of friends to avoid. You will know for yourself where you belong on that list. In reality, friendship is a secondary relationship in life. Siblings and family are the primary connections, no matter how bad things may get. Blood ties are unbreakable. Friendship is formed after surpassing those familial bonds, making it a secondary relationship.

The title 'unscrupulous friends' is harsh, but it is difficult to find a better term for them. Everyone should avoid friends like this. In truth, they should not even be called 'friends', as that word does not fit people like them. They are more like enemies, as they are close enough to cause harm or threats to those they claim to befriend, lacking sincerity and loyalty. As those unfaithful friends cannot be compared with genuine friends, the status of those persons who lack loyalty is very far from the family members. Indeed, even family members with bad attitudes are better than those disloyal friends.

Good friendliness

In reality, everyone has ex-



A group of friends shows off a happy, friendly life based on true friendship PHOTO: FREEPIK

Fraternity among true friends must be based on sincerity

By Aung Kyaw Thant

perienced that having a true friend can be more reassuring and dependable than having blood relatives. Good friends are those who, despite being very close for years, are always ready to help you in times of need. I want to challenge the saying that having one enemy is enough when you have a hundred friends. Instead, I want to say that having a true friend is far more valuable than having a hundred enemies; with a true friend, you can truly enjoy life.

Actually, no one can be fully defined forever. Generally, it is true that disloyal and insincere friends are a danger to genuine friendship. On the other hand, true friends are dependable as

well as reliable, standing by their partners in times of emergency and trouble. These loyal friends are ready to give a helping hand to their partners in any situation, even when facing difficulties themselves. If you want to know the character of true friends, you should look for them during times of crisis. True friends will prove to be better than siblings. If you have a true friend, consider yourself lucky.

Living a thousand miles apart

A true friend is someone with whom you may live a thousand miles apart, yet your hearts are very close. Even though there are many people around you, we live

in a time where there are often those who only watch to take advantage of you or bring you harm.

Though living more than a thousand miles apart, two faithful friends remain connected through shared thoughts and perceptions. Despite the distance, they prioritize staying informed about each other to offer support whenever needed. Their help is given freely, without any expectation of return, as a form of sacrifice. Both deeply understand each other's minds and souls, always seeing opportunities to assist their friends as acts of kindness. The actions of true friends may seem strange to those who are used to exploiting opportunities for selfish gain.

Sacrifices in friendship

If you truly cherish your friendships, you cannot just take advantage of them without con-

sideration. You should think about how you can bring benefits to your friends. Always keep an ear open to their circumstances and be ready to help in times of need. You should reflect on what you have already given to your friends. It is important to be content with the sacrifices you make for their well-being. For friends who have a mutual desire to support each other, life's journey will be filled with joy and blessings.

In this regard, the acts of sacrifice between two true friends are endless, rooted in esprit de corps. In genuine friendship, true friends never keep track of the gratitude they owe each other, but they always remember the gratitude of others. They strive daily to find the right moment to repay these debts of gratitude. This is a beautiful concept for all humanity and societies. If everyone upheld

this kind of moral integrity, society would flourish with prosperity, peace, and happiness, and conflicts and wars could be avoided.

Ethics in friendship

There is one more thing. If friendships are genuine, you should be aware of and avoid any deceitful or manipulative behaviours towards each other. Making something non-existent seem real is truly shameful. Manipulation is the work of weak individuals. If friends start speaking deceitfully to one another, it shows that the one doing so is genuinely unfulfilled. You should also reflect on whether the words you say come off as manipulative. Why? It is because manipulation can lead to emotional turmoil. The consequence is that it can cause friends to feel disappointed and hurt.

In this case, I would like to share one of my experiences with all of you. Around 2001, while I was working in Mandalay, I had a friend. At the time, I thought we shared the same mindset. He was very skilled at his job but was constantly boasting. He always sought to gain privileges over me in various ways and never contributed to shared expenses. For instance, whenever we had snacks or tea, he never offered to pay. However, I overlooked this because his salary was lower than mine.

Over time, he began trying to dominate us and interfere in my affairs. He consistently showcased his own strengths but never acknowledged the accomplishments of others. I realized that he was jealously competing with me in all aspects, even though his position at the workplace was lower than mine, he was also younger than me. As a result, I gradually became disappointed by his inappropriate behaviours.

One day, he called me at midnight. When I answered, he bragged – without any real reason – that his wife had been selected to go abroad. Despite usually avoiding calls to save money, he had no problem disturbing my sleep to boast about his wife's trip. How ironic! Generally, he never called others when he did not have any reasons for boasting. I had experienced similar occurrences of his inappropriate actions several times. When I could no longer tolerate his behaviours, I cut off all contact with him, and we have not spoken since.

Understanding inappropriate acts and words

However, if true friendships really exist, then there is no reason for such deceitful behaviours to occur. Those who understand how certain actions and words can impact genuine friendships will consciously avoid them. If manipulation does happen, it is common for one friend to forgive the other, as both sides may have experienced it themselves. In fact, forgiveness and patience are still essential qualities in relationships among true friends, even if they are not explicitly stated. Nevertheless, you may have also observed that these qualities of forgiveness and patience are rarely taken for granted among genuine friends.

In fact, intentional or unintentional acts of boasting and deceit may sometimes occur between two friends. These actions can be analyzed based on the context of their conversations. True friends, however, are open with each other and regularly reflect on their behaviour to ensure it is not perceived as boasting. This self-awareness is simply part of being true friends. Daily interactions between them continue, and in summary, both are keen to preserve their strong bond by avoiding any inappropriate actions or words.

Self-analysis on having honesty in friendship

In this case, honesty in friendship means that when friends come together, they should be free of expectations and hidden agendas. If people can genuinely relate to each other without deceit, then true friends can emerge. If this doesn't happen, then friendships may only exist at a superficial level, like fleeting appearances of characters in a movie. You might find yourself in a situation where your friendships are just passing acquaintances instead of genuine connections. You can also reflect on what type of friend you are and how you contribute to those relationships.

In this fleeting human existence, where we only have a moment like a bubble, I hope that everyone encounters true friends and builds genuine relationships. May you also be able to embrace your friends with the spirit of true friendship.

NATIONAL

Myanmar hosts 46th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture & Forestry Meeting

MYANMAR chaired the 46th online meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF), from 22 to 25 October.

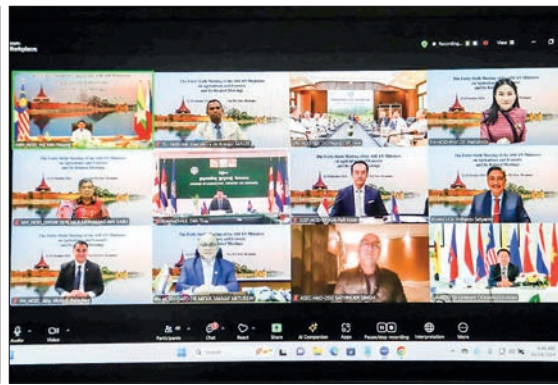
On 24 October, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung and Malaysian Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, who chaired the 45th AMAF meeting, delivered the opening speech at the 46th AMAF.

Then, the Malaysian Agriculture and Food Security Minister handed over the chairmanship of the 46th AMAF to U Min Naung, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

On the first day of the meeting, the representatives from ASEAN countries, Timor-Leste, ASEAN Secretariat and Deputy



Union Minister U Min Naung delivers the opening speech for the online 46th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Meeting.



Secretary-General of ASEAN discussed progress in the implementation of ASEAN food security, agriculture and forest in 2023-2024, sustainable agricultural programmes, ASEAN directives to reduce crop burning and reduce the use of harmful agrochemicals, implementation of blue economy, digitalization

and a joint venture of the government and private sectors.

Then, the ASEAN Ministers reviewed the completed tasks mentioned in the ASEAN food security, agriculture and forestry strategic plan and approved the 16 critical deliverables for ASEAN food security, agriculture and forestry sector, two

priority economic deliverables during the chairmanship of Laos and one priority to be conducted by Malaysia. They also recorded 11 action plans and instructed the significant points to add to the ASEAN agriculture, food security and forestry strategic plan (2026-2030).

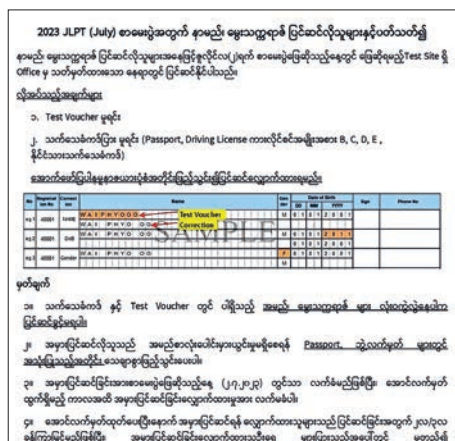
During the chairmanship of

Myanmar, the country proposed a “project on production of bio-coal analyzing crop residues to reduce carbon emission in ASEAN countries”. The development partners like ERIAI, CropLife Asia, US-ASEAN Business Council, and EU-ASEAN Business Council participated in the discussion and approved the joint declaration of the 46th AMAF.

Before the ministerial meeting, senior officials’ sessions for the 46th AMAF, 24th ASEAN Plus Three Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry and 8th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry were also held on 22 and 23 October.

The ASEAN Plus Three meetings and ASEAN Plus India meetings will be held on 25 October. — MNA/KTZH

Last batch of JLPT certificates with corrections available



A sample of JLPT certificate correction.

CERTIFICATES for JLPT held on 2 July 2023 are available after corrected spelling of name and date of birth, the JLPT organizing committee Japan Association of Japan Alumni said.

It is the last batch of certificates for correction, and no more left. It can be taken out with the original ID card and a copy.

Candidates at the Yangon test centre can take at JLPT Centre (MAJA), No 2B-3, Snow Garden, Thumingala Road in Thingangyun Township in Yangon, from 25 October, from Monday to

Friday, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Candidates at Mandalay test centre can come to take at MAJA Mandalay branch, first floor, Building 1, Room 6, 67th Street, Chanmyathazi Township in Mandalay, as of 29 October from Monday to Friday, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Corrected certificates can be taken out in a year, and no more corrections are allowed. Correction is permitted only once, so candidates will need to make sure to check before submitting for correction, said MAJA. — MT/ZS

MoFA Deputy Minister receives Indian Ambassador

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

During the call, they cordially exchanged views on strengthening the existing traditional bonds of friendship and further cooperation in all areas of mutual interest between Myanmar and India. — MNA

Myanmar citizens in Singapore can change PV to PJ passports on short visits if tax compliant

ON 24 October, the Myanmar Embassy to Singapore issued a notification for the benefit of Myanmar nationals who work there, pay income tax and want to return to Myanmar temporarily. They will provide a passport-type change service from PV to PJ.

The Myanmar nationals who work there with PV passports and stay/work permits have been reportedly facing difficulties at the Yangon International Air-

port and at making OWIC cards after a short visit to Myanmar, the embassy said.

Therefore, the embassy announced that those income-tax paying PV-holder Myanmar nationals will change their passports from PV to PJ on their short visits to Myanmar.

A confirmed return air ticket, a valid work permit card of WP/SP/EP/PR (Re-Entry Form 7), a passport, leave permission from the employer/company

and other documents are required to submit to make an appointment on the embassy’s WhatsApp numbers.

For the submission of complete documents, it is necessary to make an appointment two weeks in advance. People are advised to view the Myanmar Embassy webpage and its Facebook page every Friday. Those returning to Myanmar due to an emergency such as a funeral, if unable to make an appointment in ad-

vance, are informed that they can come to the embassy in person with complete documents between office hours of 9:30 and 11 for a walk-in service.

Furthermore, PV-passport holders are requested to cooperate with the embassy in order to avoid wasting unnecessary time and money by applying for a passport-type change only when its expiration date is less than 14 months, the embassy said. — MT/ZN

NATIONAL

Illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K901M

EFFORTS to combat illegal trade, led by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, are being conducted effectively and in full compliance with the law.

On 21, 22 and 23 October, the combined on-duty teams impounded 90 kinds of machinery spare parts and a kind of industrial materials valued at K108.985 million without official documents from two containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, a kind of consumer good worth about K2 million without official documents from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port, a Man tractor head with a trailer (approximately K130 million), carrying two kinds of industrial materials and three kinds of consumer goods worth K25.2 million

without official documents at the Ywathagyi Dry Port, consumer goods worth K5.967 million without official documents from a container at the Thilawa Port Terminal, a kind of consumer goods worth K23.381 million without official documents at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk) and an Ankai express bus (worth approximately K60 million), carrying consumer goods and foodstuffs worth K6.6 million without official documents at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. The action was carried out in line with Customs procedures.

Similarly, on 22 October, the combined teams conducted inspections and seized four unregistered motorbikes worth K2 million in Magway and Thayet Districts and three vehicles

(estimated value of K150 million) carrying 41 cattle worth about K70 million without official documents in Thayet District. The action was conducted under the Export-Import Law and the Essential Supplies and Services Law.

Furthermore, on 23 October, a combined team confiscated illegal timbers weighing 41.584 tonnes worth K4.423 million in Pinyin District, two kinds of smuggled motorbike spare parts (worth about K2.7 million) near the Sinphyu checkpoint in Muse Township, illegal teak weighing 1.258 tonnes worth about K4 million at the Yadanabon combined checkpoint in Sagaing Township, under the Forest Law and Customs procedures.

The combined on-duty teams managed by the Man-

dalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force captured three vehicles carrying 16 kinds of industrial materials and 16 kinds of consumer goods valued at K60.7 million without official documents in Paleik, and a Dongfeng tractor head with a trailer (estimated value of K86 million) carrying six kinds of motorbike spare parts, foodstuffs and consumer goods worth K37.945 million without official documents in Kyaukse Township. The action was conducted as per Customs procedures.

On 23 and 24 October, the on-duty teams nabbed illegal teak weighing 5.624 tonnes, illegal hardwood weighing 0.741 tonne and illegal timbers weighing 5.65 tonnes worth about K3.513 million in Bago and Toun-

goo Districts, an unregistered Toyota Mark II (estimated value of K6 million) in Pyay District and an unregistered Honda Wave motorbike (estimated value of K500,000) in Bokpyin Township. The action was taken under the Forest Law and the Export-Import Law.

Overall, on the four consecutive days from 21 to 24 October, 31 arrests were made, confiscating illegal items worth approximately K901 million. The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee has reported that illegal trade poses a major obstacle to the country's economic development and significantly impacts the socioeconomic sector. Consequently, the committee has stated its commitment to intensifying efforts against illegal trade. — MNA/MKKS

K3.98B worth of stimulant tablets seized in Yangon Region

THE Myanmar Police Force reported the seizure of 3.98 million stimulant tablets, valued at K3.98 billion, in Yangon Region. Acting on a tip-off, a combined team, including anti-narcotics police, searched a Fielder vehicle driven by Win Htut and accompanied by Tin Maung Latt (aka) Karad Bai in Dagon Myothit (North) Township at 4:30 pm on 14 October, leading to the discovery of 300,000 stimulant tablets.

Following further investigations, police found 3.68 million more stimulant tablets at Win Htut's house in Dagon Myothit (South) Township at 5:30 pm after stopping a Toyota Succeed in Dagon Myothit (North) Township

at 5 pm. The suspects confessed that the drugs were sold by Han Thein (aka) Sai San Swe) from Namsang Township in Shan State and purchased by Soe Myint (aka) Ziburamauk from Maungtau Township in Rakhine State. Subsequent police action led to the arrests of Soe Moe Aung (aka) Molzuraman in Botahtaung Township, Kyaw Win Soe, and his wife, Ma Thida Win (aka) Yasamin, in Mahaangmyay Township.

Legal action has been initiated against the offenders, and further investigations are ongoing to arrest other suspects involved in the case. — MNA/MKKS



Offenders are seen alongside seized drugs and vehicles.

Teachers, students injured in bomb drop attack



FIVE people, including one teacher, three female students and one female civilian, were injured in a bomb attack by PDF terrorists at a basic education middle school in Thabyaykan village in Myaing Township, Sagaing Region.

PDF terrorists launched bomb drop yesterday while the teachers and students were peacefully learning in class. Then, five were injured in a bomb explosion, and they were provided with medical treatment.

PDF terrorists intentionally attack non-military targets like schools, and such actions are war crimes under the Geneva Conventions and International Law. Locals strongly condemn their attacks, and security forces are accelerating security measures. — MNA/KTZH

Counter-argument to false information

Fabricated reports: Raids on warehouses in Mandalay

MALICIOUS news media spread false reports, claiming that security forces and police units in Mandalay conducted raids on warehouses and seized legally imported goods. These reports are meant to mislead the public.

According to relevant authorities in Mandalay, security operations were carried out to prevent terrorist infiltration,

and no unauthorized raids or arrests took place. Combined security teams, under the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, are actively working to combat illegal trade following the law, aiming to prevent price inflation, financial instability, and loss of national tax revenue.

Authorities emphasize that these false reports are a deliber-



This screenshot validates misinformation.

ate attempt by malicious news media to misinform the public. — MNA/KZL

ECONOMY WORLD

Vulnerability of supply chains exposed as global maritime chokepoints come under pressure

Critical chokepoints such as the Panama Canal, Red Sea, Suez Canal, and Black Sea are under significant strain, affecting global maritime trade.



A cargo ship passes through the Miraflores locks on the Panama Canal in Panama City on 7 October 2024.
PHOTO: AFP

THE global economy, food security, and energy supplies are at increasing risk due to vulnerabilities at key maritime routes, according to the Review of Maritime Transport 2024 from UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The report reveals that critical chokepoints such as the Panama Canal, Red Sea, Suez Canal, and the Black Sea, are under severe strain.

“A combination of geopolitical tensions, climate impacts, and conflicts have shaken global trade, threatening the functioning of maritime supply chains,” the report, said.

“Maritime trade, which grew by 2.4 per cent in 2023 to reach 12,292 million tonnes, had

begun to recover after a contraction in 2022. However, the future remains uncertain.

The report projects a modest two per cent growth for 2024, driven by demand for bulk commodities like iron ore, coal, and grain, alongside containerized goods. Yet, these figures mask deeper challenges.”

The report noted that “Container trade, which grew by just 0.3 per cent in 2023, is expected to rebound by 3.5 per cent in 2024, but long-term growth will depend on how the industry adapts to ongoing disruptions, such as the war in Ukraine and rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. Meanwhile, the supply of container ship capacity grew by 8.2 per cent in 2023.” — ANI

China establishes internationally competitive new energy industry chain

CHINA has established a complete new energy industry chain which is internationally competitive and provides more than 80 per cent of global photovoltaic components and 70 per cent of the world’s wind power equipment, an energy official said Wednesday.

Over the past decade, Chi-

na has been key in lowering the average cost per kilowatt-hour of global wind and photovoltaic power generation projects, which have seen decreases of more than 60 per cent and 80 per cent, respectively, Zhang Jianhua, head of the National Energy Administration, said at a meeting in Qingdao, east Chi-

na’s Shandong Province.

China’s wind and photovoltaic products have reached over 200 countries and regions worldwide — not only enriching global supply but also making outstanding contributions to green energy transition and the stability of the global energy market, Zhang added.

By the end of 2023, China’s installed capacity of wind and photovoltaic power had increased tenfold compared to a decade earlier, while the proportion of clean energy consumption in total energy consumption had risen from 15.5 per cent to 26.4 per cent. Energy ministers from Belt and Road countries, ambassadors to China, and leaders of major domestic energy enterprises and financial institutions attended the meeting, engaging in discussions on topics such as energy transition and energy security, new energy storage, and advanced nuclear power technologies. — Xinhua



In this undated file photo, technicians install photovoltaic panels at a solar power farm in Dongshan county, Fujian province.
PHOTO: XINHUA

Tokyo Metro surges 47.3% on debut in Japan’s biggest IPO in 6 years



Tokyo Metro’s listing reduces government ownership, split between the nation and Tokyo city, to around 50 per cent. **PHOTO: AFP**

TOKYO Metro Co made an impressive debut on the Tokyo stock market on Wednesday, briefly surging 47.3 per cent above the offering price of 1,200 yen (\$7.9) in Japan’s biggest initial public offering in six years.

The IPO put Tokyo Metro’s market capitalization at around 1.01 trillion yen, making it the seventh largest railway operator in the country in terms of total market value as of Wednesday.

The share price of Asia’s oldest subway operator closed at 1,739 yen after opening at 1,630 yen on the first day of trading on the Tokyo Stock Exchange’s top-tier Prime Market.

Tokyo Metro, the country’s second-largest railway company by passenger volume, drew massive buy orders primarily from individual investors seeking stability and dividends. — Kyodo

BRICS members agree to back NDB in expanding local currency financing

The agreement emphasizes expanding local currency financing.

THE BRICS countries agreed on Wednesday to support the New Development Bank (NDB) in implementing its general strategy for 2022-2026 and in expanding local currency financing.

In a declaration issued at the 16th BRICS Summit, they also agreed to jointly build the NDB into a new type of multilateral development bank for the 21st century, support its further expansion of membership, and expedite the review of membership applications from BRICS countries in accordance



They support the further expansion of NDB membership and will expedite the review of membership applications from BRICS countries. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

with its general strategy and related policies. The BRICS countries are also encouraged to strengthen financial cooperation and promote local currency settlement, according to the declaration. — Xinhua

Dongfeng opens first sales and technical centre in Slovenia

THE first sales and technical centre of Chinese automaker Dongfeng opened in central Slovenia on Wednesday.

Plan-net Avto, Slovenia's largest importer of electric vehicles (EV) from China and the official importer of Dongfeng cars, opened the centre, introducing four new electric and three new petrol

Dongfeng car models.

At the inauguration ceremony, Chinese Ambassador to Slovenia Wang Shunqing said that Dongfeng Motor is a brand with a long history and outstanding technical strength and that Slovenia has a solid industrial and technological foundation.

“Slovenia is an important partner of China

in the European Union,” Wang said, adding that the Slovenian government and business community are interested in cooperating with Chinese electric car makers.

He expressed his appreciation for Slovenia's vote against the European Commission's proposal to raise tariffs on imports of Chinese EVs, noting that “tariffs are not the right way to resolve the differences”.

CEO of Plan-net Avto Marko Fenc said that China is the leading state in development of electric mobility. European countries should consider inviting Chinese partners to collaborate in developing the sector through partnerships, Fenc told Xinhua, noting that “tariffs are absolutely not the right way to go”. — Xinhua



A visitor tries a vehicle at the inauguration ceremony of Dongfeng sales and technical centre in Kamnik Pod Krimom, Slovenia, on 23 October 2024. **PHOTO: ZELJKO STEVANIC/XINHUA**

EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN, YANGON **INVITATION FOR BIDS (TENDER NOTICE)**

The Embassy of Pakistan, Yangon, invites sealed bids from eligible contractors/firms for the execution of miscellaneous civil works at the Embassy Residence (Residential Building A3) and the Chancery (Building A4). Detail of the work is given in the technical specification which can be obtained from the Embassy during office hours (from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm).

1. Eligibility Criteria:

- Contractors must be registered with the relevant authorities and companies as per local law & regulations.
- Contractors must have at least five years' experience of execution similar nature of works.
- Contractors must have the capacity to complete the project within the specified timeframe.

2. Bid Submission Requirements:

- Bidding documents, including detailed technical specifications and terms of the contract, can be obtained from the Embassy's administration office during office hours
- Bidders must submit a complete bid, including the following documents:
 - o Company profile and registration certificate.
 - o Detailed cost breakdown for each category of work.
- Bidders must submit separate quotations for Residential Building A3 and Chancery Building A4.
- Sealed bids should be submitted to the Embassy of Pakistan, Yangon, no later than **14th November 2024 by 1700 hours.**
- Bidders must ensure that bids are complete and meet all requirements to avoid disqualification.

3. Bid Opening and Evaluation:

- Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives at the Embassy of Pakistan, Yangon, on **15th November 2024** at 1100 hours.
- Evaluation will be based on compliance with technical specifications, proposed timelines, and cost.

4. Contract Award:

- The contract will be awarded to the lowest compliant bidder following a thorough evaluation of all submissions.
- The successful contractor must complete the works within the agreed timeframe and specifications.
- Payment will be made upon the successful completion of the works, as certified by the Procurement Committee and the Head of Chancery, who will ensure timely payment.

5. Contact Information:

Head of Chancery:
Embassy of Pakistan, Yangon
Phone: +95 1222881
Email: acctspakembygn@gmail.com

Note: The Embassy reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.

THAI FASTER PRODUCTS AND M.K COMPANY LIMITED **(the “Company”)**

Notice under Section 147, 152 (a) of the Insolvency Law and Rule 9 and 15 of the Insolvency Rules
(Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

As per special resolutions duly passed in writing on [24.10.2024] by all of the members of the company:

1. The process of members' voluntary winding up will proceed and take effect from [24.10.2024].
2. U Sai Aung Sar (Practising Accountant Registration No.1105) shall be and is hereby appointed as liquidator of the Company for the purpose of such members' voluntary winding up and is authorized to carry out the Company's affairs in respect of such winding up; and
3. All of the creditors (if any) of the Company are required to contact the liquidator before [25.11.2024] with detailed particulars of their claim attached with complete supporting documents. The Company shall not take any responsibility for or settle any debts that are claimed and submitted after such date.

U Sai Aung Sar

Practising Accountant Registration No.1105, Liquidator

No.14, 5th Floor (Left), San Yeik Nyein (2) Street, Hledan, Kamaryut Township, Yangon.
Tel: 09795651876, 095240521

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

No place for double standards in steps to counter terrorism, terror financing: PM Modi at BRICS Summit

Modi emphasized the need for a unified approach to advance the long-pending Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the UN.

CALLING upon BRICS countries to cooperate strongly to deal with terrorism and terror financing, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that there is no scope of double standards in dealing with the menace.

Addressing the Closed Plenary Session of the 16th BRICS Summit, PM Modi also called for steps to prevent radicalization of youth.

“In order to counter terrorism and terror financing, we need the single minded, firm support of all. There is no place for double standards on this serious matter. We need to take active steps to stop radicalization of youth in our countries.

“We must work together on the long pending matter in the UN of the Comprehensive Convention on International



The three-day gathering is the biggest international event in Russia since the Ukraine conflict began. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

Terrorism.”

The Prime Minister emphasized the need for global regulations on cybersecurity and AI during the BRICS Summit, addressing pressing challenges like wars, economic un-

certainty, and climate change.

He highlighted emerging issues such as cyber deep-fakes and disinformation, asserting BRICS as an inclusive platform focused on humanity. — ANI

N Korean trash balloon lands in Seoul's presidential compound

A North Korean balloon carrying trash landed on Seoul's presidential compound Thursday, authorities said, with local media reporting it contained propaganda leaflets ridiculing President Yoon Suk Yeol and his wife.

Activist groups in South Korea have long sent propaganda northwards, typically carried by balloons, including leaflets, US dollar bills and sometimes USB drives containing K-pop or K-dramas, which are banned in the

tightly controlled North. North Korea has been bombarding the South with trash-carrying balloons since May, in what it says is retaliation for the activists' propaganda missives. A balloon from the North “exploded in the air; and the fallen debris was identified scattered around the Yong-san office area” early Thursday morning, the Presidential Security Service said in a statement sent to AFP, referring to the presidential compound. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli army says hit Hezbollah arms facilities

THE Israeli military said Thursday it hit Hezbollah weapons production facilities in the group's south Beirut bastion, in some of the fiercest strikes on the area since the Lebanon war began.

At least 17 raids levelled six buildings, according to Lebanon's official National News Agency, with a huge ball of fire enveloped in a tower of smoke soaring into the night sky.

Israel is fighting Iran-backed Palestinian militant group Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon and has vowed to retaliate against Iran for a 1 October missile attack.

The war in Lebanon erupted last month, nearly a year after Hezbollah began low-intensity cross-border fire into Israel in support of Hamas following its 7 October 2023 attack. — AFP

China, Japan hold high-level consultations on maritime affairs

CHINA and Japan held the 17th round of high-level consultations on maritime affairs in Tokyo on Wednesday, exchanging in-depth views on maritime affairs and agreeing to make the East China Sea a sea of peace, cooperation and friendship.

Director-General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Hong Liang and Director-General of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau of the Japanese Foreign Ministry Hiroyuki Nambu co-chaired the 17th round of consultations of the High-level Consultation Mechanism on Maritime Affairs between China and Japan. Representatives



The photo taken on 11 January 2024 shows a mariculture zone in Xiapu County, southeast China's Fujian Province. **PHOTO: JIANG KEHONG/XINHUA**

of the departments related to maritime affairs from the two countries were present.

This round of consultations saw a plenary meeting and three working group meetings on maritime defence, maritime law enforcement and security, and the marine economy.

China elaborated on its position on issues related to the East China Sea, Diaoyu Dao, the South China Sea, and the Straits Chinese Taipei, among others, and urged Japan to respect China's territory, sovereignty and security concerns, and to take practical actions to promote the improvement and development of China-Japan relations. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Young Myanmar boxer Thant Zin inks first sponsorship deal

YOUNG Myanmar boxer Thant Zin, who has rapidly become popular among boxing fans in no time, has signed the first sponsorship contract of his ONE Friday Fights career.

Fary Taxi Company signed a contract at a sponsorship granting ceremony at the Novotel Hotel on 20 October to start all the necessary support for the young fighter Thant Zin. Thanks to the sponsorship contract, there will be a lot of support for Thant Zin's next journey as a professional fighter.

Young fighter Thant Zin is willing to fight again with Japanese fighter Takeru, who defeated him in the last match.

"At the end of this year, I will rechallenge Takeru. I will rechallenge him if we can challenge him at the beginning of next year. If we meet again this time, I think it will be a decisive match for revenge," he said.

On 21 October, the official page of 'One Championship' published a post asking one of One's veteran Thai fighters, Pan Payet, who will be his next match and displaying a photo of Thant Zin in parallel with those of veteran fighters Superlek, Rodtang and Takeru. So, the media is suggesting and judging that Thant Zin, a young Myanmar fighter, has reached a specific position in the One Championship. — Htun Htun/ZN



This photo shows young fighter Thant Zin and Fary Taxi Company signing a contract.



Defending Champions of the Myanmar National League Shan United Football Club. PHOTO: SUFC

Shan United hosts AFC Challenge League Group D matches

SHAN United Football Club will proudly host the Group D matches of the 2024-2025 AFC Challenge League, starting on 27 October in Yangon. The club is set to compete against teams from China and Laos this tournament.

The matches will take place in two zones: East Asia and West Asia. In the West Asia zone, four groups will compete, while the East Asia zone will have two groups. Shan United will face the Young Elephants from Laos and Tainan City from Chinese Taipei during their fixtures.

Shan United's chairman,

U Khun Naung Myint Wai, expressed confidence in their preparations for this international representation. "We aim for solid results as we are representing our country. Our team has been preparing not only to defend our domestic league title but also to compete in two international tournaments this season. We have strengthened our squad by bringing in a Japanese midfielder and a local player during the transfer window.

"Although there have been coaching changes, we remain united and focused on achieving positive results. We have taken our international performances

seriously since last year, and I believe we have made significant improvements. We recognize that our opponents, the clubs from Laos and China, are strong teams, so we will need to put in extra effort. As hosts, we aim to progress beyond the group stage," he stated.

The matches will run from 27 October to 2 November, with all games taking place at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon, starting at 4 pm. The top two teams from both East Asia groups and the best second-placed teams from the West Asia groups will advance to the next round. — Ye Yint Lwin/KZL

Inter and Juve face off after contrasting fortunes in Champions League

INTER Milan head into Sunday's clash with Juventus in fine spirits after snatching a last gasp win at Young Boys while their Serie A title rivals are struggling to fire under new coach Thiago Motta.

The champions are two points behind league leaders Napoli before what is traditionally the biggest league match of their season, a red-hot rivalry which easily tops the Milan derby for pure hatred.

Simone Inzaghi's team are a point ahead of



Marcus Thuram (L) celebrates netting his winner at Young Boys. PHOTO: AFP

third-placed Juve and in good spirits even with injuries beginning to pile up.

Already without key men Hakan Calhanoglu and Francesco Acerbi after both picked up thigh injuries at Roma last weekend, Carlos Augusto was the latest Inter player to pull up during Wednesday's 1-0 win in Bern.

Inzaghi was forced to bring on his stars after the second string struggled in Switzerland, with Marko Arnautovic and Mehdi Taremi proving to be weak deputies for Lautaro Mar-

tinez and Marcus Thuram.

Arnautovic fluffed a penalty before Thuram struck, highlighting the difference when Inter's first choice attack partnership are on the field.

And with the games coming thick and fast and more injuries to surely come due to a packed calendar, Inzaghi will need his squad players to perform better than on Wednesday, although Juve have problems of their own and had wildly contrasting fortunes midweek. — AFP

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WORLD



BRICS countries pose for group photos during the 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia, 23 October 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

BRICS leaders adopt joint declaration following summit in Kazan

Emphasis on expanding the representation of developing nations to tackle global challenges effectively.

BRICS LEADERS have issued a joint declaration covering a wide range of issues from the reform of the United Nations (UN) to ongoing global conflicts, following the association's summit that took place on Wednesday in Kazan.

The declaration included 134 provisions in total, one of which addressed the reform of the UN.

"We reaffirm our support for a comprehensive reform of the UN, including

its Security Council, with a view to making it more democratic, representative, effective and efficient," the document read. This involves expanding the representation of developing countries to better respond to global challenges.

In addition, leaders reiterated their absolute condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and called for the prompt adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the UN.

Alongside essential reforms, BRICS

members called for the UN to play an important role in the global governance of artificial intelligence.

The declaration also focused on global conflicts including those in the Middle East and Ukraine. "We remain concerned about the rise of violence and continuing armed conflicts in different parts of the world," the declaration read. BRICS leaders reaffirmed their commitment to resolving dispute peacefully through diplomacy. — Xinhua

BLOCKCHAIN NATIONAL STRATEGY

Vietnam aims to have 20 reputable blockchain brands by 2030

VIETNAM expects to have 20 reputable blockchain brands on blockchain technology platforms in the region by 2030, according to the newly-approved national strategy on the application and development of blockchain technology.

The strategy targets to ensure Vietnam is capable of mastering and applying blockchain technology in all socioeconomic fields, realizing the goal of becoming a stable and prosperous digital nation.

According to the strategy, by 2025, 10 research and training facilities will be built in Vietnam and upgraded to serve human resources development for blockchain technology.

The Southeast Asian country is set to maintain at least three blockchain technology testing centers/zones in major cities to form a national blockchain network.

Vietnam also expects to have representatives in the top 10 blockchain training and research institutions in Asia. — Xinhua

Life-sized Gundam robot statue completed for 2025 World Expo

The statue measures 17 metres tall and weighs 49 tonnes.

CONSTRUCTION of a life-sized Gundam robot statue from the popular Japanese sci-fi anime "Mobile Suit Gundam" was completed this week at the venue of the World Expo in Osaka next year.

Hoisted by a crane, the giant statue's head was attached to its body next to Japanese toymaker Bandai Namco's

futuristic spaceport-like Gundam Next Future Pavilion on Wednesday, ready for the opening of the exposition next spring. Kneeling on one knee with its right hand extended skyward, the 49-tonne Gundam statue measures 17 metres to its fingertips.

"The statue's posture, with one arm extended towards the

sky, symbolizes reaching out to the future and paving the way to a new era of the universe together with mankind," Bandai Namco Group Chief Gundam Officer Hiroshi Sakakibara said.

This will be the first life-sized Gundam statue to be exhibited in the Kansai area of western Japan. — Kyodo



A giant life-sized Gundam robot statue is being assembled at the venue of the 2025 World Expo in Osaka on 23 October 2024. PHOTO: SOTSU, SUNRISE/KYODO