

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects preservation of ancient religious and cultural heritage in Mandalay, pays homage to eminent pagodas

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, SAC Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo and his wife, council members General Maung Maung Aye and his wife, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and General Nyo Saw and his wife, Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and officials, inspected maintenance and preservation of ancient religious edifices and cultural heritage in Mandalay and paid homage to eminent pagodas.

In the royal Mandalay city, the Senior General inspected maintenance of the western wall of the royal city and preparations to rebuild Sishay Bridge. Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Daw Nu Mra Zan reported on the brief history of the bridge and its evidences and Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant on plans underway to rebuild Sishay Bridge.

The Senior General gave guidance to rebuild the bridge in original designs with improving the roads systematically.

At Maha Atulawaiyan (Atumashi) Monastery, the Senior General paid homage to Culamuni Buddha Image in the monastery and offered alms in the alms-bowl, fruits, flowers, water and oil lights.

After viewing the Buddha image, the Senior General gave instructions on long term existence of the image. The Senior General and his wife donated cash to the fund for renovation of the monastery. The Senior General signed the visitors' book of the monastery.

The Senior General also viewed documentary photos on conveyance of the image and gave guidance on existence of the monastery, preservation of ancient heritages based on documentaries.

On arrival at Shwenandaw Mon-



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hears the report by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Daw Nu Mra Zan on the brief history of the Sishay bridge and its evidences in Mandalay yesterday.

astery (Golden Monastery), the Senior General viewed round Myanmar handicrafts decorated inside and outside the monastery, and sculptural illustration of Jataka of the Buddhism. He instructed officials to systematically maintain these ancient heritages, preserve posts of the monastery for sustainability and fence the ancient heritage with glass to set a restricted area. He pointed out that posts of the monastery are under maintenance and tidiness, it can attract larger number of travellers.

The Senior General, his wife and party also visited Maha Thakya Marazein Kyauktawgyi Pagoda. At Maha Dhammikarama Shwegyin Monastery, the Senior General and party offered alms to Presiding Nayaka of the monastery Aggamaha Pandita Bhaddanta Thutivara. They also paid homage to the Buddha Image at 162 years old Kyunkyaung monastery where they viewed round statues of Shwegyin Sangharajas and urged officials to maintain the monastery.

The Senior General inspected main-

tenance and preservation of Myanansankyaw Golden Palace in Mandalay royal city where Deputy Minister Daw Nu Mra Zan and officials reported on maintenance of the golden palace and halls, and accomplishment of the guidance given by the Senior General on his inspection tour in May 2023. The Senior General then gave necessary guidance.

The Senior General and party viewed historical documentary photos of the palace and royal utensils and left necessary instructions. — MNA/TTA

Article

The Echoes of Forgotten Bonds

By Min Zan

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Shinmataung Thanakha seedlings receive orders from Ayeyawady

BUSINESS

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MSME Development Fund to issue K280M in loans to 10 entrepreneurs

NATIONAL



Objectives of 25th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2024

- To uplift national prestige and integrity and to preserve the cultural heritage and national characteristics
- To explore, preserve and uplift the traditional cultural heritage of performing arts of ethnic nationals and national cultural characteristics
- To explore and preserve the traditional cultural heritage for the young generation and further propagate the national spirit
- To serve as a national cultural entity for State development, peace, and stability

Shinmataung Thanakha seedlings receive orders from Ayeyawady



Grafts of Shinmataung Thanakha produced from Myanmar's dry region.

SHINMATAUNG Thanakha seedlings in Anyar (central Myanmar) have received orders from Ayeyawady Region.

Thailand also buys Myanmar's Thanakha as well as seedlings.

"Thanakha is a must-have item for girls in Myanmar and there are orders from women in neighbouring Thailand. Growing Thanakha doesn't

need much care. The earth in here is naturally perfect for growing Thanakha, so there is no particular problem for growing seedlings. Some plantation owners sold all their seedlings and stopped this business, but most of people resumed the seedling business.

Buyers from Yangon, Pyay and Patheingyi have now placed

orders for seedlings to grow it on trial," said a Thanakha farmer from Myaing Township.

Thanakha plantations should be expanded as Myanmar's Thanakha market is potential if the country is able to produce high-quality finished-products.

"I think Thanakha market is much promising if we can produce high-quality brands with the help of advanced technology. The trade is all-time good, especially it is the best in Tabodwe and Tabaung (Myanmar lunar months). Thanakha quality is the best in summer. Fungi happen in monsoon," she said.

Thanakha grown in Ayadaw Township is called Shwebo Thanakha and Thanakha grown in Pakokku Township is called Shinmataung Thanakha. — Thit Taw/ZS

Authentic restoration of Inwa elephant stockade's wooden bridge underway



The wooden bridge to the ancient Inwa stockade fort.

A wooden bridge to the ancient Inwa elephant stockade fort is under authentic restoration, according to Archaeologist Bo Shake (Yadanapura).

As the many-year-old bridge has decayed and deteriorated, the Department of Archaeology and National Museum is carrying out the preservation activities in original designs.

"The elephant stockade fort is located on the west side of Inwa, beside Ayeyawady River. There is a wooden bridge at the entrance of the fence. As it is ancient, it has decayed over the years, causing inconvenience when crossing. It will be preserved without affecting ancient authenticity. Handrails are replaced with teak ones. The floors were made better. As the fort was built in the Yadanabon era, we maintain its ancient lathe-fashioned style," he said.

The Inwa stockade fort is a busy place, and once the bridge

restoration is completed, it will be strong enough to allow convenient crossing of the visitors, he said. "The fort is a busy place in Inwa, and it can also be called Inwa's viewpoint. It is on the bank of the Ayeyawady River, so there are many people who come to relax and watch it. They can see the great Ayeyawady from the fort, and it is one of the most attractive places in Inwa," Bo Shake explained.

During the reign of King Mindon in the 1236 Myanmar Era (1874 AD), an elephant stockade was built near Inwa, south of the Ayeyawady River. It is a must to visit when a person arrives in ancient Inwa. Since the stockade is located on the bank of the Ayeyawady River, a visitor can enjoy refreshment by breathing a cool breeze blowing over the river while gazing in a relaxed state at the boats and ships sailing in the river. — MT/ZN

Two Myanmar students awarded scholarships by Global Elim Foundation in Seoul

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, two Myanmar students studying at Korean universities were awarded scholarships for the 2024 Fall Semester by the Global Elim Foundation during a ceremony held in Seoul on 23 August.

The award ceremony was attended by ambassadors from Myanmar, Peru, Honduras, Pap-

ua New Guinea, Kenya, and Tanzania, as well as diplomats from the countries of the scholarship recipients.

During the event, Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, U Thant Sin, expressed his sincere gratitude to Dr Lee Yong-hoon, Chairman of the Global Elim Foundation, for providing scholarships to

34 international students from 15 countries, including the two Myanmar students. He also congratulated the students and encouraged them to excel in their studies, emphasizing that the scholarship supports their academic aspirations.

Following the ceremony, the Myanmar Ambassador joined a lunch hosted by the Chairman



Students from different countries who received the 2024 Fall Semester Scholarship Award seen with embassy officials.

of the Global Elim Foundation, together with the invited am-

bassadors and the scholarship recipients. — TWA/TMT

NATIONAL



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting with members of Mandalay Region government and regional-level departmental officials at the city hall of Mandalay yesterday.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing stressed the need to conduct Check, Re-check and Counter Check over the public security measures.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing discussed regional development undertakings at the meeting with members of Mandalay Region government and regional-level departmental officials at the city hall in Mandalay yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General underlined that if people from relevant residential areas initiate security systems for people security and public security, it will be beneficial for security measures of the regions.

He continued that all political measures must be done peacefully without grudges and retaliations.

The Senior General unveiled that the population and household census will be enumerated in coming October. After releasing the result of the

Security system with public participation must focus on security of the people

If people participate in public security system, it will help improve peace and stability as well as rule of law, contributing to implementation of the genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system which is a primary vision of the country.

census to the State, the voter lists will be compiled for the election, he explained.

He continued to say that if Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions and Kachin State achieve success in agricultural sector with high yield of crops, it will contribute much to food security of the region.

He urged officials to grow oil crops as double crops in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions for ensuring oil sufficiency, adding sunflower should be grown with irrigation

facilities after harvesting monsoon paddy.

The Senior General instructed region and state chief ministers to increase 200 per cent of double crop productivity in minimum and develop manufacturing and livestock breeding process in their regions.

With regard to education sector, the Senior General underscored that preparations must be made to reopen the temporarily closed schools for various reasons. After reopening them, teachers need to add extra times for students. Students who have completed the middle school education will have the chance to continue learning techniques for their lives. Arrangements must be made for students who have passed the matriculation examination to further pursue higher education, he added.

In the health sector, he disclosed that the government continuously appoints health staff and medical doctors to carry out healthcare services. Furthermore, he highlighted that regions and states must partic-

ipate in the upcoming National Sports Festival with essence.

He recounted that the previous election was held with voting frauds including malpractice of votes in advance. **Voting frauds occurred in the entire nation, not in a single constituency. CEC members of NLD party and some chief ministers were involved in the voting frauds. To do so, NLD members participated in compilation of voter lists and forming supporting groups. So, it showed NLD party members led the voting frauds. They committed voting frauds with advance votes and voter lists which were bad processes in the election, he noted.**

The Senior General pledged that Tatmadaw will serve its duties for firm standing of multiparty democratic system the entire people aspire to and will make endeavours for the country to have normalcy.

To do so, he emphasized that it is necessary to initiate the security system with public participation for the public security. If people participate

in public security system, it will help improve peace and stability as well as rule of law, contributing to implementation of the genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system which is a primary vision of the country, he added.

At the meeting, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung, Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw and Magway Region Chief Minister U Tint Lwin reported on regional situations, agriculture and livestock breeding tasks, sale of products and future plans.

After the meeting, the Senior General viewed a Mini Cotton Ginning Machine manufactured by Good Brothers' Mechineries Co Ltd.

Also present at the meeting were Council Joint-Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Council members General Maung Maung Aye, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and General Nyo Saw, Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers and departmental officials. — MNA/TTA

Salient points in the speech delivered by the Senior General at the meeting with Mandalay Region government and departmental officials

1. Public security system will help improve peace and stability as well as rule of law, contributing to implementation of the genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system.
2. It is necessary to conduct Check, Recheck and Counter Check over the public security measures.
3. All political measures must be done peacefully without grudges and retaliations.
4. The population and household census will be enumerated in coming October.
5. After releasing the result of the census to the State, the voter lists will be compiled for the election.

NATIONAL

MoE Union Minister joins 13th ASEAN Education Ministers' Meeting in Thailand

Led by Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe, the Myanmar delegation attended the 13th ASEAN Education Ministers' Meeting in Thailand. On 24 August, the delegation, along with other ASEAN education ministers, visited the ancient sites of Khao Phnom Rung and Prasat Meaung Tam in Buriram City.

At the meeting on 24 August at Buriram United Stadium, the Governor of Buriram Province and Thailand's Education Minister, Police General Premphoon Chidchob, delivered the opening remarks.

Chaired by Thailand's Education Minister Police General Premphoon Chidchob, the meeting included representatives from ASEAN and partner countries. The representative from



ASEAN nations' delegates, including Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe, attending the 13th ASEAN Education Ministers' Meeting pose for the documentary group photo during the opening event of meeting in Thailand.

Vietnam discussed the report of the 18th meeting of high-level officials, while Thailand presented the report of the 19th meeting.

During the discussions on educational transformation in

the digital era, the Myanmar delegation highlighted the future of education and the role of digital technology and innovations in developing job opportunities. The Myanmar delegation em-

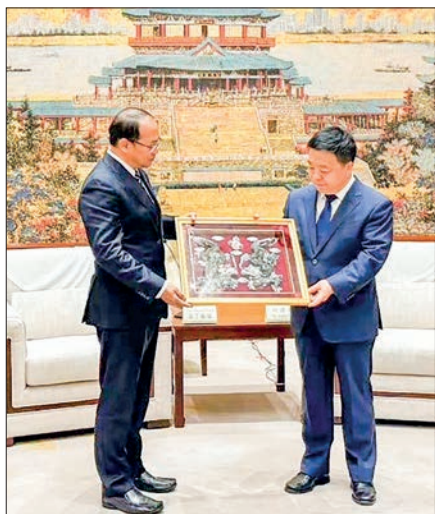
phasized the need for a supportive educational environment with active and inclusive learning systems to ensure individual success in a rapidly changing world.

The Union minister stressed that teachers, policymakers, industries, and students must collaborate to develop a national digital education strategy. He also suggested equipping universities, colleges, and schools with high-speed internet and digital tools, developing online platforms, familiarizing students with digital technology, building teachers' capacity in digital transformation, and adopting advanced academic systems.

The respective delegations and the ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General then exchanged views, leading to the approval of a joint communiqué on educational transformation in the digital era. The 14th ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting will be hosted by Singapore in 2026. — MNA/TMT

Myanmar, China's Jiangxi Province discuss multi-sectorial cooperation

A meeting to discuss cooperation in commerce, trade, education, agriculture, and infrastructure construction between Myanmar and Jiangxi Province of China was held in Nanchang City on 22 August, according to the Ministry of



Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Maung Swe and Jiangxi Province Governor Ye Jianchun exchange gifts.

Foreign Affairs.

Myanmar Ambassador to China U Tin Maung Swe, Jiangxi Province Governor Ye Jianchun, Vice-Governor Xia Wenyong, and Secretary-General of the provincial government Xu Yanbin participated in the discussion.

During the meeting, U Tin Maung Swe highlighted the long-standing friendly relations between Myanmar and China, both Government-to-Government and People-to-People, which have developed over many years. He noted that solid cooperation has already been established between the people of Myanmar and Jiangxi Province. He also mentioned that deeper collaborations are anticipated, particularly in commerce, trade, education, agriculture, and infrastructure construction. Following the meeting, the Myanmar Ambassador and his delegation attended a dinner hosted by Jiangxi Province Governor Ye Jianchun. — ASH/TMT

A meeting aimed at establishing a robust and sustainable Bengal-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce (BMCC) in West Bengal State of India was held at the Lake Club in Kolkata, India, on 22 August, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Consul-General of Myanmar in Kolkata U Tin Moe delivered a speech at the meeting titled "Exploring Myanmar: A Gateway for Unlocking Trade & Investment Opportunities".

From Myanmar, Director-General Dr Htein Linn of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce, Director Dr Wunna Aung of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), Dr Myo Thant from the Union of Myanmar Federation of



Consul-General U Tin Moe of the Consulate-General of Myanmar in Kolkata is delivering a speech.

Myanmar, India eye trade and investment opportunities

Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), and officials from the Myanmar Tourism Federation (MTF) participated in the discussion virtually.

Representing India were the Chairman of the Alteus Group of Compa-

nies, the Secretary-General of the Indian Chamber of International Business (ICIB), the Regional Chairman of the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO)-East, and Professor from Calcutta University. — ASH/TKO

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NATIONAL

Union Supreme Court family donates offerings to servicemen on frontlines

THE well-wishers, ministries, and region and state governments donate cash and foodstuffs to Tatmadaw members and security forces stationed on the frontlines for national defence and security.

The Chief Justice of the Union, Supreme Court judges, the permanent secretary, departmental officials observed on 23 August the preparations of the families from the Supreme Court of the Union to donate foodstuffs for the frontline security forces.

Fried chilli, fried fish, sachets of Nan Myaing coffee mix, instant noodle packs, pickled tea leave salad, fish-paste, dried salty

peanut, and soya bean paste and K5 million will be transported to Nay Pyi Taw Command for the frontline Tatmadaw members and security forces.

Moreover, a letter-writing contest with the title of the message of loving-kindness to Tatmadaw members was held at the assembly hall of the Supreme Court of the Union, and first, second, third and consolation prize winners were awarded. —MNA/TMT



The families from the Supreme Court of the Union yesterday prepare the foodstuffs for members of Tatmadaw and security forces who are serving State's defence and security duties with sacrifices on the frontline.

Donors nationwide provide cash awards, foodstuffs to security forces

THE security forces defending the country are receiving cash awards and foodstuffs donated by well-wishers nationwide.

On the evening of 23 August, families of employees from Ministries 1, 2, 3, and 4 at the State Administration Council Chairman's Office, along with members of the Union Solidarity and Development Party, Bamar Youth Association, Sri Ksetra Foundation's employees, and other generous donors, gathered at Paunglaung Avenue in the Nay Pyi Taw Command Headquarters to present these contributions.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister Admiral Moe Aung of Ministry 1, Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing of Ministry 2, Union Minister U Aung Kyaw Hoe of Ministry 4,



Donation ceremony for security forces in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Soe Min, donors, and other officials.

During the event, the Commander received K14,561,100 in cash and foodstuffs valued at K6,997,000. He

then expressed his gratitude in a speech.

It was reported that the cash awards and foodstuffs will be delivered directly to the security forces on the frontline. — MNA/ TRKM



Some public activities staged to initiate the Bagan World Heritage Site into a smoke-free area.

Bagan to maintain its status as a smoke-free region

THE Bagan World Heritage Site, which won the third place in the ASEAN Smoke-Free Award, will continue to maintain its status as a smoke-free region, according to Dr Shwe Sin Htike, the secretary of the Bagan zone smoke-free supervision committee.

She also said that the committee will continue its efforts, such as awareness-raising campaigns, field monitoring activities, as well as expansion of more smoke-free areas throughout the country and those additional measures will be introduced if there is non-compliance.

"Among many smoke-free areas established in Myanmar, the Bagan World Heritage Site has been designated as a smoke-

free area since 2014. Within the Bagan World Heritage Site, three zones have been set up to ensure that smoke is free. Since 2022, designated zones become completely smoke-free, so in 2024, we competed for the ASEAN Smoke-Free Award, and jointly won the bronze medal with Thailand's Saensuk Municipality," said Dr Shwe Sin Htike.

Iloilo City of the Philippines claimed the gold medal, whereas Bogor City of Indonesia secured the silver medal. The ASEAN Smoke-Free Award was presented in a ceremony at the 16th ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting held in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, on 8 August 2024. — ASH/TH

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 16:00 hours MST on 25-8-2024

ACCORDING to the observations at 15:30 hours MST today, a low-pressure area has formed over the South Bangladesh and adjoining North Bay of Bengal. It likely to become

more marked and move West-Northwestwards and cross Gangetic West Bengal, North Odisha and Jharkhand, India during next two days. — DMH

NATIONAL

Stimulant tablets, ketamine worth K4B+ seized in Kengtung

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Police Force, stimulant tablets and ketamine valued at more than K4.1 billion were seized in Kengtung, Shan State (East).

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team, including members of Drug Enforcement Division, searched the resi-

dence of Ma Ah Mie in Hwayhi Village, Kengtung Township, in Shan State (East) on 22 August.

The search led to the confiscation of 1.25 million stimulant tablets and 427 kilogrammes of ketamine from a Mitsubishi Pajero parked in

her compound.

Legal action has been taken against the offender under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, and further investigations are ongoing to identify others involved in the case. — MNA/KZL



Offender Ma Ah Mie seen with seized narcotic drugs and vehicle.

Seizure of illegal items: mechanical oil, food products, industrial equipment and vehicles

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, action is being taken against offenders under the law of illicit trading across the nation. On 22 August, combined teams under the management of the Customs Department inspected 9,000 bottles of Lipovitan-D (estimated value of K5.4 million) without official documents, one Yutong Bus (estimated value of K35 million) which carried those bottles at Mayanchaung checkpoint. Similarly, at the Asia World Container Inspection Camp, 640 kilogrammes of illegal LK 995 Silicone Sealant, 30,720 kilogrammes of Plastic Scraps, 27,612.50 kilogrammes of Happy Rose Tissue, 125 bottles of agricultural sprays and four kinds of goods including 558.72

square metres of Porcelain Tiles (estimated value of over K172 million) were impounded. Moreover, 75 kilogrammes of Attenuzyme Pro Glucoamylase Glucan (estimated value of K346,500) at the Yangon International Airport (warehouse), 20,000 kilogrammes of illegal Elephant Gypsum Board (estimated value of K8 million) and one Nissan Diesel Tractor Head (estimated value of K60 million) which was driven from Myeik to Yangon at Ywathagyi Dry Port were confiscated respectively. The action was taken under the Customs law.

Furthermore, on 22 August, a combined team under the management of Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized 25 luggages

of made in China without legal documents, two products including 1,755 bottles of M-150 energy drink (estimated value of more than K10 million) and one King Long Mini Bus (estimated value of K55 million) near the BOC fuel station in Paleik and the action was taken under the Customs procedures.

On 23 August, a combined team under the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force confiscated unofficial 50 gallons of diesel, 17,950 gallons of refined oil (estimated value of K179.5 million) in Yinmabin township on 23 August and the action was taken under Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

On 23 August, a combined task force under the manage-

ment of the Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted an inspection at the Thanlwin Bridge Joint Inspection Gate on the bank of Tayokhla and found 100 jerry cans of vegetable oil (estimated value of K9.76 million) from a vehicle driving to Bago from Hpa-an, and those items one Mitsubishi Canter loaded (estimated value of K25 million), as total estimated value of K34.76 million was seized and action is taken according to customs procedures.

In addition, on 23 August, during the inspections by the assigned teams under the management of the Customs Department, a total of five types of commercial and consumer products (estimated value of over K174 million), including 143 air-conditioners, were seized from three containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port, contrary to the import declaration form, and action being taken in accordance with customs procedures.

Similarly, on 23 August, a duty-assigned team under the management of Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections Sauktawwa Village-tract in Amarapura Township, at the intersection of Htonbo Road and 67th street, and seven types of commercial and consumer goods including 10,000 kilogrammes of Iron Wire Rod in Coil (estimated value of more than K28 million) and those goods were loaded on a Nissan Diesel Truck and a Hino Ranger Truck (estimated value of K60 million). These ille-

gal goods worth estimated value of K88,111,600 were seized and action being taken according to customs procedures.

On the same day, a combined team under the management of the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted an inspection near U Hla Soe's filling station in Bago Township, found two types of consumer goods (estimated value of K14.20 million) including 45 bicycles without legal documents, carried by one Volvo Tractor Head and one trailer (estimated value of K70 million), traveling from Mandalay to Yangon, and the seizures were a total estimated value of K84.20 million, and action being taken in accordance with customs procedures.

Similarly, on 24 August, the combined teams conducted inspections under the management of Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force, and 63 types of drugs (estimated value of K621,988,500) without legal documents were seized at the Yadanabon Bridge Combined Checkpoint, Sagaing Region, according to the national drug law, and one Nissan X-Trail worth K13 million was impounded at Kantalu checkpoint in Sagaing. Value of total seizures amounted to K634,988,500.

Therefore, from 22 to 24 August, a total of 36 cases (approximately over K1.54 billion) were confiscated, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/TRKM/TKO



Illegal energy drink bottles and vehicle seized at Mayanchaung checkpoint.



Illegal fuel seized in Sagaing Region.

Illegal goods seized at Asia World Container Checkpoint.

Myanmar, Bangladesh forge agricultural export agreement through 2028

MYANMAR and Bangladesh have finalized a new trade agreement to enhance agricultural exports from Myanmar to Bangladesh, effective from this year through 2028. The Ministry of Commerce has announced that the two nations are preparing to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to solidify this arrangement.

Under the agreement, Myanmar will export a total of 150,000 metric tonnes of rice and other agricultural goods

annually from 2024 to 2028. The export plan includes 15,000 metric tonnes of broken rice, 30,000 metric tonnes of white rice, and 20,000 metric tonnes of parboiled rice.

The deal also encompasses the export of 30,000 metric tonnes of maize, 20,000 metric tonnes of pulses and beans, 20,000 metric tonnes of chili, onions, and ginger, and 15,000 metric tonnes of sugar.

The MoU, which extends the existing rice trade agree-



Myanmar's agricultural exports being prepared for shipment at the port.

ment from 2017 to 2027, allows the export of up to 250,000 metric tonnes of white rice

and 50,000 metric tonnes of parboiled rice annually. Negotiations are ongoing to increase

the export volume to 100,000 metric tonnes in the fourth batch. — ASH/KZL

MSME Development Fund to issue K280M in loans to 10 entrepreneurs



The photo depicts operations at some SME businesses.

ACCORDING to the MSME Development Committee, a K280 million loan will be issued to ten MSME entrepreneurs for the first time.

The government has established an MSME Development Fund with an initial capital of K170 billion from state funds, with K150 billion allocated as loans to support

MSME development. To ensure that MSMEs have access to affordable financing, the government offers low-interest loans, allowing each eligible entrepreneur to receive up to K500 million, which must be repaid in instalments. The government continues to actively extend these loans to new MSMEs.

The first phase of the pro-

ject, completed in February 2016, successfully disbursed a total of K57.634 billion to 269 SME entrepreneurs. The repayment of these loans enabled the revolving fund to provide further financial assistance to 283 additional SMEs, amounting to K66.944 billion. Similarly, the second phase, completed in September 2018, disbursed K194.965 billion to 1,306 SME entrepreneurs, with an additional K66.386 billion provided to 254 more SMEs from loan repayments.

As of 28 February 2023, a total of K124.578 billion has been lent to 552 SME entrepreneurs from the first phase of the project and K261.251 billion to 1,560 SME entrepreneurs from the second phase. Additionally, K71.731 billion in emergency loans has been provided to SME entrepreneurs affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. — TWA/ TRKM



Sweet potatoes are being sold well in Mandalay.

Sweet potatoes trade well nationwide

SWEET potatoes distributed from Mandalay Region are being transported across Myanmar including Yangon Region and nationwide demand is high now.

This is sweet potato season and it is produced abundantly and there are three kinds of sweet potatoes — yellow sweet potato, and Kharkyat sweet potato and purple sweet potato, of which, Kharkyat sweet potato is the sweetest and the most-consumed.

From Mandalay, sweet potatoes are distributed to Yangon, Mawlamyine, Thaton, Thibaw, Myitkyina and Toungoo.

“There are non-stop orders.

Sweet potato price falls slightly. The supply is abundant this month, so price falls gradually. Sweet potato is available in all seasons. We have to transport it to different cities – Yangon, Mawlamyine, Thaton, Thibaw, Myitkyina and Toungoo,” said Ma Phyu Phyu Win, a sweet potato wholesale and retail trader from Mandalay.

Sweet potato powder is also used as MSG substitute.

“Sweet potato is served in boiled or baked form. It is also used as supplement and seasoning powder. Some use sweet potato powder in place of MSG for making fried chicken,” she said. — Thit Taw/ZS

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OPINION

Seek the best way to solve conflicts for innocent people

ARMED conflicts have plagued human history, often erupting due to hatred, discrimination, and anger. From the prehistoric era to the present day, people have resorted to violence instead of peaceful resolution, leading to widespread suffering.

Now, in an age where critical thinking and access to accurate information should guide decisions, it is more important than ever to seek peaceful solutions to conflicts. Unfortunately, the world remains engulfed in dangerous and destructive confrontations, affecting everyone and making it nearly impossible to avoid the fallout of these conflicts.

Leaders and participants in armed conflicts frequently claim that they are fighting for the greater good of their communities or countries. However, their actions often betray their words, as they prioritize their own safety over the well-being of those they claim to protect. While they may declare their sacrifices for the cause, they fail to protect their people against the destruction and devastation brought about by the conflicts they perpetuate.

As social tensions worsen, they often escalate into armed conflicts, leaving innocent people in their wake. Those who have no direct involvement in the violence often pay the heaviest price, losing their lives, loved ones, and livelihoods. Entire families are left to endure unimaginable hardship, with little to no support in the aftermath. Vulnerable groups, including women, children, and the elderly, are especially at risk. Unable to defend themselves, they become victims of the violence perpetrated by both sides. Yet, despite their suffering, these individuals rarely receive compensation or recognition for their losses.

Leaders and participants in armed conflicts frequently claim that they are fighting for the greater good of their communities or countries. However, their actions often betray their words, as they prioritize their own safety over the well-being of those they claim to protect. While they may declare their sacrifices for the cause, they fail to protect their people against the destruction and devastation brought about by the conflicts they perpetuate.

It is crucial for people to seek better solutions to these challenges. Only by acquiring accurate knowledge and analyzing situations with a clear, rational mindset can society begin to find effective ways to resolve conflicts. This process must involve a deep consideration of the lives of innocent people caught in the crossfire. These individuals, struggling to survive in the midst of chaos, deserve more than to be overlooked or forgotten. They need the world to prioritize peace over violence and to find ways to address conflicts that do not result in further harm.

Everybody needs to seek the best solution to solve the armed conflicts, which has never benefitted the general public, as their policies have been wrong since the early stages. Now is the time for all to be too late to solve and seek problems. Just saving lives and property of the people can be defined as solving armed conflicts for all to initiate a peaceful society.

NATIONAL Day fell on 16 November that year. The ceremony of paying homage to the former teachers who have served at No 1 Basic Education High School, Kyaung-gon, where Min Lwin lives, is often held on every National Day that falls in November. As that year's ceremony marks the 25th anniversary of the Silver Jubilee, it is magnificently held. Many of the school's former students return to town to attend the ceremony.

Min Lwin, who is in poor health, could not attend it. He is the one who has pleased himself by paying homage to his teachers from his home. It has been ten years since Min Lwin last attended this ceremony.

At about 10:30 am, while Min Lwin sat in the easy chair in front of the altar, he heard a man's voice from the front of his house.

The man called out, asking if Min Lwin remembered him, mentioning that he had been looking for him repeatedly and had learned No 61, Yadanabon Street, by heart. When Min Lwin looked at the front door, he saw a man of about the same age, wearing somewhat faded clothes, holding a folded umbrella in one hand and a small bag in the other, smiling at him. Min Lwin did not recognize him. It was more likely that he did not remember him rather than not knowing him. Min Lwin knew well that former students often returned to town on such days. The man must have been a former student. Additionally, he must have known Min Lwin

very well, given that he reached his front door and greeted him. Meanwhile, Min Lwin tried hard to remember the man's name but could not. However, it was not suitable for Min Lwin to talk to a guest at the

very well, given that he reached his front door and greeted him.

Meanwhile, Min Lwin tried hard to remember the man's name but could not. However, it was not suitable for Min Lwin to talk to a guest at the

very door, so he invited him in. Min Lwin's living room was not splendid. There were three old single wooden chairs and a small dwarf plastic table only. Min Lwin waved for him to sit in a chair and began chatting with him, though he still could not recall his name.

After about ten minutes, Min Lwin began to remember the name of the guest's elder brother. He asked if the man had come along with U Tin Thein to the ex-teachers paying homage ceremony, revealing his brother's name first. Only then did Min Lwin remember the man's name.

The man replied that U Tin Thein had come along with the ex-teachers from Yangon and had already gone to the school. He added that he came to meet Min Lwin, remembering the address as No 61, Yadanabon Street, but now it was No. 43, so he had circled around.

Min Lwin confirmed, asking

if he was U Tin Soe. The man affirmed that he was indeed Tin Soe.

Min Lwin had just remembered him well. He looked at his friend, with whom he had been separated since Grade VII,

ten went to Kyar Inn Lake behind their high school to shoot birds with catapults on weekends. They were close in age and spent most of their time playing together.

The year Min Lwin took the

Department in Yangon – for the first nine years as a clerk, for the second nine years as a Junior PO, and for the third nine years as a PO. Afterwards, he was

Okkatha, Venerable Mon of 'The-inn-gu' (သဲအင်ဂူ). He expressed his happiness that Min Lwin was also practising Dham-

as he watched U Tin Soe's back. At about the time the ceremony finished, Min Lwin called U Tin Soe. U Tin Soe answered that he was on the way back

for over ten days after just an hour of reuniting with an old friend who had been separated for over five decades.

Choosing U Tin Soe's number from his contact list, he made the call. The call connected instantly.

On the other side of the line, a woman answered, "Hello."

Min Lwin asked if it was U Tin Soe's number. The woman confirmed and asked who was calling.

Min Lwin explained that he was one of U Tin Soe's friends and that U Tin Soe had visited his house on National Day to attend the ceremony of paying homage to their ex-teachers. He mentioned that he was worried because U Tin Soe did not call him back after returning to Yangon.

The woman asked him to repeat the date. Min Lwin repeated that it was on National Day, 16 November.

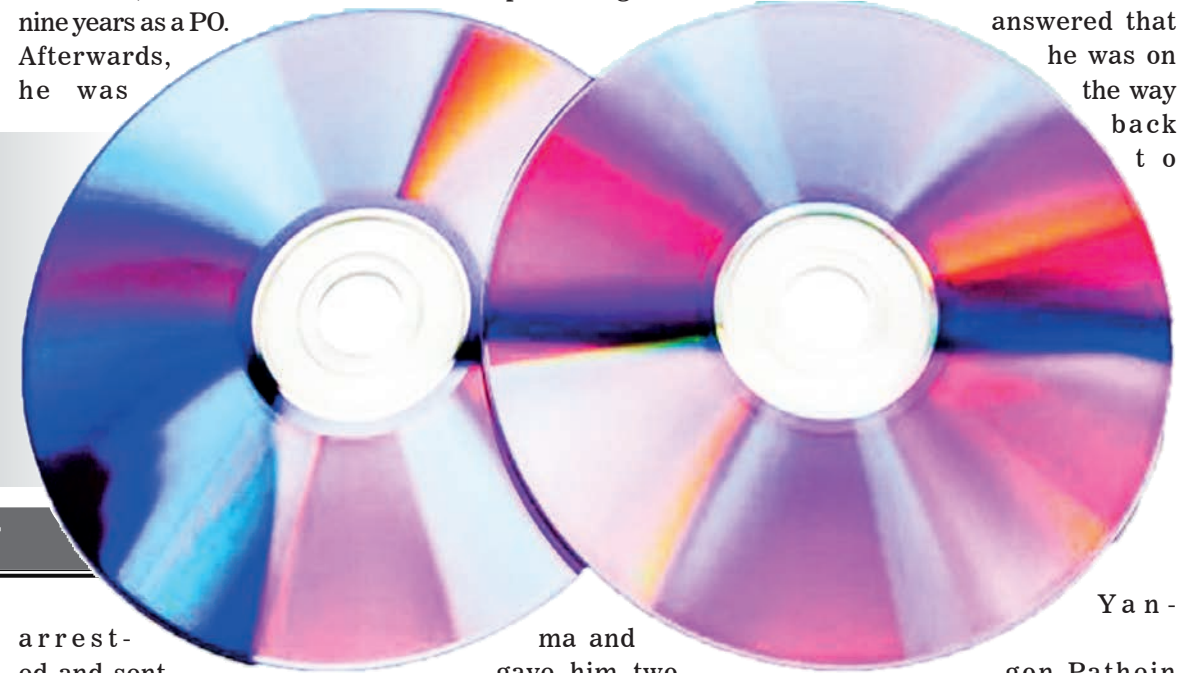
There was silence for a while, and Min Lwin waited for the answer. Then, the woman said there must be something wrong because she was U Tin Soe's spouse, and 16 November was precisely a month after U Tin Soe's death.

Shocked and amazed, Min Lwin held his handphone in his hand. Going to the altar, he held the CDs U Tin Soe had given him. One was on the altar, and the other was on his desktop, still being listened to. One of the sermons from that CD was much liked, copied, and saved on Min Lwin's handphone.

(Based on the true story)

THE ECHOES OF Forgotten Bonds

BY MIN ZAN



Grade VII examination, U Tin Soe's father was transferred to Yangon. This caused the two friends to be separated. About a week after the transfer, U Tin Soe came to stay at Min Lwin's house. Min Lwin's parents accepted him and took responsibility for his food. He slept with Min Lwin, too. After U Tin Soe's family moved to Yangon, the two friends kept in regular contact by mail for a year. Eventually, their contact lessened, and they lost touch.

If the period of lost contact was counted, it had been over 50 years. Both Min Lwin and U Tin Soe had experienced new life events and challenges. Under such circumstances, Min Lwin had entirely forgotten U Tin Soe.

During their conversation, U Tin Soe told Min Lwin that he graduated and served as government staff in the Customs

arrested and sent to prison. After four months of imprisonment, he earned his living on the income of his better half only. He was now learning the Dhamma of Lord Buddha and mentioned that all worldly business leads to Apāya upon death, so he concentrated his mind on Dhamma. He also asked which line of Dhamma Min Lwin was learning.

Min Lwin answered that he was studying the Dhamma as much as he could. At that moment, he was listening to sermons preached by Ashin Nandamālābhivamsa, and during the past year, he had been listening to sermons of Mogok Sayadawgyi, Ashin Nyanissara, and Ashin Javana.

U Tin Soe said he studied various strong dependencies and liked the sermons of Ashin

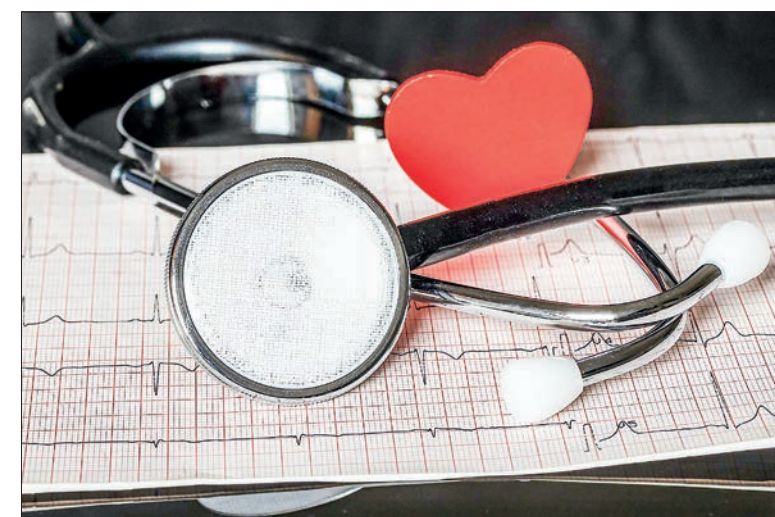
ma and gave him two CDs of 'The-inn-gu' sermons he had brought. He then took his handphone out of his shirt pocket and mentioned that some selected sermons were copied from a CD into the handphone, making it easy to carry wherever he went. They exchanged their phone numbers with each other.

As the practising methods of 'The-inn-gu' explained by U Tin Soe were unfamiliar to Min Lwin, they became new knowledge for him. Min Lwin decided to listen to the sermons from the CDs the next day. The paying homage ceremony for the ex-teachers was to start at 1 pm, and U Tin Soe left for the school at about fifteen to one. Min Lwin saw him off to the entrance of his house compound and vaguely remembered their younger days

Highway, riding a trishaw. Min Lwin told him to call without fail when he got home. However, U Tin Soe did not call about his arrival in Yangon that night. The next day, Min Lwin waited for his friend's call the whole day, but in vain. The following day, he waited again, but it was in vain. Min Lwin wanted to call U Tin Soe, but he had low credit on his phone and did not want to make the call first because if they got in contact, their chat might be rather long.

In this manner, Min Lwin did not call U Tin Soe up to the tenth day. Eventually, Min Lwin topped up his phone by the time he could not bear waiting for the ring of his old friend and decided to call U Tin Soe first. He had been upset about losing contact

Study finds how to reduce risk of blood clots after heart surgery



This research has shown that textured heart valves, tested using this innovative method, are more effective in minimizing clot formation. ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY

SOME patients who have heart valve implants suffer severe blood clots, and researchers at the University of Waterloo helped to lead a worldwide effort that minimises the risk.

Working with a team from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, researchers from Waterloo's Faculty of Engineering demonstrated that a heart valve implant with a textured surface is less likely to cause blood clots (or thrombosis).

Blood clots in the heart can

lead to life-threatening events such as stroke or heart attack. Patients with heart valve implants undergo lifelong therapy to avoid thrombosis.

The researchers' new findings are expected to improve health outcomes for many patients. Certain conditions such as cancer, pregnancy, being over the age of 55, smoking, obesity and immobility all elevate the risk of blood clots after the procedure.

"The implantation of a prosthetic heart valve is a life-saving

This advancement is expected to improve patient outcomes by reducing the need for frequent valve replacements and enhancing the overall quality of life for those undergoing heart valve procedures.

procedure, but due to some medical conditions in patients who receive the valves they experience blood clotting, which can be very dangerous," said Dr. Sushanta Mitra, a professor in Waterloo's Department of Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering and executive director of the Waterloo Institute for Nanotechnology.

"We used a method to understand how blood will interact with the valves and tested which types of valves are most likely to last longest without blood clots."

The Waterloo work was led by Dr. Mitra and Dr. Sudip Shyam, a postdoctoral fellow in the Micro Nano-Scale Transport Lab.

They developed an innovative

technique that closely resembles conditions inside the body to determine the wettability — the ability of a liquid to maintain contact with a solid surface — of solid objects submerged under liquid. When the Dutch medical team developed their textured heart valve, they asked the Waterloo engineers to conduct tests on their

implant's reliability with positive results.

"Patients won't need to have replacement valves as often thanks to this research," Mitra said. "They will have a better quality of life post-surgery, and it will extend the length of time required between procedures."

Source : ANI

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Joint scientific expedition on ecological environment of Aral Sea starts in Tashkent

A joint scientific expedition on the ecological environment of the Aral Sea aimed at addressing the ecological crisis of the Aral Sea and jointly promoting green innovation cooperation in the region kicked off Friday in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Abdukhakimov Aziz Abdukaxarovich, minister of ecology, environmental protection and climate change of the Republic of Uzbekistan, expressed gratitude to the Chinese government for its continuous support for scientific cooperation between the two countries at the launching ceremony.

He said that the expedition not only holds significant scientific value but will also play an important role in the future development of the Aral Sea region and the lives of local residents.

Chinese Ambassador to Uzbekistan Yu Jun described the ecological protection and restoration efforts in the Aral Sea region as an important part of practical cooperation between

The research will cover biodiversity, soil, hydrology, and geomorphology of the Aral Sea's dried-up bed, aiming to understand ecological degradation and develop a "roadmap for restoration and green development."



The Aral Sea, once one of the world's fourth-largest lakes, has dramatically shrunk over the past several decades due to human activities. This ecological disaster is primarily the result of diverting the rivers that fed the Aral Sea for irrigation purposes, primarily for cotton farming in the Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. **PHOTO: BRITANNICA**

China and Uzbekistan, as well as between China and Central Asia.

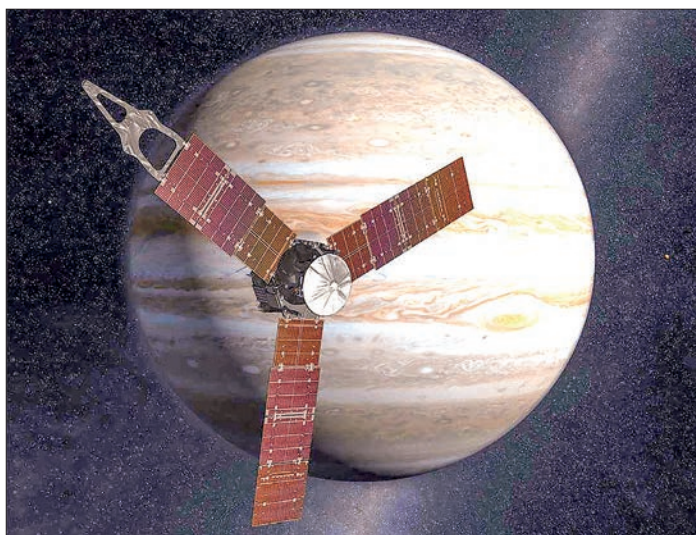
He said that these efforts have been included in bilateral and multilateral documents multiple times and have become a consensus at the leadership level.

The joint scientific expedition will lay a solid research foundation for the comprehensive management of the Aral Sea, he said.

Zhang Yuanming, director of the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (XIEG) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), noted that the expedition, which is led by Chinese scientists, will conduct field studies on the biodiversity, soil, hydrology, and geomorphology of the dried-up lakebed to explore the mechanisms of ecological degradation in the Aral Sea.

The expedition also aims to propose "a roadmap for restoration and green development for the Aral Sea", he said. — Xinhua

NASA's Juno mission develops first complete 3D radiation map of Jupiter system



Close-up images from a NASA space probe capture swirling clouds in the planet's northern hemisphere. **PHOTO: CGTN**

SCIENTISTS with NASA's Juno mission have developed the first complete 3D radiation map of the Jupiter system, according to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).

Along with characterizing the intensity of the high-energy particles near the orbit of the icy moon Europa, the map shows how the radiation environment is sculpted by the smaller moons orbiting near

Jupiter's rings, said JPL in a report earlier this week. The work relies on data collected by Juno's Advanced Stellar Compass (ASC), which was designed and built by the Technical University of Denmark, and the spacecraft's Stellar Reference Unit, which was built by Leonardo SpA in Florence, Italy. The two datasets helped Juno scientists characterize the radiation environment at different energies, according to JPL.

Consisting of four star cameras on the spacecraft's magnetometer boom, Juno's ASC takes images of stars to determine the spacecraft's orientation in space.

ASC data suggested that there is more very high-energy radiation relative to lower-energy radiation near Europa's orbit than previously thought, according to JPL. — Xinhua

BRIEFS: SCI

Antarctica at risk from invasive species

ANTARCTICA could be vulnerable to invasive species carried to the continent on floating plastic and organic debris, according to new oceanographic modeling.

In a new research published on Thursday, researchers led by a team from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Australia found that floating objects can reach the Antarctic coastline from all southern continents. The finding triggered a warning that non-native species could be carried to Antarctica on floating objects including plastic, kelp and driftwood and dramatically change marine ecosystems in the region. — Xinhua

Croatia: significant increase in wildfires this year

FROM the beginning of the year until 19 August a total of 4,300 wildfires were recorded in Croatia, an increase of 26 per cent compared with last year, the Croatian Firefighting Association (HVZ) said in a statement on Wednesday. In August so far, 981 fires, including 681 wildfires, were registered, with a total burnt area of 7,710 hectares, the HVZ said, adding that as a result, 557 fire brigade units, 1,011 vehicles and 2,837 firefighters were deployed to extinguish the fires.

Compared with last year, there has been an increase of fires in most categories this year, with the exception of building fires, which decreased by 8 per cent compared with last year. — Xinhua

Surge in illegal migration to Germany mirrors growing EU-wide challenge

A significant increase in illegal migration to Europe was again observed in 2023, with Germany proving to be the main destination country in the European Union (EU), according to a report released Wednesday by the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA).

The BKA said that the European Border and Coast Guard Agency reported approximately 380,200 unauthorized border crossings at EU/

sharp increase. The BKA reported that 266,224 individuals were suspected of unauthorized entry and residence in Germany in 2023, marking a 33.4 per cent increase compared to the previous year.

A majority of these migrants entering Germany originated from Syria, with



54,207 arrivals, fol-

lowed by 35,732 from Türkiye and 35,370 from Afghanistan.

“Many of these individuals depended on smugglers to facilitate their journey into Germany,” the report said, adding that around 39,700 people suspected of being smuggled were checked at German borders last year. — Xinhua

Schengen external borders last year, which represents the highest annual figure since 2016 and underscores growing pressures on Europe’s borders.

Within this EU-wide trend, Germany saw a particularly



Prominent figures such as Stanford University professor Fei-Fei Li, known as the “Godmother of AI,” have expressed concerns that the bill could negatively impact AI research, small tech startups, and the open-source community. PHOTO: ILLUSTRATION IMAGE: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/LINKED IN

California AI bill divides Silicon Valley

Critics believe that the bill’s punitive measures might hinder progress in AI development and negatively affect academic and entrepreneurial efforts in the field.

A bill aimed at regulating powerful artificial intelligence models is under consideration in California’s legislature, despite outcry that it could kill the technology it seeks to control.

“With Congress gridlocked over AI regulation... California must act to get ahead of the foreseeable risks presented by rapidly advancing AI while also fostering innovation,” said Democratic state senator Scott Wiener of San Francisco, the bill’s sponsor. But critics, including Democratic members of US Congress, argue that threats of punitive measures against developers in a nascent field can throttle innovation.

“The view of many of us in Congress is that SB 1047 is well-intentioned but ill-informed,” influential Democratic congresswoman Nancy Pelosi of California said in a release, noting that top party

members have shared their concerns with Wiener.

“While we want California to lead in AI in a way that protects consumers, data, intellectual property and more, SB 1047 is more harmful than helpful in that pursuit,” Pelosi said.

Pelosi pointed out that Stanford University computer science professor Fei-Fei Li, whom she referred to as the “Godmother of AI” for her status in the field, is among those opposing the bill.

Harm or help?

The bill, called the Safe and Secure Innovation for Frontier Artificial Intelligence Models Act, will not solve what it is meant to fix and will “deeply harm AI academia, little tech and the open-source community”, Li wrote earlier this month on X. Little tech refers to startups and small companies, as well as researchers and entrepreneurs. — AFP

Interetno Festival kicks off in Serbia

THE annual Interetno Festival kicked off on Wednesday in Subotica, a northern Serbian city, featuring performances from Latin America and Europe and celebrating diverse musical and dance traditions.

In the opening address, Bela Bodrogi, the festival director, expressed gratitude to the City of Subotica and festival sponsors for their support, and invited the audience to enjoy the event.

“Thank you for being faithful fans of this festival, allowing us to enjoy these magnificent concerts together, including dances, music, and vibrant atmosphere here at City Square,” Bodrogi said.

Until 25 August attendees will enjoy daily performances, explore exhibitions of handi-



Members of a Serbian folklore troupe perform at the Interetno Festival in Subotica, Serbia, 21 August 2024. PHOTO: NEMANJA CABRIC/XINHUA

crafts and local delicacies, and join in lively dance celebrations. Since its inception 23 years ago, the festival has steadily grown in prominence, earning recognition as a premier cultural event in the region. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mosquito season gets longer in US

AS global temperatures rise due to climate change, mosquito season has lengthened across much of the contiguous United States, a development that scientists warn could heighten the risk of outbreaks of diseases such as dengue and malaria, and the spread of West Nile and Zika viruses, reported The Washington Post (WP) on Thursday.

“Over the past four decades, more than two-thirds of the country has seen an increase in ‘mosquito days’ - defined as days with an average humidity of at least 42 per cent and temperatures between 50 and 95 degrees Fahrenheit (10 and 35 degrees Celsius),” said the report.

The Northeast, which has warmed faster than the rest of the country, experienced the biggest increase in mosquito days. In Vermont, for instance, the past five years have averaged 17 more mosquito days compared with the period from 1980 to 2009.

Mosquito season shortened in hotter regions such as Texas, which experienced more frequent temperatures exceeding 95 degrees, pushing mosquitoes past their physiological limits. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

WITH huge data centres set to drive up already outsized energy demand, the tiny city-state of Singapore is looking to Australia's deserts and Malaysia's rainforests for clean power.

This week Australia announced a massive solar farm that it hopes will eventually offer two gigawatts (GW) of power to Singapore via undersea cable.

Singapore aims to peak carbon emissions by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050, but it relies heavily on imported oil and gas.

The city lacks the conditions to produce either wind or hydropower, and while it aims to generate two gigawatts from locally installed solar by 2030, it does not have space for large solar farms.

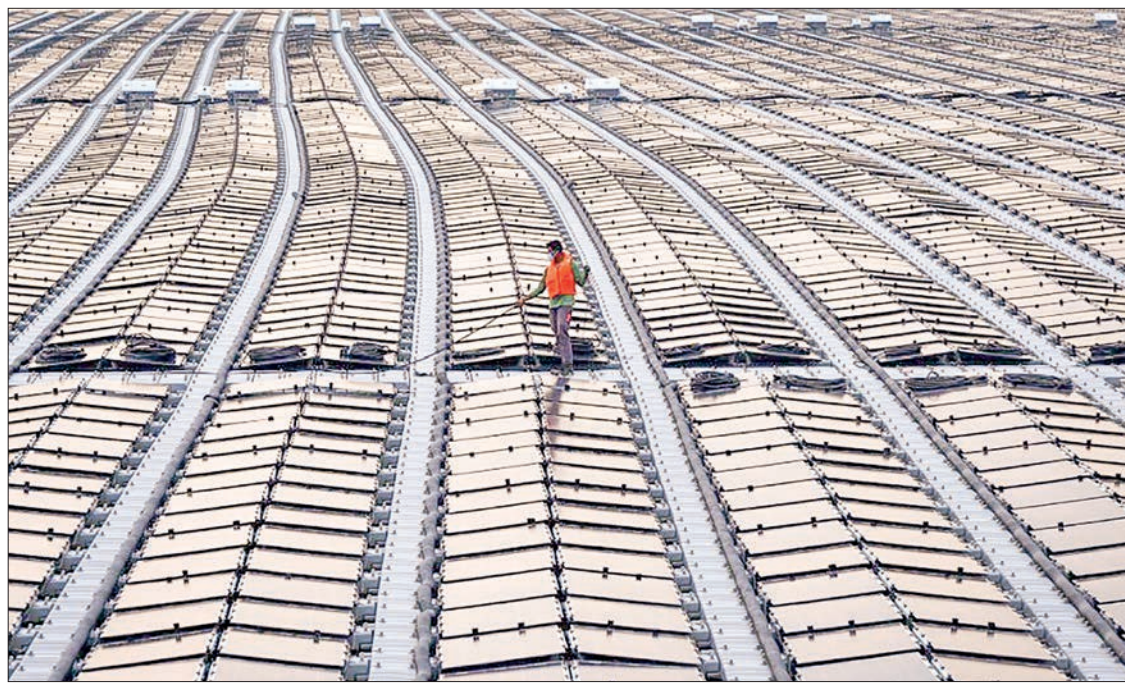
Demand, meanwhile, is only set to rise, particularly from data centres, which already account for seven percent of Singapore's electricity consumption.

That is projected to grow to 12 per cent by 2030.

To meet that demand, Singapore's Energy Market Authority has already granted conditional approvals to import 1GW from Cambodia, 2GW from Indonesia

Energy-hungry Singapore eyes deserts, forest for renewables

To address its energy needs, especially with data centres consuming a significant portion of electricity, Singapore is looking to Australia and Malaysia for solutions.



A worker pulling a cable along a floating solar power farm at sea off Singapore's northern coast just across from the Malaysian state of Johor. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

and 1.2GW from Vietnam.

Those are from a mix of solar, wind and hydropower, a popular but sometimes controversial energy source in the region, where it has been associated with deforestation and environmental degradation linked to dams.

By 2035, renewable imports are projected to supply at least 30 per cent of Singapore's electricity, according to Ember. However, challenges such as long transmission distances, energy losses, and intermittency pose significant hurdles, as noted by Niels de Boer from Nanyang Energy Research Institute.

The project involves 4,300 kilometres of undersea cables and requires approvals from various stakeholders, including Singapore's regulators and Australian Indigenous communities. Complications similar to those faced with hydropower from Laos highlight the need for careful management of transmission agreements and competition for renewable resources. Diversifying energy sources and engaging regional bodies like ASEAN could help mitigate risks. — AFP

UK energy price cap to rise 10% from October: Ofgem

THE energy price cap in the United Kingdom (UK) will rise by 10 percent in the fourth quarter of 2024, pushing bills up to 1,717 British pounds (about US\$2,263) a year for a typical household, the UK's energy regulator said on Friday.

"Rising prices on the international energy market — due to increasing geopolitical tensions and extreme weather events driving competition for gas — are the primary cause of the rise," the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) said.

The increase of the price cap, which sets a maximum rate per unit that can be charged to customers for their energy use, will add around 12 pounds a month to the average bill, said Ofgem.

"We know that this rise in the price cap is going to be extremely difficult for many households. Anyone who is struggling to pay their bill should make sure they have access to all the benefits they are entitled to," said Jona-

than Brearley, CEO of Ofgem.

Brearley urged British households to "shop around" and look for options that could save them money.

The regulator also called for efforts to build a homegrown renewable energy system in order to lower bills and create a sustainable and secure market that works for customers.

Cornwall Insight, a UK

energy consultancy firm, forecasts that the price cap will rise again for the first quarter of 2025 to about 1,762 pounds.

"A volatile wholesale market and a country heavily reliant on imported energy has created a perfect storm for fluctuating household bills," said Craig Lowrey, principal consultant at Cornwall Insight.

— Xinhua



Photo taken on 21 August 2022 shows a gas station in Reading, Britain. **PHOTO: TIM IRELAND/XINHUA**



A staff member displays a high-tech sneaker at the 982 Creative Space, a digital smart sports complex built by Anta Group, in Jinjiang, southeast China's Fujian Province, on 22 August 2024. **PHOTO: WEI PEIQIAN/XINHUA**

Footwear industry in SE China advances in global market

LOCATED in southeast China's Fujian Province, Jinjiang is renowned as "China's shoe capital". The total value of textile, footwear and clothing industries cluster here exceeds 400 billion yuan, making it a major production base for global sports footwear and apparel. In Jinjiang, thousands of enterprises con-

tribute to a complete industrial chain, from yarn and fabric to soles and final products.

In recent years, the sporting goods industry in Jinjiang has been growing rapidly, giving rise to many nationally renowned brands such as Anta and Xtep that advance in the global market. — Xinhua

Space startup GalaxEye eyes private satellite launch in 2025

PRANIT Mehta, co-founder of space sector startup GalaxEye, who along with other four of his team members spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Mann Ki Baat radio programme on Sunday, said they intend to launch their own constellation of satellites next year.

Interacting with the prime minister, the five IIT Madras alumni — Suyash, Daniel, Rakshit, Kishan and Praneet, said this was the opportunity to tap into the space sector, given the country growing at a fastest rate which which came various new opportunities.

Among various space sector policies and reforms, the government opened up space sector to private companies in 2020 in a landmark decision.

GalaxEye is a startup spun out of IIT Madras by its alumni members, founded in 2021. As part of the startup, they have built a sensor that can actually penetrate through clouds, solving several India-specific problems.

GalaxEye is able to provide imagery even during cloudy weather and night time, which the co-founder claimed as their “strongest technology”.

Pranit, talking to ANI later, said the prime minister and the government’s interest in the space sector, has pushed them to foray into this domain. — ANI



GalaxEye, established in 2021 by IIT Madras alumni, is leveraging the opportunities created by the Indian government’s 2020 policy reform that opened the space sector to private companies. **PHOTO: ANI**

Royal Jordanian suspends flights to Lebanon

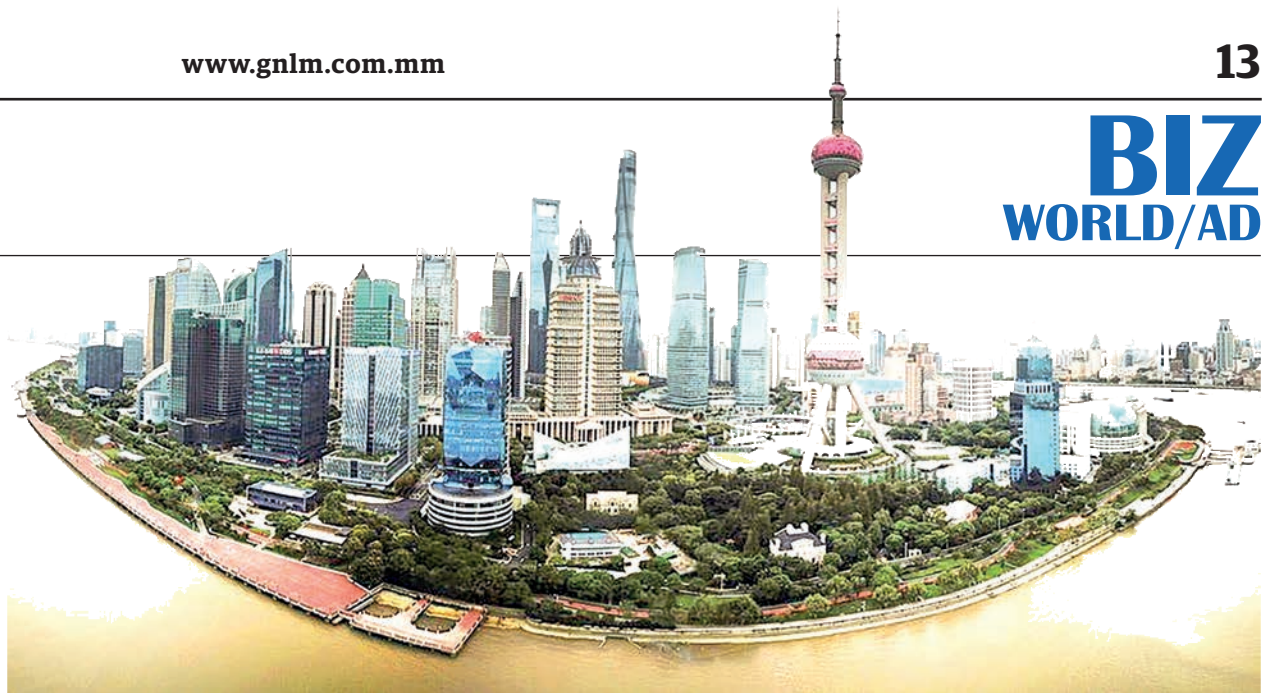
ROYAL Jordanian CEO Samer Majali announced on Sunday that all flights to Beirut are being suspended due to the volatile situation in Lebanon.

The company said in a press statement that “flights to and from the Lebanese capital, Beirut, have been suspended due to the current situation.”

Also on Sunday, Captain Haitham Misto, chief commissioner and CEO of the Jordanian Civil Avi-

ation Regulatory Commission (CARC) said that the Jordanian airspace is operating normally for incoming, outgoing, and transit flights.

“We are monitoring regional developments and assessing the situation based on the available data to take any necessary actions if needed,” he said in a statement published by the state-run Petra news agency. — Xinhua



Key goals include refining the financial system, advancing the capital market’s quality, expanding high-level financial openness, and strengthening financial backing for modern industries. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Shanghai amends law to further promote international financial centre development

On 1 October Shanghai will implement revised regulations designed to strengthen its position as an international financial hub.

THE legislature of east China’s Shanghai Municipality has passed revised regulations on promoting the further development of this area as an inter-

national financial center, with these revised regulations to take effect on 1 October.

The regulations aim to deepen financial

reform, serve the real economy, and prevent and defuse financial risks, so as to provide a solid legal guarantee for Shanghai to effectively play its role in serving the country financially.

The regulations are aimed at improving the financial system, promoting high-quality development of the capital market, expanding high-level financial opening up, and in-

creasing financial support for the modern industrial system.

Detailed requirements include developing Chinese yuan asset pricing benchmarks, building a national platform for the circulation of bulk commodities, creating a global asset management centre, and prudently advancing digital renminbi research, development and application. — Xinhua

Japan’s Space One to launch rocket in Dec

JAPANESE private startup Space One Co. said Sunday that it is planning to launch a rocket in December, after its attempt to send a satellite-carrying projectile earlier this year failed in an explosion shortly after lift-off.

The company said the Kairos rocket will be launched from its spaceport in western Japan. In

March, its first Kairos rocket exploded in midair after a computer within the projectile executed a self-destruction order.

Space One was set up in 2018 by Canon Electronics Inc., IHI Aerospace Co and other entities, seeking to commercialize space delivery services by lowering costs and offering rocket launches on a

regular basis.

The first Japanese enterprise to develop a rocket exclusively with private support aims to send 30 rockets a year into space by the 2030s.

It operates the country’s first-ever private sector spaceport in Wakayama Prefecture, near Osaka. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0328-777N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0328-777N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-8-2024** 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.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE. LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (24002E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (24002E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Israel says Lebanon strikes thwarted large-scale Hezbollah attack



Smoke billows from an area targeted by an Israeli airstrike in the southern Lebanese village of Qsair.

PHOTO: AFP

The UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon and the UNIFIL peacekeeping force have called for an immediate ceasefire and for both sides to avoid further escalation.

ISRAEL launched air strikes into Lebanon on Sunday, saying that it had thwarted a large-scale Hezbollah attack, while the Lebanese group announced its own cross-border raids to avenge a top commander's killing.

The Israeli military said its fighter jets had destroyed "thousands" of Hezbollah rocket launchers "aimed toward northern Israel and some were aimed toward central Israel", far from the border.

Hezbollah, the powerful Iran-backed Lebanese armed group, countered that Israel was making "empty claims" of having thwarted a larger attack, and said its own operation for Sunday "was completed and accomplished".

The office of the United Nations special coordinator for Lebanon, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, and the UNIFIL peacekeeping force urged "all to cease fire and refrain from further es-

calatory action".

Hezbollah's leader Hassan Nasrallah was due to speak on the "latest developments" at 6:00 pm (1500 GMT), the group said.

The group has traded near-daily cross-border fire with Israeli forces throughout the Gaza war, in a campaign Hezbollah says is in support of Palestinian ally Hamas.

But fears of a wider regional conflagration soared after attacks in late July blamed on Israel killed Iran-aligned militant leaders, including Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukur, prompting vows of revenge. — AFP

Telegram founder Paul Durov detained at French airport

THE founder of the Telegram messaging app, Paul Durov, who had an arrest warrant issued against him, was detained by the French authorities at an airport outside Paris, CNN reported.

Officers from France's anti-fraud office, attached to French customs, took the French-Russian billionaire into custody on Saturday evening after he arrived at Bourget Airport on a flight from Azerbaijan, according to CNN affiliate BFMTV.

Durov, 39, was wanted under a French arrest warrant due to the lack of moderation on Telegram, which allegedly led to the platform being used for money laundering, drug traf-

ficking and sharing pedophilic content. According to BFMTV, the Telegram founder had not regularly travelled to France and Europe since the arrest warrant was issued.

Notably, France issued an arrest warrant for Durov on charges of complicity in drug trafficking, crimes against children and fraud due to the lack of moderation on Telegram and his failure to cooperate with law enforcement, the Moscow Times reported, citing French local media.

The Russian-born founder of Telegram, which he says boasts over 900 million users, is currently based in Dubai. He became a naturalised French citizen in August 2021. — ANI



Durov was wanted under a French arrest warrant related to alleged issues with Telegram's content moderation, which reportedly led to its use for money laundering, drug trafficking, and sharing pedophilic content. PHOTO: X

Suspect in synagogue arson attack

ONE person has been detained in connection with the attempted arson attack on a synagogue in the southern French town of La Grande-Motte, CNN reported.

Two elite police units detained the suspect following a raid in the nearby city of Nimes on Saturday, according to CNN affiliate BFMTV.

According to Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin, the suspect opened fire on the police.

"The alleged perpetrator of the arson attack on the synagogue has been detained. Thanks to the police, and mainly the RAID, who intervened with great professionalism despite his gunfire," Darmanin said on X, referencing an elite unit of the National Police.

BFMTV reported that the suspect was wounded but not in critical condition following the gunfight.

The arrest follows a blast outside a synagogue that injured a police officer, the latest in a series of incidents in recent months that have unsettled France's large Jewish community. — ANI

Australia's Adelaide Zoo celebrates giant pandas' birthday



Giant panda Wang Wang is pictured at Adelaide Zoo in Adelaide, Australia, 24 August 2024. PHOTO: LYU WEI/XINHUA

THE Adelaide Zoo in South Australia (SA), held a two-day birthday celebration this weekend for two giant pandas, who

turn 19 and 18 years old this year, respectively.

Wang Wang was born on 31 October 2005 and Fu Ni on 23

August 2006 in China. They have lived in Adelaide Zoo for 15 years, since 2009.

Adelaide Zoo has celebrated the birthdays of Wang Wang and Fu Ni every year since 2009. Filled with fun activities that finished on Sunday, crowds gathered to sing the pandas a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" and watch Wang Wang enjoy a scented enrichment bubble bath and Fu Ni falling asleep peacefully.

"Wang Wang and Fu Ni have been a major drawcard for our state," said Peter Malinauskas, Premier of South Australia, in a press release issued on Saturday. — Xinhua

SPORTS

3MA Amateur 4 Lethwei Event highlights new generation fighters

THE 3MA Amateur 4 Lethwei event took place yesterday at the ANS Lethwei Stadium in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region, showcasing 16 thrilling bouts. This competition aimed to highlight emerging talent in Myanmar's traditional Lethwei, featuring novice fighters.

In the MMA bouts, the matches with 3-minute rounds and 1-minute break featured Kyaw Wai Yan versus Banyar Oo; Salawla versus Zin Ko Aung; Zin Phy versus Win Thu Ya; and Lwin Htet versus Aung Hein Swan.

In the boxing matches with 3-minute rounds and 1-minute break, Min Myat faced Linn Yon, and Kyaw Thiha competed against Pyae Sone Oo.

In the Novice Kickboxing bouts with 2-minute rounds and 2-minute break, Robert Tun went up against



Lethwei fighters in action during the 3MA Amateur 4 event at the ANS Lethwei Stadium. **PHOTO: ARKAR LINN**

Min Kaung, and Khant Kyaw Lin faced Biggy Wyne.

In the Kickboxing bouts with 3-minute rounds and 1-minute break, Htwe Shaung faced Boxer Shine; Thu Ya battled Phoe Pyae; Kyaw Naing Tun competed against Salai; Agga and Kaung Myat Hein clashed; Kaung Kaung faced Saw

Htay Nisae; Ring La (Spartan Kickboxing) fought against Nway Oo; and Kyaw Zin Maung went up against Myint Myat Hein. These matches provided exciting competition for the audience.

Lethwei fighter Nway Oo shared his thoughts: "I've only had five Lethwei fights so far, and this is my

first boxing match. Although I'm not a professional boxer, I'm participating out of enjoyment. If the opportunity arises, I'll compete more. I'm not fully prepared for this event yet, but I prefer traditional Lethwei over boxing. I appreciate the chance to showcase my skills." — Arkar Linn/KZL



Former world boxing champion Floyd Mayweather (R) handily outmatched John Gotti III in an exhibition fight Saturday in Mexico City. **PHOTO: AFP**

Mayweather dominates Gotti in Mexico City exhibition fight

FORMER world boxing champion Floyd Mayweather outmatched John Gotti III, the grandson of the late New York crime boss, in an exhibition fight Saturday that left the Mexico City crowd unimpressed.

Mayweather, 47, retired from boxing in 2017, unbeaten in 50 bouts, but continues to appear in fights that do not count towards his career record.

The 31-year-old Gotti, who had a 5-1 record in MMA fights before switching to boxing, is the grandson of John Gotti, the head of the Gambino crime family who died in prison in 2002.

Mayweather has also fought reality television stars and YouTube fighters in some of his exhibitions.

He dominated Gotti from start to finish despite confusion when a round-ending bell did not sound and when the referee left the ring mid-fight. The eight-round bout included two-minute rounds with two-minute rest periods.

Gotti, the first to enter the ring in an arena packed with more than 22,000 spectators, showed little effort during the fight, provoking the audience's disdain.

Mayweather came out throwing rights to Gotti's head in the first round, Gotti limiting himself to containing the punishment.

There was a moment of confusion after two minutes because the bell did not ring and the fight continued until complaints were heard from Gotti's corner.

There was more bewilderment in the second round when, after a forbidden punch by Mayweather, Panamanian referee Hector Afu left the ring, apparently annoyed by Mayweather's actions.

Mexican referee Alfredo Uruquieta then took over. — AFP

Hanthawady, Yangon seal victories in top-tier MNL fixtures

IN the ongoing 2024-2025 Myanmar National League season fixtures, the third match day for the fixture-8 saw top-of-the-table teams: Hanthawady United and Yangon United securing wins.

At the Thuwanna Youth Training Centre, Hanthawady United defeated ISPE FC with a score of 3-1. Hanthawady secured the win after trailing initially, maintaining pressure on the current champions Shan United and Yangon United.

Hanthawady United fielded a team with many experienced players, while ISPE also lined up their key players. Despite Saw Sae Kapaw Sae scoring for ISPE in the 23rd minute, Hanthawady equalized with a goal from Yan Naing Aung just six minutes later, leaving the score tied at 1-1 at halftime. In the second half, Hantha-



Hanthawady United in action against ISPE during their Myanmar National League match. **PHOTO: MNL**

wady intensified its game, scoring additional goals at 48 and 63 minutes. Yan Naing Aung received the Player of the Match award. After this game, Hanthawady United has 19 points in eight games, while ISPE has nine points from the same number of games.

At the Yangon United Sport Complex, Yangon United defeated Ayeyawady

United with a 4-1 score line. Yangon United followed up their strong performance to secure the win. Thiha scored the opening goal for Ayeyawady in the 15th minute, but Yangon United's Yan Kyaw Htwe equalized, followed by additional goals from Yan Kyaw Htwe (45+2 minute) and Yan Naing Oo at 66 minute and Thayar Win Htet (90+4 minute). Yan Na-

ing Oo was named the Player of the Match. After this match, Yangon United has 20 points from eight games, while Ayeyawady United has four points from the same number of fixtures.

The final game of the fixture eight will continue today with a match between Rakhine United and Shan United at the Yangon United Sport Complex. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



China's capital opens arms to global entrepreneurs

HICOOL's efforts aim to position Beijing as a leading international science and technology innovation hub and a centre for high-level talent.

HICOOL, a startup ecosystem established in Beijing in 2020 to support entrepreneurial talent, has seen its initial vision become a reality.

Over the past five years, HICOOL has nurtured 16 unicorn companies and 127 enterprises that use specialized and sophisticated technologies to produce novel and unique products. Meanwhile, it has attracted 32,000 entrepreneurial individuals and 24,000 projects from 145 countries and regions worldwide.

By doing so, HICOOL has extended an invitation to global entrepreneurs to convene in Beijing, showcasing the Chinese capital's efforts to become an international science and technology innovation center as well as a high-level talent hub.

As one of the unicorn en-

terprises that emerged from HICOOL, Agile Robots from Munich, Germany, participated in the HICOOL 2022 Global Entrepreneurship Competition and secured an award. With the support of various levels of government agencies in Beijing, the company has set up a state-of-the-art factory spanning nearly 5,300 square metres in the suburban area of Shunyi District.

"We have evolved from a small team of just over 10 individuals to a globally recognized high-tech enterprise with a workforce exceeding 2,800 employees, realizing a market valuation of more than US\$3.5 billion and annual sales surpassing 1 billion yuan (about US\$140 million)," noted Chen Wei, the company's deputy general manager.



This photo taken on 24 August 2024 shows a view of HICOOL 2024 Global Entrepreneur Summit in Beijing, capital of China. **PHOTO: REN CHAO/XINHUA**

Chen added that the company currently holds over 100 patents and has essentially achieved independent research and development of core technologies.

A highlight of this year's HICOOL 2024 Global Entrepreneur Summit, held from

23 to 25 August, is its focus on new quality productive forces, creating a platform to empower technology-based startups and encouraging innovation through value creation.

This year's session has drawn extensive attention from Chinese and foreign en-

trepreneurs. A total of 9,700 outstanding players and 7,406 entrepreneurship projects from 124 countries and regions participated in this year's global entrepreneurship competition during the summit, with overseas projects accounting for 63 per cent of the total. — Xinhua

Intruders try to board Trinidad and Tobago mystery tanker

COAST guard officers in Trinidad and Tobago have fired on intruders who attempted to board the wreck of a mysterious oil tanker that capsized off the Caribbean country months ago, its energy ministry said Saturday.

The ship, named the Gulfstream and sailing under an unidentified flag, had spilled 50,000 barrels of oil near Tobago's southern coast when it capsized in February and was found abandoned.

"There was an attempted unauthorized boarding of a support vessel by unidentified individuals" on Friday night, the energy ministry said.

"Officers attached to the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard were

site and intervened.

"There was an exchange of gunfire, and one member of the response crew sustained a non-life-threatening injury." The Gulfstream had recently been refloated and taken for salvaging to the Sea Lots area near Trinidad's Port of Spain, where the attempted boarding took place.

Police say Sea Lots is a hot spot for gang activity. The ministry said it is working with police and the army to protect the site.

The Gulfstream's ownership remains a mystery. The "Solo Creed", a barge that had been towing it at the time it capsized, had turned off its tracking beacon and then vanished, along with the crew. — AFP



Workers refloat the Gulfstream oil tanker off the coast of Tobago on 20 August 2024.

RECOMMENDED PRECAUTIONS

Dolphin attacks on rise in central Japan beaches

WILD dolphin attacks at beaches in a central Japan prefecture have been on the rise since 2022, with experts suggesting that a sole Indo-Pacific bottlenose may be the culprit and that the aggressive behaviour could escalate.

Eighteen people have been injured this summer at beaches in Fukui Prefecture as of Tuesday, including an elementary school student whose finger required 20 to 30 stitches and took a month to heal, according to the Tsuruga Coast Guard Office.

The number of incidents this year has increased rapidly compared to the last two, with at least one person

injured in 2022 and five in 2023, according to the coast guard.

On Tuesday, a man in his 50s was bitten by a dolphin while swimming near Mizushima island in Tsuruga, marking the second consecutive day of such incidents at that beach.

A similar attack occurred on 13 August at Shiraki beach. Cetology expert Tadamichi Morisaka suggests the dolphin may be seeking human interaction, which can lead to aggressive behaviour.

Precautions include using ultrasonic deterrents and warning swimmers to exit the water if they encounter dolphins. — Kyodo