

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Gem traders evaluate Myanmar's South Sea pearls at the second day of the emporium in Nay Pyi Taw.

## 142<sup>nd</sup> Myanmar South Sea Pearl Emporium 2024 enters second day

Emporium officials announced that 177 pearl lots were sold after inspecting the proposed prices of the 230 pearl lots from Tenders 1 and 2.

**T**HE second day of the 142<sup>nd</sup> Myanmar South Sea Pearl Emporium 2024 was held yesterday morning at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Local and foreign traders were inspecting the pearl lots displayed for sale inside the hall.

Then, the merchants placed proposed price lists of Tender 1 with pearl lots numbered from 1 to 115 and Tender 2 with pearl lots numbered from 116 to

230 in the relevant tender boxes.

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi, who is also the patron of the Myanmar Gems Emporium, Deputy Minister U Min Thu and other officials attended the event to support tender inspections.

Emporium officials announced that 177 pearl lots were sold after inspecting the proposed prices of the 230 pearl lots

from Tenders 1 and 2.

Pearl lots numbered from 231 to 345 from Tender 3 and Tender 4, with pearl lots numbered from 346 to 460 to be sold on the third day of the emporium.

At the 142<sup>nd</sup> Myanmar South Sea Pearl Emporium 2024, starting from 12 to 15 August, 175,000 pearls in 700 pearl lots will be sold with an open tender system at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA/TRKM

## Myanmar participates in ASEAN Trade Fair in New Delhi

THE Myanmar Embassy participated in the ASEAN Trade Fair held on 10 August in New Delhi, India, in commemoration of the 57<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Day, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ASEAN New Delhi Committee (ANDC) hosted the event under the chairmanship of Indonesia, and Myanmar's Ambassador and staff attended the event, serving Myanmar traditional coconut chicken noodle soup (Ohno Khaoswe in Myanmar). Myanmar's traditional and cultural artefacts, handicrafts and tourism promotion brochures were also showcased.

Mr Harsh Chirania, Under Secretary from India's Ministry of External Affairs, was a vital figure at the event. Indonesian Ambassador Ms Ina Krisnamurthi, chair of the committee, made the opening remarks. Senior officials opened the ceremony by cutting a ribbon and posed for documentary photos after observing booths of the respective countries at the ASEAN Trade Fair. — ASH/KK



This photo shows the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in New Delhi displaying artefacts, handicrafts and tourism promotion brochures at the embassy's booth.

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Outstanding students enjoy excursions abroad

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First ever PLB registered MAGDPL starts selling shares on 14 August

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar Gazette

### Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of U Sein Minn as Director-General of the Survey Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

## Discussions underway for cooperation between Bagan and Leshan cities



Myanmar Consul-General in Chongqing U Kyaw Zay Yar Lin and Deputy Mayor Mr Feng Bin of the Leshan Municipal People's Government at Leshan, Sichuan Province, exchange souvenirs after their discussion.

U Kyaw Zay Yar Lin, Myanmar Consul-General in Chongqing, met Mr Feng Bin, Deputy Mayor of the Leshan Municipal People's Government at Leshan, Sichuan Province, on 9 August to discuss signing a Memorandum of Friendly and Cooperative Relationship between Bagan and Leshan in October 2024.

During the meeting, they also exchanged views on cooperation with Leshan Vocational and Technical Training College, the preservation of ancient cultural heritage in both Bagan and Leshan and the promotion of cultural exchange and tourism cooperation between the two cities. — ASH/TH

## COVID-19 report, 12 August 2024

### NEW TESTS

25,388

### NEW CASES

17

### CASUALTIES

Nil



This photo shows travellers visiting the Ngwetaung Beach during the rainy season.

## Ngwetaung Beach welcomes 14,115 local visitors in July

NGWETAUNG Beach in Ngaputaw Township, Ayeyawady Region, welcomed 14,115 travellers in July 2024, according to Daw Ni Ni Mar, an executive official of the Myanmar Tourism Federation.

The beach's proximity to

the Myat Mawtinsun Pagoda attracts both local and foreign visitors year-round, with the majority coming from the Yangon Region and Nay Pyi Taw.

Daw Ni Ni Mar commented, "The beach welcomed around 36,555 local visitors in February,

38,955 in March, 48,955 in April, 54,555 in May, and 17,455 in June. Ngwetaung Beach is visited by tourists all year round". Visitors to the beach can rent bicycles, motorboats, and horses, enjoy locally produced food, and purchase souvenirs. — ASH/MKKS

## Mala xiang guo and noodle shops outperform seafood-only stalls in Mandalay

MALA xiang guo and noodle shops with seafood available are more crowded and selling better than only seafood shops in Mandalay, according to market sources.

"There are a lot of people in middle-class shops that sell other foods together with seafood. People can eat a lot at affordable prices. It will include noodles and vegetables. It depends on the money. The shops that mix foods with seafood are doing well in Mandalay. People who can't afford it can eat more vegetables. Those who can afford it, they eat more seafood. They sell vegetables in kilogrammes and noodles in plates," said a person in charge of OMG Rakhine, a traditional food and seafood restaurant in Mandalay.

In addition to the local market, some food items from Myeik, Kawthoung and Mawlamyine are entering the Mandalay seafood market.

"As for the seafood-only market, the decrease in sales is also due to the price situa-



This photo shows some seafood, such as Mala xiang guo and Rakhine traditional foods.

tion. Foods came from Myeik, Kawthoung, and Mawlamyine. The price and transport costs are high. There is consump-

tion, but I think some consume what they can afford according to the price," she said. — Thit Taw/ZN

# NATIONAL

## 2024 Inter-State/Region Futsal Championship kicks off

THE 2024 Inter-State and Region Futsal Championship officially began with an opening ceremony held yesterday afternoon at the Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex in Nay Pyi Taw. The event was graced by members of the State Administration Council, who attended to show their support.

Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, who is also Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, addressed the gathering, highlighting the significance of organizing such state and regional futsal tournaments. He emphasized that these competitions serve as a vital foundation for discovering and nurturing new talents and expressed hope that the event will lead to the emergence of outstanding young players. He urged all involved, including organizers



SAC members and dignitaries watch the opening match of the 2024 Inter-State & Region Futsal Championship yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

and competitors, to work diligently to ensure the success of the championship and maintain the highest standards of sportsmanship and fairness.

During the opening ceremony, athletes recited the sportsmanship oath. Following this, SAC members, including

Union Minister U Min Thein Zan, personally greeted the players and observed the ongoing matches.

In the initial matches, the Yangon Region team defeated the Bago Region team 5-0, while the Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State teams drew

2-2. Shan State won against Taninthayi Region 4-3. The Nay Pyi Taw team and Kayah State drew 1-1, and Mandalay Region and Magway Region ended their match in a goalless draw.

In the women's category, Nay Pyi Taw trounced Chin State 7-1, and Kachin State

triumphed over Taninthayi Region 5-0. The competition, running from 11 to 19 August, features 15 men's teams and 14 women's teams, totalling 525 participants. The public is encouraged to attend and support the event free of charge. — MNA/KZL

## DPM MoFA Union Minister receives Chinese Ambassador-designate



Chinese Ambassador-designate Ms Ma Jia calls on Deputy Prime Minister Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

MS Ma Jia, Ambassador-designate of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, paid a courtesy call and presented a copy of her letter of credence to U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar,

yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe congratulated Ms Ma Jia on her appointment as the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar. They also warmly discussed matters pertaining

to the further enhancement of the existing "Pauk-Phaw" relations, the acceleration of Myanmar-China bilateral relations, and the mutually beneficial cooperation in both regional and international arena, especially in ASEAN and the United Nations. — MNA

## Myanmar's rice exports to surpass US\$1B this FY

MYANMAR Rice Federation president U Ye Min Aung said rice and broken rice export is expected to be worth up to US\$1 billion in this financial year.

He mentioned it during a press conference on 12 August concerning MRF's ongoing projects and future plans.

"We have set a target that rice export to reach around two or 2.5 million tonnes a year. Last year's export earnings were worth up to US\$800 million, and it is expected to rise to \$1 billion this year. It is not difficult to receive \$700 or \$800 million. The monthly target for rice and broken rice export is about 200,000 tonnes. During this monsoon season, we are able to export around 100,000 or 150,000 tonnes monthly. We have planned to export around 200,000 or 250,000 tonnes in the dry season," said U Ye Min Aung.

European countries have

mainly bought rice from Myanmar, he said.

"We have international demand. European countries buy rice the most from our country. They buy both rice and broken rice. China and neighbouring countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines also buy. So it means we can export rice," he said.

In 2024-25 FY, the country received \$55million from 111,862 tonnes of rice and broken rice export in April, \$36 million from 71,279.5 tonnes of rice and broken rice export in May, \$84 million from 162,325.75 tonnes of rice and broken rice export in June and \$81 million from 165,444.3 tonnes of rice and broken rice export in July. Over four months, from April to July, the country was able to export 510,911.6 tonnes of rice and broken rice and received \$256 million, according to MRF's statistics. — MT/ZS

# NATIONAL

## 2024 Youth Forum held on grand scale in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister U Min Thein Zan addresses the 2024 Youth Forum yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE 2024 Youth Forum under the theme “Enhancing the Role of Youth in Creating a Better Society” was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, who is also Chairman of My-

anmar Youth Central Committee, said the forum intends to stimulate the youth to love their country, to participate in national development procedures as a primary drive, to adore the nation and culture and to understand the rights and responsibilities of a good citizen,

to establish friendship and mutual understanding among the youths from different regions, to enrich the capacity of the young people and to create sustainable development with the participation of youths.

He also added that the short- and long-term plans

would be drafted based on three-panel sessions for the comprehensive development of the youth sector; and all should participate actively in respective sectors to create a prosperous and promising society.

He then presented awards to the first, second and third

winners in high school-level essay competitions, and Deputy Minister U Zin Min Htet gave certificates of honour to donors.

Youths representing Kachin State performed a traditional dance, and Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, deputy ministers, officials, and youth representatives posed for a documentary photo.

After the discussions of the Youth Forum, Deputy Minister U Zin Min Htet presented certificates of honour to a representative of youths and young volunteers and made a concluding remark.

The Youth Forum featured educational opportunities and information to develop five kinds of strength, display of products and souvenirs of partner organizations, record photos of youth development activities, surveys, quizzes, awarding events and game programmes. — MNA/KTZH

## Youth Forum discusses diverse topics

THE Youth Forum discussed different topics in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

First, the video clip of Digital Transformation and Innovation was played, and under the topic of “Digital Transformation and Innovation”, the participants discussed vital role of digitalization and innovation in political, economic, social and health sectors and its direct proportion on state economic growth, importance role of Myanmar youths in implementing state development measures, proper sectors related to daily social lives of youths, AI-related knowledge, dos and don'ts, challenges, solutions, advantages and disadvantages of technology, Data security, AI for daily use and technologies to develop social status of youths from rural areas.

Then, Sociocultural Development video clip was screened, and the “Sociocultural Development” session discussed human resource development measures, resolving mental

and ethical challenges based on better education and health system, citizen ethics for youths who are future leaders of the nation, leadership qualification, proper ways to adopt mental and physical strength, Digital

Literacy, Communication Skills, Critical Thinking, Global and Cultural Awareness, Financial Literacy, essential hard skills and soft skills for youths, socio-cultural development measures, support to develop physical and

mental strengths and supportive ways for 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Under the topic of Economic Growth and Employment, it focused on youth participation in State Building, digitalized businesses, better job opportunities

through occupational training courses, practical sessions to be a successful start-up, job seeking through the digital system, risk of earning money online, huge impacts on the vocational sector through TVET, proper businesses to develop the country and better job opportunities.

Then, the departmental officials presented certificates of honour to those who participated in different topics.

The youth representatives in nine groups also discussed The Power of Technology to Transform Your Life, The Truth about AI, Steps Youth Need to Take to Access the Digital World, Youth: The Future Leaders of the Nation, Master Your Mind, Master Your Body, The Skill Youth Need to Succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Today Trending: Monetizing Your Digital Brand, Get a Better Job with TVET and Master Your Life through Entrepreneurship. The group leaders read out the outcomes, and the officials summarized the discussions. — MNA/KTZH



One of the discussion sessions in progress at yesterday's Youth Forum.

# NATIONAL

## Outstanding students enjoy excursions abroad

AS per the instruction made by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, a total of 30 outstanding students — who passed the 2024 matriculation exam with colourful results in their respective majoring subjects — were arranged to go on a foreign excursion under the State-sponsored programme from 9 to 13 August for having domestic and foreign experiences, and to develop patriotism and nationalism.

Outstanding students visited Thailand from 9 to 10 August. They arrived in Singapore on 11 August and visited the Myanmar Embassy and Merlion Park. The team visited the Botanic Garden on 12 August.

The personnel from the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) gave a warm welcome to Myanmar's outstanding students, and Ms Celia Her from the SIM explained the institute to the students at the SIM Heritage Gallery. The two sides took a photo there.

Dr Timothy Chan, Vice-Provost of the SIM, then gave a welcome speech at the theatre. Myanmar Chargé d'Affaires ai to Singapore U Zaw Zaw Soe delivered a thankful speech. Dr Liam Kim Yang also explained to the students the subjects that can be studied at the university.

Then, one Myanmar student from the university shared his experiences with the outstand-



Excursionists pose for a commemorative photo in Singapore.

ing Myanmar students, and both sides discussed the topic with questions and answers.

Gifts were mutually ex-

changed, and the Myanmar Student Ambassadors of the SIM led the orientation sessions to the university library, sports ground,

wellness centre, and canteen as part of the Campus Tour. In the afternoon, outstanding students arrived at the Garden by the Bay

and observed the Flower Dome and SEA Aquarium. The students also visited Sentosa Island to sightsee the tourist destinations and enjoyed the Wings of the Time.

The excursion group arrived at the Changi Airport at 9:30 am yesterday and enjoyed shopping at the Jewel Shopping Centre.

The group departed for Myanmar with the Myanmar National Airlines and arrived in Yangon in the afternoon. Respective personnel, school principals, teachers and parents welcomed their return at the airport.

The State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister offered outstanding awards at the Myanmar International Convention Centre on 22 July to students who passed the matriculation exam with all distinctions. Thirty of them with the highest scores were engaged in excursion trips. — MNA/TMT



Photos (left and right) highlight activities of outstanding students on their overseas excursion.



Salted duck egg gains popularity in the market.

## Salted duck eggs in high demand

SALTED duck eggs have gained popularity in the domestic market, and their trading is going well.

It is one of the most consumed foods, and people enjoy it either fried or boiled.

“We buy eggs directly from a duck farm and make salted eggs by ourselves. The freshness of eggs depends on the quality of the salting process.

So freshness is essential for making either alkalized (century) eggs or salted eggs. If the egg is not fresh, losses will happen. Ethnic people, including Shan, like salted egg. Some eat it fired, and some eat it boiled, cut it into halves and scoop it by spoon. And fried potato with salted duck egg is popular in the market. It sells well these days as there are festivals,” said

an alkalized egg and salted egg trader in Mandalay.

Alkalized eggs are also on the list of best-seller items, and trading is also fine.

“People also enjoy century egg. It sold well in the festive period. People from other towns enjoy it more. So, century egg sellers rely more on other towns' markets,” he said. — Thit Taw/ZS

# NATIONAL

## Frontline troops receive food donations

IN recognition of the dedication and sacrifice of the frontline troops, various departments, regional and state governments, and organizations across the country have donated food items to support them. These contributions are aimed to provide sustenance and express gratitude for their service in safeguarding the nation.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, along with Myanmar embassies, consulates, and diplomatic missions abroad, coordinated the donation of essential food items, including coffee, noodles, canned fish, dried fish, and various other items to the frontline troops yesterday. The donations were prepared and packaged under the supervision of Union Minister U Than Swe, Deputy Minister U Lwin Oo, ambassadors and department heads.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its overseas missions have contributed food items worth approximately K20 million, which will be delivered



Preparations for food donations in progress in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

to the Nay Pyi Taw Command Headquarters for distribution to the frontline troops. Additionally, the Ministry of Border Affairs is preparing a third round of donations, including a variety of food items such as fried beans,

dried fish, and other provisions, with a total value of K30 million.

The Ministry of Border Affairs' staff and their families are actively involved in preparing and packaging these donations. The contributions will include

1,500 packages of various food items and 3,000 packages of coffee and tea, scheduled for delivery to the Nay Pyi Taw Command Headquarters on 14 August.

The donations come with

heartfelt messages of encouragement and support, emphasizing the commitment to fair and just military operations and the solidarity among all involved. The public and various organizations have shown considerable support, including the Bago Region government and diverse community groups, who, on 11 August, donated a range of food items valued at K25 million and a second round of donations valued at over K10 million.

On 5 August, the Yangon Region government and departmental staff donated a significant amount of food items to the frontline troops. That included 14,846 packs of noodles, 900 packs of dried fish, 210 cans of fish, and other essential supplies.

The Yangon Region government and staff also provided various other items such as toiletries and clothing, demonstrating their continued support and solidarity with those on the frontlines. — MNA/KZL

## Rising demand for bamboo as local entrepreneurs embrace handicrafts



Handicrafts made of bamboo.

AS most of the domestic businesses have widely used bamboo handicrafts, market demand for bamboo is rising, according to U Kyaw Win, a bamboo expert.

Recently, most domestic business persons have started to buy and use bamboo handicrafts that were created naturally, and the consumption seems to exceed production even in the domestic market, causing market expansion.

“Bamboo handicrafts

have a high market demand, but fewer people are working in the industry. In the domestic market, demand is higher than production. The market seems to be big as there are fewer producers. Interest in bamboo handicrafts has been growing recently. Demand was present before, but it has increased now. People are more interested in these small natural handicrafts than plastic products. In the case of small bungalows, compared to steel and iron, those

made of bamboo are more natural and more acceptable to people. A friend of mine usually sells K250,000-K300,000 a day. If he sells bamboo products, his sales rise to K700,000-K800,000. If you sit long on a plastic or iron chair, you will get hot. But bamboo chairs have a different story. You won't get hot even if you sit for a long time. It can relax you, and as it is healthy, beautiful and natural, people prefer bamboo products,” he said.

With more widespread consumption, local firms cannot fulfil all export orders for bamboo handicrafts, and their exports are small, he added.

“Bamboo handicrafts are in high demand in the domestic market, but there is only a small amount of export. Regarding bamboo, there is a lot of demand for bamboo charcoal. As for poles, we are seeing a lot of orders from abroad,” he said.

— MT/ZN

## Online Study in Japan Fair 2024 scheduled for late August

AS an opportunity for Myanmar students who are interested in studying in Japan, the Online Study in Japan Fair 2024 is scheduled to be held in the last week of August, as announced by the Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA).

Study in Japan Fair, which is held every year, will take place online from 29-30 August, and registration can be made accessible through an online link. The Online Study in Japan Fair 2024 for Myanmar will include 16 prestigious universities in Japan, so it is an opportunity that shouldn't be missed for Myanmar students who are keen to study in Japan, MAJA said.

For free registration, interested persons can go to the particular website <https://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/user/myanmar/prepare2024.html>



The image showcases a booklet about Online Study in Japan Fair 2024.

[okayama-u.ac.jp/user/myanmar/prepare2024.html](https://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/user/myanmar/prepare2024.html) and click Register Now for Free and fill out the Google form on <https://forms.gle/YB6q9fKkNawzsXpK6>.

A timetable link will be sent to the email address filled in the Google Form and ensure correct information is specially provided. Students can join Zoom group consultations on what they prefer through the timetable link.

Students can learn about each participant's school through OJEIC Facebook, Instagram, Telegram channels or a special website. — MT/ZS

# CRIME NEWS

## Three found dead in Nay Pyi Taw home



Offender are seen along with the vehicle they used in the crime.

POLICE are investigating after three people were found dead in Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw on 10 August.

The Phayagon Myoma Police Station confirmed that U

Than Naing Tun, 49, his wife Daw Saw Thandar Oo, 48, and son Ko Naung Shwe Oak Soe, 29, were victims of the incident, and their Ractis vehicle was missing.

According to the investigation, the police found the missing YGN-36 5E/9185 Ractis vehicle near the Shwe Paunglaung guesthouse in Paunglaung ward 2 in Pyinmana on 11 August. On 12 August evening, suspect Win Min Thu (aka) Pho La Pyae (aka) Zaw Zaw, 19, who lived in Pobbathiri Township, was arrested on Mya Tharaphu passenger bus heading from Yangon

to Chauk.

According to Win Min Thu (aka) Pho La Pyae (aka) Zaw Zaw, another suspect, Ye Htet Kyaw, 19, who lived in Ottarathiri township, was arrested on the same evening in Hlegu Township, Yangon, together with two handphones.

The suspects were friends of victim Naung Shwe Oak Soe, and they murdered their friend's parents for financial need on 8 August.

The suspects were taken action under the law. — MNA/KTZH

## Massive Drug Bust: K1.43B worth of drugs seized in Sagaing, Magway

IN a significant crackdown, law enforcement agencies have seized a large quantity of psychotropic substances valued at over K1.43 billion in Sagaing and Magway Regions. The operation, conducted by a joint security force, uncovered 7.15 million tablets of the drugs.

On 8 August, at around 3:30 pm, officers intercepted a Canter truck, driven by Khin Maung San and accompanied by Lin Min Than, in Yinmarpin Township, Sagaing Region. The vehicle was found to be carrying 200,000 tablets of the controlled substances.

Further investigations led to the discovery of additional drugs on 9 August, at 8:30 am, in Shwebo Township, Magway Region.

The authorities apprehended Kyin Swunn (aka) Kyin Swann, who was found in possession of a Hilux Surf vehicle, 270,000 tablets, and other contraband.

Additionally, on 9 August, at 9:30 am, a raid on a residence in Pinlon Ward of Kale, Sagaing Region, resulted in the seizure of 245,000 tablets from the premises of Htut Myat Oo, (aka) ET. The operation also involved seizing drugs being transported from Mandalay to Kale.

The seized psychotropic substances would reportedly be transported from Shan State to Sagaing Region. Authorities took legal action against offenders and continue to investigate further criminal chains related to the case. — MNA/KZL



Offenders are seen alongside seized drugs.

## 4 Thanlyin murder and robbery offenders arrested

ON 6 August 2024, 49-year-old Daw Than Than Sint (aka) Ma Akyima was left alone at the house located in Thahtaykwin Village, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region. When her brother Ko Min Aung Kyaw came back from work at 6:30 pm and found his sister Daw Than Than Sint (aka) Ma Akyima dead with many wounds beside the bed, he also saw the loss of varieties of gold items worth ten ticals, K30 million, three phone handsets, and one land contract, in totalling worth approximately K98.7 million. He reported the case to the Thanlyin Myoma Police State and filed the case under Penal Code 302/392.

Security forces investigated the case to arrest the criminals. They arrested Aung Aung Oo (aka) Meagyi (23 years old), Than Zaw Htwe (aka) Moe D (21), Aung Khant Zaw (aka) Phargyi (24) and Hein Ko Ko (aka) Hein Ko (aka) Katpali (26) who live in Thahtaykwin Village (East), Thanlyin Township, on 9 August at their houses respectively with the evidence.

According to the confession made by the arrested criminals, Aung Aung Oo (aka) Meagyi did not want to repay his debt to Daw Than Than Sint (aka) Ma Akyima.



Four arrestees are seen alongside evidence objects.

He also needed more money to pay for the gambling. Therefore, he plotted to kill the victim together with other criminals involved in this case on 30 July to kill and take property.

On the crime day, the criminals invaded the house. Aung Aung Oo (aka) Meagyi choked the victim's neck and killed her while Aung Khant Zaw (aka) Phargyi tied her. They took the gold items, phone handsets, money and the land contract worth approximately K98.7 million.

After killing the victim, Aung Aung Oo (aka) Meagyi

and Aung Khant Zaw (aka) Phargyi brought Hein Ko Ko (aka) Hein Ko (aka) Katpali, who was monitoring the condition near the house. All left with the vehicle with plate number BGO-11 5N/6631 Bondo driven by Than Zaw Htwe (aka) Moe D.

Security forces formed a special investigation team, collaborating with the public, and arrested criminals within a short period after the crime. Necessary legal procedures have been carried out to take action against the criminals. — MNA/TMT

# OPINION

## Follow traffic rules for user safety

**T**HE National Road Safety Council (NRSC) has been established to implement crucial guidelines aimed at reducing traffic accidents, ultimately ensuring the safety of both vehicle drivers and road users across the nation. In a recent meeting, the NRSC adopted the National Road Safety Action Plan (2021-2030) with the goal of making significant strides in traffic safety compared to previous years. This plan is designed to help prevent traffic accidents and reduce fatalities.

The National Road Safety Action Plan (2021-2030) encompasses 108 work plans distributed across eight major sectors, all aimed at improving traffic safety in the long term. Additionally, the NRSC has adopted five quick-win plans that are aligned with 12 voluntary targets from the Global Road Safety Plan developed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

That is why authorities need to monitor violations of traffic rules systematically, take emergency measures to address traffic accidents, conduct first-aid courses for nursing emergency patients in traffic accidents and renovate traffic signs. Only when all citizens abide by traffic rules for their life safety when using traffic facilities will they be free from traffic dangers.

During the first decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, the objective was to reduce traffic fatalities by 50 per cent compared to 2010 levels by the year 2020. However, only ten countries were able to meet this ambitious target, and Myanmar, like many other nations, fell short of achieving this goal. This underscores the ongoing need to raise public awareness and promote safe driving and road usage practices to reduce traffic accidents in Myanmar further.

The NRSC's efforts, through the Action Plan and quick win strategies, are crucial for improving road safety across the nation. Continued focus on implementing these plans and raising public awareness is essential for reducing traffic accidents and saving lives in Myanmar.

That is why authorities need to monitor violations of traffic rules systematically, take emergency measures to address traffic accidents, conduct first-aid courses for nursing emergency patients in traffic accidents and renovate traffic signs. Only when all citizens abide by traffic rules for their life safety when using traffic facilities will they be free from traffic dangers.

These quick win plans, along with the broader action plan, are structured around the five pillars of the global road safety strategy: road safety management, safer roads and mobility, safer vehicles, safer road users, and post-crash response. These efforts are in line with WHO's Global Road Safety Plan's voluntary targets, which further emphasizes the global commitment to reducing traffic accidents.

Subcommittees and local authorities across various regions and states have been tasked with the critical role of implementing both short-term and long-term plans to minimize traffic accidents. Notably, many countries around the world have reported a decrease in traffic-related casualties since 2018. Myanmar has also seen a reduction in traffic fatalities since 2017, reflecting the effectiveness of these safety measures.

## How to Improve Your Health

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

**H**EALTH is defined by WHO as "a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". So, improving your health involves a combination of physical, mental, and emotional well-being. The following are some key strategies: -

### Physical Health

- **Balanced Diet:**
  - ❖ Eat a variety of fruits and vegetables.
  - ❖ Include lean proteins, whole grains, and healthy fats.
  - ❖ Limit processed foods, sugar, and salt.
- **Regular Exercise:**
  - ❖ Aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate aerobic activity or 75 minutes of vigorous activity each week.
  - ❖ Include strength training exercises at least twice a week.
- **Hydration:**
  - ❖ Drink plenty of water throughout the day.
  - ❖ Limit sugary drinks and excessive caffeine.
- **Sleep:**
  - ❖ Aim for 7-9 hours of sleep per night.
  - ❖ Maintain a regular sleep schedule.
- **Regular Check-Ups:**
  - ❖ Schedule routine check-ups with your healthcare provider.
  - ❖ Stay up-to-date with vaccinations and screenings.

### Mental Health

- **Stress Management:**
  - ❖ Practice mindfulness or meditation.
  - ❖ Engage in hobbies and activities you enjoy.
  - ❖ Learn relaxation techniques like deep breathing or yoga.
- **Mental Stimulation:**
  - ❖ Challenge your brain with puzzles, reading, or learning new skills.

- ❖ Stay socially connected with friends and family.
- **Professional Support:**
  - ❖ Seek therapy or counselling if needed.
  - ❖ Don't hesitate to talk to a mental health professional if you're feeling overwhelmed.

### Emotional Well-Being

- **Positive Relationships:**
  - ❖ Nurture relationships with friends and family.
  - ❖ Surround yourself with supportive people.
- **Self-Care:**
  - ❖ Take time for yourself regularly.
  - ❖ Engage in activities that make you feel good and relaxed.
- **Gratitude:**
  - ❖ Practice gratitude by keeping a journal or sharing what you're thankful for with others.

### Lifestyle Choices

- **Avoid Smoking and Limit Alcohol:**
  - ❖ If you smoke, seek help to quit.
  - ❖ Limit alcohol intake to moderate levels.
- **Safe Practices:**
  - ❖ Use seat belts, helmets, and other safety gear.
  - ❖ Follow safety guidelines at home, work, and during physical activities.
- **Environmental Factors:**
  - ❖ Reduce exposure to pollutants and toxins.
  - ❖ Maintain a clean and organized living space.

### Traditional Therapies:

- ❖ Engage in traditional practices like massage meditation.
  - ❖ Integrate these practices with modern medical advice.
- Improving health is a continuous process that involves making informed and consistent lifestyle choices. It's important to tailor these strategies to fit your individual needs and circumstances.

## Using Quantum Computing for Advancing Small Molecule Drug Development

*The collaboration aims to improve drug design efficiency through advanced molecular docking applications, which will aid in finding optimal interactions between small molecules and target proteins.*

**A** MEDICAL university will use quantum computing technology to accelerate the development of small molecule drugs and improve the drug design efficiency, bringing in new ideas for the pharmaceutical research and development models.

Bengbu Medical University (BMU) in east China's Anhui Province made an agreement with the Origin Quantum Computing Technology Co Ltd, a quantum computing company based in Hefei, capital city of Anhui, to develop the quantum-computing-powered application for molecular docking, the Science and Technology Daily reported Friday.

According to Zhang Yixuan, a researcher in BMU School of Pharmacy, small molecule drugs can easily penetrate the cell membrane to reach any location and interact with target proteins to exert the corresponding therapeutic effects. Designers of small molecule drugs need



Photo taken on 17 September 2022 shows a quantum processor displayed at the main venue of 2022 national mass entrepreneurship and innovation week in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province. **PHOTO: DU YU/XINHUA**

to use molecular docking to find the matching pairs of small molecules and target proteins.

Traditional molecular dock-

ing practices rely on high-performance computer clusters for extensive calculations, which are often slow and lack precision.

Quantum computing technology can break through the computational bottlenecks in traditional small molecule drug design. Moreover, the technology can significantly improve its speed and accuracy, opening up a path for more efficient and precise drug screening.

According to the Origin Quantum, its team has developed a series of applications for drug design based on the Origin Wukong, the third-generation superconducting quantum computer, which can effectively predict the properties of drug molecules and their interactions with each other.

"This will lay a solid foundation for the design of small molecule drugs, accelerate the development of innovative drugs, and promote progress in the life sciences sector," said Dou Menghan, vice director of the Quantum Computing Engineering Research Centre of Anhui Province.

**SOURCE: Xinhua**

## Flood of 'junk': How AI is changing scientific publishing

*Recent controversies in scientific publishing have spotlighted the potential pitfalls of artificial intelligence in academia.*



AI has allowed the bad actors in scientific publishing and academia to "industrialize the overflow" of "junk" papers, Retraction Watch co-founder Ivan Oransky told AFP. **ILLUSTRATION PHOTO: IMAGE SHOWN FOR DEMONSTRATION PURPOSES/PIXABAY**

**A**N INFOGRAPHIC of a rat with a preposterously large penis. Another showing human legs with way too many bones. An introduction that starts: "Certainly, here is a possible introduction for your topic".

These are a few of the most egregious examples of artificial intelligence that have recently made their way into scientific journals, shining a light on the wave of AI-generated text and images washing over the academic publishing industry.

Several experts who track down problems in studies told AFP that the rise of AI has turbocharged the existing problems in the multi-billion-dollar sector.

All the experts emphasized that AI programmes such as ChatGPT can be a helpful tool for writing or translating papers — if thoroughly checked and disclosed.

But that was not the case for several recent cases that somehow snuck past peer review.

Earlier this year, a clearly

AI-generated graphic of a rat with impossibly huge genitals was shared widely on social media.

It was published in a journal of academic giant Frontiers, which later retracted the study.

Another study was retracted last month for an AI graphic showing legs with odd multi-jointed bones that resembled hands.

While these examples were images, it is thought to be ChatGPT, a chatbot launched in November 2022, that has most changed how the world's re-

searchers present their findings. A study published by Elsevier went viral in March for its introduction, which was clearly a ChatGPT prompt that read: "Certainly, here is a possible introduction for your topic".

Such embarrassing examples are rare and would be unlikely to make it through the peer review process at the most prestigious journals, several experts told AFP.

**Tilting at paper mills**

It is not always so easy to spot the use of AI. But one clue is that ChatGPT tends to favour certain words.

Andrew Gray, a librarian at University College London, trawled through millions of papers searching for the overuse of words such as meticulous, intricate or commendable.

He determined that at least 60,000 papers involved the use of AI in 2023 — over one per cent of the annual total.

"For 2024 we are going to see very significantly increased numbers," Gray told AFP.

Meanwhile, more than 13,000 papers were retracted last year, by far the most in history, according to the US-based group Retraction Watch.

AI has allowed the bad actors in scientific publishing and

academia to "industrialize the overflow" of "junk" papers, Retraction Watch co-founder Ivan Oransky told AFP.

Such bad actors include what are known as paper mills.

These "scammers" sell authorship to researchers, pumping out vast amounts of very poor quality, plagiarised or fake papers, said Elisabeth Bik, a Dutch researcher who detects scientific image manipulation.

Two percent of all studies are thought to be published by paper mills, but the rate is "exploding" as AI opens the floodgates, Bik told AFP.

This problem was highlighted when academic publishing giant Wiley purchased troubled publisher Hindawi in 2021.

**SOURCE: AFP**



# NATIONAL

## Traditional Clayware Festival held in Mandalay

THE Traditional Clayware Festival was celebrated near Mandalay Hill in Aungmyaythazan Township, Obo Ward, Mandalay, from 11 to 12 August.

The festival has been organized annually since last year. Historically, it dates back to the reign of King Thibaw. During the Taungpyone Festival, boats travelled along the Shwetachaung Canal, stopping at Obo Ward near the base of Mandalay Hill, where pottery was temporarily sold. The Traditional Clayware Festival orig-



Festivalgoers examine traditional clayware, with some wearing 'Kyaukkhwet Pan' (flower crowns made of green twigs) in the background.



inated from this gathering, held the day before the Taungpyone Festival.

The name 'Obo' derives from the abundance of kilns and potteries in the area, as recorded in historical documents.

The festival is traditionally held on the seventh waning day of Waso. Visitors can witness the unique custom of women, both young and old, wearing 'Kyaukkhwet Pan' (flower crowns made of green twigs) on their heads, symbolizing the festival's heritage. — TWA/KZL

## MCPA to offer training courses for three ITPEC exams



This image shows the examination organized by MCPA.

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Computer Professionals Association (MCPA), the training courses for three ITPEC (Information Technology Professional Examination Council) exams will be offered.

The three exams will be held on 27 October. There will be intensive courses for the FE examination.

ITPEC exams, including the IT Passport, Fundamental IT Engineer (FE), and Applied IT Engineer (AP) certifications, will be offered to a wide range of individuals. Students from Computer University and the University of Technology, members of the Myanmar Computer Professionals Association, and any IT enthusiast are eligible to participate. Exam fees are K60,000 for the IT Passport, K80,000 for the FE exam, and K100,000 for the AP exam.

All three ITPEC exams will be conducted simultaneously on 27 October. The intensive FE

exam preparation course offered both in-person at the Myanmar Computer Professionals Association office in Yangon MICT Park and online, is set to begin soon. The course fee is K100,000 for in-person attendance and K80,000 for the online option. Participants must complete a ten-day training course, scheduled for 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29 September, and 5 and 6 October, from 9 am to 5:30 pm daily. Exam and course fees can be conveniently paid via mobile banking or QuickPay.

In addition to the exam fees, applicants must complete and submit both the exam admission form and the course attendance form through the link: <https://forms.gle/mzoUZwTqhUjesFYF8>. For further enquiries or details about the ITPEC exams and the FE exam preparation course, candidates can contact the Myanmar Computer Professionals Association. — TWA/TRKM

## 3,000+ rice storage facilities registered; More encouraged to join

THERE are more than 3,000 registered rice storage facilities, and more are encouraged to participate, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) chairman U Ye Min Aung.

All rice warehouses storing 50 tonnes or 5,000 baskets of rice and above must be registered in the Myanmar Rice Online (MyRO) system starting 4 November 2023, the Ministry of Commerce announced.

"Myanmar Rice Online (MyRO) storage registration system was launched last November. As of 12 August, more

than 3000 storage facilities nationwide have been included in the registration system. Furthermore, we are encouraging all storage facilities to register in the system," he said.

In addition, rice shops are also under arrangement to participate in the storage registration system.

"In any case, rice shops will be included in the storage registration system. Small and micro shops, which are 10 feet long and 20 feet wide selling rice, must also be added to the register. But there will be no registration fees for them.

They just need to register," he added.

The implementation of a modern digital system will also make it easier to change and manage the rice sector.

In addition to sufficient supply in the domestic market, in order to systematically list and register warehouses in the rice market, to export, to record detailed records, and to foster a consignment-based financing system, the ministry has launched this programme to register the rice storage warehouses across the country. — MT/ZN

## ME announces no more PJ application reservations required starting mid-August



The signage of the Myanmar Embassy to Thailand.

AS of 17 August, the reservation system will be stopped, and applicants for renewing PJ passports can come to do it at the Myanmar Embassy's

consular service in person during office days, the Myanmar Embassy to Thailand stated on 13 August.

It said the embassy ar-

ranged a token system for seeking appointment dates in person to renew PJ's passport, whose validity will end on 30 June 2025, every Saturday as of 2 December 2023.

Since the number of applicants for appointment dates has become fewer now, the appointment system will be stopped as of 17 August (Saturday) 2024, and those who want to renew their PJ passport can come in person on office days without needing to make a reservation, it said.

PJ passport renewal service will be provided until 31 July 2025, it said. — MT/ZS

## India International Mega Trade Fair welcomes Myanmar businesses

INDIA International Mega Trade Fair (2024-2025), jointly organized by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and GS Marketing Associates, is scheduled to be held from 20 December 2024 to 6 January 2025 at Science City Ground in Kolkata, inviting the participation of Myanmar businesspeople, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

IIMTF promotes India's economic growth and infrastructure development, brings a variety of products from different Indian states and countries, fosters new businesses and expands existing industries. Furniture & interior, lifestyle, children's segment, auto show, handloom and handicraft, processed food and food products, health and fitness, electronics and appliances, finance, beauty and cosmetics, real estate and allied industries will be showcased.

Myanmar participated with two booths in the previous IIMTF 2023-2024, which attracted more than 1.75 million visitors from 17 countries and 22 states of India.

The GS Marketing Associates have successfully organized 248 expos in the past 29 years in India and won 19 All India Exhibition Excellence Awards.

A nine-square-metre booth costs US\$2,000 with an 18 per cent goods and services tax. A table, three spotlights, a 15 amp socket, a dustbin and a carpet will be provided. Individuals can register to rent a booth at the expo through [utpjoy28@gmail.com](mailto:utpjoy28@gmail.com), [utpal.roy@gsmktg.mm](mailto:utpal.roy@gsmktg.mm) or GS Marketing Associates.

Myanmar businesspeople who want to join the IIMTF can send their information to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization through the contact number 067 408622 or email [event.td.myantrade@gmail.com](mailto:event.td.myantrade@gmail.com). — NN/KK

## First ever PLB registered MAGDPL starts selling shares on 14 August



This undated photo shows the Yangon Bourse with its share index panel.

MYANMA Agricultural & General Development Public Co., Ltd (MAGDPL), the first-ever registered company on the Pre-Listing Board (PLB), is scheduled to sell its shares on 14 August 2024, according to the Yangon Stock Exchange.

The MAGDPL was established as a public company on 11 September 2021, led by the majority of the executives of Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. As of 31 March 2024, 109 shareholders invested in the company, holding 1,006,035 shares. The market value of the total shares is over K10 billion (a share is worth \$10,000).

MAGDPL also invests in Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Company Limited (MTSH) and Myanmar National

Telecom Holdings Public Company Ltd (MNTH), sourcing agricultural products locally and exporting them.

MAGDPL entered into a 50-year BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) agreement with Myanmar Port Authority for Thilawa Port Area Plot No 29 on 27 April 2016 after the Ministry of Commerce gave the green light to proceed with the project outlining the development and construction of an international jetty along with associated facilities are to facilitate commercial activities within the Thilawa Port area.

It also received a certificate to establish an international standard Myanmar Commodity Exchange Centre on 24 March 2016 that can conduct all spot and future transactions of ag-

ricultural and oil seed products as per the global rules and regulations, without the need for trust-based practices.

U Tun Lwin is the chairman of MAGDPL, and the board of directors is comprised of a managing director, an independent director, and 20 director board members. The company comply with corporate governance practices, principles and guidelines with three committees: Nomination Committee, Audit Committee and Remuneration Committee (Investor Relationship Department, Admin & HR Department, Finance Department)

It has been arranging a multi-purpose international port terminal for handling agricultural and oil seed products at Thilawa Port Area Plot No

29 to construct and lease the warehouses, siloes and other related commercial buildings for the storage of pulses, maize, sesame seeds and other agricultural products and imported agricultural inputs.

It has been making efforts to develop the transition of Myanmar's agricultural sector and sustainable development and drive to set new standards for international trade and logistics.

Investors can purchase shares of MAGDPL from 14 August 2024 through securities companies: Myanmar Securities Exchange Centre Co Ltd, KBZ Stirling Coleman Securities Co Ltd, CB Securities Limited, AYA Trust Securities Co Ltd, KTZ Ruby Hill Securities Co Ltd and UAB Securities Limited. — NN/KK

## DICA blacklist two companies upon non-compliance

THE Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) added two companies to the blacklist upon non-compliance with rules and regulations.

The DICA has already notified that the registrar will publicly declare the denylist and weak compliance matters on the DICA's website if com-

panies registered on the online registry system (MyCO) fail to comply with the existing law, rules and bylaws of the government institutions concerned and provisions stipulated in Myanmar Companies Law.

Kyaw Zaw Myanmar (KZM) Company Limited kept failing to repatriate export earnings, and

it was blacklisted until the end of the 2024-2025 financial year, according to decision stanza 28 of the Mandalay Region government's 11/2024 meeting.

Similarly, Myae Myan Khit Construction Company Limited was also put on the denylist for failing to repatriate export earnings as per decision stanza 73

of the Magway Region government's 4/2024 meeting.

DICA put 28 companies on the blacklist for failing to repatriate export earnings of more than K500,000 starting from 26 June 2024. The DICA also blocked eight companies for misconduct in importing palm oil from 24 June 2024. — NN/KK

# ECONOMY WORLD

## US economists, trade groups voice concerns over tariffs against China

AS the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) is expected to issue a final determination on its proposed “modifications” of the actions towards China under Section 301, US economists, trade groups and international organizations have voiced concerns and expressed disappointment, warning that the imposition of additional tariffs could hurt US companies and consumers.

On 14 May, US Trade Representative Katherine Tai announced that President Joe Biden is directing her to “take further action” on China tariffs after releasing statutory four-year review of Section 301 tariffs. The proposed “modifications” include raising tariffs in “strategic sectors”, such as batteries, electric vehicles, semiconductors, as well as steel and aluminium products.

In late May, the USTR issued a Federal Register notice regarding proposed tariff modifications under Section 301 and



Customers select goods at a supermarket in Foster City, California, the United States, 10 April 2024.

PHOTO: XINHUA

the machinery exclusion process, inviting public comment. On 30

July, the USTR stated that it will continue to review all comments

and expects to issue its final determination in August.

In a statement released earlier this year, the US-China Business Council (USCBC), a private, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization of more than 270 American companies that do business in China, expressed disappointment in the results of the Section 301 review.

“We are disappointed with the outcome because maintenance of the prior tariffs – with no reductions – and imposition of additional tariffs ultimately make it harder for American companies to compete in the US and abroad, cost American jobs, and increase prices for US manufacturers and consumers during a time of ongoing inflation,” USCBC President Craig Allen said.

“As USCBC requested in our public comments, we appreciate USTR’s creation of a tariff exclusion process so that US companies can request needed and common-sense relief, but its scope appears narrow,” said Allen. — Xinhua

## Singapore’s key exports drop 6.4% in Q2

THE non-oil domestic exports (NODX) in Singapore contracted 6.4 per cent year-on-year in the second quarter of this year, following the 3.4 per cent decrease in the previous quarter, the government agency Enter-

prise Singapore said Tuesday.

Domestic exports of non-electronic products declined by 9.2 per cent year-on-year from April to June due to a significant contraction in the export of pharmaceuticals and

non-monetary gold.

Domestic exports of electronic products grew 3.8 per cent in the second quarter, reversing the 1.6 per cent decline in the first quarter.

Enterprise Singapore narrowed the NODX growth forecast to four to five per cent this year from the earlier range between four and six per cent due to a weaker-than-expected recovery in the second half.

Singapore’s total merchandise trade grew 10.1 per cent year-on-year from April to June, driven by both oil trade and non-oil trade. Its services trade increased 11.3 per cent to 227 billion Singapore dollars (US\$171 billion) in the second quarter. Enterprise Singapore estimated a five to six per cent growth for the total merchandise trade. — Xinhua



A general view shows vessels docked next to stacks of containers at Pulau Brani port terminal in Singapore on 3 July 2024. PHOTO: AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Export of Vietnam’s processed, manufactured industrial goods hits US\$192 bln in 7 months

THE export of Vietnam’s processed and manufactured industrial goods brought home nearly US\$192 billion in the first seven months of 2024, Vietnam News Agency cited the Ministry of Industry and Trade on Tuesday.

The export accounted for 84.6 per cent of the total export value, up 15.4 per cent year-on-year, said the report.

Many groups of products recorded high growth such as cameras, camcorders, and components with 51.5 per cent; and computers, electronic products, and components with 30 per cent. — Xinhua

#### ADB supports Thai state utility operator’s 1<sup>st</sup> sustainability bond

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is supporting Thailand’s state utility operator, Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA), in issuing its first sustainability bond, the multilateral lender said Tuesday. The bond will raise 1 billion baht (US\$28.44 million) to support the development of renewable energy projects and improve energy access across the Southeast Asian country.

The bond, which has a five-year maturity, will be issued on 21 August to Thai institutional investors, marking a significant step towards developing a robust and sustainable bond market in the country. — Xinhua

## India's industrial production grows 4.2% in June

INDIA'S factory activity growth, determined by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), grew 4.2 per cent in June, the government data showed Monday.

"For the month of June 2024, the quick estimates of IIP with base 2011-12 stands at 150.0 against 143.9 in June 2023. The Indices of industrial production for the mining, manufacturing and electricity sectors for the month of June 2024 stand at 134.9, 145.3 and 222.8 respectively," reads the data issued by the federal Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation.

"As per use-based classification, the indices stand at 156.0 for primary goods, 110.0 for capital goods, 159.0 for intermediate goods and 178.4 for infrastructure/construction goods for the month of June 2024. Further, the indices for consumer durables and consumer non-durables stand at 126.9 and 144.6 respectively for the month of June 2024," said the ministry. — Xinhua

## Israel to invest US\$13.8 mln in wastewater reuse in agriculture

ISRAEL will provide first-time financial support for setting up infrastructure for reusing treated wastewater in agriculture, the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security said Monday.

A total of 52 million shekels (about US\$13.8 million) will be invested to subsidize the costs for farms that switch to using treated wastewater for irrigating, the ministry said in a statement.

Currently, Israel discharges an average of 68 million cubic metres (MCM) of treated wastewater into the sea annually, costing about 70 Israeli cents per cubic metre for purification and transportation. — Xinhua

# China's robust express delivery indicates booming consumer market



An exhibitor operates an unmanned autonomous delivery vehicle for courier service displayed at the World Intelligence Expo 2024 in north China's Tianjin, 20 June 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

CHINA'S courier sector surpassed the 100-billion-parcel mark this year much faster than the previous year, reflecting a booming consumer market and sustained economic vitality.

The milestone was reached on Tuesday, 71 days earlier than in 2023,

according to the State Post Bureau (SPB). This equates to an average of 71.43 packages per person in China, or 5,144 packages delivered every second.

The express delivery sector has become a key indicator of the country's economic health. Amid a

steady economic recovery, the industry has set new records across three main metrics. The highest single-day delivery volume exceeded 580 million parcels, and the average monthly volume surpassed 13 billion parcels. The sector's monthly revenue topped

100 billion yuan (about US\$14 billion).

China boasts a highly efficient logistics network that reaches even the most remote areas, with 234,000 delivery points nationwide and over 95 per cent of villages covered by express delivery services. This summer, the system enabled next-day delivery of seasonal fruits from distant regions. Technological innovation has further boosted delivery efficiency. In some cities, drones can deliver packages in about 10 minutes, while autonomous delivery vehicles have also significantly reduced delivery time.

Going forward, the SPB plans to enhance logistics hubs in urban clusters, improve rural logistics systems and expand international delivery services, as well as integrate the delivery chain with advanced manufacturing. — Xinhua

## Mercedes-Benz Korea discloses EV battery makers after fire

MERCEDES-BENZ Korea released the names of its electric vehicle battery suppliers on Tuesday, bowing to public outrage after one of its cars burst into flame in a parking lot earlier this month. The 1 August fire damaged hundreds of vehicles and created a national panic, with car parks across South Korea imposing a wave of adhoc restrictions amid growing calls for transparency on battery supply chains. South Korea is a major producer of batteries and electric vehicles, including local carmakers Hyundai and Kia, with EVs making up 9.3 per cent of new cars purchased last year — higher than in the US.



Mercedes electric car (EV) charging stations are seen at a parking lot in Seoul on 13 August 2024. PHOTO: AFP

"Although the analysis is still in progress, the CCTV footage suggests that this fire exhibits all the signs of being caused by a battery," a spokesman at the Incheon Fire Department told AFP. According to experts, battery fires are tougher to extinguish than conventional ones due to

the thermal runaway effect — a chain reaction within battery cells.

The Mercedes-Benz model EQE 350 that exploded into flames had a battery from Chinese manufacturer Farasis Energy, Mercedes Korea disclosed on its website Tuesday.

Local media have

shown dramatic images of the car catching fire, causing a blaze that destroyed 40 vehicles in the parking lot, with the fire department saying some 23 people were hospitalized for smoke inhalation.

Fire authorities are investigating the deactivation of the car park's sprinkler system in the fire's initial minutes, with local media speculating a maintenance worker may have thought it had been activated in error.

South Korea's Office for Policy Coordination said Tuesday it would recommend automakers voluntarily disclose the battery brand information for all electric vehicles sold in the country. — AFP

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (233N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (233N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-8-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## World population to shrink in 21<sup>st</sup> century amid birthrate fall: UN

THE world population is expected to start shrinking within this century after hitting a peak in the mid-2080s due to lower fertility levels, particularly in China, according to the latest projection by the United Nations.

The global population, currently at 8.2 billion, is projected to reach approximately 10.3 billion by the mid-2080s and then gradually decrease to around 10.2 billion by the end of the century,

according to the UN report on world population prospects released last month.

The figure indicates an earlier population peak than projected in the previous version of the report from 2022, which had anticipated the global population would peak at around 10.4 billion during the 2080s and remain at that level until 2100.

"In some countries, the birth rate is now even lower than previ-

ously anticipated, and we are also seeing slightly faster declines in some high-fertility regions," Li Junhua, UN undersecretary general for economic and social affairs, said in a press release.

However, he also pointed out that the earlier and lower peak is "a hopeful sign" as it could mean "reduced environmental pressures from human impacts due to lower aggregate consumption".



A UN official briefs about the World Population Prospects 2024 report at the UN headquarters in New York on 11 July 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

In more than half of all countries and areas, the average number of live births per woman is below 2.1, which the United

Nations says is the level required for a population to maintain a constant size over the long term without migration. — Kyodo

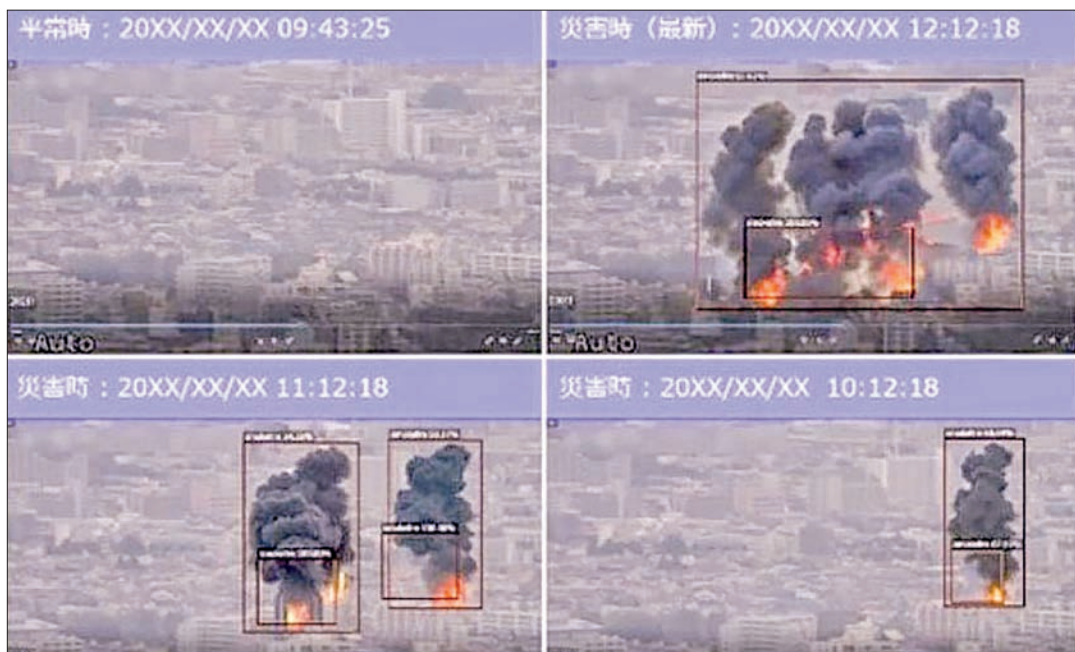
## Tokyo deploys AI to detect fires, collapses for rapid quake response

THE Tokyo metropolitan government has launched an artificial intelligence system that uses high-altitude cameras to detect fires and building collapses in real-time to accelerate its initial disaster response during major earthquakes.

Japan's weather agency last week issued its first-ever advisory warning of an increased risk of a megaquake along the Nankai Trough running between central and southwestern Japan. The AI-driven system analyzes footage from

high-resolution cameras, with two installed at the Tokyo metropolitan government building and one each at a bridge near Tokyo Bay and a location in the western part of the metropolitan area, the local authorities and system developer Hitachi Ltd said. The system automatically identifies fires and structural collapses, providing the information to relevant agencies such as the police, fire department and the Japan Self-Defence Forces to enable quicker response efforts.

According to a damage assessment released by the Tokyo metropolitan government in 2022, a Nankai Trough megaquake could generate tsunami 2 to 2.6 metres high along the Tokyo Bay area. There is also a 70 per cent chance of a massive earthquake occurring directly beneath Tokyo within the next 30 years. A powerful earthquake centred under southern Tokyo could result in about 6,100 deaths and damage to around 194,000 buildings. — Kyodo



Supplied image shows a rendering of an artificial intelligence system that uses high-altitude cameras to detect fires and building collapses in real-time. (Photo courtesy of Hitachi Ltd) **PHOTO: KYODO**

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Major wildfire in Athens suburbs under control, leaving one dead

A major wildfire that erupted on Sunday and spread over 30 kilometres to reach the northeastern suburbs of Athens has been contained by early Tuesday morning, leaving one dead and causing significant damages, according to local authorities.

A 60-year-old woman who was working in a small factory in Chalandri, a suburb in northern Athens, lost her life in the flames. Her body was retrieved by firefighters early Tuesday, said Greece's Fire Brigade.

According to the latest update, firefighters were no longer battling a raging blaze but were trying to extinguish dispersed

pockets of fire and tackle flare-ups.

Initial estimates suggest the blaze started on Sunday near Marathon town, the birthplace of the Marathon race, located some 40 kilometres northeast of central Athens. It has left behind scorched-down forests, farmland and approximately 100 damaged houses. "Today is a better day, but we need to cope with large destruction," Stelios Petsas, deputy interior minister of Greece, said in the town on Tuesday.

Thousands of residents who had been forced to flee the flames have started returning to their homes. — Xinhua

## 68 killed due to rains, floods across Sudan

A total of 68 people were killed due to rains and floods that have hit several parts of Sudan since June, the country's Interior Minister Khalil Pasha Sairin said Monday.

"The number of deaths due to the floods and rains reached 68 for various reasons, including collapse of houses and drowning, while 130 people were injured,"

the minister said in a statement.

More than 4,000 houses were completely collapsed, 8,000 houses partially collapsed, and 40 public and private facilities damaged, he said, adding that 198,000 feddans (around 832 square kilometres) of agricultural land were damaged, while a number of animals died. — Xinhua

# SPORTS



Manchester City's Spanish manager Pep Guardiola poses with the Premier League trophy after the presentation ceremony following the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and West Ham United at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England, on 19 May 2024. PHOTO: AFP

## Man City's off-field issues give rivals hope in Premier League title race

MANCHESTER City's grip on the Premier League title has reached an unprecedented four years but off-field doubts surround the English champions ahead of the new season.

Pep Guardiola turned City into the dominant force in English football with six Premier League titles in the past seven seasons. Guardiola, though, is entering the final year of his contract and the City boss has offered no guarantees that he

plans to extend his stay at the Etihad Stadium to a decade.

"Nine years today in the same club is an eternity," Guardiola said during pre-season. "I want to be sure it's the right decision. Not just for me, for the club, for the players".

Another cloud hangs over City's title defence, with the long-awaited hearing into 115 Premier League charges for alleged breaches of financial rules expected to take place

before the end of the year. City have vehemently denied any wrongdoing over the allegations, some of which date back to 2009. However, if they are found guilty, they could face severe sanctions.

Everton and Nottingham Forest received points deductions last season for breaches of profit and sustainability rules (PSR), with Leicester set to face similar consequences this season. — AFP

## International Youth Day Volleyball Tournament kicks off

IN celebration of International Youth Day 2024, the Myanmar Volleyball Federation is hosting a men's and women's volleyball tournament for players under 21.

The tournament, which features 14 men's teams and seven women's teams from across the regions and states, began yesterday at 10 am at the Aungmye Sports Hall in Yangon. Over 250 players will compete until 18 August, with matches open to the public free of charge.

For the men's competition, the first-place team will receive

K10 million, the second-place team K5 million, the third-place team K2.5 million, and the fourth-place team K1.5 million as cash awards. Additionally, the best player in the men's tournament will grab K1 million. In the women's competition, the first-place team will earn K6 million, the second-place team K3 million, the third-place team K1.5 million, and the fourth-place team K1 million, respectively. The best player in the women's tournament will claim K500,000. — MNA/KZL



The tournament showcases intense competition, as evidenced by the match between Mandalay and Youth Camp (NPT).

## Mbappe and Endrick signings make Real Madrid even clearer favourites in new season

IF last season was a virtual stroll for Real Madrid in La Liga, this season should also be relatively comfortable for the European champions. Real Madrid won the league by 10 points in the 2023-24 campaign and the win would probably have been even more comfortable but for easing off at the end of the season as they chased their 15<sup>th</sup> Champions League title.

Carlo Ancelotti's side lost just one game (against Atletico Madrid) and won the title with 87 goals in their favour and just 26 against.

The bad news for other clubs is that this season, Real Madrid (with one exception) look to be even stronger, after finally signing Kylian Mbappe from Paris Saint Germain, along with 18-year-old Brazilian forward, Endrick.

Mbappe has dominated French football and his pace and power will make an already fearsome Madrid attack even more threatening. Last season saw Real Madrid at times happy to see rivals have the ball, before hitting them with a counter-attack led by Fede Valverde, Vinicius Jr and Rodrygo. — Xinhua

## Soe Lin Oo joins lineup for ONE Friday Fights 81 in Thailand



MYANMAR fighter Soe Lin Oo will step into the cage at ONE Friday Fights 81, scheduled for 27 September in Thailand.

Since joining ONE Championship earlier this year, Soe Lin Oo has made a strong impression

with three consecutive victories. He will face Algeria/Thailand's Nabil in this upcoming bout. Soe Lin Oo has showcased his skills with notable wins over Japanese fighter Tatsuhiko, Portuguese competitor Fabio, and Thai athlete Pongsiri, all in the

second round or later.

Nabil, who also joined ONE Championship in 2023, has a record of four wins and one loss from five fights. After a rocky start, Nabil has secured victories in his last four matches. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

World population to shrink  
in 21<sup>st</sup> century  
amid birthrate fall: UN  
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# WORLD



Students and villagers stand outside a partially collapsed government school following severe soil erosion after an increase in the water level of the Sermanga river during monsoon season in the New Banglajhora village of Kokrajhar district in India's Assam state on 10 August 2024. PHOTO: AFP

## Death toll mounting from South Asia's devastating monsoon

**T**ORRENTIAL storms lashing South Asia have killed hundreds of people since June, official data showed Tuesday, with flooding and landslides causing widespread devastation during the treacherous monsoon season.

Weather-related disasters are common during the monsoon season from June to September, but experts say climate change is increasing their frequency

and severity.

The deaths include at least 250 in India, 171 in Nepal and 178 in Pakistan, according to official data in each country.

In India, just months after the country baked in its longest-ever heatwave, according to government weather experts, ferocious rainstorms have triggered widespread flooding and landslides.

The crushing heatwave in May and

June saw temperatures in New Delhi match the capital's previous record high: 49.2C (120.5F) clocked in 2022.

Now the heat has been replaced by rains.

India's weather department this week warned of "heavy rainfall" over much of the south and northeastern states.

On Tuesday, rescue teams searched for two missing people after nine drowned

when a surge of water smashed through the Una district of Himachal Pradesh state.

Witnesses saw a car being swept away like a toy by the swollen muddy river.

"Several people tried to stop the car... as the current was increasing but the car sped past and soon the car was swept away by the strong current," Rajendra Kumar said. — AFP

## Indonesia's president has trial ride of Chinese ART system in new capital

INDONESIAN President Joko Widodo on Tuesday had a trial ride of the Chinese-developed Autonomous Rail Rapid Transit (ART) system in the new capital of the Southeast Asian country.

The ART system in Nusantara, a collaboration project between China's CRRC Group and NORINCO International, is currently in a trial operation here. Earlier in the day, in speaking to governors, mayors, and regents at a meeting in Nusantara, Widodo provided a cost comparison between ART and traditional rail systems, noting that the ART system is significantly cheaper.

"For this one, the autonomous rail transit is indeed cheaper because it is without rails, using magnets. Per unit for three carriages, the price is approximately 74 billion rupiah (around US\$4.7 million)," he explained, comparing this with the escalating costs for Mass Rapid Transit and Light Rail Transit systems.

He expressed confidence that ART could provide a more sustainable and cost-effective alternative to traditional rail systems in Indonesia, particularly in cities that are becoming increasingly congested. — Xinhua

## Iran rejects Western calls to stand down Israel threat

IRAN on Tuesday rejected Western calls to stand down its threat to retaliate against Israel for the killing of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran late last month.

The Islamic republic and its allies have blamed Israel for Haniyeh's killing on 31 July during a visit to the Iranian capital for the swearing-in of President Masoud Pezeshkian. Israel has not commented.

Iran has vowed to avenge the death, which came hours after an Israeli strike in Beirut killed a senior commander of Hezbollah, the powerful Iran-backed militant group in Lebanon. Western diplomats have scrambled to prevent a major conflagration in the Middle East, where tensions are already high due to the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

In a statement on Monday, the United States and its European allies urged Iran to de-escalate.

The White House warned that a "significant set of attacks" by Iran and its allies was possible as soon as this week, saying Israel shared the same assessment.

The United States has deployed an aircraft carrier



Vehicles drive past a huge billboard depicting Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) and slain Palestinian Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh at Tehran's Valiasr square on 12 August 2024. PHOTO: AFP

strike group and a guided missile submarine to the region in support of Israel.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani criticized the Western call for restraint. — AFP