

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## SUNDAY EDITION

### Myingyan power plant resumes operations

SEMBCORP Industries announced that it had resumed operations of Sembcorp Myingyan Independent Power Plant in Myingyan, Mandalay Region, following the temporary suspension stated on 12 August.

The statement said that as the conflicts around the vicinity of the plant have ceased, it is back to operational, aligned with the Electricity Power Generation Enterprise.

The temporary suspension will not have a material impact on Sembcorp's earnings per share and net tangible assets per share for the financial year ending 31 December 2024.

It is operated under a build-operate-transfer agreement between the company and the Ministry of Electric Power. It is one of the largest gas-fired independent power plants in Myanmar, helping to meet the country's growing electricity demand. — GNLM



Myingyan power plant.



File photo shows matric students undergoing examinations in Nay Pyi Taw last year.

## Submit 2025 matriculation exam application by end-Sept: DME

Those students who aim to sit for the 2025 matriculation exam are required to submit application forms by the end of September after affixing a deposit stamp worth K700 onto the application, the Department of Myanmar Examinations announced on 23 August 2024.

Starting on 1 September 2024, the departments began selling an application form worth K200 and a stamp for students who would like to sit for the 2025 matriculation examination.

The forms are divided into two colours, green and pink, depending on specialized subjects.

Those who passed Grade 10 under the old curriculum and did not sit for the matric exam (Grade 11) for various reasons, those who failed Grade 11 under the old curriculum and those who did not make Grade 12 under the new curriculum are considered external students. They are allowed to sit for the exam after choosing the relevant subjects.

The external students can buy the application form and the stamp at the relevant township education offices and submit them there from 1 to 30 September 2024.

Headteachers and principals of basic education high schools and private

schools are in charge of submitting applications to the students on time.

Those who failed to submit the application forms in time are not entitled to take the exam, and neither are those students who chose different subjects that are not declared in the application form. Therefore, students are advised to fill in the form carefully.

The stamps and application forms are available at the Department of Myanmar Examinations (head office) located at Office Building 52, Nay Pyi Taw and the Yangon branch office located in Ward 12, Parami Street, Hlaing Township, Yangon. — NN/KK



**NATIONAL PAGE 2**

Mon State launches Mpox awareness campaign at Mawlamyine Airport



**BUSINESS PAGE 7**

Chinese demand for Myanmar's soft areca nuts soaring



Sales Department- Ph-09 695 096 943, 09 790 903 431  
STARMART NINE MILE Showroom- (9)mile, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph-09 30860180  
KHA YAE PIN MART - Mingalardone, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph- 09 671443555  
STARMART MANDALAY Wholesale -Corner of 26<sup>th</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup> road, Mandalay.Ph-09 661702244  
STARMART Nay Pyi Taw Yangon- Mandalay Highway Road, Ywar Gauk Ward, Pyinmanar.Ph- 09 685119077

FDA Certificate -2212 PCE 0013

# NATIONAL

## Mon State launches Mpox awareness campaign at Mawlamyine Airport



The Mpox awareness campaign for travellers at Mawlamyine Airport is in progress yesterday. **PHOTO: BO BO WIN EMERGENCY RELIEF TEAM**

AN Mpox awareness campaign was launched yesterday at Mawlamyine Airport under the supervision of the Mon State Government, according to a local Parahita association.

The screening started for Mpox prevention and health education for passengers on the arriving flights at the airport in Mawlamyine on 23 August.

Under the supervision of the Mon State Government, the Public Health Department, the General Administration Department of Mawlamyine Township, relevant departments, the Township Red Cross Society,

and the Bo Bo Win Emergency Rescue Team have jointly participated in the awareness programme.

As the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Mpox as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on 14 August 2024, according to the procedures of the Ministry of Health (MOH), all passengers arriving in Myanmar must fill out health declaration forms and submit them to the relevant ministerial staff before passing through immigration counters.

The first case of Mpox infection was logged in Myanmar's

neighbouring Thailand, and the infected person was a European tourist who came to Thailand from Africa on 14 August.

Since Mpox is contagious from humans to humans and has already reached our neighbouring country, it can spread into Myanmar at any time. So, the Kyaikto Public Health Department has started taking preventive measures, collecting protective equipment, and preparing clinical treatment locations. People are urged to report immediately to the health authorities if they find a suspicious patient. — MT/ZN



## Birdwatching, trekking, and water activities offered at Hlawga Park near Yangon

this light and enjoyable programme.

Those who love sports can choose to trek in the forest, while those who love riding adventure boats and SUP can enjoy water activities (SUP and ADV boat) with families and friends. There is also a coach who will teach the newcomers who have not yet learned to ride. The price of SUP is K15,000 on weekdays and K 18,500 on weekends. The bus routes which reach the park include YBS 37 (Htaukkyant-Sule), YBS 41 (Hmawby-Thakin Mya Park), YBS 90 (Taikyik-Thakin Mya park), YBS 105 (Hmawby-Sule), YBS 106 (Okkan-Sule), YBS 96 (Htaukkyant-Thakayta) and YBS 116 (Htaukkyant-Sule) and people can enter along the Hlawga park signboard on the Yangon-Pyay road after getting off at the old 37 bus stop. — MT/ZN

PEOPLE are invited to come and enjoy birdwatching, trekking and water activities (SUP and ADV boat) at the Hlawga Park near Yangon, which is full of natural atmosphere.

Being the best place to get away from the urban hustle and bustle closest to Yangon and to relieve stress from the city's noises and confusion, the Hlawga Park features activities such as birdwatching, trekking and water activities (SUP & ADV boat).

Whether it is for hobby or knowledge, people can choose

Hlawga Birdwatching, which has a good birdwatching guide, and lunch is also arranged to match



Some visitors are seen enjoying birdwatching, trekking and water activities (SUP & ADV boat) in the Hlawga Park.

## 2022 EPS-TOPIK agriculture, livestock exam passers now eligible for forestry jobs

CANDIDATES who passed the 2022 EPS-TOPIK 2022 agriculture and livestock exam are on the waitlist for job positions and haven't been introduced to the employer are eligible to transfer to the forestry sector, Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA-EPS) announced on 24 August.

Names and exam registration numbers of 1366 candidates who are approved to transfer to forestry from agriculture and livestock, submitted by HRD-Korea, were also attached to the announcement.

The term of the waitlist for job positions will take effect

until the expiry date of agriculture and livestock, it said. Those who want to transfer can come to the POEA office in person from 9 am to 3 pm on 27 August, along with the original passport and copy and exam registration number.

Transferring to forestry from agriculture and livestock doesn't mean a job guarantee, as it is up to the employer under the EPS system. If the waitlist for job positions in the forestry sector is complete, it is eligible to transfer back to the original industry, agriculture and livestock, it said. — MT/ZS



Sample images of the forestry job are displayed. **PHOTO- POEA-EPS**

# NATIONAL

## Deputy PM MoTC Union Minister attends Myanmar Cyber Security Challenge 2024 competitions award ceremony

THE award ceremony for the Myanmar Cyber Security Challenge 2024 (freelance level) and the Cyber Security Awareness Video Competition-2024 (university level) was held yesterday at Office No 2 of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Nay Pyi Taw. Member of the State Administration Council (SAC), Deputy Prime Minister, and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo delivered the opening speech.

Following the opening speech, the award-winning videos in the Cyber Security Awareness Video Competition 2024 (university level) were screened.

The Deputy Prime Minister then presented awards to the winners, including First Prize to Ma Myat Shwe Sin Hmu from the National University of Culture and Arts (Mandalay), Second Prize to Maung Pyi Nyein Aung from the same institution, Third Prize to Maung Myat Min Khant from



State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo encourages participants sitting Myanmar Cyber Security Challenge in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

Yangon University of Computer Studies, and consolation prizes to Maung Kaung Khant Tin Kyaw from the National University of Art and Culture (Mandalay) and Maung Saw Zin Lin Htet from the University for the Development of the National Races of the Union

(Sagaing).

General Mya Tun Oo presented awards to the competition judges. The video that won first prize in the Cyber Security Awareness Video Competition will represent Myanmar in the ASEAN-Japan Cyber Security

Awareness Video Competition 2024, organized by Cyber Security Brunei.

The ceremony was also attended by Union ministers, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, heads of departments, invitees, and team managers,

who toured the event and cheered on the Myanmar Cyber Security Challenge contestants.

A total of 75 students participated in the Myanmar Cyber Security Challenge, with 25 teams from the Defence Services Technological Academy, various regional and state universities of technology, computer universities, and government technical institutes. The U\_SH3LL team won first prize, the mm\_cyb3r\_s4g3 team won second, and the Cryptoknights team won third. Officials from the Ministry of Transport and Communications presented awards to the winners.

The Myanmar Cyber Security Challenge has been held annually since 2015. It was not held in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic but resumed in 2022. The competition was held for the eighth time in 2024, and the winners will represent Myanmar in cyber security competitions across ASEAN countries. — MNA/TKO

## MoI Union Minister inspects Sarso Beikman construction site

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn inspected the Sarso Beikman construction site in Mingala Taungnyunt Township of Yangon yesterday.

During the inspection, the Union minister instructed officials to cooperate with the relevant department to remove the vast trees in the area of the three-storey RC Sarso Beikman construction site and also observed the three-storey building that will be upgraded into the Sarpay Beikman library.

Sarso Beikman will be constructed on 2.18 acres of land

plot in Mingala Taungnyunt Township as per the directives of the State Head to collect books, photo records and statues of great intellectuals, hold educational talks and dialogues and also for public recreation, made on 24 September 2021.

The Printing and Publishing Department of the Ministry of Information led the construction project, and the Urban and Housing Development Department of the Ministry of Construction designed the building and estimated the cost.

Myanmar and India signed



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn inspects the Sarso Beikman construction site in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon, yesterday.

a Project Agreement for the Sarso Beikman construction project on 18 March 2024.

It will be a three-storey RC with 160 feet by 140 feet by 57 feet and eight inches and 52,128 square feet. The Joint

Project Monitoring Committee (JPMC) was organized with 11 members for the project. Four old buildings in project areas were auctioned, and the tender-winning group demolished the buildings as per the

fixed date.

It is a two-year project, and the price quotation processes were completed as per the procedures. The construction of Sarso Beikman will begin soon. — MNA/KTZH

### Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and The Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit [www.moi.gov.mm/mal](http://www.moi.gov.mm/mal), [www.moi.gov.mm/km](http://www.moi.gov.mm/km), [www.moi.gov.mm/nlm](http://www.moi.gov.mm/nlm) and [www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper](http://www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper).

News and Periodicals Enterprise

# NATIONAL

## Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Awards presented; 3,000 public science treatises donated by PM handed over

THE 30<sup>th</sup> Pakokku Literary Award, Scholarships and Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Book Awards giving ceremony, and handover ceremony of K10 million to Pakokku Literary Fund and 3,000 copies of Public Science Treatises for libraries, military headquarters, regiments, and units across the nation by Prime Minister and family, was held in Yangon yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, in his capacity as Chairman of the Myanmar Libraries Development Cooperation Committee, stated that the efforts of Myanmar literature experts play an essential role in developing Myanmar literature. The Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award was established in 1994, and it is a long-standing private literary award.

In 1992, U Ohn Pe from Pakokku donated K7,601,279 to the government to establish a literary fund. In 1994, the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Lifetime Literary Award and four genres of literary awards were presented, and now the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Lifetime Literary Award and five genres of literary awards are



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn and winners of Literary Awards, Library Awards and scholarship awards pose for the documentary group photo in Yangon yesterday.

being presented.

The Union minister then highlighted the salient speech of Pakokku U Ohn Pe regarding his cash donation for literary awards, scholarships and libraries and the benefits of reading habits at the awarding ceremony before he died.

He also appreciated prize recipients and scholarship winners. He mentioned the donation of K10 million for the Pakokku Literary Award Fund and 3,000

copies of Public Science Treatises Volume VI and VII by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and his instructions to conduct the propagation of library culture and active cooperation work between officials, parents and teachers to turn out youths with five kinds of strength.

The Union minister then handed over the cash and copies

of Public Science Treatises Volume (6) and (7) to the relevant officials.

The Yangon Region Government also donated K7.5 million to the Pakokku Literary Award Fund at the event.

Then, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn presented the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Lifetime Literary Awards to the winners while Yangon Region Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Win Tint, Social Affairs

Minister U Htay Aung, the Permanent Secretary, Myanmar Writers' Association Chairman U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe) and U Tin Nyunt (Maung Nyein Thu-Gyobingauk) to the prize winners of the novel genre, selected short stories genre, treatise genre, research literature genre and selected poems genre. Pakokku Literary Award Fund Supervisory Committee Vice-Chirman (1) U Thein Khine Oo and Rector Dr Kay Thi Htwe of the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon) awarded the winners of the 30<sup>th</sup> Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Book Award and Pakokku U Ohn Pe scholarship award.

Then, the first-prize winner of the research literature genre, Saya Marn Thit Nyein, expressed thanks on behalf of the awardees.

The officials gave 16 prizes in five genres: selected poems, novels, selected short stories, treatises and research, including lifetime awards for literary achievements, two Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Book Awards and two scholarship awards for the National University of Arts and Culture. — MNA/KTZH

## Union Education Minister heads for ASEAN Education Ministers' meetings

UNION Minister for Education, Dr Nyunt Pe led a delegation that departed Yangon yesterday morning by air to attend the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Education Ministers' Meeting, the seventh ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers' Meeting, and the seventh East Asia Education Ministers' Summit in Buriram, Thailand on 25 and 26 August.

The deputy director-gen-

eral of the Department of Monitoring and Evaluation and the deputy director-general of the Department of Higher Education accompanied the Union minister.

The meetings will be held under the theme "Transforming Education in the Digital Age" and will be hosted by Thailand. Education ministers and senior officials from ASEAN member

countries and participating countries will gather to discuss and exchange views on educational developments. — MNA/KZL

Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe being seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials yesterday.



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# NATIONAL

## MoRAC Union Minister arrives back from Makutarama's centenary celebration in Sri Lanka

THE delegation led by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin returned to Yangon on 23 August from Sri Lanka, where they attended the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Makutarama Myanmar Buddhist Monastery.

This monastery was established by Myanmar Buddhist Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vinaya Lankara, and the delegation also participated in other religious ceremonies in Colombo from 20 to 22 August.

On 20 August, the centenary ceremony of the Makutarama Myanmar Monastery was attended by monks and nuns led by the Vice-Chair of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin, the Minister for Transport and Information of Sri Lanka, the Myanmar Ambassador to Sri Lanka, the Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar, and donors. The ceremony was opened by Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara, Chancellor of the Sitagu International Buddhist Academies and 16<sup>th</sup> Sangharaja

of Shwegyin Gana, the Rector of the Shan State Buddhist University Oxford Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Dhammasami, and Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin.

All attendees initially observed the Five Precepts from the Vice-Chair of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Dr Bhaddanta Candanasara. The gratitude of the monastery's founder Sayadaw was read and praised, and Sri Lanka's Minister for Transport and Information Dr Bandula Gunawardana delivered an appreciation speech. Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin expressed a desire to enhance bilateral cooperation in religious affairs. Following this, donors presented offerings to members of the Sangha, and gifts were exchanged with the monastery trustees.

In the evening, the Union Minister visited the Myanmar Embassy in Colombo, met embassy staff, and encouraged them to serve the country with loyalty while contributing to the Buddha Sasana.



Chancellor of the Sitagu International Buddhist Academies 16<sup>th</sup> Sangharaja of Shwegyin Gana Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara sprinkles scented water on the Buddha image during the opening ceremony of 100<sup>th</sup> celebration of Makutarama Myanmar monastery in Sri Lanka.

On 21 August, the delegation visited the Buddha Tooth Relic Chamber in Kandy City, made a donation, and also visited the Kandy Myanmar Monastery, meeting Sayadaw Bhaddanta Acinna. They further visited Malayazanapok, Aloka Rock Mountain, and Shin Maha Bud-

dha Gosa Cave, where the Fourth Buddha Synod was convened by 500 Buddhist Arahats led by Ashin Maha Dhamma Rakkhita in the Sasana 450.

On 22 August, the delegation visited the Kelaniya Ordination Hall in Kelaniya City, making offerings to the presiding Sayadaw

of Razamahavihara Monastery. On the afternoon of 22 August, they attended the ceremony where the Theravumsa Lankarama Maha Ganacariya Saddhamma Kittisiri Title was presented to Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara at the Kawte Buddhist Federation. — MNA/TMT

## MoHT Union Minister attends seminar on sustainable tourism in post-pandemic cultural heritage sites

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism, Dr Thet Thet Khine attended the opening ceremony of the "Seminar on Making Tourism More Sustainable in Cultural Heritage Destinations in the Post-Pandemic Era," held at the Golden Palace Hotel in Bagan yesterday morning.

Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia, the director-general of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and delegations from Mekong-Lancang Cooperation member countries — China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand — attended the ceremony.

The Union minister announced that the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund had approved three projects to



The Seminar on Making Tourism More Sustainable in Cultural Heritage Destinations in the Post-Pandemic Era in progress at the Golden Palace Hotel in Bagan on 23 August 2024.

support tourism development. These projects aim to promote regional cooperation in preserving cultural and world heritage sites, sharing best practices for sustainable tourism, and developing effective tourism strategies. The Union minister also emphasized the importance of such discussions in light of the

challenges faced by the tourism industry during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Experts from the Mekong-Lancang countries shared their insights on sustainable tourism development for regional cultural heritage sites during the discussion. They also discussed best practices

and addressed key challenges in promoting these destinations by dividing the issues into three parts.

After the seminar, Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine met Ambassador Ms Ma Jia at the Golden Palace Hotel in Bagan. The meeting focused on bilateral tourism cooperation between Myanmar and China, as well as strategies for promoting tourism in the region. Participants from the Mekong-Lancang countries engaged in friendly discussions about the potential for establishing sister-city relationships between ancient cultural heritage cities like Bagan in Myanmar.

The Union minister also visited the ministry's hotels and inspected the Tuyin Villa Eco Farm Resort. In the evening,

representatives from Myanmar, Thailand, China, Cambodia, and Laos attended a dinner hosted by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. During the dinner, speeches were given, and guests enjoyed performances by Myanmar traditional dance troupes.

Additionally, the Union minister inspected the activities of the Bagan Plastic Campaign group, which collects garbage around the area of Thiripiytsaya Hotel and Manuha Pagoda. This group conducts weekly garbage collection campaigns on Saturday mornings, with participation from departmental staff, hotel staff, tour guides, and representatives from the tourism industry and related associations in Bagan. — MNA/TRKM

# NATIONAL

## French Architect Dr Pierre Pichard passes away in France

FRENCH Architect Dr Pierre Pichard, who played a significant role in the preservation and research of the Bagan World Heritage Site, passed away on 22 August in France at the age of 88.

Dr Pichard was renowned for his extensive work in Bagan, where he authored and published eight volumes of the Inventory of Monuments at Bagan, a comprehensive catalogue of the site's historical monuments. His contributions included detailed documentation of over 2,000 religious structures in Bagan, covering their architectural types, dimensions, construction materials, year of establishment, and remaining artistic features like mural paintings.

Additionally, Dr Pichard was actively involved in the



A table of contents from one of the volumes on Bagan, authored by Dr Pierre Pichard.

conservation and restoration efforts of Bagan's ancient structures and played a pivotal role in the site's successful inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List. — ASH/KZL

## Yangon River's water level to rise beyond datum in Sept first week

MYANMA Port Authority has issued a warning that the Yangon River will experience exceptionally high tides, ranging from approximately 20.01 feet to 20.18 feet above the datum, from 3 to 7 September.

This warning is intended to allow residents living near the riverbanks to prepare in advance for the possibility that the tidal height may exceed 20 feet above the datum.

The notification also reassures the public that there is no need for concern, noting that a

similar tide rose to 22 feet above the datum in the Yangon River during 2014-2015. In 2023, from 15 to 18 October, the water level in the Yangon River rose from about 20.11 feet to about 20.37 feet above the datum, but this increase was limited to the river ports and did not cause flooding of houses.

The notification emphasizes that, given the experience of tides reaching 22 feet above the datum, the current situation should not be a cause for alarm. — TWA/TKO



This photo depicts the normal state of the Yangon River.



The photo depicts the Yadana Cave Pagoda and Popa Medawgyi festivals being held last year.

## Amarapura to host Yadana Cave Pagoda, Popa Medawgyi festivals

THE Yadana Cave Pagoda Festival and the Popa Medawgyi Festival will be held in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region, according to its Organizing Committee.

This famous festival occurs annually on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> waning days of Wagoung and attracts spirit worshippers and pilgrims from nearby areas such as Mandalay, Amarapura, TadaU, Sagaing, and Monywa.

"The Yadana Cave Festival will take place from 27 August to 2 September. The palace and throne for the event are already prepared. I expect the food stalls to open soon. The Medaw Nat

Festival begins on the 7<sup>th</sup> waning day of Wagoung. The closing ceremony will feature casting lots and offering great alms to the Sangha on new moon day. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of the full moon, the monks will receive lottery tickets and alms, and the festival will be concluded," said a member of the festival's organizing committee.

The Yadana Cave Pagoda was built in 745 ME by Inwa Mingyi Swasawke. The pagoda festival has been an annual event for over 600 years. Nanmadaw Mei Nu later incorporated the Nat festival as a new category of events to worship celestial beings. — ASH/MKKS

## PHU offers Diploma in Hospital Administration online course

THE University of Public Health (Yangon) will provide an online nine-month Diploma in Hospital Administration course.

To be eligible for the Diploma in Hospital Administration course scheduled to begin in the 2025 academic year, applicants must have a minimum of five years of clinical experi-

ence as a medical doctor with an MBBS degree or an equivalent qualification recognized by the Myanmar Medical Council. Furthermore, applicants must be no older than 58 as of 26 September, which is the final day for submitting applications.

Applicants will be selected through tests and are required

to serve as civil servants for at least two years upon completion of the postgraduate diploma. Failure to complete the course or to serve as civil servants within the specified timeframe will result in the forfeiture of any compensation related to the program. — TWA/TRKM



This photo depicts the University of Public Health (Yangon).

## Korea, Myanmar discuss to enhance maize, pulses productivity

AGRICULTURE Department officials led by Director-General Dr Ye Tint Tun held a meeting regarding the productivity of maize and pulses with experts from Mahaw General Trading Co-operative Society Co from Korea on 23 August 2024.

Dr Ye Tint Tun gave a remark that the demand from feed mills is pretty low. The remaining is mainly sent to China and Thailand. Korean experts came to cultivate high-yielding crops in Myanmar. The department is willing to conduct an export process to Korea that is in line with the rules and regulations.

Myanmar mainly ships

green grams, black grams and pigeon peas to international markets. The department welcomes investment from Korea and links with the departments concerned.

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

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



Officials from Myanmar's Agriculture Department and experts from Mahaw General Trading Co-operative Society Co from Korea discuss the productivity of maize and pulses as feedstuffs on 23 August 2024.

maize is imported during the maize season of Thailand.

Additionally, China has been purchasing Myanmar's maize through cross-border trade under alternative development programmes. Legitimate maize trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 Myanmar companies have been permitted to export maize.

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 conveyed over 2 million tonnes of maize to foreign 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. Myanmar's annual corn output is estimated at 2.5-3 million tonnes. — NN/KK



One female worker is harvesting the white sesame.

## Monsoon sesame flows into market

AFTER the harvest season of monsoon sesame seeds, Magway Township is seeing brisk sales.

The monsoon sesame seeds from Minbu, Pwintbyu, Salin, Myothit and Natmawk townships flow into Magway District.

Oil millers and kiln owners are purchasing sesame. The sesame seeds are exported to China, Thailand, and Vietnam through Yangon and Mandalay.

Strong foreign demand for sesame seeds hiked up prices amid low yield triggered by erratic weather.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is aiming to reach three million sunflower acres in the 2024-2025 financial year, with a view to

reducing palm oil import and having edible oil sufficiency.

In April last year, the world's top palm oil exporter, Indonesia, which is one of the leading oil suppliers to Myanmar, declared an export ban on cooking oil export to reduce domestic shortage. Consequently, Myanmar's Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce temporarily suspended exports of oil crops (peanut and sesame) from 9 May 2022 in order to have oil self-sufficiency.

Exports of Myanmar's edible oil crops resumed as the world's top palm oil exporters returned to normalcy, according to a notification dated 5 July 2022 released by the Trade Department. — NN/KK

## Chinese demand for Myanmar's soft areca nuts soaring

THERE are over 21,000 acres of areca palm cultivation in Ayeyawady Region, and China mostly purchases pre-mature areca nuts from Myaungmya Township, according to the Consumers Affairs Department.

There are 3,569 acres in Myaungmya Township, which has become a significant trade hub with 30 retail depots based on China's strong demand. About 20-30 bags of moist areca nut were supplied daily to a depot in Myaungmya Township in July. The areca nut season starts in March and ends in August.

Chinese buyers directly come to Myaungmya Township to buy them during the season. They do not purchase circle-shaped nuts. They prefer soft fresh areca nuts weighing 19-37 grammes.

Farmers are still unaware of how the soft areca nuts are utilized. It is considered that they are processed to make a snack after roasting in order to penetrate the Southeast Asian



The photo shows a worker cleaning the dried betel nuts.

market.

The shells of areca nuts rather than nuts are primarily consumed in foreign countries. They are also used in making traditional medicine and snacks.

Chinese traders import Myanmar's areca nuts to meet the growing demand for raw materials for areca nuts. This way, Myanmar's areca nut market has boomed.

Myanmar's areca nuts are usually sent to markets only after drying and processing. At present, they prefer soft and

moist areca nuts rather than dried ones. As it can save production costs, the farm owners are keen on selling soft, green and moist areca nuts rather than dried ones.

Myanmar's areca nut market has become widespread. The commodity depot of areca nut emerged in the producing states and regions such as Rakhine, Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi and Ayeyawady regions. There is competitive pricing in the market as well. — NN/KK

# OPINION

# BOOKRACK

ARTICLE/POEM

## Honour the humanitarian activities of Red Cross members

THE origins of the Red Cross Society date back to 1859, during the battle between Italy, France, and Austria in the Solferino area of Italy. Amidst the heavy casualties, Henry Dunant, who would later become the founder of the Red Cross, provided care for wounded soldiers from both sides, demonstrating a humanitarian spirit that transcended enemy lines.

The Red Cross Society was officially established in 1863 during an international conference in Geneva, which saw delegates from 16 countries come together. From its inception, the society has been committed to offering aid to those in need, including during battles and armed conflicts, regardless of

political affiliations or whether they are friends or foes. Red Cross members have consistently worked with a voluntary spirit, often risking their own lives. By 1928, the society had expanded to include 50 countries. Today, over 16 million volunteers from 191 countries are actively involved in Red Cross movements worldwide.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been honoured with the Nobel Peace Prize three times, in 1914, 1944, and 1963, recognizing its significant contributions to humanitarian aid. Currently, Red Cross members across the globe are involved in providing assistance to various groups in need. This includes survivors of the COVID-19 pandemic, victims of earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, and displaced individuals fleeing from wars and armed conflicts in many countries.

The Myanmar Red Cross Society is one of the oldest social organizations in Myanmar. Initially formed as a branch of the Indian Red Cross Society in 1920, it became an independent organization in 1937 and was officially recognized by the ICRC in 1939. The Myanmar Red Cross Society joined the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1946 and continues to play a vital role in providing humanitarian aid in the country.

Overall, the Red Cross Society has a long and distinguished history of offering humanitarian assistance globally, often in the most challenging and dangerous situations, driven by the principles of impartiality and voluntary service.

Members and the society have been serving the interests of survivors and vulnerable people for their healthcare services whenever the country suffers natural disasters and unexpected dangers. Those Red Cross members are in one with the people during the periods whenever all the people faced hardships and great challenges. As part of recognizing and honouring their efforts, all the people need to provide assistance for members of the Red Cross society.



Book Title - Athonnya Hsizar  
Writer - Maung Khine Lat  
Publishing House - Duwun  
Publication Date - July 2024 (1st Edition)  
Price - K7,000

### Athonnya Hsizar

AS known to you all, an essay can be likened to a portrait painted with aesthetic prose. Additionally, essay writing can be said to be an art of sharing knowledge and/or experience as well as entertainingly giving some message. Critics of Myanmar literature say that an essay must be more critical than novels and that the presentation should be made implicitly, provoking the thoughts of the readers. These days, the style of essay writing has changed dramatically. The essayists have become more serious in their thinking, and thus, their presentation is focused more on the theme and the message they would like to give than on entertaining the

readers.

This book under review is a collection of 13 essays written by Maung Khine Lat. In his foreword, the writer made his humblest apology to the readers for having to sell his book at a higher price because of the higher costs of production. He has expressed his apology for the inclusion of the old essays. He said, "These days, things have changed a lot. Our field has changed drastically. The prices of commodities are sky-high. This makes me feel highly discouraged about publishing a book. I have to admit that although the name of my book is new, some of its contents are old. The guilty conscience overwhelms me. Still, I am re-

lieved by the thought that my essays can still contribute some fresh knowledge to those who have not read them despite their being old ones. I hope I am not hoping against hope. Anyway, I cannot be quite sure of this. As I am fond of company, I am always reluctant to reject a friend's offer. That's why I have no heart to deny an offer made by a publisher who is very close to me. But the publisher is not to blame; it's me who deserves blame by the readers for the inclusion of the old essays."

The first essay in this book is about speaking. He said, "As a man has two ears but one mouth, he should speak less and listen more. We should use our facul-

ties proportionately. This being so, we ought to listen more and speak less."

As known to many, this is a quotation from a Greek philosopher known as Diogenes. This kind of advice was also given by Dale Carnegie, who wrote a very famous book titled, "How to Win Friends and Influence People." This book was first translated into Myanmar by a former prime minister called U Nu. The title of his translated version is "Mitta Bala Tika."

The writer of the book under review is a reserved type who speaks rarely and is thus famous for being a good listener. However, people are mostly outspoken. They would be unwilling to listen to other people speaking, very often interrupting a conversation. In fact, if people are all talking and arguing, their conversation will be a failure, not yielding any tangible and/or fruitful results. Such a conversation can produce only a noisy output of sound with no result achieved. The writer has admitted that even a person like him has behaved sometimes like them in a group talk. The writer reminds the readers of the value of silence as the saying goes, "Silence is golden".



Book Title - Kyundaw Tatiya Yangon  
Myodawtha  
Writer - Minn Chan Mon  
Publishing House - Minn and May  
Publication Date - July 2024 (1st Edition)  
Price - K8,000

### Kyundaw Tatiya Yangon Myodawtha

THIS week, I would like to introduce a new book to the readers. This book is titled "Kyundaw Tatiya Yangon Myodawtha", which was written by a writer called Minn Chan Mon. He is a prolific writer who writes not only essays but also novels, articles and papers on literature, in addition to composing poems. It can be said that he is more of a poet than a writer. Besides his pen name, Minn Chan Mon, he has another pen name - Banyan Mon. Both his pen names show that he belongs to the Mon race, which has had a very long tradition throughout the history of Myanmar. He is better known as a poet, with his second focus laid on the writing of essays. He not only writes essays

but also shares his knowledge of the art of writing them.

Regarding his literary career, he said that he started his career with the composition of the poems. When he was young, he had a narrower view of the world. With the passage of time, he started to get a glimpse of a wider view of the world, and when he reached the age of maturity, he had a bird's eye view of the world. As he could have a panoramic view of the world upon becoming an adult, he was mature enough to start to try his pen on the writing of the essays. Since then, he has been writing essays, but he is not very bent on composing poems. According to him, the composition of

the poems is a stepping stone to writing essays. To be able to produce good essays, he has had to study a lot. He believes that his hot and in-depth pursuit of the art of writing essays has enabled him to produce good essays. When he has written a lot of essays, he can publish a collection of his essays. He has published one after another collection of his essays, and in 2018, he won the National Literary Award in the genre of fiction titled "Thit Ywet Paw Ga Pyar Yay Zet Myar Essay Su Zee Hmu". The title can be roughly translated into "The drops of honey on a leaf".

In his foreword, the writer has provided some extracts from his essays:

I'm happy in Yangon. But I'm not that happy sometimes. With people bursting into laughter sometimes, some visiting the Martyr's Mausoleum, Some are paying homage to Lord Buddha at Shwedagon Pagoda. With the motor vehicles speeding past the railway overbridges, with the actors and the villains being in a rush, people expect rainfall because of the scorching heat. Anyway, I was happy to be born in Yangon. And I want my fellow Yangonites to lead a sincere, honest life, going against unjust acts. I want them all to love the truth and to be patriotic. And I also want my fellow Yangonians to be contented with what they have and to lead a meaningful life, sacrificing their selfish desires. This book is believed to be worth reading and thus is strongly recommended to the readers.

## Experts meet as final global plastic treaty talks near

WITH months until crunch talks on the world's first binding treaty on plastic pollution, experts are meeting in Bangkok to discuss financing options and problematic plastics.

The four-day gathering is a largely technical waypoint on the road to final negotiations in late November in South Korea's Busan.

There, countries are hoping to seal a potentially groundbreaking deal to tackle the gargantuan problem of plastic pollution.

The scale of the issue is almost unprecedented — microplastics have been found in the deepest ocean trenches, highest mountain peaks, in

clouds and even breastmilk.

Plastic production has doubled in 20 years and at current rates it could triple by 2060, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Yet over 90 per cent of plastic is not recycled, with much of it dumped in nature or buried in landfills.

Negotiators have already met four times to discuss a deal that could include production caps, unified rules on recyclability, and even bans on certain plastics or chemical components. But significant gaps remain, including on whether the treaty will be adopted by consensus or a majority vote. Other flashpoints include

whether plastic production will be addressed, Eirik Lindebjerg, global plastics policy lead at WWF, told AFP.

"Is it within the scope to talk about production, or does the value chain start after plastic products are made? And then if we can regulate production... is it with a cap, is it with a reduction target, what are the measures?" he said.

"That's been a very contentious issue."

Environmental groups have long argued that the treaty must include curbs on new plastic, a position backed by dozens of countries who call themselves the "high ambition coalition".

They may now have a powerful ally in the form of the Unit-

ed States, which has reportedly thrown its backing behind some production limits.

That shift has been welcomed by environmental groups, though Lindebjerg warned it was not yet clear if Washington would back mandatory caps or weaker voluntary limits.

### 'Unresolved matters'

Just how binding the deal will be is another source of contention.

Some countries want measures like a unified timeline for phasing out certain plastics, while others back vaguer language that would let nations decide how and when to regulate.

SOURCE: AFP

## The Smart Chaps

By Tin Moe, Translated by Myint Zan

### ဤကဏ္ဍတို့

လိပ်ပြာ၏ရန်၊ ဝိတုန်းလှန်လည်း ပန်းမာလိတို့တွက် မဟုတ်ခဲ့။

even though the beetle repels the danger of the butterfly 'tis not for the sake of the flowers

ကျားအန္တရာယ်၊ မုဆိုးကယ်လည်း သားငယ်တို့တွက် မဟုတ်ခဲ့။

even though the hunter saves the small victims of the tiger 'tis not for their benefit

ဝိတုန်း လိပ်ပြာ၊ လှည့်ကွက်ရာပြီ ပန်းမာလာတို့ ညီညွတ်ကြ။

the beetle and butterfly are now devising ways to deceive you oh, flowers be united

မုဆိုး နှင့် ကျား၊ ဉာဏ်စားပြီ သားငယ်တို့လည်း ညီညွတ်ကြ။

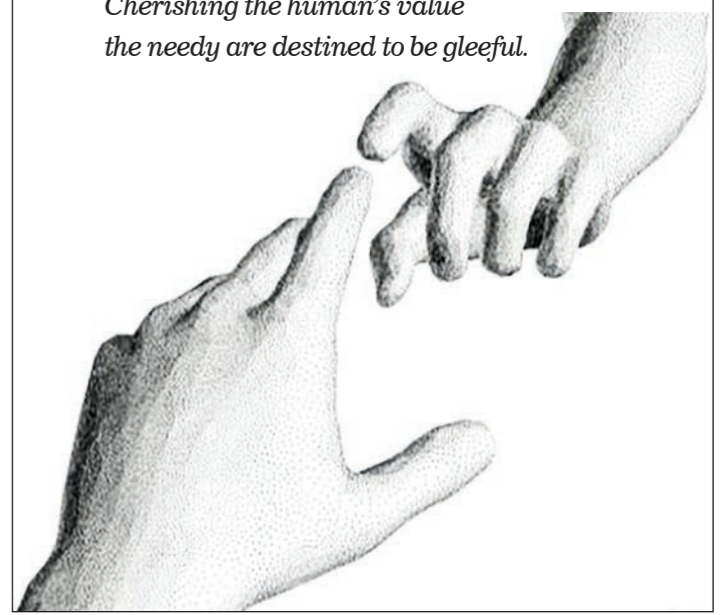
the hunter and the tiger are playing their smart game ah, little animals be united (to protect yourselves from the danger of the smart chaps)



## A Helping Hand

By Chit Ko Pe

Visible is such an active move by means of a push or a pull that a hand is naturally set to do. Harnessing kindness imbued, its impact is distinguished, too. Cherishing the human's value the needy are destined to be gleeful.





# NATIONAL Entertainment



## Myanmar nuptial attire fair to be held

THE wedding fairs depicting wedding dresses of four eras of Myanmar will be organized at Zealax Hotel in Yangon, according to Academy Aye Myat Thu.

The event called From This Moment at Chi Garden by Zealax Wedding Fair will be on 31 August and 1 September.

"Designer Ko Pyi Soe Aung and designers will create a makeup look that will go well with the colour of flowers. The

event will feature wedding attires from four eras to enrich people's knowledge. The makeup looks and Htaingmathein (traditional dress of Myanmar women) of four different eras will be showcased at the event," said Academy Aye Myat Thu.

Famous designer Pyi Soe Aung (Exclusive Bridal Creations), designer Hein (Bridal Couture), makeup artists Makeup Khin San Win, Mummy Kyaw (Malaysia),

and Kyaw Htet Zaw, Charlie, Ye Yint Maung Maung, Shine Latt, Zin Zin Zaw Myint, academy Aye Myat Thu, Wai Lar Yi, Thin Thae Bo, Li Li Kyaw Khine, Khine Thazin Ngu Wah, Zar Li Moe, Dee, Su Myat Yi and Myint Myat Moe will participate in Zealax Wedding Fair.

The press conference of From This Moment at Chi Garden by Zealax Wedding Fair was held at Zealax Hotel on 22 August. — ASH/KTZH

### Naw Phaw Eh Htar

Actress Naw Phaw Eh Htar received a mini-statue of her character 'San San Tint' from 'Shel Awlan' from her fan recently. She thanked her fans and pledged to continue her career. The dinner event for the 'Shel Awlan' movie was organized at Malibu Kandawgyi in Yangon on 22 August.

### Yu Thandar Tin

ACTRESS YU THANDAR TIN donated K1 million for perpetual medicine endowment at the laytset Buddhism Learning Centre in Labutta Township on 3 August. The actress is now visiting the UK in London. She and her friends also donated K600,000 to heart healthcare organization. She acted in the role of Khin Yati Kyaw in the 'Kyama Ka Villain' film of Mahar Application.

## Celebrity Brief



### Director Maung Thi

Director Maung Thi made cash donations and received donations from others for the painting of 180 feet high Buddha Dhat Kaba Hlwanchon Pagoda in 80-Arahat Maha Theintaw Monastery in Shwetaung, Pyay District, Bago Region. Those who want to make cash donations can contact KPay 09 5135352 Than Lwin.

### Nay Myo

Ngadoh Sarpay Publishing House released the first novel of Saya Nay Myo: 'Amone Kaba Thoh Yauk Lar Thaw Ae The!'. It is about a romance between the daughter of a poet and a friend of that poet. Saya Nay Myo is a son of Hsaing Leader Ywasagyi Sein Tin Han (composer of Htan Ywet Padee) from Mandalay, and he writes poems, essays, and articles and draws paintings and cartoons.

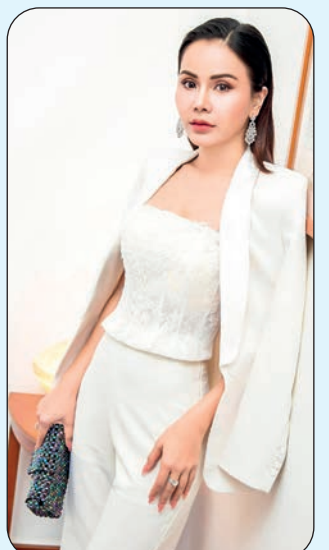


### Marn Hein

The launching ceremony of the 'Extra Time' movie by MH Production of actor Mann Hein took place at Kyaikkasan Pagoda on 19 August. The story was created by Mann Hein, the script by MSY, DOP, Pyi Soe, assistant director Bo Lay and director Pyae Phyto Han, and the cast includes academy Thu Htoo San, Nay Htet Lin, Min Bhone Myat, Marn Hein, academy Chaw Yadana, Nay Chi Shun Lat, Hmue Thakhin Ko and famous football players Myo Hlaing Win, Kyaw Ko Ko and others. All the artistes act free for the movie, and actor Marn Hein said all the profits will be donated.

### Nang Myat Phyto Thin

Actress and vocalist Nang Myat Phyto Thin, who is also a doctor, delivered a speech at the breastfeeding programme with Associate Professor (Rtd) Specialist Dr Daw Khin Swe, Dr Myat Thiri Maung (Dr Mummy) and Teresa Khine. The actress is now raising her two children after the death of her husband, who died three years ago. She also thanked her fans and friends who supported her in her hard times. — Htun Htun/KTZH



# NATIONAL

## Weekly Roundup

20 August

### Kachin State People's Party allowed registering

Union Election Commission Chairman U Ko Ko signed an announcement of UEC, saying that it allowed Kachin State People's Party to register under Section 9 of the Polity Parties Registration Law, and the party's serial number is 51.

### WHO's Mpox PHEIC declaration

The Ministry of Health stated that the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Mpox (formerly known as Monkeypox) a global public health emergency on 14 August 2024, and the Clade 1b variant has spread both transnationally and to neighbouring countries. The ministry urges the public to promptly report to the nearest health department if they experience symptoms such as red spots and blisters on the face, hands, legs, mouth, or genital area, accompanied by fever, swollen lymph nodes, headache, muscle pain, and fatigue. Additionally, individuals who have been in contact with someone from an outbreak region should avoid travelling, both internationally and domestically, for 21 days.

### MRF arranges reserved rice

Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) will store up to one million bags of rice, including Pawsan rice varieties, for the State's rice reserve. According to the strategic plan of the rice reserve by the Ministry of Commerce and MRF, one to three bags are designated for rice reserve per one tonne of rice export.



22 August

### Myanmar, China pledge to boost defence co-operation

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Ambassador Ms Ma Jia of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar cordially exchanged views on continued support and stand from China for Myanmar's Five-Point Roadmap at the ceremony to present her Credentials to the Chairman.

### NSPNC meets political parties' working group



The National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) met the political parties' working group at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.

24 August

### Senior General Min Aung Hlaing comforts injured Tatmadaw and MPF members

It is necessary to take security measures systematically to ensure public security and peace and stability in the region, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on his inspection tour of the Southern Command Headquarters and a visit to the Tatmadaw hospital in Toungoo in comforting Tatmadaw and MPF members who were receiving medical treatments for their injuries suffered while serving the defence and security duties of the State.

### Senior General Min Aung Hlaing tours ancient Ketumati City

Development tasks must be undertaken in Toungoo to construct buildings and reclaim urban areas that meet the set standards, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in inspecting preparations to preserve the cultural heritage of the ancient Ketumati City of Toungoo. — GNLN/TTA

## WEATHER REPORT

### Low Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 14:30 hours MST on 24-8-2024

ACCORDING to the observations at 13:30 hours MST today, a low pressure area may form over North Bay of Bengal during next 48 hours.

### Flood Warning

(Issued at 16:00 hrs MST on 24-8-2024)

ACCORDING to the (15:30)hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an is observed by about 0.5 foot (14 centimetres) below its danger level 24.61 feet (750 cm). It may reach its danger level during the next one day.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Hpa-an Township, to take precaution measure.

### Flood Warning

(Issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 24-8-2024)

According to the (13:30)hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Toungoo is observed by about 1 foot (30 centimetres) below its danger level 19.69 feet (600 cm). It may reach its danger level during the next two days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Toungoo Township, to take precaution measure.

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 24 August 2024)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and moderate to strong over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 25 August 2024:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kachin and Northern Shan states, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway

regions and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing and Yangon regions and Eastern Shan and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:** The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be moderate in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about 6-8 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Moderate monsoon over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 August 2024:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 August 2024:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 August 2024:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80 per cent. — DMH

# ECONOMY WORLD

## India's foreign exchange reserves rose US\$4.5 billion to reach US\$674.7 billion

*India's reserves are now sufficient to cover over 11 months of projected imports. In 2023, the RBI had added about US\$58 billion to its reserves.*

INDIA'S foreign exchange reserves increased by US\$4.546 billion, reaching \$674.664 billion, just below their all-time high, during the week ending 16 August according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday.

The previous record high was \$674.919 billion.

The reserves have been fluctuating for some time. In 2024 alone, they have risen by approximately \$45-50 billion cumulatively. This buffer of foreign exchange reserves helps insulate domestic economic activity from global shocks.

According to the latest data from the RBI, India's foreign currency assets (FCA), the

largest component of forex reserves, rose by \$3.609 billion to \$591.569 billion.

Gold reserves during the week increased by \$865 million, bringing the total to \$60.104 billion. India's foreign exchange reserves are now sufficient to cover more than 11 months of projected imports.

In the calendar year 2023, the RBI added about \$58 billion to its foreign exchange reserves. In contrast, India's forex reserves saw a cumulative decline of \$71 billion in 2022. Forex reserves, or foreign exchange reserves (FX reserves), are assets held by a nation's central bank or monetary authority. — ANI



The latest figures from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) show that foreign currency assets, the largest component, grew by US\$ 3.609 billion to \$591.569 billion, while gold reserves increased by \$865 million to \$60.104 billion. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

### BRIEF: ECON

**BOJ says financial markets remain "unstable"**

BANK of Japan chief Kazuo Ueda said Friday that financial markets remain "unstable", adding he will watch their developments "with extremely high" vigilance after stocks showed volatile moves earlier this month following the BOJ's latest interest rate hike.

"There is no change in our basic stance to adjust the degree of monetary easing" if the central bank confirms that its two per cent inflation goal has been attained, Ueda told a parliament session.

Regarding the possibility of additional interest rate hikes, the governor said the BOJ will make a decision after cautiously examining the impact of its latest rate hike in July on the economy and prices. — Kyodo

## UK Labour's move to tax private schools stirs passions

UK'S Labour government has vowed to tax private schools in order to boost public education and create thousands of teaching posts, but the policy is causing concern for families already hard-pressed to meet the fees.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who took office after the general elections of 4 July has repeatedly said that he

has "nothing against private schools", which educate around 600,000 children, or 6.5 per cent of the country's pupils.

But "every parent has aspiration for their children whether they go to private school or not", added Starmer, whose two children went to a state school in their north London neighbourhood.

"For those children in state secondary school who don't have the teachers they need, that is a lifelong problem," he said. After years of tight public spending and worsening inequalities, the government confirmed in July that it would remove the value added tax exemption for tuition fees paid to private schools. — AFP



This policy, which involves removing the VAT exemption on private school tuition fees, aims to generate £1.6 billion to fund 6,500 new public sector teachers. **PHOTO: LORDSLIBRARY.PARLIAMENT.UK**

## Freight rail operations resume in Canada

FREIGHT rail operations were set to resume across Canada on Thursday following federal intervention to end a crippling disruption triggered by labor disputes at the country's two main Freight operators.

Work stoppages at Canadian National Railway (CN) and Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) locked out nearly 10,000 workers and threatened to upend the North American economy, which is heavily dependent on rail operations.

Labour Minister Steven MacKinnon said he had hoped collective bargaining negotiations between the companies and Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC), the union representing the workers, would resolve the conflict.

But recognizing they were at an "impasse," MacKinnon on Thursday ordered current collective agreements extended and "operations on both railways to resume forthwith".

"Canada's economy cannot wait for an agreement that has

been delayed for a very long time and when there is a fundamental disagreement between the parties," he said in a statement.

MacKinnon's order allows rail traffic to resume, ending the suspension that began at 12:01 am Thursday. The resumption could take up to two days.

The companies and the union had blamed each other for the work stoppage that followed months of fruitless negotiations.

It is the first time Canada has faced simultaneous work stoppages at the two companies, which in the past have negotiated labour deals in alternate years.

Canada is the world's second-largest country by area, and relies heavily on rail transport.

CN and CPKC have tracks that stretch from the Atlantic to the Pacific coasts and south into the United States.

They carry an estimated Can\$1 billion (US\$730 million) worth of goods daily, including grains and potash, cars, petroleum products and timber. — AFP

# China unveils equipment renewal plan for energy sector

*China's new action plan aims to boost investment in energy sector equipment by over 25 per cent by 2027, focusing on upgrading coal, wind, solar, and hydropower technologies.*

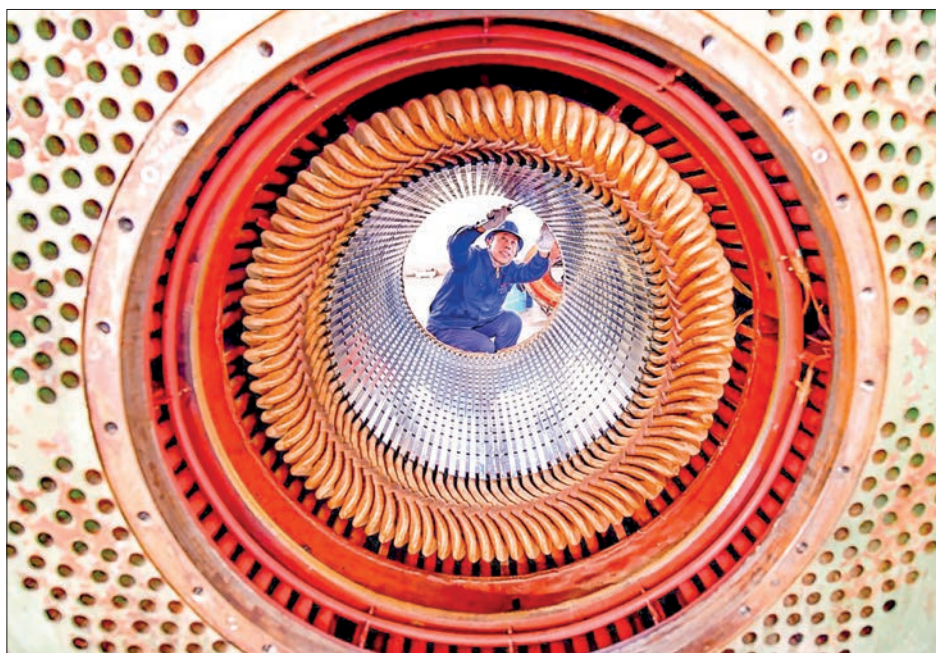
CHINESE authorities on Wednesday unveiled an action plan to promote large-scale equipment renewals in the energy sector, as it moves towards achieving carbon reduction goals.

By 2027, China's equipment investment in key areas of the energy sector is expected to increase by more than 25 per cent compared with 2023, according to the action plan jointly released by the National

Development and Reform Commission and the National Energy Administration.

Measures detailed in the plan will focus on transformation of coal-fired power generation units, as well as equipment renewals and technological upgrading of wind power, solar power, hydropower and other areas. Key tasks outlined also include promoting equipment renewals and techni-

cal transformation related to power transmission and distribution, and upgrading clean energy heating equipment. To ensure implementation of the plan, China will step up fiscal, tax and financial support. Financial institutions will be encouraged to make good use of supporting policies and increase medium- and long-term loans to the manufacturing sector, according to the plan. — Xinhua



A technician works on the production line of a machinery company in Luannan county, Hebei province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Short-term deposit interest rates at Vietnamese commercial banks slightly increase

VIETNAM'S commercial banks have reported slight increases in short-term deposit interest rates in Vietnamese dong, the State Bank of Vietnam has said in its July report.

Non-term depositors or those with under one month term will receive

an interest rate of 0.2 per cent per year.

The deposit interest rates for terms from one to under six months have been maintained at 2.4-3.4 per cent per year.

The rates for longer term deposits of six to 12 months and 12 to 24

months have increased to 4.4-4.8 per cent and 5.5-6.2 per cent per year, respectively.

The highest interest rate of 6.9-7.4 per cent has been applied for terms above 24 months.

MB Securities company forecast that thanks

to the accelerating recovery of production and investment, the capital demand will continue to be on the rise, slightly adjusting the 12-month interest rate up by 50 percentage points, to 5.2-5.5 per cent by the end of 2024. — Xinhua

## Drought-hit Zambia to extend power cuts to 17 hours a day

ZAMBIA is preparing for severe electricity shortages starting next month, with power cuts extending to 17 hours a day due to an ongoing drought that has significantly depleted the country's hydropower reservoirs.

The drought, which prompted a national disaster declaration in February, has drastically reduced water levels in key hydropower dams, including the Kariba Dam, which now holds only 10 per cent of its usual water. The Kariba power station

is expected to shut down, while the Itezhi-Tezhi dam has already ceased operating one of its turbines. Maintenance at the Maamba coal power plant will further exacerbate the situation by reducing available power.

The power cuts, which began at 14 hours per day in July, are expected to start on 1 September and will disrupt economic activities and threaten jobs, particularly affecting small businesses such as butcheries and hair salons. — AFP

## Apple to let iPhone users in Europe delete its App Store

APPLE will allow iPhone and iPad users in the European Union delete the App Store or its Safari browser, the tech giant told developers on Thursday.

Apple had long fiercely protected the App Store as the lone gateway for digital content to get onto its popular mobile devices. The change comes as the company loosens its grip on devices in the EU due to the bloc's landmark new digital rules. "The App Store, Messages, Camera, Photos, and Safari apps will be deletable for users in the EU," Apple said on a support page for devel-



Apple will allow iPhone and iPad users in the EU to delete the App Store and Safari browser due to new digital regulations. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

opers.

"Only Settings and Phone will not be deletable." Also being added is a special section where iPhone or iPad users will

be able to manage default settings for browsers, messaging, phone calls and other features, according to Apple.

"As browser engines

are constantly exposed to untrusted and potentially malicious content and have visibility into sensitive user data, they're one of the most common attack vectors for malicious actors," the iPhone maker said. "To help keep users safe online, Apple will only authorize developers to implement alternative browser engines after meeting specific criteria and committing to a number of ongoing privacy and security requirements, including timely security updates to address emerging threats and vulnerabilities." — AFP

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (431W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (431W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 MAERSK A/S**

# WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST

Specialist Italian divers on 20 August launched a fresh search for six people, including UK tech tycoon Mike Lynch and his teenage daughter, missing since their yacht capsized off Sicily. **PHOTO: AFP**



## Prosecutors probe manslaughter after superyacht sinks

24 AUGUST

**SICILIAN** prosecutors said Saturday they were investigating possible manslaughter after a superyacht sank killing seven people, as it emerged that trapped passengers scrambled for air pockets after it went down.

Sicilian prosecutors are investigating possible manslaughter following the sinking of a superyacht, the Bayesian, which killed seven people, including UK tech tycoon Mike Lynch and

his daughter.

The yacht capsized in a storm off Porticello, near Palermo, while Lynch was celebrating his acquittal in a US fraud case.

Trapped passengers attempted to find air pockets. Prosecutors are examining potential negligent shipwreck and manslaughter charges. The investigation is ongoing, with no conclusions yet as it remains in the initial phase. — AFP

23 AUGUST

## Kamala Harris stresses strong foreign policy

**KAMALA** Harris is making her pitch to voters as a muscular defender of US interests while aiming for nuance on the painful issue of Gaza — hoping to cover vulnerabilities and to paint Republican Donald Trump as the more risky candidate on national security.

In her Democratic nomination acceptance speech, Vice President Kamala Harris vowed not to align with autocrats, contrasting with former President Trump's approach.

Harris, emphasizing a strong defence stance, promised to maintain military supremacy and respond decisively to threats, including from Iran.

She also highlighted support for Ukraine and NATO, diverging from Trump's more isolationist rhetoric. Despite maintaining solidarity with Israel, she voiced support for Palestinian self-determination, signalling a nuanced shift from current administration policies. — AFP

22 AUGUST

## Protesters oppose controversial church restoration

**PROTESTERS** picketed a newly-rebuilt German church tower Thursday, part of a controversial reconstruction of a building with links to Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party.

Critics argue that restoring the Garrison Church in Potsdam could empower far-right groups, despite its historical significance.

The church, originally built in 1735 for the Prussian royal family and later used by the Nazis for propaganda, was destroyed in

1968 by East German authorities.

President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, at its recent reopening, acknowledged its troubling past but emphasized the restoration as a chance to integrate modern elements into its history.

However, with a 12 million euro government investment and plans for further reconstruction, including a new dome and nave, concerns persist about the church's potential misuse by extremists. — AFP

21 AUGUST

## Pacific leaders delay New Caledonia visit

**PACIFIC** island leaders on Wednesday postponed a mission to the riot-hit French territory of New Caledonia following reports of a row between Paris and the island's government.

The 18-nation Pacific Islands Forum planned a visit to New Caledonia to address three months of deadly violence and unrest linked to indigenous Kanaks' thwarted independence efforts. However, the visit, set for this week ahead of the forum's annual meeting in Tonga, is postponed due to local government concerns over due process

and protocol.

This delay follows accusations from New Caledonia's law-making congress president, Roch Wamytan, who claims France is trying to dictate the visit's agenda.

France has denied responsibility, stating it is ready to host the visit at any time and has outlined guiding principles focusing on public order, security, and stability. The unrest, which began in May, was sparked by fears among Kanaks that electoral roll changes would undermine their independence aspirations. — AFP

20 AUGUST

## Scotland's drug deaths rise again

**SCOTLAND** recorded an increase in drug deaths last year, official figures showed Tuesday, as the country continues to have one of the highest rates of such deaths in Europe.

Deaths by drug misuse have blighted some of Scotland's poorest communities for decades and are often branded its "national shame".

The National Records of Scotland (NRS) said drugs claimed the lives of 1,172 Scots in 2023 — up 121, or 12 per cent,

from 2022.

Scotland had recorded its lowest drug death figures in five years in 2022, sparking hopes that the country had turned a corner in its fight against drug misuse.

Some 279 fewer people died from drug misuse that year compared to 2021.

Opioid drugs — such as heroin and methadone — were implicated in 80 per cent of all drug deaths last year, according to the data. — AFP

19 AUGUST

## Philippines to host limited Afghan asylum seekers

A "limited number" of Afghans will temporarily stay in the Philippines while being processed for resettlement in the United States, officials said on Monday.

The timeline for the programme is still being discussed by the two governments with both saying only a "limited number" of visa applicants will be covered, without revealing exact figures.

The programme to process possibly thousands of Muslim asylum seekers met

with domestic opposition on security and other grounds when first broached to the Catholic-majority Philippine public last year.

Jose Manuel Romualdez, the Philippines ambassador to the United States, said at the time there were about 50,000 such visa-seekers, including the families of those who had worked for the US-backed government that was toppled by the Taliban. — AFP

18 AUGUST

## Japan hits 36.6°C; heat alerts

**TEMPERATURES** across Japan soared past 35 degrees Celsius on Sunday, and authorities have issued strict heatstroke warnings, urging residents to take precautions.

Clear skies from Kyushu to Tohoku contributed to rapid temperature increases, with some regions expected to see highs exceeding normal body temperature during the day.

The highest recorded temperature

reached 36.6 degrees Celsius in the southwestern Japanese prefecture of Wakayama. Cities such as Kumamoto and Nagoya also experienced extreme heat, with temperatures reaching 36.4 degrees Celsius, local weather forecasts showed.

With temperatures forecasted to peak as high as 38 in Nagoya, Tokyo is expected to experience 35 degrees Celsius. — Xinhua



Yadanabon FC and Dagon Star United are in action. PHOTO: MNL

# SPORTS

## Zudaire, Llopis looking for gold in Paralympic swimming pool

NAHIA Zudaire is getting her sights on a gold medal in the Paralympic Games which open in Paris this week.

The 20-year-old from the region of Navarra, northern Spain missed out on a medal in Tokyo three years ago, finishing fourth in the S8 400-metre freestyle and 100-metre butterfly, but speaking to Basque TV network, EITB, she said Paris had always been her objective.

"It's not just that Tokyo was very 'cold' (in terms of atmosphere), but Paris has been a lifetime objective because it is very close. It's something we have commented amongst ourselves," she said. The swimmer who took silver in the European Championships earlier this year in 400-metre freestyle and bronze in 100m breaststroke, said she believed the latter event gives her the best chance of Olympic success.

— Xinhua

**T**HE second day of the 2024-2025 Myanmar National League fixture eight took place on August 24 at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon, where Dagon Star United and Yadanabon FC ended in a 1-1 draw.

## Dagon Star, Yadanabon share points in MNL thriller

Dagon Star United, currently fourth in the standings, and Yadanabon FC, holding the fifth position after seven fixtures, faced off in a closely contested match that concluded in a stalemate.

Both teams, composed primarily of domestic players, fielded their key lineups. The first half saw limited scoring opportunities as both sides played cautiously, leading to a goalless draw at halftime. Yadanabon FC broke the deadlock early in the second half with a goal from forward Ti Nyein Min.

However, Dagon Star United quickly responded in the 54<sup>th</sup> minute with an equalizer from winger Swan Laman. Yadanabon's Ti Nyein Min was named the Man of the Match for his performance.

Following this match, Dagon Star United now has 16 points, while Yadanabon FC has 14 points.

On 23 August, Maha United se-

cured a 1-0 victory over Myawady, while the match between Thitsa Arman and Dagon Port ended in a 3-3 draw.

Fixture eight will continue today with Hanthawady United facing ISPE at Thuwunna YTC and Yangon United taking on Ayeyawady United at Yangon United Sports Complex. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Ten Hag blames dismal Man Utd defending for defeat to Brighton

**UNDER-FIRE** Manchester United boss Erik ten Hag blamed his side's defending for a 2-1 defeat to Brighton on Saturday after Joao Pedro headed in a 95<sup>th</sup> minute winner.

United looked to have snatched a point when Amad Diallo's deflected effort cancelled out Danny Welbeck's first half opener for Brighton.

But Brazilian forward Pedro was given acres of space to head in at the back post to give Brighton's 31-year-old boss Fabian Hurzeler a dream home Premier League debut.

United have spent heavily in the transfer window to reinforce their defence with the signings of Noussair Mazraoui, Matthijs de Ligt and Leny Yoro.

De Ligt was one of those at fault for the winner as the Dutch international and Scott McTominay were caught under the flight of Simon Adingra's cross to pick out Pedro.

"If you protect the goal like we do then you drop points,"

said Ten Hag.

"We concede two soft goals where we should act better as a team. We have to be alive in such moments." Defeat puts the spotlight back on Ten Hag with Liverpool set to visit Old Trafford next weekend.

The former Ajax boss survived an internal review at the end of last season, despite finishing eighth in the Premier League, thanks to winning the FA Cup. United got a much-needed 1-0 win against Fulham to open the season last weekend thanks to Joshua Zirkzee's late winner.

But the performances in both their first two league matches of the new campaign have done little to suggest there will be a marked improvement from a dismal season in 2023/24.

Brighton thrashed Everton 3-0 away in Hurzeler's first match in charge and showed they will be a contender to get back into European football next season. — AFP

## 'No nerves' for Bayern boss Kompany before Bundesliga debut

*Kompany acknowledged Bayer Leverkusen as strong rivals, highlighting their impressive performance in the previous season.*



Bayern Munich's Belgian coach Vincent Kompany (2<sup>nd</sup> R) says he feels no nerves ahead of his Bundesliga debut against Wolfsburg. PHOTO: AFP

**BAYERN** Munich coach Vincent Kompany on Saturday said he was not nervous ahead of his Bundesliga debut in the dugout for Sunday's match at Wolfsburg.

The 38-year-old Belgian was the surprise choice tasked with restoring Bayern

Munich as the dominant force in German football, given he had just overseen Burnley being relegated from the Premier League last season.

Bayern come into the season on the back of a first trophyless campaign in 11 years.

Their thunder had been stolen by Bayer Leverkusen, who were unbeaten as they sealed a domestic league and cup double.

Kompany, who cut his teeth prior to Burnley coaching Anderlecht and guiding them to the 2022 Belgian Cup final, said he was satisfied with the preparations ahead of Sunday's match. "No, definitely not nervous, but that was always the way with me," Kompany told reporters, adding "it's a big challenge".

"We've prepared ourselves well with the team and the coaching staff, now it's up to the players who will play tomorrow. I'm excited". Kompany, who as a player won four Premier League titles with Manchester City and was capped 89 times, said Leverkusen, who opened their campaign with victory on Friday, will be formidable rivals again. — AFP



A man poses for photos during Gamescom 2024 in Cologne, Germany, 21 August 2024. PHOTO: ZHANG FAN/XINHUA

## World's largest games event gathers global game developers

*Gamescom serves as a key networking hub for game developers, trade visitors, and the gaming community, allowing for connections and interactions with potential customers from around the world.*

The ongoing gamescom, which bills itself as the world's largest games event, offers a unique opportunity for game developers and fans to network and explore the latest trends in the gaming industry, with the organizers keen to have more Chinese partners in the future.

Jointly organized by Koelnmesse, the exhibition center of Cologne, and game, the German Games Industry

Association, the event opened doors to visitors on Wednesday with a record number of more than 1,400 exhibitors from 64 countries.

"Gamescom is getting bigger and more diverse," Stefan Heikhaus, director of gamescom & events at game, told Xinhua. "We would be delighted to meet many more partners from China on site in Cologne at gamescom in the future!"

The uniqueness of the event lies in

the fact that it serves as a meeting place for both the game community and thousands of trade visitors and developers, where developers can easily network at the event and target prospective customers from many countries, Heikhaus said.

Chinese developers could also use this opportunity to exchange ideas with Western colleagues, plan collaborations and reach new target groups, Heikhaus added. The number of Chinese developers present at gamescom has been on the rise as more and more Chinese game companies are making forays into overseas markets, Grace Pan, senior project manager at Koelnmesse, told Xinhua. — Xinhua

## South Korean pet care goes high-tech with AI diagnostics

*The technology enhances diagnostic efficiency and is particularly valuable in areas with a shortage of skilled veterinary professionals.*

WHEN five-year-old goldendoodle Mozzi exhibited abnormal walking, his owner in South Korea sought help from a vet.

The diagnosis was facilitated by "X Caliber", an AI tool developed by SK Telecom, which rapidly identifies X-ray abnormalities. This AI indicated a 22 per cent chance of knee dislocation, providing



This picture taken on 2 July 2024 shows Oh I-se (R), vet and CEO of Sky Animal Medical Group, and an assistant looking at an xray of goldendoodle Mozzi before using the 'X Caliber' software to help pin point x ray abnormalities in Yongin. PHOTO: AFP

Mozzi's owner, Mo Jae-hyun, with a clearer understanding of his pet's condition and potential management strategies. X Caliber boasts an 86 per cent disease detection rate and significantly improves diagnostic efficiency. For instance, it now reveals heart disease indicators like enlarged hearts in just 15 seconds, a task that previously required manual measurements. This technology is transforming veterinary diagnostics, especially in regions with a shortage of skilled professionals. Globally, X Caliber is already in use across the US, Australia, and Southeast Asia, addressing gaps in radiology expertise. In South Korea, the rise in pet ownership and the pet care industry's growth, driven by a low birth rate and increasing pet parenthood, aligns with innovations like AI-driven pet care tools. — AFP

## Teen Sherpa nears historic 14<sup>th</sup> summit

*Sherpa is the youngest climber to summit Mount Manaslu and Kanchenjunga.*

AT 18, Nepali mountaineer Nima Rinji Sherpa is on the verge of a historic achievement. Having already scaled 13 of the world's 14 highest peaks, he is set to tackle Shishapangma in Tibet next month, pending a permit from China. Completing all 14 "eight-thousanders" is a prestigious milestone in mountaineering, with only about 40 climbers having succeeded since Reinhold Messner first achieved it in 1986. Sherpa, whose family is deeply rooted in mountaineering, aims to inspire a new generation and redefine the sport. Despite his young age, he has already broken multiple records, including becoming the youngest climber to summit Mount Manaslu and Kanchenjunga. Raised in Kathmandu and initially more interested in photography, Sherpa shifted focus to mountaineering two years ago. His family, including his father and uncle, who run prominent expedition companies, has supported his journey. — AFP



This handout photograph taken on 12 April 2024, and released by 14 Peaks Expedition shows Nepali mountaineer Nima Rinji Sherpa at Mount Annapurna. PHOTO: 14 PEAKS EXPEDITION / AFP