

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



A panoramic aerial view of Zone B in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone in Thanlyan Township, Yangon Region. **PHOTO: KANU**

Thilawa SEZ Investment showcased at 21st China-ASEAN Expo

A total of 21 countries invested US\$2.2 billion in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, with further investment proposals anticipated from both domestic and international entrepreneurs.

The 21st CAEXPO is being held in Nanning, People's Republic of China, from 24 to 28 September. Chairman U Yan Naing Tun of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee, accompanied by committee member Yan-

gon Region Economic Minister U Myo Myint Aung, officials from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration DICA, and UMFCCI attended the event.

During the meeting with Chinese entrepreneurs, they discussed the enhancement

of cooperation between the two countries, investment, trading and opportunities to invest in Myanmar and the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

On 25 September, the Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee

chairman attended the Myanmar (Thanlyin) Promotion Conference, and he clarified to the Chinese entrepreneurs on the investment opportunities at the Thilawa Special Economic Zone and other promising sectors to cooperate.

On 26 September, the committee chairman and party met Chinese businesspeople and discussed investment-related matters and cooperation between the two countries at the Myanmar Consulate-General in Nanning.

The visit strengthened bilateral relations, cooperation, and investment opportunities. A total of 21 countries invested US\$2.2 billion in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, with further investment proposals anticipated from both domestic and international entrepreneurs. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

NATIONAL PAGE 10



Sanitation and healthcare services continue in flood-impacted areas

Agri Dept to offer technical aid for flood-hit farmland recovery

THE Agriculture Department has been conducting awareness campaigns to provide technical support in post-flood farm recovery and replanting crops in flood-impacted areas.

Director-General Dr Ye Tint Tun managed to provide technical support in post-flood restoration plans in affected farmlands. During the campaign in Lewe Township and Pynmana Township on 25 September, directors, officials concerned, and experts elaborated on ways to

restore damaged farmland and soil and control possible pest threats after flood.

The department supported pesticides and fertilizer donated by agricultural companies at the events. Director U Zaw Lin donated K400,000 to flood-inflicted communities, including K100,000 contributions from the public through SMS transfer and K100,000 donations from experts. The awareness campaigns will be conducted in townships from other regions and states as well. — NN/KK



This image shows a flood-damaged farmland.

NATIONAL



Three (3) days remain until the National Census.



Unlocking Knowledge: The Essential Role of Libraries and Reading Habits

- A library is an institution dedicated to disseminating knowledge.
- They must take notes from their readings to deepen their understanding.
- It is essential to cultivate a reading habit.
- Reading is a powerful tool for accumulating knowledge.
- Individuals should read books to acquire knowledge.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to donate cash and books to libraries across the nation for their development on 10 April 2024)

Myanmar and China strengthen military cooperation



Senior Colonel Qu Zhe, Chinese Military Attache' to Myanmar, calls on Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy, and Air) General Maung Maung Aye yesterday.

CHIEF of the General Staff (Army, Navy, and Air) General Maung Maung Aye received Senior Colonel Qu Zhe, Chinese Military Attache' to Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, they cordially discussed improvement of friendly relations between the armed forces of the two countries, joint military training and further collaboration in defence. They then posed for documentary photos together with attendees. Also present at the meeting were senior Tatmadaw officers from the office of the Commander-in-Chief and officials of the Chinese military attache's office. — MNA/KTZH

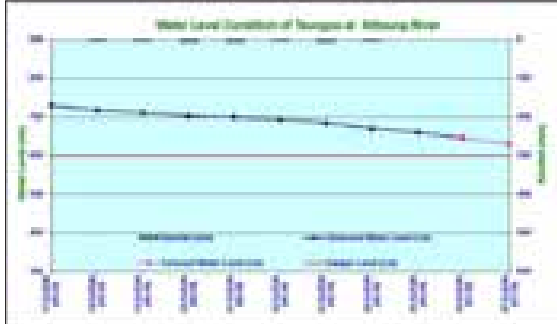
Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 18:00 hrs MST on 26-9-2024)

ACCORDING to the (17:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of the Sittoung River at Toungoo has exceeded by more than one foot above its danger level. It may fall from the present water level by about 1/2 foot during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

The water level of the Sittoung River at Madauk has exceeded by about 21/2 feet above its danger level. It may fall from the present water level by about one foot during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

It is especially alert to the people who settle near the river banks and low-lying areas in Toungoo Township and Madauk to stay away from the flood-prone areas. — DMH



Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed U Zaw Zaw Oo, Deputy Director-General of the Staff Office of Vice-President 1 of the State Administration Council Office, as Director-General of the Executive Department of the President on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

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

Announcement: Donations accepted for flood-stricken victims

IT is announced that donations will be accepted at ceremonies held at 2 pm on 28 September 2024 to support victims struck by the floods due to heavy rains from the remnants of Typhoon Yagi and the deep depression in the Bay of Bengal. These ceremonies will take place in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

Those wishing to donate can contact the following persons from the Disaster Management Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

1. Daw Lei Lei Aye, Director-General, Phone 09 2021491
2. U Win Shwe, Deputy Director-General, Phone 09 254170011
3. Daw Su Su Tun, Director, Phone 09 43009291

National Disaster Management Committee

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)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Second Amendment Law to Counter-Terrorism Law State Administration Council Law No 56/2024

9th Waning of Tawthalin 1386 ME
26 September 2024

THE State Administration Council has enacted this Law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

1. This Law shall be called the Second Amendment Law to the Counter-Terrorism Law.
2. Sub-Section (d) of Section 6 of the Counter-Terrorism Law shall be substituted as follows: -
“ (d) adopting necessary measures, for prevention, removal and dismantling of weapons of mass destruction which include biological, chemical and nuclear weapons and radioactive materials, as well as financial support for the above matters which encroach on international peace, security and stability; according to the resolutions of the United Nation Security Council.
3. Section 53 of the Counter-Terrorism Law shall be substituted as follows: -
53. “Whoever violates any prohibition of the Law, rules and regulations, notifications, orders, directives and procedures, fails to follow any fixed duties, be punished with imprisonment of no more than two years or shall also be liable to a fine no more than K10 million or shall be punished with imprisonment and fine. If the company or organization violates, they shall be liable to a fine from a minimum of K20 million to a maximum of K300 million.”

I hereby sign under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

Blood donation to hail 60th Myanmar Police Force Day

HAILING the 60th Anniversary of Myanmar Police Force Day, which falls on 1 October 2024, members of the Myanmar Police Force and clerical staff of the Ministry of Home Affairs, totalling 313, conducted a collective blood donation activity at the Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1,000-bed) and the No 2 Defence Services General Hospital (1,000-bed) yesterday.

State Administration Council Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Toe Yi, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun, Permanent Secretary U Khine Tun Oo of the Ministry of Home Affairs and relevant officials observed



Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae encourages blood donors yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

the donation and provided nutritious food and vitamins. Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar

Pyae then donated K6 million worth of hospital equipment and medicines to the Nay Pyi Taw

General Hospital (1,000-bed). Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win accepted it and returned a

certificate of appreciation.

Moreover, a total of 247 police members and clerks will donate blood on 27 September at the Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1,000-bed).

The Union minister and officials also consoled Tatmadaw members, members of the Myanmar Police Force, fire brigade and staff of the General Administration Department and teachers who participated in cleanup activities at BEHS (branch) in Hsinthay village in Pyinmana township, BEHS (branch) at Sipingyi village in Zeyathiri township and BEPSs in Ayemyinthaya village in Pobathiri township in Nay Pyi Taw and provided them with cash assistance and foodstuffs. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Offer to resolve political issues in political means

1. Tatmadaw assumed the State power in accord with the Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar only because attempts were made to grasp the State power in improper ways with ignorance over the endeavours of Tatmadaw to solve the political problems through various political means in order to peacefully end the political issues triggered by voting fraud in the multiparty democratic general election held in 2020.
2. Tatmadaw formed the State Administration Council with an equal number of military and civilian participants and adopted its roadmap and objectives. The State Administration Council is steadfastly implementing the fifth point of the five-point roadmap, as its ultimate mission is to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election and to hand over the State power to the elected government. However, the State lost a large number of human resources, infrastructures, lives and property of the people due to the fact that some individuals and organizations chose to resort to armed terrorism and armed struggle line without solving political problems through political ways. Moreover, their terror acts have posed obstacles to the peace, stability and development of the State.
3. Currently, the census is scheduled to take place on 1 October to ensure the accuracy of voter lists for the upcoming multiparty democratic general election. Now is the time to make concerted preparations for this election. Considering the losses of the State due to the armed struggle line and terrorism, ethnic armed organizations and PDF terrorists fighting against the State are invited to contact the State to resolve the political issues through party politics or electoral processes in order to be able to join hands with the people to emphasize durable peace and development by discarding the armed terrorist way.

*Information Team
State Administration Council
26 September 2024*

Union Commerce Minister joins 21st China-ASEAN Expo

UNION Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn, leading the Myanmar delegation, attended the opening ceremony of the 21st China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (CA-BIS) held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China, on the morning of 24 September. Myanmar Ambassador to China U Tin Maung Swe accompanied the delegation.



Union Minister U Tun Ohn looks into the display at the 21st CAEXPO in Nanning, China.

The ceremony featured opening remarks from Chinese Vice-Premier Mr Han Zheng and deputy prime ministers from Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Vietnam. Additionally, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim addressed the event via video message. Following the opening, Union Minister U Tun Ohn, along with other ASEAN and Chinese leaders, jointly inaugurated the Expo and Summit by pressing a ceremonial button.

The Union minister later

toured the Myanmar exhibition booths, where local businesses were showcasing a variety of goods. Myanmar's participation in the Expo includes 84 booths featuring a diverse range of products such as Arabica coffee, agricultural produce, fishery products, small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) goods, handicrafts, and gemstones.

The 21st China-ASEAN Expo and Business Summit

aim to strengthen friendship, mutual respect, and sustainable development between China and ASEAN member states. The event is also focused on promoting the development of China-ASEAN Free Trade Area (FTA) 3.0 and fostering high-quality regional growth. On the afternoon of 23 September, the Union minister, alongside other officials, inaugurated the Myanmar booth. — MNA/KZL

MoST Union Minister receives Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw met Mrs Prabashini, Ponnampereuma, Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar, in the ministry's meeting room yesterday afternoon.

They discussed technological development, human

resource advancement, and bilateral cooperation for mutual benefit in a friendly and constructive atmosphere.

Deputy Minister Dr Aung Zeya and officials from the ministry were also present on the occasion. — MNA/TRKM



Sri Lanka's Ambassador Mrs Prabashini Ponnampereuma calls on Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw yesterday.

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Sri Lankan Ambassador calls on MoRAC Union Minister

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin met Mrs Prabashini Ponnamperuma, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Myanmar, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They cordially exchanged views on the enhancement of religious and cultural cooperation

between the two countries, the facilitation, the of entry visas for pilgrims to Sri Lanka's Buddha tooth relic chamber and other places of religious significance, pilgrimage to pagodas and stupas between Myanmar and Sri Lanka, and the improvement of relations between Buddhist universities. — MNA/TS



The documentary photo of the meeting between Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin and the Sri Lankan ambassador yesterday.



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win receives Dr Md Monwar Hossain, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar, yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Bangladeshi Ambassador calls on MoH Union Minister

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win received Dr Md Monwar Hossain, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar, yesterday afternoon at the Ministry of Health's reception hall.

Both sides discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation in the health sector.

They explored areas of collaboration between medical universities in both countries and measures for organizing seminars and exchange of experiences between experts from Myanmar's Ministry of Health and from Bangladesh. Additionally, they reviewed ongoing efforts led by the

Ministry of Health, in cooperation with international and domestic organizations, to control, prevent, and treat diseases. Both parties shared views on enhancing these initiatives and fostering closer ties in health-related matters. — MNA/KZL

MoHT Union Minister receives Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar



The Sri Lanka's ambassador calls on Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine yesterday.

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine received Mrs Prabashini Ponnamperuma, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Myanmar, at the ministry's reception hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

They frankly discussed matters related to reciprocal visit to destinations of the two countries, implementation of religious and cultural tourism between Myanmar and Sri Lanka, direct flights to destinations of the two countries,

implementation of Buddhist circuit pilgrimage tours between Myanmar, India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal, continued implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed for tourism cooperation and the holding of online meetings to increase bilateral government-private tourism cooperation.

Deputy Minister U Phyo Zaw Soe, director-general and senior officials were present at the event. — MNA/TS

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

MoEA, Shambella provide cash assistance for flood relief efforts

A cash donation ceremony for flood-inflicted regions was held yesterday afternoon in the meeting hall of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement.

At the event, the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs contributed K6,030,000, while Royal Shambella Co Ltd donated K10,000,000. Union Minister Dr Soe Win accepted donations and presented certificates of appreciation to donors. — MNA/TRKM



This photo shows Union Minister Dr Soe Win presenting honoured certificates to donors.

CBM unblocks 59 companies for export earnings remittance

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) removed 59 companies and boards of directors from a blacklist for depositing export earnings into accounts in domestic banks yesterday.

CBM blocklisted a total of 137 companies for failing to remit export earnings from goods exported in 2019 into accounts in domestic banks within prescribed periods under Section 42-a of the Foreign Currency Management Law on 4 June 2022.

Among these 137 companies, 59 companies and boards of directors were removed from the denylist. — MNA/KTZH

Virtual Workshop on Upgrading HRM Practices: Modernizing Recruitment, Selection and Training Systems among ASEAN countries held

THE Union Civil Service Board (UCSB), in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat, convened a Virtual Workshop on Upgrading the HRM Practices: Modernizing the Recruitment, Selection and Training Systems Among ASEAN Countries on 26 September 2024 at Office No 17 of the Union Civil Service Board in Nay Pyi Taw through virtual platform.

The virtual workshop has been conducted as one of the activities under the ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) Work Plan 2021-2025. The workshop aims to identify the current gaps and challenges in the recruitment, selection and training systems; to learn and understand how to make them more effective and efficient; to document recommendations and ways forward on Digital Platforms; and to share and co-create the effectiveness of the HRM practices among the organizations. This project would make the Human Resource Management System more modern, efficient, transparent and inclusive, fostering innovation.

Chairman U Aung Thaw of the Union Civil Service Board, Board Members U San Myint, Thura U Bo Ni and U Kyaw Myo Htut, senior officials from concerned ministries and organizations, the Union Civil Service Board, representatives from the organizations of ASEAN countries related to the role of ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM), ACCSM Sectoral Bodies and ASEAN Secretariat, totally 80 participants attended the workshop.

At the workshop, UCSB Chair U Aung Thaw delivered a welcoming remark. According to the agenda, an overview of the importance of modernizing HRM practices in recruitment and selection was conducted by Director Daw Nan Phyu Phyu Pwint of the Civil Service Selection and Training Department under the UCSB as Moderator, individual presentations for sharing experiences and best practices among



The Workshop on Upgrading Human Resource Management Practices in progress online yesterday.

ASEAN Member States on exploring the current challenges and trends in HRM practices for recruitment and selection by the discussants from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and the Philippines. It was followed by a recap session on presentation points from AMS by the moderator.

In the afternoon session, an overview of the importance of modernizing HRM practices in training was conducted by Professor U Tin Soe of the Civil Service Academy (Upper Myanmar) under the UCSB as Moderator, individual presentations for sharing experiences and best practices among

ASEAN Member States on exploring the current challenges and trends in HRM practices for training by the delegates of Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. A recap session followed and summed up presentation points from AMS by the moderator. Breakout group discussion was also conducted, and a wrap-up session was followed with critical takeaways provided by UCSB Member U Kyaw Myo Htut.

The virtual workshop concluded with the closing remark of U Aung Thaw, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board. — MNA

Sesame trade bustles after harvest time

DESPITE a drop in monsoon sesame output, sesame seed prices rise due to growing domestic consumption and solid foreign demand. Brisk sales of sesame reap a handsome profit for growers after harvest time, according to a news report by Magway's Consumer Affairs Department.

Seasonal crops, including rice, sesame, various pulses and kitchen crops, are cultivated in Pantawpyin village-tract, Minhla Township, Magway Region. Sesame seeds were grown in May and harvested in August.

Sesame seeds are sent to

Mandalay and Yangon cities from depots in Minhla Township. They are also exported to China and Singapore through the Yangon market. Furthermore, there is a steady demand from domestic oil millers and sesame-based food industries such as sesame jam and roasted sesame businesses.

Cultivating white sesame costs K300,000 per acre, including seeds, agricultural inputs, and labourers' wages. The output is estimated at 10-13 baskets per acre depending on land condition, said a grower from Pantawpyin village-tract.

Sesame Farmer Devel-



A vendor shows sesame seeds in the market.

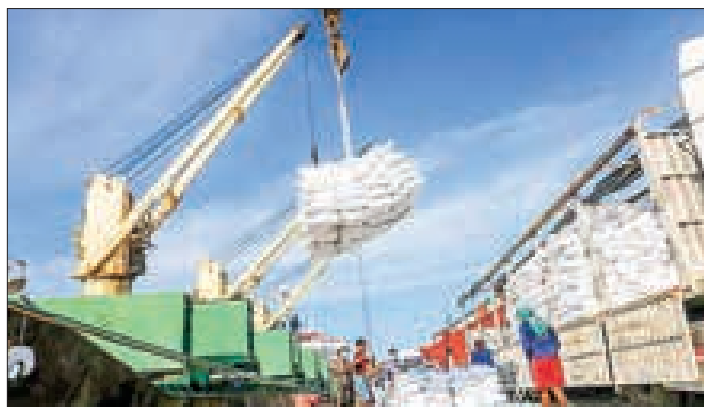
has started buying white and black sesame seeds beginning from 30 August 2024 without brokerage fees and labour wages.

Out of sesame varieties (white sesame, yellow sesame, brown sesame, black sesame and Japanese white sesame), Japanese white sesame and black sesame (Samone variety) are highly demanded in the market.

The sesame is commonly cultivated in Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing regions. Japanese white sesame from Kyaukse district are the most preferred in the market. — KK

opment Association opened a sales hub at Myint Myat Taw Win Company's factory located beside Magway's ring road and

Myanmar's rice stock at 4M tonnes despite flood damage to 5,000 acres



Export rice bags seen being loaded onto the vessel at Yangon Port.

ALTHOUGH the flood devastated about 5,000 acres of rice fields, Myanmar's rice stock inventory is estimated at four million tonnes. Consequently, it will not affect exports, said President U Ye Min Aung of the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Typhoon Yagi's impact caused flooding in some re-

gions and severe damage to nearly 5,000 acres of paddy fields, rice mills and storage facilities.

"The paddy fields were damaged. The flood-inflicted acres reached 5,000. It will not have a significant impact on Myanmar's rice production, inventory, and exports. There

is self-sufficiency of rice with an inventory of four million tonnes remaining. Myanmar's rice supply chain has to deal with only less damage. Floods battered 3,000 acres in Nay Pyi Taw and some crop acres in eastern Bago Region, Shan State and Kayah State," MRF President U Ye Min Aung said.

More than 100,000 acres of agricultural land were submerged during severe flooding in 20 towns in Myanmar. Some growers started to replant crops, including rice paddy, in flood-stricken areas.

MRF has a plan to contribute rice seeds and fertilizer for 5,000 affected acres. There are about 15 million acres of monsoon paddy, with an estimated paddy production of 1.088 billion baskets per year. — ASH/KK

CBM sells US\$12.8M+, 700,000 yuan on 25 Sept

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$12.8 million and 700,000 yuan on 25 September after its sale of \$22.6 million on 23 September.

CBM also announced on 20 September that it would inject \$30 million into the fuel oil sector. Then, it sold over \$1.2 million and 800,000 yuan on 20 September.

CBM pumped over \$8.5 million and two million Thai baht on 19 September and over 3.2 million baht on 18 September into the financial market. According to the CBM's notification dated 17 September, it would sell 10 million baht to importers on 18 September.

It also injected \$30,000 on 17 September; \$5 million on 16 September; \$230,000, over 1.5 million yuan and over 956,000 baht on 13 September into the financial market.

CBM announced on 12 September that it would pump \$10 million into the fuel oil sector and \$7 million into the edible oil sector through the foreign exchange trading platform. It sold \$12.4 million and 80 million baht on 4 September; \$90,000 on 5 September and \$100,000 on 6 September, respectively.

Following CBM's notification dated 14 August about contribution of \$100 million towards the fuel oil sector, it sold over \$9.498 million at exchange rate of K3,400 on 15 August, over \$89.975 million at exchange rate of K3,410 on 19 August, \$31 million at exchange

rate of K3,440 on 22 August, over \$35 million at exchange rate of K3,460 on 26 August and \$16.9 million at exchange rate of K3,472 on 28 August, respectively.

CBM announced on 9 August that it would sell \$6 million, five million yuan, and 10 million baht in the edible oil, fuel oil, and pharmaceutical sectors through online foreign exchange trading platforms in the coming week.

CBM sold \$5 million and five million yuan for the fuel oil, edible oil and pharmaceutical sectors on 2 August, after authorized banks sold 69 million baht and nine million yuan for those importing edible oil, fertilizer, pharmaceuticals and medical devices on 1 August through a foreign exchange trading platform.

Therefore, CBM injected 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, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee Guesthouse raises room rates

NAY Pyi Taw City Development Committee Guesthouse increased room rates starting from 24 September.

It changed the rates to K18,900 per room with no air-conditioning and K31,500 per room with an air-condi-

tioning facility. Civil servants can enjoy the special rates of K12,600 and K25,200, respectively.

The maximum occupancy is three adults. There's a family room facility for Ngu Shwe Wah Lodge in the com-

pound. The family room rate is K63,000 for five guests, with an additional fee of K12,600 per person. They permit three additional guests in the family room. The amended rates were collected starting 24 September. — NN/KK

OPINION

Create an online education system for learners

ONLINE education aims to provide learning opportunities for individuals facing challenges such as financial difficulties, regional restrictions, political barriers, and affordability issues. Additionally, it enables those who wish to continue learning during emergencies to access education continuously.

The international community has been utilizing online education systems for many years. Notably, the University of Toronto in Canada launched its first-ever online classes in 1984. Today, many of the world's top universities and institutions offer online teaching. Additionally, some universities provide a blend of in-person and online learning for various subjects. Since 2000, the online education market has seen rapid growth, now accounting for up to 90 per cent of the education sector, making it a significant and expanding market.

The internet has quickly transformed the education landscape in technologically advanced parts of the world. Its advancement

helps minimize disruptions and barriers to learning. As a result, the traditional idea of classrooms being the sole centre for education has been overshadowed by Internet technology. Today, anyone with a computer and internet access can quickly learn various subjects and technologies.

In fact, the online learning system has gained praise from learners as it allows them to access education from anywhere. It enables individuals to acquire knowledge through information technology while saving both time and money. This approach helps learners deepen their understanding of relevant subjects, and they have chances to search for opportunities to apply their knowledge in relevant sectors. Additionally, online learning encourages learners to have better reading habits, making

it a popular choice for many.

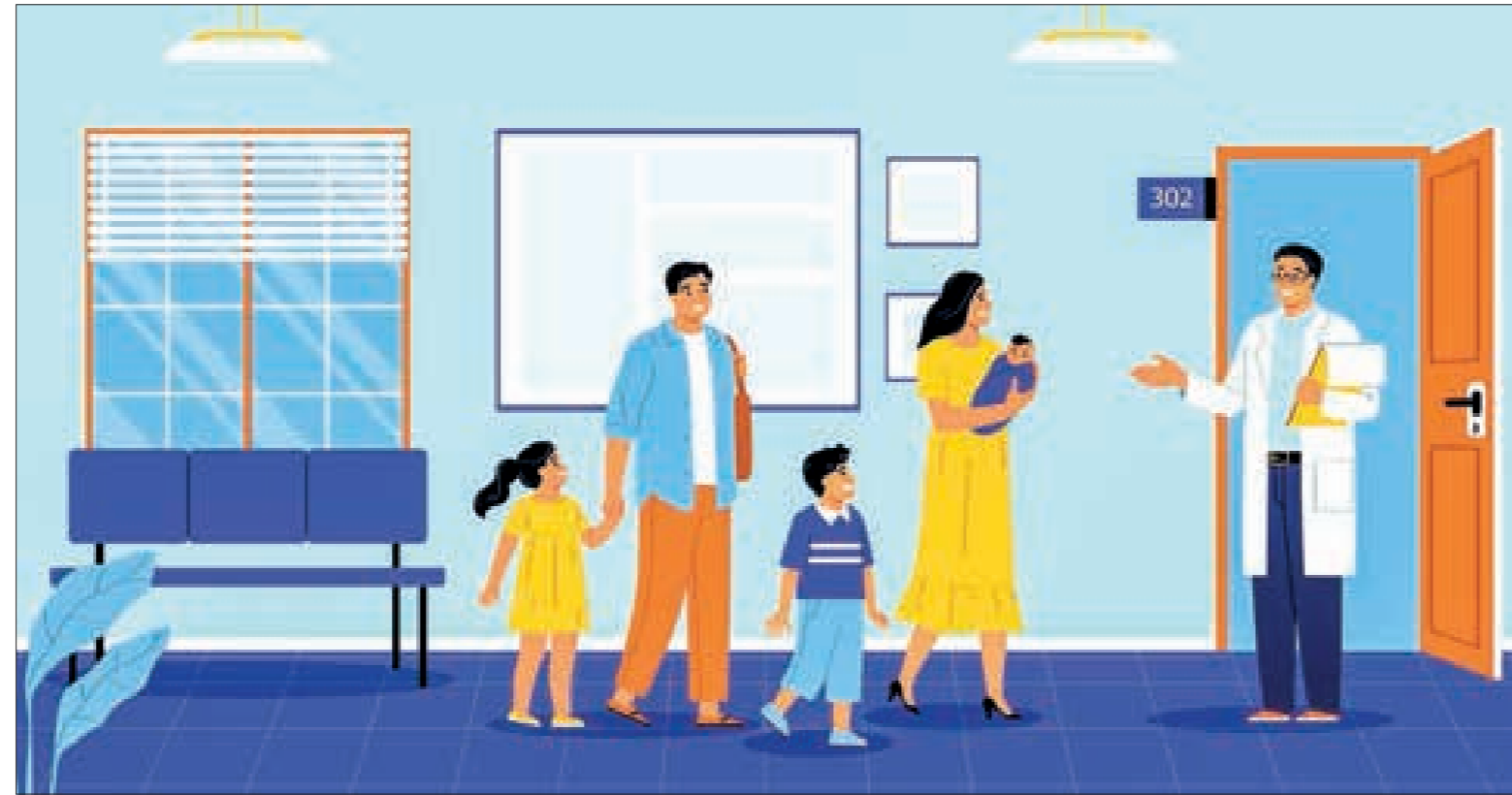
On the other hand, online education faces many challenges. During the COVID-19 pandemic, governments implemented learning programs through online platforms, TV, radio, and other technologies to keep education accessible. However, many students missed these opportunities due to a lack of access to digital technology. Currently, children in conflict areas are also missing out on learning opportunities. Additionally, some underdeveloped countries overlook online education as they focus on addressing poverty-related issues.

Whatever it may be, regardless of the challenges, technology plays a crucial role in the education sector during this period of technological advancement. Despite the obstacles, online education helps improve learning outcomes for children. It creates opportunities for an inclusive learning environment, allowing those affected by conflicts or emergencies to access education. Therefore, online education will be essential across the world for those seeking to acquire knowledge.

THE Ministry of Health, Myanmar, laid down two objectives: to enable every citizen to attain full life expectancy and enjoy longevity of life and to ensure that every citizen is free from diseases.

The ways forward for the Department of Medical Services are retention of human capital in an all-inclusive approach, enhancing

Importance of teamwork and communication skills with patients and families to improve safety in public hospitals



Engaging patients and their families through clear communication enhances their understanding of treatment plans. This involvement leads to fewer adverse events and improved overall care. ILLUSTRATION: VISUAL REPRESENTATION/FREEPIK

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

individual performance by time motion analysis, proper logistics and administrative support and enhancing the performance of the hospital by result-based management, patient safety and just-in-time response.

Teamwork and communication are essential for promoting teams that develop shared understanding, anticipate needs and problems, and apply standard tools for managing communication and conflict. In such doing, the following must be considered to improve safety in public hospitals: -

- **Enhanced Patient Safety:** Effective communication and teamwork among healthcare providers reduce the potential for errors, which can significantly improve patient safety. When all team members are

on the same page, the likelihood of mistakes decreases.

- **Improved Patient Outcomes:** Collaborative efforts ensure that patients receive comprehensive care. That means better diagnosis, treatment plans, and follow-up care, leading to improved health outcomes.

- **Increased Patient Satisfaction:** When healthcare providers communicate clearly and work together efficiently, patients and their families feel more involved and informed about their care. That leads to higher satisfaction levels.

- **Prevention of Medical Errors:** Miscommunication is a common cause of medical errors. By fostering a culture of open communication and teamwork, hospitals can pre-

vent many of these errors.

- **Efficient Care Delivery:** Teamwork and effective communication streamline processes, making the delivery of care more efficient. That can lead to shorter hospital stays and better resource utilization.

- **Engagement of Patients and Families:** Engaging patients and their families in the care process through clear communication helps them understand their treatment plans and what to expect. This involvement is linked to fewer adverse events and better overall care.

Simply treating colleagues and patients with respect – talking with them and listening to what they have to say with an open mind – is the first step towards effective communication and teamwork. Structured communication makes interactions with patients more effective and efficient, and it does the same thing for interactions among colleagues.

A critical communication tool that can help during briefings and debriefings is called “Situation-Background-Assessment-Recommendation” (SBAR). The SBAR technique provides a framework for communication between members of the healthcare team about a patient’s condition.

ment of the problem)
B = Background (pertinent and brief information related to the situation)

A = Assessment (analysis and considerations of options – what you found/think)

R = Recommendation (action requested/recommended – what you want).

It allows for an easy and focused way to set expectations for what will be communicated and how between members of the team, which is essential for developing teamwork and fostering a culture of patient safety.

Effective teamwork and communication are critical parts of the design of safe systems. In addition, strong teamwork and communication skills with patients and their families, hospitals can enhance the quality of care, improve satisfaction, and ultimately boost overall performance.

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S = Situation (a concise state-

The Silent Debt of A Daughter's Heart

By Min Zan

DEBT is a shadow that looms over the lives of many, creating fear, anxiety, and a relentless sense of obligation. It's a concept most of us dread, an invisible chain that binds us to responsibilities and expectations. Yet, not all debts are monetary. Some are carved in the depths of our hearts, debts that can never be fully repaid. One such debt is the debt of gratitude to a parent – something far more profound than financial obligations. This is the kind of debt that I carry deep within me, especially towards my mother, whose silent sacrifices continue to shape my life. In a world where financial debt can ruin lives, the emotion-

al debt I owe my mother weighs heavier than anything else.

Debt, in its traditional sense, refers to owing money to someone. It is the position of being bound by a financial obligation. I fear this form of debt intensely. The thought of owing money or being involved in any financial transaction where I am both debtor and creditor terrifies me. I avoid borrowing and lending alike, refusing to let myself fall into the spiral that debt brings. If, by any unfortunate circumstance, I end up in debt, I make sure to repay it immediately, restoring my sense of peace. Yet, in following this habit so strictly, I have sometimes lost money to friends who never returned it. It is a price I am willing to pay to stay debt-free.

But life, as we know it, isn't

that simple. No matter how much I try to live without debt, I find myself entrenched in a different kind – an emotional one. My parents, particularly my mother, have been the pillars that made me who I am today. I owe a debt of gratitude to them, a debt that no amount of money can settle. Unlike financial obligations, this is a burden I carry willingly, even joyfully. It's a debt that I know I can never fully repay, but I am committed to doing everything in my power to honour it.

The weight of this debt became heavier after my father's passing. During my university years, my dad suddenly passed away, leaving a void in my life that felt like rowing a boat without oars. My journey in life seemed to halt, adrift in uncertainty. But

my mother, in her quiet resilience, became the substitute for those broken oars. She guided me with her strength, ensuring that I reached the shore of my educational dreams. While my heart ached from loss, my mother's unwavering support became the lifeline that carried me forward.

Now, as I navigate the complexities of adulthood, my mother continues to shoulder her responsibilities, especially in supporting my younger sister's education. With my role as a government staff member keeping me away from home, my mother remains at the forefront, battling against the trials of the world. She gives so selflessly, asking for nothing in return, yet I can feel the weight of her sacrifices.

As a young woman myself, I

yearn to experience the fullness of life – love, companionship, and the thrill of pursuing my passions in literature and art. I dream of one day standing by my sweetheart's side, basking in happiness, hand in hand. But every time I imagine such a future, but in my life, it stands in the shadow of the debt I owe my mother. A mother's love is the purest form of unconditional care. From the moment a child is born, a mother dedicates her time, energy, and heart to ensure that her child grows in comfort,

safety, and happiness.

She is the one who stays awake during sleepless nights, worrying about her child's future, sacrificing her own needs for the wellbeing of the one she loves most. This level of devotion is not something that can ever be repaid with material things. A mother does not count her sacrifices, nor does she expect anything in return. But for every child, these unspoken acts of love create a debt, one that is not measured in money but in gratitude and respect. It's a debt that grows with every kind gesture, every meal prepared, every word of encouragement spoken when the world seems too harsh to face.

A mother's love is more than just providing physical care; it is the emotional and mental founda-



PHOTO CREDIT: GOOGLE

tion of a child's life. She is the first person a child turns to in times of fear or uncertainty, and she is the one who holds the pieces of a child's shattered dreams and helps them rebuild. A mother's love means guiding her child through the complexities of life, often at the expense of her own dreams and desires.

SEE PAGE 12

NATIONAL

Sanitation and healthcare services continue in flood-impacted areas

EFFORTS for relief and recovery continued with total momentum in regions and states inflicted by flooding, including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

These activities cover flood-stricken towns and villages in states and regions, including Zeyathiri, Pyinmana, Tatkon, Lewe, and Pobbathiri townships within the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, as well as in southern Shan State's Kalaw Township, Kayah State's Loikaw Township, and Bago Region's Toungoo Township.

Assistance is provided to relocate essential items for monasteries, schools, hospitals, and government buildings, while sanitation work is carried out on local roads, bridges, and villages. Tatmadaw members, police officers, firefighters, Red Cross members, and social welfare



Photos depict relief and rehabilitation measures ongoing in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

groups actively cooperate with residents to remove debris and fallen trees, ensuring safety and cleanliness.

In addition, temporary shelters are providing necessary health care services and awareness programmes to flood

victims. Contributions from Tatmadaw families, government departments, organizations, and donors include essential supplies such as clothing, food, and funds. Donations are also extended to monasteries and monks in these areas.



State and Region chief ministers, commanders of military commands, and officials have visited the impacted areas, providing further support and coordination to meet local needs. Relief items, food, and financial assistance continue to be distributed.

Furthermore, efforts to repair damaged roads and bridges due to the flooding are ongoing. Temporary steel Bailey bridges are being installed as replacements while repair work on other damaged bridges progresses rapidly. — MNA/KZL

Khaing Hnin Wai Foundation donates K500M to flood-hit villages in Loikaw



Photos capture actress Khaing Hnin Wai donating K1 million per household.

ACTRESS Khaing Hnin Wai reported that her foundation donated K1 million per household to 500 flood-affected families in Loikaw Township, Kayah State, on 25 September.

"We carefully assessed

the situation in Kayah State and provided cash assistance to the flood-affected households, giving K1 million to each of the 500 families. In addition, we distributed food and clothing," said Khaing Hnin Wai.

Likewise, the Khaing Hnin Wai Foundation donated K3 million per household to 155 flood-affected families in Kalaw Township, Shan State, on 24 September. — ASH/MKKS

Red Cross volunteers aid flood victims in Shan State (South)

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Red Cross Society, Red Cross brigade members from northern and southern Shan State, under the leadership of the Shan State (South) Supervisory Committee, have been providing timely assistance to those affected by floods.

On 23 September, Red Cross members, along with staff from the rural health centre, provided healthcare services to flood victims at a mobile clinic in Hsison village. They also distributed carbolic soap, electrolyte powder, clothes, and sanitary pads.

Similarly, on 22 September,

teams of Red Cross volunteers, alongside social organizations, local elders, and well-wishers, donated rice, cooking oil, medicine, salt, ready-to-eat meals, snacks, instant noodles, purified drinking water, blankets, clothing, and financial aid to flood victims in Kalaw and Shwenyaung Townships.

Additionally, the volunteers visited flood victims in temporary shelters in Inntain and Nangpan villages in Nyaungshwe Township, where they distributed purified water, instant noodles, clothes, and snacks. — Htun Htun/TRKM



This photo reveals the Nyaungshwe Township Red Cross branch offering relief items in a mobile clinic in Hsison village.

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NATIONAL

Vocalist May Khalar to perform at Yangon's 'Rhythmic Rendezvous' Concert for flood relief



This picture showcases May Khalar donating for flood victims.

SONGSTRESS May Khalar will perform as a special guest at a music concert titled "Rhythmic Rendezvous" at the Melody Bar in North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, at 6:30 pm on 29 September. The concert aims to raise funds for areas affected by flooding. Alongside May Khala, DJs Keko and Larry will also take the stage, with musical accom-

paniment from the Race Music Band.

"Since last month, we have been collecting bonuses earned from our concerts at home and abroad for flood relief charity, and my friends and I have been making donations together. We plan to donate all the performance fees from the upcoming concert to support flood victims," May Khala stated.

She added, "On 20 September, we visited the flood relief camp set up at No 5 Basic Education High School in Taungoo and donated essential items. We also served chicken soup there, with the total cost of the donations amounting to approximately K90 million." — ASH/TKO

MGMA to make donations to flood-affected areas through helping-hand package programme

THE Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) will make donations to flood-affected areas through the "helping-hand package" plan, according to the association's statement.

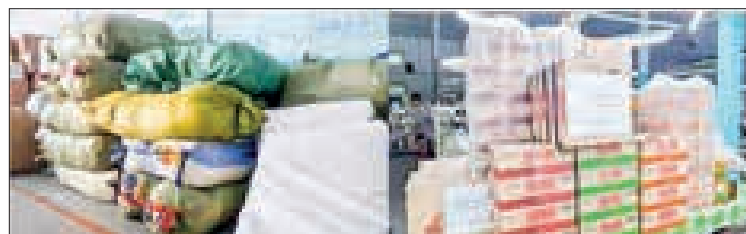
MGMA's CSR team is buying and collecting items such as rice, oil, salt, soap, dried fish, canned fish, beans, medicine, mosquito nets, blankets, pots, pans, dinner plates, bowls, and slippers to donate to flood-affected areas.

In addition, advance teams were sent to these areas to observe the current situation of

the flood-affected people. Based on the need assessments of the flood-affected villages, phase (I) of the project has been started.

MGMA has made an initial allocation of K 100 million and preparations are being made to donate to 1,000 families in flood-hit villages in Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw.

They will also donate garments and various consumer goods to Toungoo, Yamethin, Inlay, Nyaungshwe and Kalaw, which were severely hit by floods, through communicating with local charity groups. — MT/ZN



MGMA gathers foods and relief items to be donated.

Counter-argument to false information

False reports circulating on flood relief efforts in Loikaw

MALICIOUS news outlets have been spreading false reports claiming that flood relief supplies in Loikaw, Kayah State, are being withheld. According to local officials, these reports are entirely baseless.

The flood relief operations in Loikaw are being carried out in an organized manner by responsible authorities, who are working closely with relevant officials, and civil society organizations.

Donated relief supplies are being delivered to flood victims in need through various methods, and any claims of mismanagement or withholding of aid are unfounded. Officials stressed that these false reports appear to be deliberately designed to mislead the public and distort the ongoing relief efforts. Local authorities confirm that relief work is proceeding smoothly and remains focused on supporting those affected by the floods. — MNA/KZL



This screenshot validates misinformation.

Confiscated illegal goods: Timbers, industrial materials, consumer goods, foodstuffs, fuel oil, motorbikes and vehicles

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

During inspections on 24 and 25, the combined Customs on-duty teams captured 43 kinds of goods worth K51,271,391 without official documents at the International Airport (Import Desk) and two trucks heading to Yangon from Myawady, carrying various types of consumer goods valued at K20,184,000 that were different from the Import Declaration (ID) at the Ywathagy Dry Port. The action was conducted in line with Customs procedures.

On 25 September, the combined teams managed by the Taninthayi Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force impounded illegal teaks weighing 3.098 tonnes worth K619,760 in Myeik and a kind of industrial material and two

kinds of foodstuffs worth K8.2 million without official documents that were piled up at the highway bus station compound in Kawthoung township. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

Additionally, the combined teams captured a Nissan Caravan mini-bus (approximately K37 million) carrying four kinds of industrial material and kinds of consumer goods worth K11,689,780 without official documents near Milepost 21 on the Mandalay-PyinOoLwin Road, a Nissan Diesel truck (approximately K100 million) carrying illegal timbers weighing 8.274 tonnes worth K1,985,760 in Dagon Myothit (South) township, two unregistered vehicles (approximately K7.5 million) in Hlaingthaya (West) and South Okkalapa townships and 13 kinds of smuggled foodstuffs valued at K13.5 million that were piled

up by the side of road in Muse township. The action was taken under Customs procedures, the Forest Law and the Export-Import Law.

On 26 September, the combined teams nabbed illegal fuel oil weighing 125 gallons of diesel and 21 gallons of petrol with related things worth K1,510,940 in Dedaye township, two unregistered vehicles worth K21.5 million at the Yadanabon Bridge combined checkpoint in Sagaing township and six unregistered motorbikes valued at K2.45 million in Magway, Pakokku and Thayet districts. The action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law and the Export-Import Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 27 arrests were made on three consecutive days from 24 to 26 September, with an estimated value of K367 million. — MNA/MKKS

ECONOMY/ARTICLE WORLD

The Silent Debt of A Daughter's Heart

FROM PAGE 9

She makes countless sacrifices, not because she is asked to, but because her love drives her to do so. This love cannot be measured or repaid, creating an invisible debt that every child carries. It is a debt of the heart, one that makes children realize that no matter how much they give back, they will never be able to match the boundless love they have received.

For every child, the realiza-

tion of this debt becomes clearer as they grow older. As children, we take our mother's love for granted, assuming it will always be there, assuming that it's natural for someone to give so much without expecting anything in return. But as we mature, we begin to understand the weight of what our mothers have done for us. We see the years of effort, the quiet sacrifices, and the countless moments when she put our needs before her own. That creates a debt that is far deeper than any

financial obligation – it's a debt rooted in love, one that compels us to give back in whatever way we can, even though we know we can never fully repay it.

It's an emotional struggle, knowing that I may never be able to fully repay my mother for all that she has done for me. No matter how hard I try, no amount of success, money, or even love can match the endless hours of care, the sleepless nights, or the sacrifices she has made to ensure my future. And yet, I am determined.

I know that no material thing can balance the scale, but I can give her the one thing that is entirely mine – my heart. My mother may never ask for anything in return, but I know deep inside that the least I can do is love her back with all the depth of my soul. I have nothing more to give than that, and I hope it will be enough.

If my mother knows how much I agonized over this debt and how long I long to repay her for all that she has done, I wonder what she would say. Would she tell me that my love is enough? Would she laugh off my concerns and assure me that I owe her nothing?

Perhaps she would. But that doesn't change the truth – that I cannot rest until I have given back as much as I can. My heart, torn between love and obligation, will never stop striving to repay the unpayable. And though the weight of this debt may follow me for the rest of my life, it is a burden I will carry proudly, for it is the debt of love, sacrifice, and a mother's unyielding grace. If Mom knows it... she may not ask for anything in return, but I will still give her everything I have.

Credited to Ms Moon



Lady Gaga plants lipstick smile on 'Mona Lisa' in Louvre clip

LADY Gaga comes face to face with the "Mona Lisa" in the Louvre and plants a lipstick smile on her face in a new video clip released Wednesday by the singer and the French museum.

The American diva who stars in the new "Joker" movie, channelled her Harley Quinn character to do a little bit of lipstick "vandalism" to Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece to promote the Louvre's new exhibition, "Figures of the Fool", which like the movie, opens next month.

Lady Gaga creeps through the Paris museum at night in a red wig singing a song composed specially for the video, which was released on her Instagram and TikTok accounts.

She ends up nose-to-nose

with the Mona Lisa before painting a clownish smile in lipstick on the protective glass in front of it. As she stands back, a black mascara tear drops from the star's eye.

At Paris Fashion Week, Maria Grazia Chiuri showcased Dior's sporty collection, featuring bomber jackets and parachute trousers with intricate zips and straps, highlighting craftsmanship. Evening dresses honoured Greek warrior Amazons, complemented by flat boots.

Simultaneously, Anthony Vaccarello's Saint Laurent presentation embraced 1980s style with oversized menswear-inspired outfits, drawing a glamorous crowd, including celebrities like Gwyneth Paltrow and Kate Moss. — AFP

Dior's arrows and Amazons as Saint Laurent revives its master



Italian Instagram artist Sagg Napoli (left) presents a creation by Dior for the Women Ready-to-wear Spring-Summer 2025 collection as part of the Paris Fashion Week. PHOTO: BERTRAND GUAY/AFP

DIOR gave Paris Fashion Week a shot of Olympic adrenaline on Tuesday with a troop of athletic Amazons striding down its runway amid whizzing arrows.

Not for the first time, Italian designer Maria Grazia

Chiuri dipped into her feminist quiver to deliver modern, technological looks for strong women taking on the world.

Almost entirely in black and white, her spring-summer collection was inspired by the Amazon dress created by the

fabled French brand's founder, Christian Dior, in 1951.

To hammer the mythological point home, Chiuri had the London-based Neapolitan artist SAGG Napoli — an archer — fire off arrow after arrow at a target in the middle of the runway as her models marched steelily down either side.

A plexiglass screen ensured no one was skewered but still the heartbeat quickened, helped on by thundering Italian techno.

Chiuri, who loves to use stirring quotes on her creations, cited her fellow Italian after a summer of Olympic and Paralympic triumphs in the French capital: "May the building of a strong mind and a strong body be the greatest work I have ever made." — AFP



The video comes at a time when paintings are being attacked in museums by climate activists, including the Mona Lisa. PHOTO: DAVID CANTINIAUX / AFP

Multiple arrests after US woman uses machine-assisted suicide

SWISS police said Tuesday they arrested several people after a US woman used a controversial suicide pod to end her life.

The Sarco capsule, designed for assisted dying by replacing oxygen with nitrogen to induce hypoxia, was reportedly used in Switzerland, raising significant legal

and ethical issues. Although assisted dying is legal, active euthanasia remains banned. Swiss Interior Minister Elisabeth Baume-Schneider declared the use of the Sarco "not legal", leading to multiple arrests related to the incident. The Last Resort organization introduced the Sarco, claiming it provides a "peaceful,

fast, dignified" death. The first reported use involved a 64-year-old woman from the US, suffering from severe health issues, who died under a forest canopy with only one other person present. Invented by Philip Nitschke, the 3D-printable Sarco costs about 15,000 euros, following extensive development. — AFP

Cryptocurrency platform boss urges tighter regulation

THE co-founder of one of the world's most popular cryptocurrencies called for tighter regulation of the sector to guard against the fraud and wild swings that have dogged it, in an interview with AFP

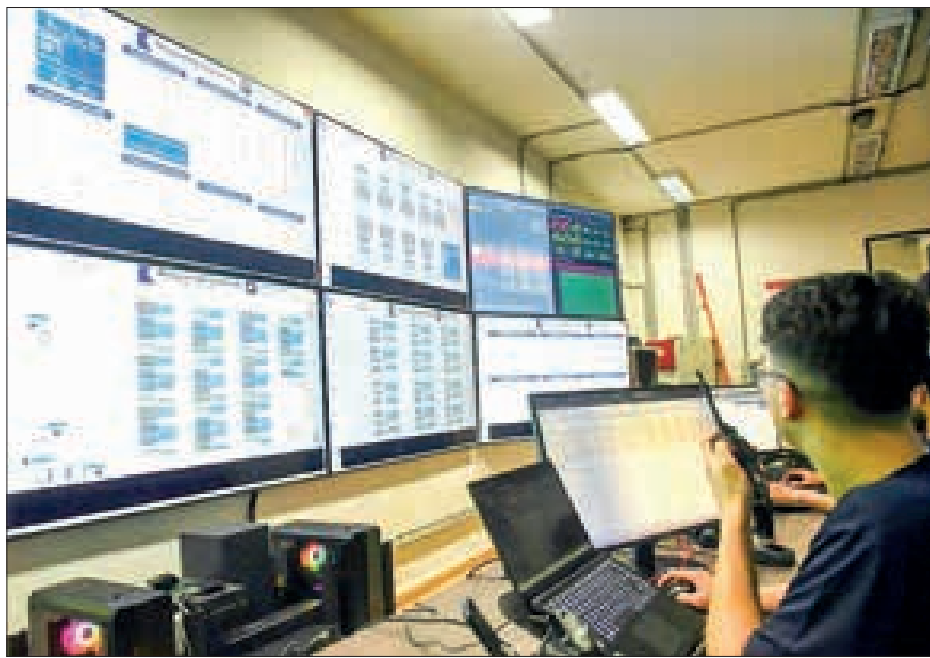
Jeremy Allaire of Circle recounted the US firm's decision to offer a stabilized cryptocurrency — and insisted crypto operators owed it to society to submit to safeguards just as other emerging sectors such as AI must. "We have social objectives that we have to match against the technology," Allaire said during a visit this week to Circle's European headquarters in Paris.

Circle offers a USDC "stablecoin", pegged to the dollar, as well as a euro-pegged variant, EURC.

Currently, \$35.5 billion worth of USDC are in circulation. As with other cryptocurrencies, transactions are recorded on a decentralized ledger, the blockchain, and not by a bank as is the case with traditional currencies. However, whereas the dollar value of cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin tends to fluctuate, often wildly, the creators of stablecoins actively target a stable value.

In a world propelled by technological development, Allaire said, safeguards are vital for such activities.

Cryptocurrencies have made headlines since their creation, from their extreme volatility to the collapse of several industry giants, foremost among them the FTX exchange platform. — AFP



Cryptocurrencies are 'mined' at digital plants like this one in Paraguay. PHOTO: DANIEL DUARTE/AFP



A strike would affect other large US ports, including Boston, Philadelphia, Charleston, Savannah, Tampa and New Orleans. PHOTO: KENA BETANCUR/AFP

New York area port prepares for possible US strike disruption

NEW York area shipping officials urged customers to immediately retrieve their cargo ahead of a possible strike next week which would impact major US ports, according to a letter released Tuesday.

Tens of thousands of port workers stand poised to walk off the job in a stoppage that would also affect myriad other industries from trucking to retail to rail just weeks before the 2024 presidential election.

In a letter to customers and partners, Bethann Rooney, port

director for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, said users should pick up their import cargo before the 30 September expiration of a contract affecting ports in the Eastern and Gulf Coasts.

"Although we remain hopeful that an agreement will be reached ... preparations are underway for a potential strike effective 12 am Tuesday, 1 October," Rooney said.

She told customers that "there will be no opportunities to deliver any cargo once a strike

begins."

Importers and logistics companies in recent days have warned of economic hardship from the possible stoppage, which appears more likely amid the lack of meaningful negotiations in recent weeks between the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX).

A strike would affect other large US ports, including Boston, Philadelphia, Charleston, Savannah, Tampa and New Orleans. — AFP

VW workers reject planned closures, layoffs

VOLKSWAGEN workers protest against plant closures and compulsory redundancies ahead of talks between the carmaker and the industrial union, IG Metall.

Unions on Wednesday criticized Volkswagen for failing to make specific proposals in the first round of talks over the German auto giant's drastic cost-cutting plan, as thousands of workers picketed the meeting.

The discussion with management was "disappointing, even sobering", Thorsten Groeger, lead negotiator for the IG Metall union, told reporters in Hanover.

Volkswagen "did not concretize its proposal and did not sketch out a concept for the future" in the opening talks, Groeger said. "Plant closures and mass layoffs remain on the table," Groeger said. — AFP

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (24/2024-2025)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective service in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-192(2024-2025)	Shot Hole Drilling and Cable/ Geophone Layout/Pick-up Service of 2D Seismic Acquisition for onshore Block MOGE-6, Sabegyisan-Natsingone Area.	Kyats
(b)	DMP/L-193(2024-2025)	Rent, Maintenance and Operational Training on Sercel 428XL Recording Unit with B Box-3 of 2D Seismic Acquisition for onshore Block MOGE-6, Sabegyisan-Natsingone Area.	Kyats

2. The open tender form including description of materials/Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms and Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 27 September, 2024 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No.(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No.(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar and should reach in tender box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 01:00 pm, 11-10-2024.

4. Tender closing date and time 11-10-2024, 01:00 pm.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph; 067-3411214

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Mexico excludes Spanish king from president's swearing-in



Sheinbaum complained that King Felipe had not replied to a letter about the colonial past. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sheinbaum barred King Felipe VI from her swearing-in ceremony, citing the monarchy's failure to acknowledge the harm caused by Spain's conquest of Mexico.

MEXICO'S president-elect, Claudia Sheinbaum, sparked diplomatic tensions with Spain by excluding King Felipe VI from her upcoming inauguration, criticizing the monarchy for failing to acknowledge the harms caused by Spain's conquest of Mexico, leading Spain to boycott the event in protest.

Mexican president-elect Claudia Sheinbaum angered Spain on Wednesday by barring its King Felipe VI from her swearing-in ceremony, accusing him of failing to acknowledge harm caused by his country's conquest of Mexico five centuries ago.

The decision prompted Spain to boycott the event altogether, with its Prime

Minister Pedro Sanchez calling the Mexican decision "inexplicable" and "totally unacceptable".

Mexico's outgoing President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador in 2019 sent a letter to the king asking that he "publicly and officially" acknowledge the "damage" caused by the 1519-1521 conquest, which resulted in the death of a large part of the country's pre-Hispanic population.

"Unfortunately, this letter was never replied to directly, as should have been the best practice in bilateral relations," Sheinbaum said in a statement.

Mexico had in July invited just Sanchez to the swearing-in ceremony on 1 October, the statement added. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia to continue cooperation with UN to ensure global food security

RUSSIA will continue cooperation with the United Nations (UN) to ensure access to Russian food products on global markets, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Vershinin said on Wednesday.

Speaking to RIA Novosti, a Russian news agency, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly High-Level Week 2024 in New York, Vershinin reaffirmed Moscow's commitment to global food security, particularly for developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

As a key player in ensuring global food security, Russia will continue its dialogue with the UN on this issue, said Vershinin. However, he noted that the collaboration between Russia and the UN over the past two years has not yielded significant results.

"Regrettably, we have to acknowledge that despite two years of joint efforts, no meaningful progress has been achieved," he said. — Xinhua

UK's Starmer aims to 'reset' relationship with EU

PRIME Minister Keir Starmer has said that he will meet EU chief Ursula von der Leyen in Brussels next week as part of his plans to "reset" UK relations with the EU after Brexit.

The UK's departure from the European Union after five decades of membership in 2020 has had an effect on trade and security cooperation, prompting calls for a rethink on future ties.

Late on Wednesday, Starmer — in New York for the UN General Assembly — posted a photo of himself and von der Leyen.

"I want to reset our relationship with the EU and make Brexit work for the British people," he wrote on X, adding that he was "looking forward" to starting discussions with von der Leyen. — AFP

Restarting nuclear power plants: The unprecedented gamble in the US

TWO American energy companies are each preparing to bring a nuclear power station back into service, an unprecedented operation which should help meet the growing need for electricity in the United States.

With demand for nuclear energy rising in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the US government eager to transition to carbon-free resources, the calculus has changed on the shuttered nuclear plants.

On Friday, Constellation Energy unveiled plans to restart a reactor at Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island, which was closed for economic rea-



Steam rises out of the nuclear plant on Three Mile Island, with the operational plant run by Exelon Generation, in Middletown, Pennsylvania. **PHOTO: ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS/AFP**

sons in 1979. The plant was the site of the worst commercial nuclear power accident in US history in 1979.

The relaunch initiative is part of a 20-year electricity supply contract with Microsoft. — AFP

Israel may send ground troops against Hezbollah

ISRAEL'S army chief told soldiers on Wednesday to prepare for a possible ground offensive against Hezbollah in Lebanon as US President Joe Biden warned against "all-out war" in the Middle East.

"We are attacking all day,

both to prepare the ground for the possibility of your entry, but also to continue striking Hezbollah," Lieutenant General Herzl Halevi told a tank brigade, a statement from the military said as Israeli warplanes conducted hundreds

of deadly strikes around Lebanon.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel's military operations against Hezbollah would not stop until northern residents can safely return to their homes. — AFP

Lewandowski goal maintains Barcelona's 100% start to La Liga season

FC Barcelona continued their 100 per cent start to the season in La Liga on Wednesday with a 1-0 win at home to Getafe, who remain in the bottom three and without a win. Inaki Pena made his first appearance of the season in the Barcelona goal after Marc-Andre ter Stegen's knee injury at the weekend, but had little work to do against a rival that created little danger until the last minute of the game.

Robert Lewandowski put Barca ahead after 19 minutes when he hooked home a loose ball after Getafe goalkeeper David Soria made a mess of a Jules Kounde cross from the right.

The second half continued with Barcelona in control, with Lamine Yamal hitting the bar with a left-foot shot and Raphinha drawing an excellent save from Soria.

It was only in the closing minutes of the game that Getafe created any real clear chances, but in the 95th minute Borja Mayoral missed from around eight yards out with only Pena to beat after a low cross from the right.

It was a huge let-off for Barca, whose next game is away to Osasuna on Saturday night. In Thursday's first game, Rayo Vallecano held Girona to a 0-0 draw in Girona's Montilivi Stadium.

Girona pressed hard for a winner, especially in the second half, but failed to hit the target, although they were unlucky to see Yaser Asprilla hit the crossbar with a powerful shot from outside the penalty area. — Xinhua



Arsenal, Liverpool advance to Carabao Cup fourth round

Liverpool and Arsenal have both secured comfortable wins in their recent League Cup matches. Liverpool thrashed West Ham 5-1, while Arsenal crushed Bolton Wanderers 5-1 in the third round of the League Cup. **PHOTO: AFP**

RAHEEM Sterling scored his first Arsenal goal and Jack Porter became the club's youngest ever starter in a 5-1 rout of Bolton in the League Cup on Wednesday, while Liverpool reached the last 16 with a 5-1 win against troubled West Ham.

Sterling marked his maiden Arsenal start following his transfer deadline day move from Chelsea with a second-half strike in the third-round tie at the Emirates Stadium.

The 29-year-old will hope his goal

marks the start of a career revival after a disappointing two-year spell at Chelsea.

Gunners boss Mikel Arteta had made seven changes from Sunday's stormy 2-2 draw at Premier League champions Manchester City, including giving goalkeeper Porter his record-breaking debut in place of the injured David Raya.

Aged 16 years and 72 days old, Porter was the youngest player ever to start for Arsenal, surpassing the previous

record holder Cesc Fàbregas – who was 16 years and 177 days when he played against Rotherham in 2003.

Porter was Arsenal's second youngest ever player overall after Ethan Nwaneri, who was 15 years and 181 days, when he made his debut in 2022.

Declan Rice put Arsenal ahead in north London after 16 minutes with a clinical finish from the edge of the area for his first goal this season. Arsenal will next face EFL Championship side Preston in the fourth round. — AFP



Taylor Fritz lost to France's Arthur Fils in the first round of the Japan Open on Thursday. **PHOTO: AFP**

Fritz loses on day of shocks at Japan Open

US Open finalist Taylor Fritz crashed out of the Japan Open in the first round on Thursday and Frances Tiafoe and Stefanos Tsitsipas joined him on a day of shocks in Tokyo.

Top seed Fritz, who this month became the first American man to reach a Grand Slam final since 2009, was bundled out 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 by France's Arthur Fils.

It came just hours after number seven seed Tiafoe, who lost to Fritz in the US Open semi-finals, was eliminated with a 7-5, 6-3 loss to fellow American Brandon Nakashima.

Greece's Tsitsipas, the number four

seed, went out with a 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 defeat to American qualifier Alex Michelsen.

World number seven Fritz won the Japan Open title in 2022 but met his match in the energetic 20-year-old Fils.

Fritz needed a medical time-out to deal with a back issue during the second set.

He could not recover as world number 24 Fils closed out the match in just over two hours to set up a second-round match with Italy's Matteo Berrettini.

Fritz played at the Laver Cup in Berlin after the US Open and said his schedule had been "a lot lately". — AFP



WORLD

Kremlin: Russia's nuclear doctrine update sends clear warning to West

THE recently announced changes to Russia's nuclear doctrine should be taken as a certain signal to unfriendly countries, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Thursday.

During the Russian Security Council's permanent meeting on Wednesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed to discuss a review of the foundational principles guiding Russia's nuclear deterrence policy. He stressed that Moscow reserves the right to use nuclear weapons in response to acts of aggression, particularly if the adversary poses a significant threat to Russia, even if that threat is presented through conventional weaponry.

"This should be considered as a certain signal," Peskov told reporters, adding that the amendments to the document have been formulated and a decision on the subsequent publication will be made later.

Russia's updated nuclear doctrine sends a warning signal to the West about the consequences of an attack, not necessarily by nuclear means, the official said.

"In fact, the whole world knows well, its sensible people know well about our nuclear potential and its deterrent role. Of course, nuclear deterrence is being adjusted taking into account those ele-

ments of tension that are developing along the perimeter of our borders," Peskov said, adding that sensible heads of state,

sensible politicians, analysts perfectly understand and understood the seriousness of Putin's statements. — SPUTNIK



Russian high ranking military officials look into an opened silo of a Russian intercontinental ballistic Topol-M missile at undisclosed location. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE**

The updated doctrine aims to alert the West to the potential consequences of aggression against Russia, which may not involve nuclear retaliation.

Recycled water becomes Beijing's stable second water source

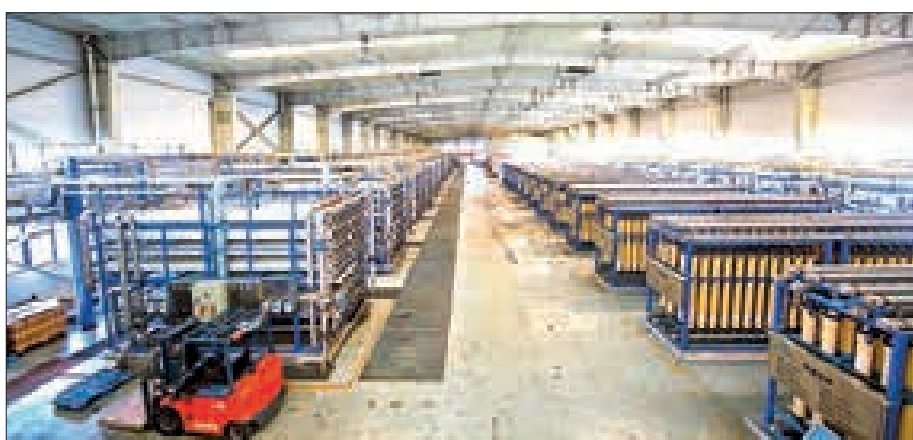
WATER reclaimed from treated residential sewage and collected rainwater has become the second most important urban water supply source for the Chinese capital of Beijing, according to the municipal water authority.

In the year 2023, the city recycled 1.28 billion cubic metres of water, of which 1.18 billion cubic metres was used for ecological and environmental purposes to replenish the city's natural water resources, according to the depart-

ment's data. "The amount of recycled water accounted for nearly 30 per cent of the city's total water consumption last year, a record high, making it the stable second water source in Beijing," said Fu Chaochen, Beijing Water Authority director of sewage treatment and reclaimed water management.

Since the beginning of 2023, Beijing has extended its sewage collection pipe network by 729 kilometres and renovated 50 kilometres long rainwater drainage pipelines. The city's sewage treatment capacity has reached 7.85 million cubic metres per day, said Fu.

Six water recycling plants are currently under construction in Beijing. Meanwhile, the water authority has launched a massive cleaning work of rainwater drainage ditches and outlets for better rainwater collection. — Xinhua



Reclaimed water applied for industrial uses in the Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area. **PHOTO: VISUAL REPRESENTATION/Tsinghua University**

State of emergency declared amid Quito wildfire

A state of emergency was declared on Wednesday in Ecuador's capital Quito as wildfires continue to devastate parts of the city, said Mayor Pabel Munoz.

The decision was made by Quito's Emergency Operations Committee after assessing damage from a massive fire in the Guapulo area in the eastern part of the city.

The fire, which began on Tuesday, has been the most destructive one the city has faced in recent years, scorching large swathes of vegetation, destroying six homes in central-northern Quito, and engulfing the city in thick smoke. "This declaration may help us secure at least half a million dollars from international cooperation agencies, which will be critical for the reconstruction and recovery of damaged ecosystems," Munoz said. — Xinhua