

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Bamboo growers to collaborate on quality and packaging

PLAYERS among bamboo and bamboo shoot growers will organize a team to cooperate in improving business operations and the quality and packaging of bamboo shoots and bamboo handicrafts, according to U Kyaw Win, a bamboo expert.

The Department of Small-Scale Industries under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development will form a bamboo and bamboo shoot producers' organization, enabling direct market access without intermediate traders.

"The main thing is bamboo shoots and bamboo handicrafts. In the past, all of us kept technology a secret, and each of us tried to be better than the others. With an organization, we can share the technology. One can supply raw materials to those who need it. Those who don't have bamboo to sell would buy from those who have remaining stocks. It will create a system to run the business. Our group and the Department of Small-Scale Industries under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development will form an organization of bamboo shoots and bamboo producers. It will be a business that collects all registered businesses," he said. With an organization, they can access the market directly without intermediaries, and there is a possibility of new products, he added.

"The reason for forming an organization is rooted in the scheme "One Region, One Product". Since it aims at regional products, a bamboo shoot product in Nay Pyi Taw is to be made by all bamboo shoot businesses in Nay Pyi Taw. They do a collective business together. If they want to export dried bamboo shoots, they can work together. The same holds for pickled bamboo shoots. The group will improve the quality and packaging. And we will connect directly with the market without any intermediary," he said. — MT/ZN



Bamboo expert U Kyaw Win and some of his bamboo artworks.

### NATIONAL PAGE 2



Myanmar Embassy urges caution after powerful quake near Kyushu

### NATIONAL PAGE 6



Cultural Tourism: An essential drive for economic development

### BUSINESS PAGE 7



Salt prices stable with regular trading in Mon State

## Myanmar takes centre stage at ASEAN Day 2024 in Bangkok



Prominent Myanmar cultural artefacts on display at the Myanmar Embassy's exhibition booth in Bangkok, Thailand, on 8 August 2024.

The 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN Day was celebrated in Bangkok at the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with Myanmar making a notable contribution to the festivities on 8 August 2024. The occasion celebrated ASEAN's enduring unity and achievements, and Myanmar was prominently involved in the festivities.

The event, held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok of Thailand, featured a grand flag-hoisting ceremony and exhibitions showcasing the rich cultures of ASEAN member countries. The Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, represented by Ambassador U Chit Swe, participated actively in the event.

At the Myanmar Embassy's exhibition booth, a variety

of prominent Myanmar cultural artefacts were displayed. Highlights included traditional arts and crafts, musical instruments, traditional attire, and Myanmar's unique culinary delights. These exhibits provided visitors with a vibrant glimpse into Myanmar's rich cultural heritage.

The celebrations were attended by several distinguished guests, including Thailand's Foreign Minister Mr Maris Sangiampongsa, Permanent Secretary Mrs Eksiri Pintaruchi, and senior diplomats from ASEAN member countries. The event also saw the participation from officials of the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as middle school students from Thailand, who engaged in the flag-hoisting ceremony. — ASH/KZL



# NATIONAL

## Kokang families in Mandalay decry MNDAAs terrorist acts

MNDAA committed launching attacks using rockets, heavy weapons, and drones in Lashio, northern Shan State, targeting non-military sites, including the Tatmadaw hospital and residential areas. These attacks resulted in the deaths and injuries of civilians, government employees, and security personnel's family members receiving treatment at the hospital. Additionally, some individuals were reportedly abducted, and others were forced to flee their homes temporarily.

Kokang families in Mandalay expressed their outright rejection and strong condemnation of inhumane and brutal war crimes committed by MNDAAs. — MNA/KZL

### Statement from Kokang ethnics in Mandalay on recent violence

1. MNDAAs 9 August 2024 has announced its return to the Kokang Self-Administered Zone in northern Shan State. Their declaration emphasizes their commitment to combatting online gambling and other illicit activities. MNDAAs aims to improve the socioeconomic conditions of Kokang's rural communities.
2. In July 2024, MNDAAs engaged in violent acts that led to instability in northern Shan State. The conflict escalated with battles in Lashio and attacks on the Tatmadaw hospital a non-military target, using heavy weapons, drones, and rockets. These attacks resulted in the tragic deaths of innocent civilians receiving medical care, including departmental staff, healthcare staff, and their families. The violence has also caused significant destruction of homes and property. The Kokang ethnic groups unequivocally condemn these violent acts and call for a complete cessation of such aggression.
3. Since 1967, due to ongoing unrest in the Kokang region, many Kokang ethnic families have sought refuge in cities like Lashio, Mandalay, and Yangon. These families have integrated into various social and cultural organizations, working together with other ethnic groups in areas such as education, religious affairs healthcare, and social welfare. The Kokang ethnic people contribute to diverse community activities, demonstrating their commitment to helping others regardless of ethnic or religious differences. The Kokang ethnics remain loyal to the State and continue to live peacefully within the legal framework without involvement in any political groups. The Kokang ethnics earnestly wish for a prompt restoration of peace and stability in Myanmar.

*Buddhist Kokang Dhammayon, Kokang ethnic families, Mandalay*

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## Students visit library in Thegon to foster reading habits



STUDENTS from the local primary school visited a public library in Thegon Township, Natalin District, on the morning of 9 August, as part of a programme designed to instil good reading habits and familiarize them with library resources.

The initiative, a collaboration between the Township Information and Public Relations Department and the Basic Education Department, aimed to enrich students' knowledge, enhance their critical thinking, and develop a lifelong reading habit. The programme included

a tour of the library where students explored various reading materials and learned about the benefits of utilizing the library effectively. Staff Officer Daw Wint Nanda Htay of the Information and Public Relations Department explained the objectives of opening the library to the public. She highlighted the purpose of the library and its role in providing educational resources. Daw Pyae Phyto Thu, Deputy Staff Officer, gave a detailed explanation of the materials displayed in the Mini Museum, as well as the library's borrowing and reading services.

The library has a diverse collection of books and periodicals, and it also offers storytelling sessions using paper puppets to engage children. Students showed great interest in the various books and materials available for borrowing.

Following the library visit, an intellectual quiz was held further to stimulate the students' knowledge and mental agility. Prizes and rewards were given to the winners, encouraging them to continue pursuing knowledge and making the most of their educational resources. — Maung Shwe Win (Pyay)/KZL

## Myanmar Embassy urges caution after powerful quake near Kyushu

CENTRING Hyuganada Sea, a powerful earthquake struck near Japan's southern island of Kyushu, and the Myanmar Embassy to Japan has suggested that Myanmar nationals living in the area should pay special attention to warnings issued by local authorities.

It said in a statement on natural disasters issued on 9 August.

A 7.1-magnitude quake hit the southern island of Kyushu in Japan at 4:43 pm on

8 August. Myanmar nationals in the quake-affected area would need to pay special attention to warnings from local authorities, said the statement. It has provided a hotline number 070-4413-7383 for help if Myanmar nationals need food and jobs.

Due to the quake, tsunamis of a metre in height are possible to happen on the coast of Kyushu and the coast of the island of Shikoku, as warned by the Japan Meteorological Agency. — MT/ZS



A magnitude-7.1 earthquake struck off Japan's southern coast. PHOTO: JAPAN METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



# NATIONAL

**M**yanmar has adopted the National Road Safety Action Plan (NRSAP) 2021-2030 with 108 work processes in eight sectors in order to contribute to traffic safety in the long run, said General Mya Tun Oo yesterday.

In the capacity of the Chairman of the National Road Safety Council, State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo delivered a speech at the third coordination meeting of the National Road Safety Council at the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw.

Speaking on the occasion, the General explained the purpose of holding the meeting to take necessary measures to reduce traffic accidents, implement the missions and visions of the action plan, accomplish the minutes of the previous meeting, and adopt future processes to have more significant success than previous years.

He continued that five Quick Win plans, and action plans (2021-2030) adopted by the NRSC comprise Road Safety Management, Safer Road and Mobility, Safer Vehicles, Safer Road Users, and Post-Crash Response in addition to provisions in line with 12 voluntary targets of Global Road Safety Plan schemed by the World Health Organization.

As such, he underlined subcommittees and region/state councils have to emphasize the implementation of



SAC Member Deputy PM Union Transport & Communications Minister General Mya Tun Oo addresses the third coordination meeting of the National Road Safety Council yesterday.



## National Road Safety Action Plan emphasizes reduction of traffic accidents

quick-win measures and action plans.

Vice-Chairs of the council Union Ministers U Myo Thant and Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung discussed further plans to implement processes of the five Quick-Win plans and missions and visions of the National Road Safety Action Plan (2021-2030).

Council Secretary Director-General of the Road Transport Administration Department U Zaw Min Oo reported on the decline of fatalities in traffic acci-

dents since 2017, and 45 per cent of death rate in accidents caused by bicycles and three-wheelers in Myanmar but 48 per cent in Southeast Asian countries.

Just ten global countries could meet a 50 per cent reduction in casualties in traffic accidents in 2020, up from 2010, but the remaining countries, including Myanmar, could not meet the target. However, Myanmar is taking measures in accordance with the WHO's Five Key Risk Factors.

Officials from subcommittees reported on the accomplishment of the second meeting's decisions, whereas chief ministers of regions and states and the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman clarified the implementation of five of Quick-Win plans.

Attendees discussed violations of traffic rules, systematic monitoring, taking action, public awareness, first-aid courses, and the repair of traffic signs. — MNA/TTA



The UNHCR representative calls on Deputy PM MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe yesterday.

## Deputy PM MoFA Union Minister receives UNHCR Representative to Myanmar

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received Ms Noriko Takagi, Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to Myanmar, yesterday

at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters related to UNHCR's ongoing activities in Myanmar as well as ways and means for further

cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and the UNHCR.

Senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also present at the meeting. — MNA

## Myanmar attends briefing session of CPC third plenary session

MYANMAR Consul-General in Kunming U Thwin Htet Lin attended a briefing on the Third Plenary Session of the 20<sup>th</sup> Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The briefing was hosted by the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Yunnan Provincial Committee on 8 August 2024 at the Foreign Affairs Office in Kunming, Yunnan Province. During the discussion, Consul-General U Thwin Htet

Lin addressed Myanmar-China bilateral cooperation and focusing on further promoting existing cooperation with Yunnan Province. He highlighted the need to align with future strategies and policies with the measures adopted at the Third Plenary Session and to strengthen the existing friendly relations. Present at the briefing were consuls-general and diplomats residing in Kunming, as well as scholarship students and teachers in Yunnan Province. — ASH/MKKS



Myanmar Consul-General in Kunming U Thwin Htet Lin (L) is seen attending the meeting.



# NATIONAL



## Union Information Minister receives Indian Ambassador

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn met Mr Abhay Thakur, Ambassador of India to Myanmar, yesterday at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

They cordially discussed cooperation in the media sector between the two coun-

tries, broadcasting trustworthy news, the groundbreaking ceremony in September of the Literati Beikman to be built with the help of India, collaboration in the economic, tourism, literature and culture sectors, and further enhancing the relationship between the two countries.

Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, Permanent Secretary U Win Kyaw Aung and heads of departments were present on the occasion. — MNA/TS

The Indian ambassador calls on Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn yesterday.

## MNHRC inspects Yangon's School For Children with Disabilities

ON 9 August 2024, the inspection team, led by U Kyaw Soe and Dr Than Myint, Members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC), inspected the School For Children with Disabilities in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, in accordance with Sections 43 and 44 of the Commission Law.

The inspection team inspects whether the disabled children who are trained in the school can get fundamental

rights, including healthcare services, food supply, provision of purified drinking water, the status of classrooms and training for development in physical, intellectual and character of children with disabilities and preparation to continue their education.

MNHRC will inform the relevant department of its findings and recommendations for necessary actions in accordance with the MNHRC law. — MNHRC



MNHRC members views round the School For Children with Disabilities in Yangon yesterday.

## UCSB Chairman attends 22<sup>nd</sup> Heads of ACCSM & 7<sup>th</sup> ACCSM+3 Heads of Civil Service Meeting in Brunei

UNDER the invitation of Mr Ajman Bin Haji Meludin, Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, Brunei Darussalam, as the 2022-2024 alternate chair of the ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM), the Myanmar delegation led by U Aung Thaw, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, arrived back to Yangon yesterday afternoon by Myanmar Airways International flight after attending the meeting for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Heads of ACCSM and the 7<sup>th</sup> ACCSM+3 Heads of Civil Service Meeting, which were held on 5-7 August 2024.

During the trip, the Myanmar delegation attended the meetings of "Strengthening ASEAN Public Sector: Fit for The Future" on 5 and 7 August 2024 and the Forum on Good Governance with the theme of "Revolutionizing the Public Sector: Artificial Intelligence for Good Governance" on 6 August.

During the meetings, the Heads of Civil Service discussed matters regarding civil



The commemorative group picture of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Heads of ACCSM & Seventh ACCSM+3 Heads of Civil Service Meeting in Brunei Darrussalam.

service affairs. They confirmed the implementations of the individual countries under the ACCSM Work Plan (2021-2025) and ACCSM Plus Three Work Plan (2021-2025), reviewed the recommendations and decisions concerned with ACCSM and other related meetings, discussed the ASEAN statement proposed by Brunei Darussalam "Strengthening Government Strategies on Mental Health and Well-Being Towards Achieving Work-Life Balance (WLB) in Public

Sector", submitted the activities for ACCSM Work Plan (2026-2030). Later, the ceremony for the handover of the alternate chairmanship of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ACCSM to the Kingdom of Cambodia was conducted, and the Head concerned reported its preparations for the ACCSM and other related meetings during its term (2025-2026).

Chairman U Aung Thaw of the Union Civil Service Board arrived back in Yangon alongside two other delegates. — MNA

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# NATIONAL

## WHO's 2022-23 report recognizes success of Myanmar in vaccination and immunization

ASEAN needs to shape a healthy living style and better healthcare system in order to emerge a healthier, stronger ASEAN community, said Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win at the 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting (AHMM) held at the National Convention Centre in Vientiane of Laos on 8-10 August.

Speaking at the meeting on coordination to set assess tasks of ASEAN health sector and prioritize the post-2025 health sector on 8 August, the

Union minister discussed monitoring new infectious diseases and potential for resurgence of contagious diseases and cooperation in preventive and control measures, Universal Health Coverage, upgrade of the health system with resilience of natural disasters, enhancement of qualification of healthcare services based on digital technology, further cooperation in patient safety and food security, and promotion of cooperation in health, financial and natural environmental conser-

vation to improve a more robust health system.

The Union minister also attended the coordination meeting on further cooperation in healthcare services between ASEAN and WHO. At the meeting, the Union minister revealed that the outbreak of COVID-19 is of great importance for the cooperation of ASEAN member states and regional collaboration in emergency health conditions.

The Union minister recounted that the 2022-23 report of WHO recorded



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win (R) attends the 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting in Vientiane, Laos, from 8 to 10 August 2024.

the success of Myanmar in vaccination and immunization, adding Myanmar decided to further cooperate with the ASEAN in the health sector.

He disclosed that vaccination for COVID-19 and regular vaccination are being undertaken in My-

anmar through the utmost efforts of the Ministry of Health and public participation with the support of the government, resulting in a number of unvaccinated children three times from 2021 to 2022.

The meetings were also attended by health

ministers, deputy ministers, high-ranking officials, the SEA regional director of WHO, the West Pacific Regional director, the deputy secretary general of the ASEAN Secretariat and officials. — MNA/TTA

## MoC Deputy Minister urges implementation of BIMSTEC FTA

TODAY'S regional cooperation is not a choice, but it is an essential part of national politics for implementing trade protection policies, climate conditions, and energy security, said Deputy Minister for Commerce U Min Min at the BIMSTEC business summit.

The BIMSTEC business summit took place at Hotel Taj Palace in New Delhi, India, from 6 to 8 August.

The deputy minister highlighted that BIMSTEC member states have to overcome challenges and difficulties in present global economic and political situations.

As such, he added that now is the time to implement the BIMSTEC Free Trade Agreement, adding that it is necessary to beef up the finalization of its process.

He explained that Myanmar is taking responsibility as a leading country in the agriculture and food security sector of BIMSTEC.

The deputy minister emphasized discussions on diverse businesses, economic development and enhancement of competitiveness in the economic sector, which are potential outcomes of the international reform process of the BIMSTEC



Deputy Minister for Commerce U Min Min poses for the documentary group picture at the BIMSTEC business summit in India.

FTA.

Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita launched the summit on the evening of 6 August, aiming to talk about strategic cooperation in better trade and economic prospects and creating a free and smooth environment for the economic sector.

On 7 August, ministers, deputy ministers and high-ranking officials from BIMSTEC member states, including the Deputy Minister for Commerce of Myanmar, delivered speeches on the implementation of the BIMSTEC FTA.

Director General U Tin Zaw Myint of the Oil and Gas Planning Department, Executive Officer Daw

Hla Hla Yi of UMFCCI, Secretary General of UMFCCI Daw Khine Khine Nwe, Central Executive Officers U Tun Tun Naing and Daw Nang Kalya Win of UMFCCI participated in the discussions on relevant sectors.

The summit was also attended by ambassadors from BIMSTEC member states, including Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung, delegates from chambers of commerce, businesspersons, policy observers, research organizations and experts, totalling more than 500.

The deputy minister and party arrived back in Yangon from New Delhi yesterday afternoon. — MNA/TTA

## MoFA Deputy Minister receives Indian Ambassador



MoFA Deputy Minister U Lwin Oo shakes hands with Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur yesterday.

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 matters pertaining to the strengthening of the existing friendly bilateral relations between the two countries and further cooperation in all areas of mutual interest, including the ongoing connectivity projects and the bilateral border management mechanisms. — MNA



# NATIONAL

## Cultural Tourism: An essential drive for economic development

CULTURAL tourism service is essential for ensuring economic growth, said Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine.

Yesterday, the Union Minister made a speech at the green tea art campaign staged at the Chinese Culture Centre on Minye Kyaw Swa Road in Ahlon Township of Yangon.

On the occasion, she continued to say that Myanmar and China share a border and natural environments with common nature and cultural heritages.

She recounted, "Success can be seen worldwide in staging the green tea art campaigns held at Chinese centres across the world starting from May 2023."

These campaigns brought a

bilateral exchange of culture and learning to society. As the tourism industry is the largest business, it contributes to the socioeconomic development of society, as well as good management and preservation of cultural heritage, she added.

The Union minister underlined that the development of tourism services in cultural heritage destinations can reduce poverty for the people.

Reportedly, China has been exporting its tea leaves to various parts of the world through the Silk Road for hundreds of years as part of the creation of links in cultural exchange among the countries. In Myanmar, green tea and salad tea are consumed as traditional foods. As such, the



Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine visits exhibition of traditional costumes of ethnics and other artworks from Yunnan Province.

China-Myanmar tea cultural exchange can modify the socioeconomic life of people from both countries.

"Dried tea, which is an ancient and beautiful green cultural heritage, is interrelated with diverse cultures. The essence of

green team art shows "concord", representing harmony, cooperation and peace," said Ms Cao Jing, Charge d' Affaires ai of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar.

The tea campaign depicted intangible culture, traditional arts, and Yunnan dances and song entertainments, including various aspects of Yunnan's unique culture, including ethnic costumes of Yunnan Province, Black Tea art, the three-course tea of Bai people, the art of dyed flowers by the Bai ethnic, Yi people's paper art, flowery arrangements and traditional paper art.

UNESCO designated the Chinese traditional green tea art and relevant customs on the Human Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2022. — TWA/ASH/TTA

## 30<sup>th</sup> Pakokku Literary Award Ceremony on 24 August



This photo depicts the winners of the 29<sup>th</sup> Pakokku Literary Award.

THE Pakokku Literary Award Fund Supervisory Committee has announced that the 30<sup>th</sup> Pakokku Literary Award Ceremony will be held on 24 August, following the announcement of the award winners for the respective genres on 1 June.

According to the announcement, Sayagyi U Khin Aung (Shwebo Bamahti Khin Aung) and U Tint Lwin (Tet Lu) have won the Lifetime Literary Award. In the novel genre, author Nyein Nyo won

the second prize, while Nay Soe Thaw received the third prize. In the collected short stories genre, Ameithar (Natmauk) won the first prize, Ko Ni Thway (Mann Myo) won the second prize, and Tun Hlaing (Myaing) won the third prize.

In the collected poem genre, Kaung Nwe won the first prize, Shwe Minthar (Sagaing) won the second prize, and Kanaung Naing Nwe Oo received the third prize. In the treatise genre, Ko Toe (Yankin) won the first prize, U Win Myint

Maung (Linn Aryon Oo) won the second prize, and Thet Oo Maung received the third prize.

In the research genre, Marn Thit Nyein (Archaeology) won the first prize, Ko Zaw Htay (Culture) won the second prize, and Lat Yar (Myitta Tagun) won the third prize.

The Pakokku Scholarship Award was offered to Ma Thant Phyu Phyu Tun (second-year painting) and Maung Min Thu Han Kyaw (second-year painting), both from the University of National Culture and Arts (Yangon and Mandalay).

The award conferred by the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library went to Khin Maung Win (Anyamyay). The cash prizes are K1 million for the Pakokku Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement, K700,000 for the first prize, K500,000 for the second prize, and K400,000 for the third prize.

Winners must contact the chief editor of Sarpay Beikman and the administration section. The date and venue of the prize presentation ceremony will be announced later. — TWA/TRKM

## YCDC to introduce waste-to-consumer items methods to schools

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) has been raising awareness about creating consumer goods from waste at basic education schools, according to Dr Aung Myint Maw, Director of the Urban Environmental Conservation and Sanitation Department under YCDC.

"The awareness workshop is conducted at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Students learn appropriate procedures for sorting and discarding wet and dry waste when the school collects it. By following these practices, we aim to help students progress to a point where they can create consumer items from waste.

"We will then organize contests and award prizes for their efforts. The goal is to teach city residents effective waste management techniques starting in elementary schools," said Dr Aung Myint Maw.

To participate in the competitions, students produce consumer goods such as flooring, various bags, sandals, and baskets using discarded water bottles, paper boxes, and plastic bags. The YCDC plans to conduct awareness programmes at 100 schools per year with the aim of teaching citizens how to manage waste properly. — ASH/MKKS

## Despatching process suspended for agencies not submitting MOU worker cash slips

THE despatching process will be temporarily suspended for employment agencies that fail to submit cash transfer slips from MOU workers to their families.

The Ministry of Labour directed agencies to provide detailed reports on the circumstances of sending family remittances for individual workers sent

by those agencies. The employment agencies confirmed that they are following these directives.

The ministry notified relevant agencies to compile family remittance lists for workers sent from September 2023 to April 2024. They are required to attach a Microsoft Excel file along with

evidence of remittances and send it to the ministry no later than the fifth day of each month, starting in June.

In addition, the Ministry of Labour informed that agencies failing to submit the family remittance accounts on time will face temporary suspension and fines. — TWA/TKO



MYANMAR'S rice and broken rice exports exceeded 510,000 tonnes in the first four months of the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, with an estimated value of \$256 million, according to the statistics of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Myanmar exported 510,911.6 tonnes of rice and broken rice in the past four months, with over 497,000 tonnes through maritime trade channels and 13,000 tonnes at border posts.

The export volumes are 111,862 tonnes worth \$55 million in April, 712,795 tonnes worth \$36 million in May, 162,325.75 tonnes worth \$84 million in June and 165,444 tonnes worth \$81 million in July, respectively.

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

The Ministry of Commerce

## Myanmar exports 510,000+ tonnes of rice in first 4 months of this FY



Export rice bags are seen being loaded onto the ocean-going merchant vessel at Yangon Port.

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 and, Myanmar Fisher-

ies 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 earnings of 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 president of the Myanmar Rice Federation affirmed.

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

## Salt prices stable with regular trading in Mon State

THE salt trade has been average, and the price has also been good in Mon State.

Salt produced from Mon State has been purchased the most from Taninthayi Region.

"Salt price has been fine for now. But I think there is no possibility of further increase in price. Taninthayi Region is the major buyer for Mon State-produced salt," said a salt farmer in Mon State.

Mon State is the second largest salt producer in Myanmar, and its salt production is approximately 50,000 tonnes during the salt season. Salt farming is mainly operated in Paung, Thanbyuzayat, and Ye townships, and the state distributes salt to some

regions, including Taninthayi and Mandalay.

Salt farming begins in the open season, October, and pauses when monsoons enter. In Mon State, there are more than 4,500 acres of salt fields, yielding more than 50,000 tonnes a year. Mon State-produced salt is used by Bago Region, Taninthayi Region and Yangon Region.

South Korea's annual salt production is about three million tonnes, but its salt demand has about 7 million tonnes. In an effort to expand the market, salt farmers have prepared to make sure the salt manufacturing is in compliance with the necessary criteria in order to export it to South Korea. — MT/ZS



A salt farm in Mon State.

## Two weeks left for Myanmar's duty-free maize export to Thailand



This photo shows a thriving corn plantation.

ONLY two weeks are left to export Myanmar's maize to Thailand with duty-free privilege.

Thailand gives the green light for maize imports under zero tariff (with Form-D) between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposes a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on maize imports to protect the rights of their growers if the maize is imported during the maize season of Thailand.

Myanmar exported more than one million tonnes of maize in the first quarter of the current financial year (2024-2025), with 390,000 tonnes in April, 370,000 tonnes in May and 390,000 tonnes in June, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's maize is primarily sent to Thailand and delivered to China, India, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

Myanmar conveyed over 2 million tonnes of maize to for-

ign trade partners in the 2022 corn season, and the majority of them went to Thailand, according to the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

The corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah, and Kayin states as well as Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons: winter, summer, and monsoon seasons. Myanmar's annual corn output is estimated at 2.5-3 million tonnes. — NN/KK



# OPINION

## Nurture children in early childhood to become reliable citizens

**AS** NATURE and the way children think are very immature, like wax, children can be shaped as expected. Adults and senior citizens are responsible for correctly shaping their lives, leading to having and forging attitudes that serve the interests of society.

Literature is of great importance in nurturing children. Various genres of knowledge can be found in works of literature, so adults need to guide children to read when they reach the readable age. At the same time, adults need to retell stories depicting heroes of any country who sacrifice life and blood for the sake of the nation and nationals to the children so as to stimulate their national spirit and patriotism since their childhood.

Parents are the early-stage of teachers in the life of children. Their influence over children is crucial. Hence, parents need to lead children in all areas at a time when children are not yet to become teenagers. In their childhood, children mostly do not have their own creativity and critical thinking skills. So, fathers and mothers have to give unintentional training to their offspring to obtain essential practice of thinking and creativity as much as possible.

Now is the time to shape the nation as an aspiration through the collective effort of the entire ethnic and national people. Only when those people nurture children as reliable citizens for the nation in the future will those children be brighter generations. If so, the whole country can be shaped as a social heaven. As all citizens are waiting for the emergence of a social heaven in the country, every family needs to nurture their children since early childhood.

Furthermore, teachers are taking an essential role in nurturing schoolchildren. As those schoolchildren are immature, teachers need to give guidelines to pupils so as to follow social rules and disciplines as well as value guidelines of politeness, right-eousness and honesty in all measures. These genuine mindsets can initiate those children to become persons with five physical and mental strengths to build society and participate in nation-building endeavours.

Today, Myanmar society needs good and able persons wishing to serve the interests of the nation and national. Patriotic spirit and national spirit need to be forged in society. So, current children are a new generation that will shape the society of Myanmar in the future. If children have been righteous and honest since their childhood with a wider range of knowledge based on reading, people will rely on them for the future of the country.

Now is the time to shape the nation as an aspiration through the collective effort of the entire ethnic and national people. Only when those people nurture children as reliable citizens for the nation in the future will those children be brighter generations. If so, the whole country can be shaped as a social heaven. As all citizens are waiting for the emergence of a social heaven in the country, every family needs to nurture their children since early childhood.

**I**DIOMS are integral to everyday language globally, adding colour and depth to communication. They convey complex ideas and emotions succinctly, reflecting cultural nuances and enhancing the richness of dialogue.

### လက္ခဏာပါးရှား / lakhkanar parr sharr /

- Facing financial difficulties and a challenging life
- Dealing with financial hardships and a tough life
- Experiencing economic struggles and a demanding existence

အော် ..... ပြန်ချိန်လည်းနီးနေပြီမို့ လက္ခဏာပါးရှားနေတဲ့ ကျွန်တော် တို့ နှစ်ယောက် သူ့ကို နှုတ်ဆက်ပြီး ရန် ကုန်ရွှေမြို့တော်ကြီးဆီကို ပြန်ခဲ့ပါတော့ တယ်။

လက္ခဏာပါးရှားနေချိန် ငွေရေး ကြေး ရေး ခက်ခဲမှုတွေနဲ့ ခက်ခဲကြမ်းတမ်းတဲ့ ဘဝကို ဖြတ်သန်း...

### To Have Few Lines on One's Palms

According to palmistry, a person's fate is thought to be shaped by the patterns and lines found on their palms.

If someone has few or faint lines on their palms, it is believed that their future will be unfavourable. Consequently, a person with a complicated life or one who is financially struggling is often described as having few lines on their palms.

This Myanmar idiom uses palmistry, an ancient practice of interpreting the lines and shapes on a person's palms to predict their future and character traits.

In this belief system, the presence of lines is seen as indicative of destiny and fortune. When someone is described as having "scanty lines", it suggests that their life may be marked by hardship or lack of opportunity.

The idiom reflects cultural attitudes towards fate and success, equating visible signs on the palms with the quality of a person's life.

### USAGES

#### Between a Rock and a Hard Place

- Meaning: Confronted with a tough choice where all options are challenging.
- Example: Mark was between a rock and a hard place when he had to choose between pursuing further education or accepting a low-paying job.

#### Down on One's Luck

- Meaning: Experiencing a streak of bad fortune or adversity.
- Example: After his business failed, Tom was down on his luck, struggling to cover his basic expenses.

# Connecting on the Universal Dance of Words

BY AUGUSTIN

### Struggling to Make Ends Meet

- Meaning: Finding it hard to balance income with expenses due to financial strain.
- Example: With soaring rent and flat wages, many families are struggling to make ends meet.

### Caught in a Rut

- Meaning: Feeling trapped in a repetitive or unsatisfying situation with no apparent way out.
- Example: Laura felt caught in a rut after spending years in a dead-end job, unable to envision a better future.

### A Hard Row to Hoe

- Meaning: Facing a challenging and demanding task or circumstance.
- Example: Launching a new business is a hard row to hoe, fraught with numerous challenges and hurdles.

### Biting the Bullet

- Meaning: Confronting a harsh or unpleasant situation with determination, often when there's no other option.
- Example: With mounting debts, Jake had to bite the bullet and seek out extra sources of income.

### When It Rains, It Pours

- Meaning: Experiencing a series of problems or misfortunes occurring at once.
- Example: Losing his job was just the beginning; when it rains, it pours – now his refrigerator has broken down, too!

### လက်ပမ်းပေါက်ခတ် / lakpam:paukhkat/

- The gesture represents triumph and showcases one's power and expertise.
- Action signifies success and highlights the individual's strengths and abilities.
- The movement indicates victory and displays both prowess and capability.

- ကြောင်းတူသံကွဲ - လက်ခမောင်းခတ်
- တူးကဲသောအခွင့်အလမ်းတစ်စုံတစ်ရာ ကြောင့် ဝမ်းသာအားရတက်ကြွကျေနပ်ခြင်း ဖြစ်သည်။
- စပါးဖျေးတို့ရရှိ လယ်သမားဦးကြီးများ လက်ပမ်းပေါက်ခတ်နိုင်ပြီ....

စိတ်ဓာန်တက်ကြွသည့် အခါမျိုး၊ ဝင်ကြားလိုသော အခါမျိုး၌ လက်တစ်ဖက်ကို ကျေးဇူးရှိလိုပြီး ရင်အုပ်နှင့် လက်မောင်းကွေးဆုံရာ ချိန်ကို ကျန်တစ်ဖက်လက်ဝါးဖြင့် တဖြောင်းဖြောင်းမြည်အောင် ရိုက်ခတ်သည်။ လက်ခမောင်းခတ်သည်။

ငရမန်က စောလူးမင်းရှေ့မှာ လက်ပမ်းပေါက်ခတ်တာကို စောလူးကမခံချင်ဖြစ်ပြီ....

The expression "to slap one's upper arms with the palms" originates from traditional Myanmar-style boxing or wrestling. After a fighter wins or issues a challenge, they strike their upper arms with their palms, producing a loud, sharp noise. This gesture symbolizes victory and demonstrates strength and skill.

In essence, this idiom represents the act of boasting about one's achievements or potential success. It conveys a sense of self-promotion and bravado, where an individual highlights their prowess or future capabilities before they are fully realized. The act of slap-

ping one's upper arms emphasizes dominance and confidence, making it a metaphor for overconfidence or showing off.

Beyond sports, the idiom is used to describe individuals who flaunt their abilities or potential achievements in social contexts.

It reflects the broader human desire to showcase one's skills and gain recognition, capturing the essence of competitiveness and self-validation both in athletic and everyday scenarios.

### USAGES:

#### Toot One's Own Horn

- Meaning: To boast or brag about one's own achievements or skills.
- Example: After winning the competition, Sarah couldn't resist tooting her own horn about her exceptional performance.

#### Pound One's Chest

- Meaning: To brag or flaunt one's successes or achievements.



လက္ခဏာပါးရှား / lakhkanar parr sharr /



လက်ပိုက်ကြည့် / laot pite krany /



လက်ပမ်းပေါက်ခတ် / lakpam:paukhkat/

- Example: Since his promotion, Mark has been pounding his chest in the office, showing off his new status.

#### Blow One's Own Trumpet

- Meaning: To speak proudly of one's own accomplishments or skills.
- Example: I don't mean to blow my own trumpet, but my project was the most successful in the team's history.

#### Show One's True Colors

- Meaning: To reveal one's genuine character or intentions, often after hiding them.
- Example: During the meeting, she showed her true colours by taking credit for others' work.

#### Walk Tall

- Meaning: To act with confidence and pride, especially following an achievement.
- Example: After receiving the award,

he walked tall, clearly proud of his accomplishment.

#### Strike a Pose

- Meaning: To adopt a particular stance or position to impress or attract attention.
- Example: The athlete struck a pose for the cameras, eager to display her strength and confidence.

#### Hit the Ground Running

- Meaning: To start a new task or project with immediate energy and enthusiasm.
- Example: The team is prepared to hit the ground running with the new project and is eager to demonstrate their capabilities.

### လက်ပိုက်ကြည့် / laot pite krany /

- To stay unconcerned and avoid taking action, even when intervention is necessary.
- To be dispassionate and abstain from involvement despite the need for a response.

- To show a lack of interest and not engage, even when action could be required.
- မလှုပ်မရှားဖြစ်နေခြင်း၊ လှုပ်ရှားထကြမှုမရှိခြင်း
- အရေးမယူဘဲနေခြင်း၊ မဆောင်ရွက်ဘဲနေခြင်း
- လက်ပိုက်ကြည့်ခြင်း
- ကမ္ဘာမြေ ပျက်စီးသွားမယုံကိုစွက် ဘုရားသခင် လက်ပိုက်ကြည့်နေမှာ မဟုတ်ဘူးလို့ ...
- မြေပြေတွေကို လက်ပိုက်ကြည့်နေမလား ...
- လက်ပိုက်မကြည့်ဘဲ တက်ကြွစွာ နားထောင်ခြင်းသည် မရှိမဖြစ်လိုအပ်သော ကျွမ်းကျင်မှု အကြောင်းရင်း ...

"To look on with folded arms" describes a situation where someone remains indifferent and refrains from intervening, even when action might be needed.

This Myanmar idiom illustrates passive observation, where a person stands still with arms crossed, signaling a lack of concern or engagement.

It often reflects a choice to ignore or overlook an issue, either due to personal disinterest, a belief that the situation does not directly affect them, or a lack of motivation to act.

The phrase conveys apathy or resignation and critiques those who avoid taking responsibility or offering

support in critical situations. By highlighting the moral implications of inaction, it underscores how indifference can contribute to unresolved problems affecting individuals and communities alike. Ultimately, the idiom emphasizes the importance of actively addressing issues rather than passively observing, pointing to the broader consequences of choosing not to intervene.

### USAGES:

#### Turn a Blind Eye

- Meaning: To deliberately ignore something wrong or illegal.
- Example: The manager turned a blind eye to the employee's misconduct, hoping it would sort itself out without needing intervention.

#### Sit on the Fence

- Meaning: To remain neutral or undecided, not taking a side.
- Example: During the debate, Julie chose to sit on the fence, avoiding taking a stance on the controversial issue.

#### Bystander Effect

- Meaning: The phenomenon where people are less likely to assist in an emergency when others are present.
- Example: The bystander effect often causes people to assume someone else will step in during a crisis.

#### Watch the World Go By

- Meaning: To passively observe events around you without participating.
- Example: In retirement, Carl enjoys sitting in the park and watching the world go by, enjoying the hustle and bustle without getting involved.

#### Take a Backseat

- Meaning: To adopt a less prominent role and let others take the lead.
- Example: Jessica decided to take a backseat during the project, allowing her more assertive colleagues to lead the team.

#### Leave It Be

- Meaning: To refrain from interfering or getting involved in a situation.
- Example: When his friends argued, David opted to leave it be, avoiding taking sides or escalating the situation.

#### Keep One's Nose Out of It

- Meaning: To stay uninvolved in other people's affairs or problems.
- Example: Although he wanted to help, Tom decided to keep his nose out of it and let his friends handle their own issues.



# NATIONAL

## Myanmar Comedians' Association protests against terror acts of MNDAA

THE Myanmar Comedians' Association (Central) led a protest denouncing the violent acts of MNDAA terrorists against innocent civilians in Shan State (North) in front of City Hall in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, yesterday.

Protesters first assembled at the designated area, holding placards that mention: "We condemn inhumane atrocities of MNDAA and its allies, who brutally killed innocent civilians," "We are sorrowful by violent deaths of innocent civilians in Shan State (North) caused by MNDAA terrorists", "We strongly protest and condemn inhumane acts of MN-

DAA terrorists who massacred hundreds of innocent civilians", "Honour to security forces who are sacrificing their lives for the country and people", and "We salute the security forces, Myanmar Police Force, and people's militia troops who are fighting".

During the event, some protesters spoke about MNDAA's inhumane treatment of doctors, nurses, and civilians at the military hospital in Lashio, as well as issues related to countering terrorism and addressing terrorist threats.

They then peacefully demonstrated with slogans such as: "Stop terrorist activities of MN-



Protest against MNDAA's terrorist acts in action yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

DAA and its allies immediately", "We don't want MNDAA terrorists who massacred innocent people", "We don't want terrorists

who are brutally killing many innocent people", "We need to root out terrorist groups", "Let terrorist groups that are killing

people fail", and "Let's fight those jeopardizing the State and bring peace to the country". — MNA/TKO

### Counter-argument to false information

#### Spreading misinformation: Security forces abduct returnees from Thailand for forced conscription

MALICIOUS media outlets are intentionally spreading misinformation, claiming that security forces abducted returnees from the Immigration Department's detention centre in Ranong Province, Thailand, for forced conscription.

In response, an official from the Kawthoung Township Administration Body reported that relevant departments in Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region, systematically processed these returnees. Arrangements

were also made to check their health conditions and manage their repatriation.

Subversive media outlets and terrorists are deliberately spreading false claims about the People's Military Service Law on social media to deceive the public. — MNA/TRKM

The screenshot validates misinformation.



#### DVB TV News fabricate stories: Kyaiksakaw's prisoners suffering from diarrhoea

ON 31 July, DVB TV News allegedly circulated false information on their Facebook page, claiming that prisoners at Kyaiksakaw Prison were suffering from diarrhoea.

According to an official, in line with the directives of the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Director General's Office, dormitories are systematically cleaned, disinfectants are

sprayed, sewage areas are treated with lime, only clean drinking water is used, and packages are checked for health safety to prevent diarrheal diseases that might arise due to weather conditions in prisons, detention centres, and camps.

Additionally, the medical superintendent of the prison hospital conducted health checks on prisoners at DaikU Prison and

Kyaiksakaw Camps to assess for diarrhoea. The prison's medical staff are responsible for the health of the prisoners without charge.

Therefore, the report by DVB TV News on their Facebook page is false and fabricated, intended to mislead the public and create misconceptions about the routine activities of the prison. — Ko Phyto/TKO

#### Misinformation spreads regarding alleged Tatmadaw attack on Htantawgyi Village

REPORTS said that malicious media circulated false claims about an alleged heavy weapon attack by Tatmadaw on Htantawgyi Village in Yinmabin Township, Sagaing Region, on 7 August. According to these reports, four civilians were purportedly killed and six others injured due to the strike.

However, a security official refuted these claims, stating that Tatmadaw engaged in routine security operations in the area and that allegations of heavy weapon fire targeting the village were entirely unfounded. The official further explained that PDF terrorists were responsible for sporadic long-range attacks on security forces, with some heavy weapon shells mistakenly landing in nearby villages.

False reports are deliberately spread on social media networks through subversive media outlets with the intent of misleading the public and instilling fear among local communities. This misinformation campaign aims to distort public perception of Tatmadaw and create a sense of insecurity among the people. — MNA/KZL

The screenshot validates misinformation.





## Tom Cruise touted for 'dystopian' Olympics closing ceremony

WITH Tom Cruise widely predicted to engage in a death-defying stunt on the roof of the Stade de France, Sunday's Paris Olympics closing ceremony promises a memorable passing of the five rings flag to Los Angeles.

Two weeks after the unprecedented complexity of the opening ceremony along the River Seine, there are big expectations for the show to wrap up the Games.

The closing ceremony will be a much shorter affair and will take place — in more traditional fashion — at France's national stadium.

Artistic director Thomas Jolly has revealed it will combine "wonder" with "dystopia", suggesting some darker elements than the joyful and impertinent tone of the opening ceremony that drew a record audience of more than a billion worldwide.

Offering a sneak peak to journalists recently, Jolly said he saw the Games as a "fragile monument" and wanted to

imagine what would happen if they "disappeared and someone was rebuilding them in a distant future".

One sequence features "travellers from another space-time who arrive on Earth and discover vestiges from the history of the Olympics", with acrobats restoring the famous five rings of the Games.

It will reportedly feature more than 100 dancers, circus artists and other performers, with the promise of aerial displays, giant sets and spectacular lighting.

### Destination Hollywood

The opening ceremony featured some huge stars including Lady Gaga, Celine Dion and Aya Nakamura, but some big celebrities are also expected Sunday.

Cruise has been at several Olympic events and the most daredevil of Hollywood stars would be a natural connection between Paris and the 2028 Los Angeles Games. — AFP

*The Paris Olympics closing ceremony on Sunday is set to be a dramatic event, featuring a possible death-defying stunt by Tom Cruise on the roof of the Stade de France.*

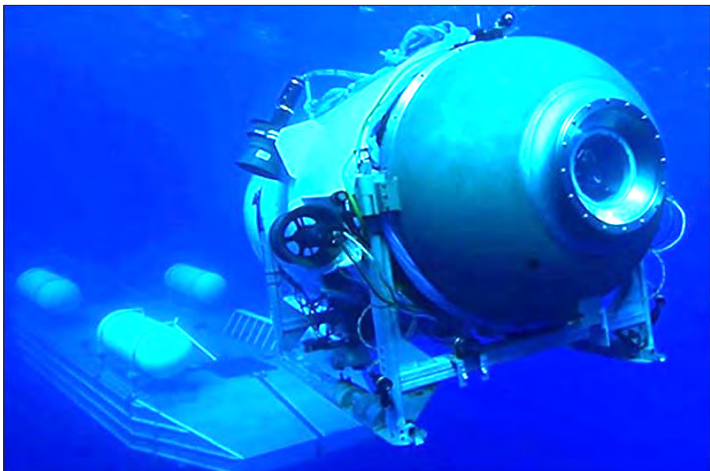


More than a billion people watched the opening ceremony. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Family of France's 'Mr Titanic' sues OceanGate submersible operator

*The suit, filed in Washington, accuses the company of gross negligence.*

THE family of French deep-sea explorer Paul-Henri Nargeolet has filed a \$50 million lawsuit against the operator of the submersible that imploded during a dive to the Titanic last year, killing him and four other people.



This undated image courtesy of OceanGate Expeditions, shows their Titan submersible launching from a platform. PHOTO: HANDOUT / OCEANGATE EXPEDITIONS

Nargeolet's estate filed the wrongful death suit against OceanGate in the western US state of Washington, accusing the US-based company of gross negligence. Nargeolet — known as "Mr Titanic" — as well as

OceanGate chief executive Stockton Rush, British explorer Hamish Harding, Pakistani-British tycoon Shahzada Dawood and his son Suleman died when the submersible, the Titan, failed during a 18 June 2023, expedition to the Titanic.

Tony Buzbee, one of the attorneys bringing the case, said the lawsuit, which was filed on Tuesday with a court in Seattle, "alleges serious issues with the Titan submersible".

"We are hopeful that through this lawsuit we can get answers for the family as to exactly how this happened, who all were involved, and how those involved could allow this to happen," Buzbee said. Matt Shaffer, another attorney for the Nargeolet family, said Rush, the OceanGate CEO and founder, "wasn't forthcoming with the crew and passengers about the dangers he and others knew about but the passengers and crew did not". — AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Banksy wows London with three animal artworks

ONE goat, two elephants, and now three monkeys: British street artist Banksy thrilled fans in London on Wednesday by installing his third new artwork in three days.

The animal-themed collection has sparked speculation about their message. Are they criticism of England's far-right riots or possibly support for Palestinians? Perhaps they reference global warming or even the Olympics?

As usual, the enigmatic artist gave no explanation when he claimed them on Instagram. What is unusual is how quickly they have appeared — usually Banksy's works are spaced several months apart.

On Monday, a depiction of a goat precariously perched on top of a wall with rocks tumbling down appeared in Richmond, southwest London.

"I think it's actually a mountain gazelle from Palestine. So I think that work has to do with Palestine," Daniel Lloyd-Morgan, a 60-year-old artist told AFP.

Then on Tuesday two elephant silhouettes with their trunks stretched towards each other appeared in Chelsea, southwest London.

On Wednesday, the black silhouette of three monkeys appeared on the side of a railway bridge as if they were swinging.

"Banksy is trying to get us to think and reflect about the ecological crisis that really threatens humanity," university professor Fawaz Gerges told AFP as he admired the latest work. "His focus seems to be on animals, on trees, on oceans and it's an overarching theme of his in the past few months," he added. — AFP



# ECONOMY WORLD

## Japan agency recommends largest civil servant pay rise in 3 decades

*This hike, the first above 2 per cent since 1992, aims to bridge the salary gap with the private sector.*

JAPAN'S personnel authority on Thursday proposed raising the monthly salaries of civil servants in general positions by an average 2.76 per cent, or 11,183 yen (\$76), in fiscal 2024, the largest increase in around three decades.

The recommendation, presented to the Cabinet and Diet, would mark the first wage hike exceeding two per cent since 1992 and seeks to close the gap with the private sector where salaries have been increasing more sharply.

To secure talent, the National Personnel Authority proposed record-high increases of

over 20,000 yen for the starting monthly salaries of both high school and university graduates.

The authority also recommended increasing bonuses by 0.10 month of salary to an equivalent of 4.60 months, calling for raising both monthly wages and bonuses for the third consecutive year.

Local government employees are also expected to see similar pay increases based on the recommendations.

If the chief Cabinet secretary and other relevant ministers accept the authority's recommendations, the aver-



People go to work in Tokyo's Kasumigaseki district, where most government ministries are located, in December 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

age annual salary of staff in government administrative positions, whose average age is 42.1 years, will increase by 228,000 yen to 6,916,000 yen. — Kyodo

## S Korea's state-run think tank revises down growth outlook for 2024



A man shops at a supermarket in Seoul, South Korea, 3 August 2022. **PHOTO: WANG YILIANG/XINHUA**

SOUTH Korea's state-run think tank on Thursday revised down the Asian economy's growth outlook for this year by 0.1 percentage point.

Real gross domestic product (GDP), adjusted for inflation, was forecast to expand 2.5 per cent in 2024,

according to the Korea Development Institute (KDI).

It was down 0.1 percentage point compared to the previous estimate unveiled three months earlier.

The KDI forecast was equivalent to the outlooks from the Bank of Korea

(BOK) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The country's real GDP shrank 0.2 per cent in the second quarter from three months earlier after soaring 1.3 per cent in the first quarter.

Export was predicted to go up 7.0 per cent this year, higher than the previous growth estimate of 5.6 per cent amid rising demand for locally-made semiconductors.

Growth estimates for private consumption and facility investment were cut to 1.5 per cent and 0.4 per cent each from the previous forecasts of 1.8 per cent and 2.2 per cent.

Construction investment was projected to decrease 0.4 per cent in 2024, while outlook for this year's consumer price inflation was lowered to 2.4 per cent from the previous 2.6 per cent. — Xinhua

## Singapore Exchange records 4.7% net profit growth in FY 2024

SINGAPORE Exchange (SGX) on Thursday reported a net profit of 597.9 million Singapore dollars (US\$451 million) for financial year 2024 ended June, 4.7 per cent higher than the previous year.

The total revenue of SGX increased 3.1 per cent to 1,231.7 million Singapore dollars in FY 2024.

SGX recorded seven new equity listings in FY 2024, which raised 117 million Singapore dol-

lars. "The revenue growth in FY 2024 was led by strong volumes in currencies and commodities businesses as we expanded our customer base and drove higher activity," said Loh Boon Chye, Chief Executive Officer of SGX.

Loh also noted that SGX will work closely with the review group set up by the Monetary Authority of Singapore to recommend measures to strengthen equities market development. — Xinhua



Skyscrapers near Singapore River, as viewed from Elgin Bridge. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**





The three recalled brands – “beni koji choleste help” and two similarly named supplements – contain an ingredient called red yeast rice, or “beni koji”. **PHOTO: KOBAYASHI PHARMA**

## Kobayashi Pharma to exit red yeast rice business amid health scandal

KOBAYASHI Pharmaceutical Co said Thursday it will discontinue its red yeast rice business following a scandal involving dietary supplements that contained material suspected of causing deaths.

The company’s board made the decision “considering the serious health hazard and inconvenience it has caused to society”, the Osaka-based drugmaker said in a statement.

The number of deaths poten-

tially linked to the consumption of supplements reached 107 as of Sunday, with 467 people having been hospitalized so far, it said.

The company came under criticism for only making the health hazard public in March, two months after it became aware of its supplements’ potential danger. The exact cause of the illness is still under investigation. It said it will start accepting compensation claims from 19 August. — Kyodo

## Paramount says to cut around 15% of US workforce

PARAMOUNT Global is set to reduce about 15 per cent of its US workforce in the coming weeks, according to company executives on an earnings call Thursday.

The move comes ahead of a planned merger with Skydance Media, which had been announced in July and marked a key step forward for the movie studio after it co-produced the 2022 Tom Cruise block-

buster “Top Gun: Maverick” with Paramount.

Paramount had previously identified cost savings across the company, and the layoffs are part of its efforts to realize them, said Chris McCarthy, who heads Showtime/MTV Entertainment Studios and Paramount Media Networks.

Skydance had earlier identified some \$2 billion in potential cost cuts at Paramount. — AFP

## China’s top liquor brand reports 15.88% net profit surge in H1

KWEICHOW Moutai, China’s leading liquor maker, earned net profits of approximately 41.7 billion yuan (about 5.84 billion US dollars) in the first half of 2024, up 15.88 per cent year on year.

From January to June, its revenue climbed 17.76 per cent year on year to 81.93 billion yuan, according to the company’s semiyearly report

released on Thursday evening.

According to the semiyearly report, in the first half of 2024, Kweichow Moutai’s revenue and net profit both reached new historical highs.

Distilled in the town of Maotai in southwest China’s Guizhou Province, this famed liquor is often served at state banquets. — Xinhua

## Apple makes changes to App Store after EU warning

APPLE on Thursday announced changes to its App Store after the European Union accused the iPhone maker of breaking the bloc’s landmark new digital rules.

The EU said the App Store terms prevented app developers from freely steering consumers to alternative ways to pay, making Apple the first ever tech firm to face accusations of breaching a new law known as the Digital Markets Act



Apple said the changes mean developers will have a new fee structure for customers linking out of an app for offers and content. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

(DMA).

Now Apple says there will be changes to com-

ply with the DMA and address the findings of the European Commission,

the EU’s powerful anti-trust regulator. Brussels at the time said developers could only steer customers through a link in their app that redirected the user to a web page to conclude any contracts.

Regulators said Apple placed “several restrictions” meaning app developers could not communicate, promote offers and conclude contracts through the channel of their choice. — AFP

## US orders FTX, Alameda to pay \$12.7 bln to victims

FAILED cryptocurrency platform FTX Trading and affiliate Alameda Research must pay \$12.7 billion to compensate customers and fraud victims under a consent order, US regulators announced Thursday.

A US court in New York ordered the payments in the wake of a massive fraud scheme perpetrated by ex-FTX leader Sam

Bankman-Fried, said the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, which called the sum its largest ever recovery.

“FTX and Alameda made material misrepresentations and omissions to customers” in attesting to the security of customer funds that were in fact “misappropriated”, the CFTC said in a statement. — AFP

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V T12 APPLE VOY.NO. (2424E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V T12 APPLE VOY.NO. (2424E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S T12 LOGISTICS PTE LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KRAKUS VOY.NO. (02/24)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KRAKUS VOY. NO. (02/24)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD**



# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Muhammad Yunus takes oath as head of Bangladesh's interim govt

BANGLADESHI economist Muhammad Yunus took oath as the head of the country's interim government here on Thursday.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin administered the oath to Yunus and other members of the new interim government at the presidential palace in the capital Dhaka.

Yunus' role as chief adviser was reportedly the equivalent to a prime minister. Sixteen other

people have been included in the interim government.

Yunus landed in Dhaka on Thursday afternoon. In a speech at the airport, he called for the protection of the country from disorder and violence. On Wednesday, the president's Press Secretary Md Joynal Abedin announced that Yunus would serve as the head of Bangladesh's interim government.

President Shahabuddin



Muhammad Yunus takes oath as the head of Bangladesh's interim government in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 8 August 2024. **PHOTO: PIDHANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

dissolved the parliament on Tuesday, paving the way for the

formation of an interim government following the fall of the gov-

ernment led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. — Xinhua

## Four confirmed candidates for top African Union post

FOUR senior African politicians — from Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar and Mauritius — have thrown their hat into the ring to take over the African Union's top post.

The pan-continental body, which has 55 member states, will hold elections at its summit in February to choose a successor to Moussa Faki Mahamat as chair of the African Union Commission. This year the role is reserved for a representative from East Africa to replace Faki, a veteran politician from Chad who has served



The African Union logo is seen outside the AU headquarters building in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 8 November 2021. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

since 2017.

The African Union issued a statement listing the four candi-

dates as Mahamoud Ali Youssouf of Djibouti, Raila Odinga of Kenya, Richard Randriamandrato of Madagascar and Anil Gayan of Mauritius.

"I am the only candidate capable of bridging the gap between the different regions of Africa, being French-speaking, but also English-speaking and Arabic-speaking," said Djibouti's Youssouf.

The 58-year-old has been foreign minister of the tiny but strategic Horn of Africa nation since 2005. — AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Disbanded Thai opposition Move Forward relaunches new party

THAILAND'S disbanded opposition Move Forward Party relaunched a new political group the People's Party on Friday, two days after a court-ruled dissolution over its constitutional violation. The 143 members of the parliament who earlier belonged to the newly-dissolved party have joined the group and named 37-year-old former tech entrepreneur and Move Forward MP Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut as the new leader, the People's Party announced.

Natthaphong told a press briefing that the group aims to secure enough seats in the next election to form a government.

Thailand's Constitutional Court on Wednesday ordered the dissolution of the main opposition Move Forward Party, ruling its efforts to amend a law against defaming the kingdom's royal family violated the constitution and imposing a decade-long ban on 11 members of the party's executive board from politics. — Xinhua

## Taylor Swift's concerts in Vienna cancelled due to planned attack: organizers



Three Taylor Swift concerts in Vienna were cancelled this week due to a thwarted terrorist plot targeting the events. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Austrian authorities announced the arrests of two suspects involved in planning the attacks, leading organizers Barracuda Music to cancel the shows at Ernst Happel Stadium for safety reasons. The concerts, part of Swift's Eras Tour, were expected to draw around 170,000 fans.

ORGANIZERS said on Wednesday evening that three Taylor Swift's concerts in Vienna this week were cancelled after Austrian authorities announced arrests over a planned terrorist attack on the events.

"With confirmation from government officials of a planned

terrorist attack at Ernst Happel Stadium, we have no choice but to cancel the three scheduled shows for everyone's safety," the event organizer Barracuda Music said on Instagram.

Earlier Wednesday, Austrian authorities said they had arrested two people suspected of plot-

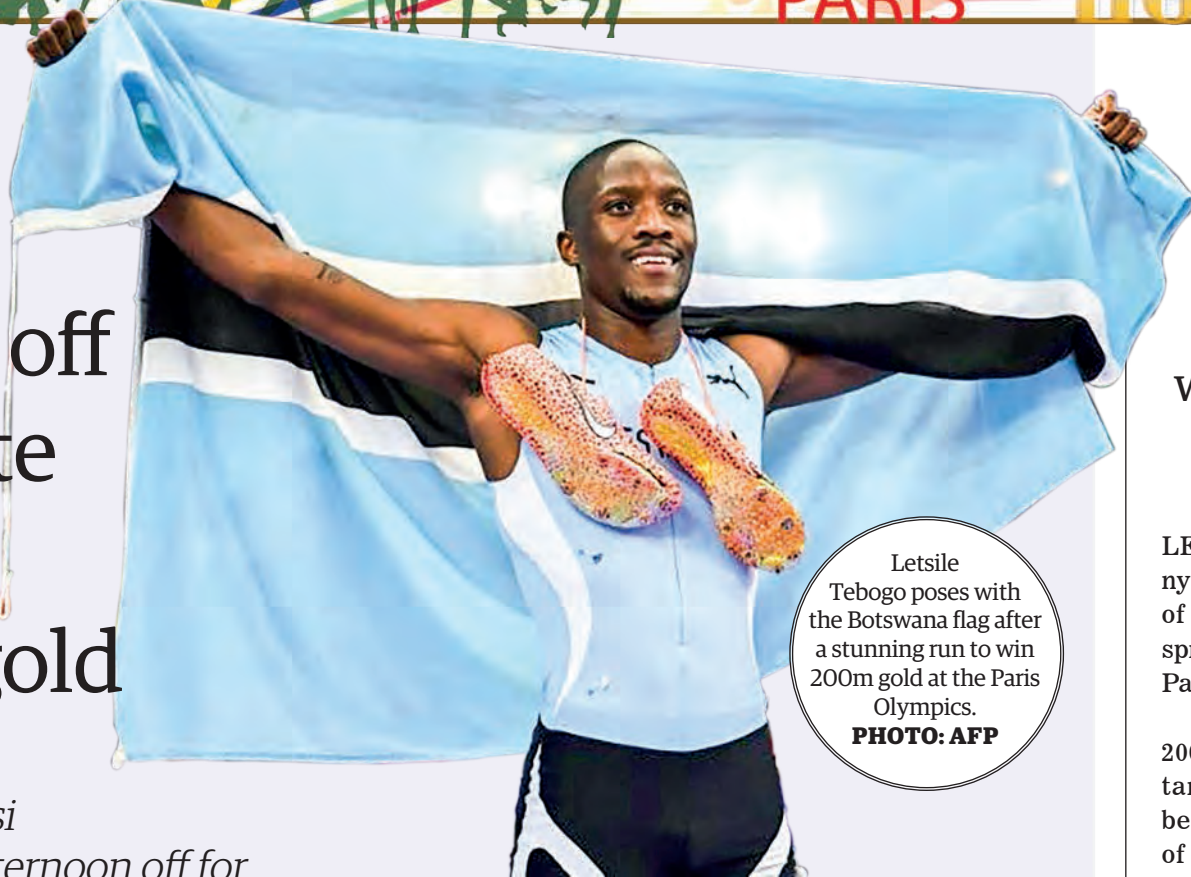
ting attacks on the concerts. A 19-year-old suspect was arrested Wednesday morning in Ternitz, south of Vienna, Austrian news agency APA quoted Franz Ruf, public security director of Austria's interior ministry, as saying. The other was arrested in Vienna Wednesday afternoon. — Xinhua



# SPORTS



## Botswana gets afternoon off to celebrate its first Olympic gold



Letsile Tebogo poses with the Botswana flag after a stunning run to win 200m gold at the Paris Olympics. PHOTO: AFP

President Mokgweetsi Masisi declared an afternoon off for Botswana on Friday to honour Letsile Tebogo, the country's first Olympic gold medallist and the first African to win the 200-metre race.

PRESIDENT Mokgweetsi Masisi gave Botswana the afternoon off on Friday to celebrate Letsile Tebogo, the country's first Olympic gold medallist and the first African to be crowned 200-metre champion at a Games.

Masisi hailed the 21-year-old sprinter as "Botswana's

Sensation" after his outstanding performance on Thursday.

"Botswana's finest sporting moment," beamed the Mmegi newspaper after Tebogo produced a stunning run in the 200-metre to take gold, leaving pre-race favourite Noah Lyles trailing in third.

To add to his perfor-

mance, he also set an African record of 19.46 seconds.

Tebogo's achievement will be "etched in the annals of the history of the republic", the president said.

The Olympic medal is Botswana's third after Nijel Amos won silver in the 800m at the 2012 London Games and the men's 4x400m relay team took bronze in Tokyo in 2020.

Videos shared on social media showed students at the University of Botswana

dancing and singing into the night, while people across the southern African nation posted their pride on X and Facebook.

"History made!" Masisi said on his X account. "My voice is completely gone thanks to the phenomenal LetsileTebogo."

Masisi also paid tribute to Tebogo's mother, his greatest fan, who died in May.

Tebogo is only the second athlete from Africa to win a medal in the 200m and the first ever to take gold. — AFP

## German Friedrich sets new world record in track cycling women's sprint qualification

LEA Friedrich of Germany set a new world record of track cycling women's sprint in qualification at the Paris Olympics on Friday.

Friedrich covered the 200-metre qualifying distance in 10.029 seconds, beating the previous best of 10.117 seconds set by Ellesse Andrews of New Zealand just five minutes earlier.

World champions Emma Finucane of Britain also rode faster than Andrews, covering the distance in 10.067 seconds to establish the second-fastest qualifying time.

China's Yuan Liying was unable to start qualification after her heavy fall in Thursday's Keirin quarterfinal race, but her teammate Bao Shanju qualified for the first round of head-to-head races in 10.744 seconds. — Xinhua

## McLaughlin-Levrone breaks world record to win women's 400m hurdles gold



Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone of the United States crosses the finish line during the women's 400m hurdles final of Athletics at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France, 8 August 2024. PHOTO: XU CHANG/XINHUA

AMERICAN sprinter Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone broke her own world record as she clinched gold in the women's 400m hurdles at the Paris Olympics on Thursday. McLaughlin-Levrone won the final in 50.37 seconds at Stade de France, eclipsing her previous record of 50.65 set in June. Fellow American Anna Cockrell took silver in 51.87 while Femke Bol of the Netherlands claimed bronze in 52.15.

"It's amazing to see our sport continue to grow, for people to want to watch the 400m hurdles," McLaughlin-Levrone said. "Just a lot of hard work put in this year. I knew it was going to be a tough race. An amazing competition all the way round." — Xinhua

## US sprinter Knighton dodges media following men's 200m final amid doping controversy

AMERICAN sprinter Erriyon Knighton, embroiled in a doping controversy, finished fourth in the men's 200-metre final at the Paris Olympics on Thursday. However, his abrupt departure from the media zone without taking interviews has only fueled further suspicion regarding his eligibility to compete.

Knighton tested positive for the banned steroid trenbolone during an out-of-competition test on 26 March. The United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) opted not to impose

a suspension, attributing the positive result to contaminated meat. This decision allowed Knighton to compete in the Paris Olympics qualifiers, a move that has sparked widespread concern.

China's Anti-Doping Agency (CHINADA) publicly questioned USADA's handling of the case, calling for an independent investigation into what it described as a serious breach of the World Anti-Doping Code and a potential cover-up of anti-doping violations. — Xinhua



Muhammad Yunus takes oath as head of Bangladesh's interim gov't

**PAGE 14**



# WORLD



Representatives of bereaved families and atomic bomb victims offer water at Peace Park in Nagasaki on Friday morning. **IMAGE: KYODO**

## Japan marks 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of atomic bombing of Nagasaki

Fat Man, on 9 August 1945, killing around 74,000 people in Nagasaki by the end of that year.

The port city remains the last place in the world to have suffered an atomic bomb attack.

“We also call for your dialogue and diplomatic efforts to explore a path towards peaceful solutions, no matter how difficult the path is, instead of choosing a path toward arms expansion or threats of force,” Suzuki added.

Suzuki also demanded that the Japanese government sign and ratify a UN treaty banning nuclear weapons, and called for Japan to lead discussions to ease tensions and advance disarmament in Northeast Asia.

The ceremony at the Nagasaki Peace Park was attended by some 2,300 participants, including representatives from some 100 countries, according to the city government.

The atomic bombing of Nagasaki followed the one dropped on Hiroshima on 6 August with both bombings a means of accelerating the end of World War II and forcing Japan to surrender. — Xinhua

*Suzuki emphasized the need for dialogue and diplomatic efforts to address global tensions, and he urged the Japanese government to sign a UN treaty banning nuclear weapons and to take a leading role in disarmament discussions in Northeast Asia.*

**J**APAN marked the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bombing of its western city of Nagasaki on Friday, with the city mayor calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Nagasaki Mayor Shiro Suzuki delivered a peace declaration during the annual event.

A moment of silence was held at 11:02 am local time, as this was the time when a US B-29 bomber dropped a plutonium-core atomic bomb, nicknamed

### PREPARED FOR MEDIATION

## Mediators invite Israel, Hamas to resume ceasefire talks

THE leaders of the United States, Qatar and Egypt on Thursday called for Israel and Hamas to resume negotiations in either Doha or Cairo next week to overcome differences over a ceasefire deal.

In a joint statement, the three mediators invited the warring parties to resume talks on 15 August “to close all remaining gaps and commence implementation of the deal without further delay”. The letter signed by Qatar’s emir and the presidents of the US and Egypt said a framework agreement was “now on the table, with only the details of implementation” left to conclude.

“As mediators, if neces-

sary, we are prepared to present a final bridging proposal that resolves the remaining implementation issues in a manner that meets the expectations of all parties,” it said. Qatar has been engaged in months of behind-the-scenes negotiations, with support from Egypt and the United States, in efforts to reach a truce in Gaza and a hostage release deal.

A prospective cessation of hostilities has centred around a phased deal beginning with an initial truce.

Recent discussions have focused on a framework outlined by US President Joe Biden in late May which he said had been proposed by Israel. — AFP

## UN approves its first treaty targeting cybercrime

UN member states on Thursday approved a treaty targeting cybercrime, the body’s first such text, despite fierce opposition from human rights activists who warned of potential surveillance dangers.

After three years of negotiations and a final two-week session in New York, members approved the United Nations Convention Against Cybercrime by consensus, and it will now be submitted to the General Assembly for formal adoption.

“I consider the documents... adopted. Thank you very much, bravo to all!” Algerian diplomat Faouzia Boumaiza Mebarki, chairwoman of the treaty drafting committee, said to applause.

The committee was set up, despite US and European opposition.

The new treaty would enter into force once it has been ratified by 40 member nations and aims to “prevent and combat cybercrime more efficiently and effectively”, notably regarding child sexual abuse imagery and money laundering. — AFP



Supporters, including South Africa, see it as a significant step forward, offering technical assistance to countries with less developed cyber infrastructures. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PEXELS**