Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

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Article

Reclaiming Tradition After the New Normal

By Min Zan

PAGE 8-9

NATIONAL PAGE 4



Preparations underway for visitors at Wanet Elephant Camp during Thadingyut holidays

NATIONAL PAGE 5



Thadingyut market festival to stage music show at Secretariat Yangon

NATIONAL PAGE 7



Candle sale surges this month, even orders are postponed



Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win visits the booths to mark the 2024 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, MICC-I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Govt provides K1M per dead person for bereaved families

Plan is underway to assist cash for damaged homes through the National Disaster Management Fund.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win unveiled that the government manages issuance of proper cash assistance, loans without interest and soft-interest loans for livelihoods while allocating the some amount from the National Disaster Management Fund.

Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win said so at the ceremony to mark the International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction 2024 at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his speech, the Vice-Senior General said that the management committee initiates creation of the hazard map and the risk map through endeavours of experienced experts. Moreover, it will be combined with the post-flood and land slide needs assessment based on overflow of Myittha River in Kalay in 2015.

During three cash donation at the State level, he recounted that well-wishers at home and abroad in individuals and in groups donated more than K52 billion for rescue, relief, emegency response and rehabilitation measures.

SEE PAGE 3

Salient points in the speech delivered by the Vice-Senior General at the International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction 2024

1. The government manages issuance of proper cash assistance, loans without interest and soft-interest loans for livelihoods while allocating the some amount from the National Disaster Management Fund.
2. Bereaved families have obtained K1 million per dead person in natural disasters through the National Disaster Management Fund and region and state funds, and the National Disaster Management Fund will be allocated cash assistance for damaged homes.
3. The management committee initiates creation of the hazard map and the risk map through endeavours of experienced experts.
4. Well-wishers donated more than K52 billion for rescue, relief, emegency response and rehabilitation measures.

NATIONAL

Nationwide Census Collection continues on the 14th day.

Collective Strength: Key to Sustainable Development Beyond Government Efforts

WHILE the government must spearhead comprehensive and equitable development of the Union, sustainable progress can only be achieved through the collective strength of its people.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony of presenting awards to outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination 2024 with distinctions in all subjects on 22 July 2024)

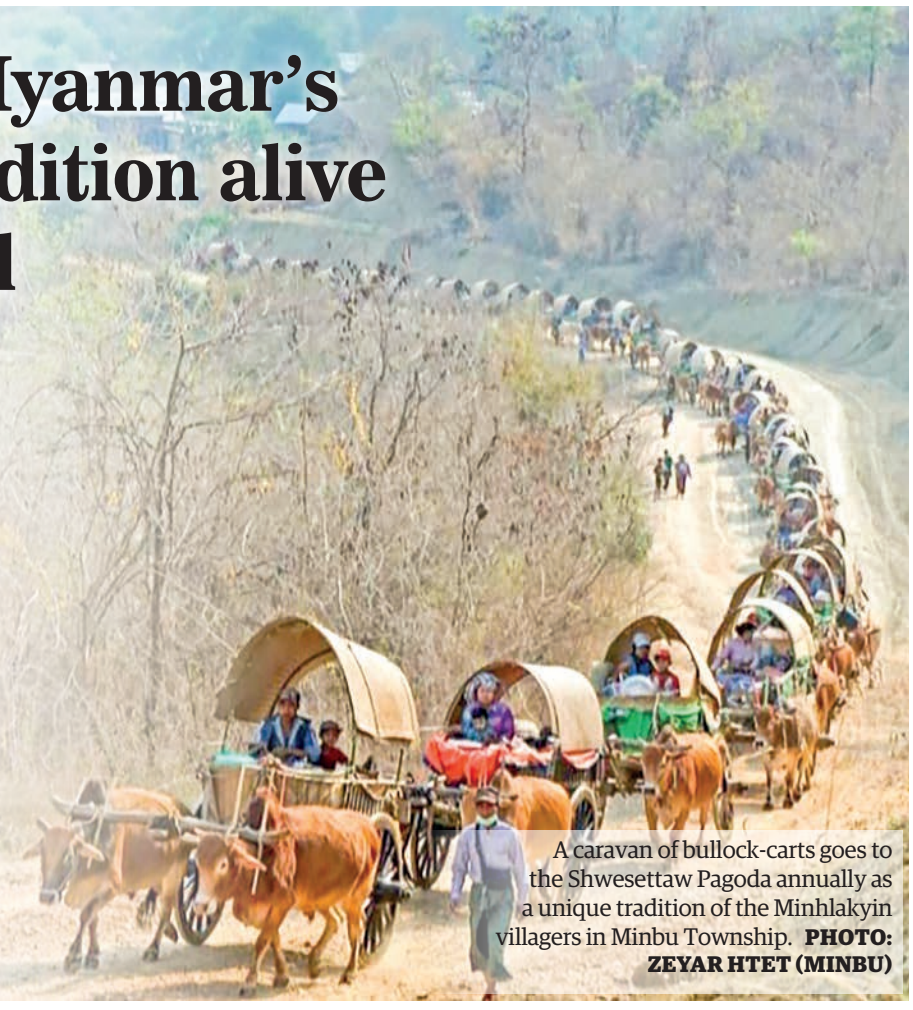
Minhlakyin village keeps Myanmar's bullock-cart pilgrimage tradition alive during Shwesettaw Festival

MINHLAKYIN village, located in Minbu Township of Magway Region, is the only village that continues the Myanmar tradition of making a pilgrimage by bullock-cart.

"Our village is 12 miles from Shwesettaw Pagoda. Every year, during the pagoda festival, we travel there using a caravan of bullock-carts. The younger generation is enthusiastic about participating in this tradition, while our grandparents and elders treasure it as part of our cultural heritage. We are committed to keeping this tradition alive, so each year when the Shwesettaw Pagoda Festival arrives, we gather together for this pilgrimage," explained U Ohn Kyaing, the village administrator.

The village has around 430 households, with agriculture being the main source of livelihood for the villagers. In addition to farming, they are involved in various crafts such as weaving, bamboo work, and basket making. When the festival season approaches, the village administrator and youth leaders organize the pilgrimage, which involves the entire village.

Photographers from across Myanmar, drawn by the unique bullock-cart pilgrimage, visit the village to capture stunning photographs of the scenic landscapes and the bullock-carts with arched roofs, as they journey through valleys and hills towards the festival. These images are often shared widely on social media. — Zayar Htet (Minbu)/ TRKM



A caravan of bullock-carts goes to the Shwesettaw Pagoda annually as a unique tradition of the Minhlakyin villagers in Minbu Township. **PHOTO: ZEYAR HTET (MINBU)**

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 13 October 2024)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the Northeast Bay and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal. Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 14 October 2024: Weather will be partly cloudy in Chin State. Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region and Southern Shan and Mon states, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Eastern Shan and Kayin states, scattered in Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin State and isolated in the remaining regions and states. Degree of certainty is 100%.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-7 feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of thundery activities over the Southern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 October 2024: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 October 2024: Partly cloudy and isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 October 2024: Partly cloudy and Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%. — DMH

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

FROM PAGE 1

Govt provides K1M per dead person for bereaved families



Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win delivers speech at the ceremony to mark the 2024 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, MICC-I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Vice-Senior General highlighted that bereaved families have obtained K1 million per dead person in natural disasters through the National Disaster Management Fund and region and state funds, and the National Disaster Management Fund will be allocated cash assistance for damaged homes.

Moreover, he added that the government manages issuance proper cash assistance, loans without interest and soft-interest loans for livelihoods while allocating the some amount from the National Disaster Management Fund.

He retold that the recent flood affected nine regions and states where about one million people from more than 80,000 families suffered impacts of floods. Of them, 520 people were dead and missing in the disasters in addition of death of more than 180,000 animals and damage of more than 700,000 acres of paddy and other crops across the nation, he added.

The Vice-Senior General continued that the Head of State inspected repairs of roads and bridges to turn the transport service into normalcy as quickly as possible.

He spotted that Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction Head of United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Mr Karmal Kishore called for teaching lessons of natural disasters to students from the school-age children to those from the higher education.

He noted that more than 10 million trees were lost yearly from 2010 to 2020, according to the statement of the UN World Food Programme. It shows that growing number of global population, expansion of vocational businesses, high temperature, climate change and deforestation trigger severely natural disasters year by year.

The Vice-Senior General emphasized that UNICEF mentioned that one billion children worldwide are facing high possibility of disaster risks and some 27 million children suffer impacts of flood-related disasters.

He pointed out that it is necessary to initiate preparedness against natural disasters in accord with the Sendai framework (2025-2030) in order to mitigate disaster risks nationally and regionally.

He urged all to thoroughly understand the important role of new generation youths and the people in mitigating and responding to the natural disaster risks.

Vice-Chair-2 of the management committee Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win reported on natural disaster management measures.

A message of the UNSG read by Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction Head of UNDRR Mr Karmal Kishore and a documentary video on disaster risk reduction movement were screened.

The Vice-Senior General presented medals, certificates and cash awards to winners in the open article contest to mark the 2024 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction.

SAC member General Mya Tun Oo, Vice-Chairmen of the management committee Union Ministers Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and Dr Soe Win also awarded the winners in the university-level painting and basic education-level essay contests.

The Vice-Senior General then visited the booths of documentary photos to mark the 2024 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The ceremony was also attended by Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers, deputy ministers, chairmen of organizations, departmental heads and officials from UN agencies and NGOs and INGOs. — MNA/TTA

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

The message sent by UN Secretary-General to the ceremony to mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2024

FOR this year's International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, we are calling on countries to do more to protect and empower children and youth through education.

First, we have to ensure that every single school that is built — in our efforts to achieve universal education — every single school that is built has to be built in a manner that it can withstand disasters that are likely to occur in the areas that they are built. And where we already have schools, we have to begin to retrofit them so that they can withstand the hazards that they are exposed to.

The second ask we have is that all children must have access to the best possible information and knowledge on different aspects of disaster risk management. They should be aware of the hazards that they are exposed to. They should be fully equipped with knowledge to deal with those hazards to keep themselves safe in the face of those hazards and take this message home to their families as well so that they can challenge their parents. They can challenge their elder ones, to invest in resilience, to be aware of the risks that they are exposed to and to take necessary steps.

The third ask we have is that all countries endorse the Comprehensive School Safety Framework 2022 to 2030, Comprehensive School Safety Framework which supports the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

I would like all countries to sign off on that programme and make sure that by 2030 we have 100 per cent coverage in terms of school safety across the world if we do that, we will be really acting with a sense of responsibility towards ourselves, towards our society and towards our future generations.

Thank you.



A video clip features Special Representative of the UNSG for Disaster Risk Reduction Head of UNDRR Mr Karmal Kishore reading a message sent by the UNSG to the ceremony to mark the International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction at the MICC-I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Preparations underway for visitors at Wanet Elephant Camp during Thadingyut holidays

DURING the Thadingyut public and school holidays, preparations at Wanet Elephant Camp in Mandalay Region are underway to welcome visitors seeking relaxation and enjoyment, as noted by camp manager U Tun Tun Lin. He observed that visitor numbers typically increase during full moons and public holidays, prompting the camp to open a small elephant museum to share information about the elephants.

"We have set up bungalow-style accommodations, benches, public rest areas, and family-friendly areas where visitors can unwind in shaded spots while appreciating the surroundings. Additionally, we have created play areas for children," he added.



Elephants are seen at Wanet Elephant Camp. **PHOTO: MAUNG AYE CHAN**

To better serve families or groups, four new resting areas have been established, bringing the total to six. Three halls can now accommodate approximately 20 guests, facilitated with both wooden and concrete benches. Visitors can also enjoy organic crops cultivated on the camp's family farm, such as roselle plants, jackfruit trees, papaya plants and various crops that they are permitted to pick out.

The camp is home to a total of nine elephants, including two pregnant elephants and one nursing mother currently resting, while the remaining six elephants are available for entertainment. Activities include playing football, walking in pairs, holding umbrellas, and blowing harmonicas.

Wanet Elephant Camp is open daily from 9 am to 5 pm, with an entrance fee of K1,000 for local visitor and K10,000 for international tourist. Elephant rides cost K3,000 for short rides and K5,000 for longer rides for local visitors, while international tourists are charged K10,000 for both. Monks and nuns are granted free entry. — Maung Aye Chan/KZL

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

NATIONAL

104th Anniversary of Myanmar Film Day marked in conjunction with 47th Respect-Paying ceremony

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, along with his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and family, donated K10 million to the fund for the 104th Myanmar Film Day and 47th Respect-Paying Ceremony. This event took place at the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO) office on Winkabar Road in Bahan Township, Yangon Region, yesterday afternoon.

Attendees included Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, regional ministers, MMPO patrons, chairman and members, as well as veteran artistes, actors, actresses, and other guests.

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, Chief Minister U Soe Thein, MMPO Chairperson U Kyi Soe Tun, and Academy Khant Si Thu cut the ribbon to launch the Myanmar Film Day.



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, Chief Minister U Soe Thein, MMPO Chairperson U Kyi Soe Tun, and Academy Khant Si Thu cut the ribbon to launch the Myanmar Film Day at the MMPO office in Bahan Township, Yangon Region, yesterday.

Following the opening, they unveiled memorial statues of the fathers of the film industry and visited charity stalls within the MMPO compound. Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn presented K10 million donation on behalf of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and family, to U Aung Lwin, a patron of MMPO. Additionally, the Yangon Region Government handed over K14 million contribution of the regional government.

Other notable donations were made by the Ministry of Information, Forever Group Co., Ltd, Shwe Thanlwin Media (Sky Net) Family, Mingala Cinema Family, and the Union Solidarity and Development Party.

During the ceremony, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn expressed his pleasure at the event and praised the film industry's century-long contributions to the nation. He reiterated the Prime Minister's appreciation for artistes and their significant role in cultural development, urging ongoing efforts to rejuvenate the film industry and secure its lasting legacy. Chief Minister U Soe Thein also delivered an uplifting speech.

The Union Minister, the Chief Minister and attendees paid respect to veteran artistes.

The first-ever Myanmar film, "Metta and Sura," premiered on 13 October 1920, marking that date as Myanmar Film Day. — MNA/ TRKM

Thadingyut market festival to stage music show at Secretariat Yangon



A market festival seen at Secretariat Yangon.

DORA Entertainment has announced that it will organize a Thadingyut market festival with a music show featuring popular singers at the Secretariat Yangon in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region.

The market festival will run from 16 to 18 October at the Heritage Market Hall of Secretariat Yangon, where around 80 stalls will offer food, consumer goods, and a variety of other items.

Dora Entertainment, in collaboration with Zaw Music Production, will stage a music show, showcasing well-known artistes such as Sein Lin, Piti Athinchay, Kaung Nyan Hein, Adam Oo, Nadi Htaik, Lin Lat Wati Aung, Yoon Thiri Kyaw, Yan Shin, and many more.

"This venue is easily accessible and has ample parking space. That is why seasonal market festivals are held here regularly. Dora Entertainment and Zaw Music Production are excited to bring famous singers to the audience," said Dora Entertainment CEO Daw Thazin Soe. In addition to the music, the Thadingyut market festival will feature stalls offering food to visitors, free application services, and Pot Villa will provide complimentary pottery and vase painting sessions, along with souvenirs for festival-goers. — ASH/TKO

Pawah Par Par Thanakha premieres in Yangon, set to air on Fortune TV from 19 October

THE Myanmar television series Pawah Par Par Thanakha premiered on 12 October at the Rangoon Cineplex in Kantharyar Shopping Centre, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region. The series is set to air on Fortune TV starting from 19 October, according to Htoo Aung, the actor.

The plot and script were written by Mae Khaing, and the show was directed by the acclaimed director Thoe Saung for Yee Mon Aung Film Production. The series weaves together elements of traditional Myanmar culture with love and drama, and promises unexpected plot twists.

"I really love this series because it embraces cherished Myanmar traditions and culture. It's filled with emotional depth and surprising turns in the story. I encourage all the fans to show their support," Htoo Aung shared.

The series features a star-studded cast, including Htoo Aung, May Grace, Than Zin Maung, Pyae Kaung Su Thant, Mei Tin, Academy Myint Myint Khine, Htoo Thar, Thar Thar, Zwe, Nay Min Lin, Paing Gyi, and other supporting artistes. It will be broadcast starting from 8:30 pm every Sunday on Fortune TV, from 19 October. — ASH/ TRKM

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NATIONAL



This photo captures the sacred relic reliquary in Varanasi and a group of Myanmar pilgrims.

Myanmar tourists drawn to Bodh Gaya relic reliquary opening in Varanasi this Nov

THERE is a lot of interest from Myanmar tourists to Bodh Gaya, India, in attending the opening ceremony of the reliquary of sacred relics in Varanasi in November.

It will be held for three days, starting one day before the full moon of Tazaungmone and ending one day after the full moon.

"Those who will go to Bodh Gaya are also going to the opening of the sacred relics' reliquary in Varanasi in November. There are fewer people than last year. The opening of the reliquary will start one day before the full moon of Tazaungmone and end one day after the full moon. Many people are interested in going there. Last year, there were four flights a week. This year, there are only two flights a week." said an official from the Dhamma Alin Bodh Gaya Pilgrim Service Group.

Last December 2023, more than ten thousand Myanmar outbound tourists went on a pilgrimage to Bodh Gaya in India, according to a local travel agency.

Bodh Gaya is located in Bihar state of India, and it has been governed by the Central Government of India through an administrative body since 28 May 1953, under the Bodh Gaya Temple Act of 1949.

In addition, the Indian government has spent a lot of money on refurbishing religious buildings. In the pilgrimage tour, trips to Bodh Gaya, Varanasi (aka) Sarnath, Ganges River, Kaushambi, Sankissa, Agra (Taj Mahal and Red Fort), New Delhi, vault of sacred relics, Akshardham Temple, Shravasti, Kapilavastu, Lumbini, Kushinagar, Vaishali, Patna, Rajghur and Nalanda. — Thit Taw/ZN

Passport scammers misuse embassy name

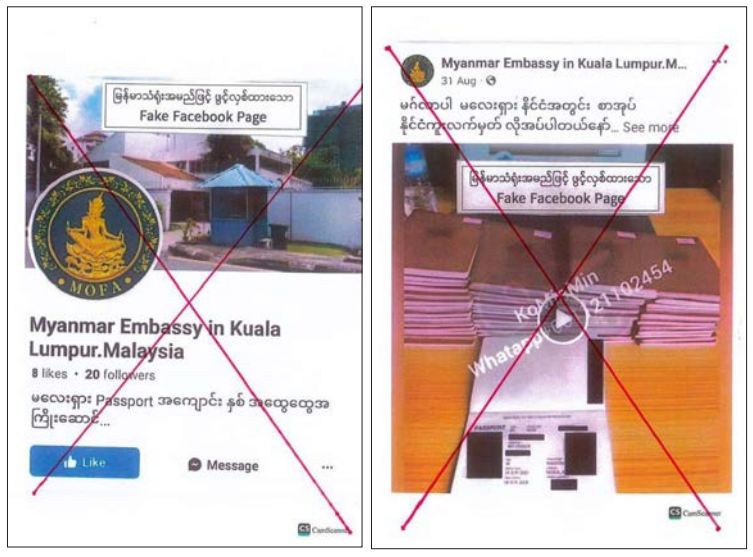
USING the name of the Myanmar Embassy to Malaysia, some people cheat on passport services on social media.

In the embassy's statement, announcements on consular service, approved list of lost or damaged passport replacements, and about C of I are made public on its Facebook, Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and internet website https://myanmarembassykl.org. However, some are found spreading incorrect information, saying they can provide passport service through fake Facebook and TikTok accounts that are created under the embassy name.

It said those pages don't concern the embassy at all, and it has no responsibility to deal with them.

The embassy will investigate those fake Facebook and TikTok accounts under the law, it said.

Therefore, Myanmar nationals should visit www.mekl.org to check the QR code for the appointment date. WhatsApp +60 1125105774 is provided for text enquiries about consular services. — MT/ZS



This screenshot shows fake accounts using the Myanmar Embassy's name.

'Law Ka Dan' film shooting begins on 10 Oct

THE shooting ceremony for the Myanmar film "Law Ka Dan" was held on the morning of 10 October at the Eindawya Pagoda in Dagon Township, Yangon Region. The film is being shot and produced by Lucky 10 Film Production, according to actor Kyaw Htet Aung.

The film was written by Soe Moe Min, with the screenplay by Moe Set Wine. Soe Moe Min will also direct and produce the movie for Lucky 10 Production. "In the film, we face the difficulties of life. I'll play the character 'Mike Khe,' who is the bad boy. It also includes action scenes while portraying friendships. I think the film can inspire the youth," Kyaw Htet Aung said.

The film will cast Kyaw Htet Aung, Shin Hmwe La, Phone Min Nay La, Hein Thiha, Paing Oak Soe Aung, Shwe Thamee, May Grace, Pan Hsu Hay-thi, Kyaw Zin Htut, and experienced actor Nay Myo Aung. — ASH/TRKM



This photo showcases the ceremony to launch shooting of the 'Law Ka Dan' movie.

Yangon-Mawlamyine special train extended for Thadingyut holidays

YANGON-MAWLAMYINE-YANGON special train will be extended from 15 to 20 October for the convenience of rail passengers during the Thadingyut holidays, said Mawlamyine railway station.

Thadingyut Festival is approaching, and to fulfil the needs of passengers of the Yangon-Mawlamyine-Yangon train further increased recently. Train coaches have been extended, said an official from Mawlamyine railway station.

"Many people will return home during the Thadingyut holidays, so we have extended coaches from 15 to 20 October. The number of train passengers has further increased recently. Passengers are almost full daily. Tickets are sold three days in advance, and all are sold out even in the morning. Starting from yesterday, we have extended two carriages," he said. The Mawlamyine-Yangon special train will leave Mawlamyine at 9:15 am and arrive in Yangon at 7:15 pm.

Tickets are sold at the ticket booking counter, three days in advance for the upper class and a day in advance for the ordinary class, from 7 am to 3 pm at Mawlamyine railway station.

An original CSC (Citizenship Scrutiny Card) is required to show in purchasing tickets.

The special train will stop at Mottama, Paung, Zingyaik, Yinnyein, Thaton, Theinseik, Hninpale, Taungzun, Mayangon, Kyaikto, Kyaikkatha, Moppalin, Theinzayet, Waw, Bago and Toegyaunggale. The No 82-down train will run from Mawlamyine to Yangon daily as usual. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL



PHOTO: ZWE MARN

According to the horse cart association in Bagan, the region is offering daily travel itineraries using pony carts to explore the cultural heritage sites of Bagan during the Thadingyut Festival.

Horse carts are accessible near popular locations such as Sakura, Tharapa, Bagan Thante, hotels, and notable temples and stupas in Bagan. Many tourists enjoy taking photographs while riding in the horse carts, with the pagodas in the background and during sunset.

Bagan offers horse cart tours for visitors during Thadingyut Festival

Both local and foreign travellers prefer horse carts in Bagan over other forms of transportation. Currently, two-wheeled horse carts can be found in Mandalay, Meiktila, Kyaukpadaung, Popa, Mingun, and Bagan, while four-wheeled carts are available in Taunggyi and PyinOoLwin.

U Myat Thu, the leader of the horse cart operators in Bagan, stated, "The horse cart drivers in Bagan always provide excellent service to both local and foreign travellers. Foreign tourists appreciate the warmth and friendliness of the drivers. Bagan has begun receiving inbound tourists, including those from Spain and Canada. We are seeing more tourists today and warmly welcome all visitors, as tourism is Bagan's main economic driver."

There are over 100 horse carts in Bagan serving the tourism sector, with a charge of K15,000 per hour. Hotel bookings in Bagan for the Thadingyut holiday from 15 to 18 October are fully booked, with travellers arriving in Bagan since 13 October. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/ TMT

Candle sale surges this month, even orders are postponed

CANDLE trade has surged this month and even orders have been postponed at some candle making factories.

"Thadingyut Festival falls this month so candle trade has been pretty good, even wholesalers have to stop receiving orders because candle factories are unable to supply enough. We buy from Yangon candle factory," said a candle retail and wholesale distributor. In Thadingyut Festival, it is traditional that mass of candles are offered to the Buddha, making the candle sale surge.



Candles are even out of stock now.

"Every home makes light offering on full moon day of Thadingyut. And offering of candles, including a thousand or ten thousands, is traditionally made at pagodas and temples," she said. — Thit Taw/ZS

PyinOoLwin's papayas supplied most to Yangon

AS this is the papaya season, it is supplied most from PyinOoLwin to Yangon, according to market sources.

Although it is early harvest time, the price is right and sales are good, farmers said.

"October is the time of the harvest. Papaya is one of the most consumed fruits. It's the harvest time, so sales and demand are good. Brokers buy it at K 3,000 and resell at K 6,000-7,000-8,000. Even though it's the early harvest time, the price is right. The price is not very high because it's only for domestic consumption. We supply most to Yangon," a farmer from Zeepingyi village, PyinOoLwin, said.

In addition, the yield of the fruit is higher than last year, and the fruit smoothness and fruit survival rates are also better.

"The price of this year is not different from last year, neither up nor down, it's normal. This year's yield is higher than last year. It was dry last year. In our mountainous area, fruit retaining rate was not high. This year, as the rain was a bit good in the early season, fruits were smooth, survival rates were good. In the coming months, the price will remain the same. A papaya as large as a ninety-eight plastic bag costs K3,000. If smaller, two fruits are put in one bag. It's a good business in the PyinOoLwin market," he said. — Thit Taw/ZN

OPINION

Protect MSMEs to ensure long-term commercial viability

SELECTIVE intervention and adaptive service provision must support the operation of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to address market challenges and work process difficulties under the guidance of the efficient MSME Development Work Committee.

MSME businesses must conduct market surveys, both domestically and internationally, to streamline their work processes, while MSME development agencies should provide the necessary guidance to help these businesses effectively utilize inputs in relevant areas.

In this regard, Selective Intervention and Adaptive Service Provision must be able to promptly utilize information provided by the survey and research branch and monitoring branch of the MSME Development Work Committee. Hence, it is necessary to enhance personnel from these branches through systematic training. In fact, training is crucial to develop human resources in all sectors. As such, emphasis must be placed on human resource development measures that are aligned with the capacity enhancement of skilled workers from industrial zones' factories that currently operate MSME businesses.

MSME businesses are crucial to supporting the national economy and the socioeconomic well-being of the people. Authorities must work to eliminate illegal trade to favour domestic MSME products and prioritize the entry of these products into international markets using successful trademarks. Furthermore, the government should protect the rights of MSMEs to ensure their long-term commercial viability and encourage the use of domestic raw materials to sustain MSME production chains as much as possible.

As a fundamental requirement for improving MSME businesses, it is essential to boost agriculture and livestock farming to support manufacturing, industry, and the development of service measures. That will contribute to the sufficient production of foodstuffs and personal goods domestically and reduce the import volume of the same products, helping to increase the Gross Domestic Product of the State.

Currently, emphasis must be placed on promoting the development of MSME businesses that produce goods domestically. Additionally, efforts should focus on improving the cotton production chain, from cultivating high-quality long-staple cotton strains to manufacturing textiles, while training skilled workers to enhance human resources in the cotton production sector.

Individuals can analyze the important role of MSME businesses. It showed that MSME businesses contribute 30-50 per cent to the GDP of Southeast Asian countries, 39 per cent in ASEAN countries, and 41.58 per cent in OECD countries. Similarly, MSMEs generate 66.87 per cent of employment in Southeast Asian countries, 72.3 per cent in ASEAN countries, and 62.25 per cent in OECD countries.

MSME businesses are crucial to supporting the national economy and the socioeconomic well-being of the people. Authorities must work to eliminate illegal trade to favour domestic MSME products and prioritize the entry of these products into international markets using successful trademarks. Furthermore, the government should protect the rights of MSMEs to ensure their long-term commercial viability and encourage the use of domestic raw materials to sustain MSME production chains as much as possible.

ARTICLE

Weather report

Reclaiming Tradition After the New Normal

By Min Zan

THE term "New Normal" refers to the changes in lifestyle and society caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. These changes affected daily routines, work habits, and social interactions in ways that no one had expected. Many had to adapt quickly to this new way of life, but not all changes were easily accepted. While the New Normal has had a significant impact, some factors are now working to reverse or lessen its influence.

During that period, Ko Kyaw Kha never thought he would have to call a barber and get a haircut at home. Now that his hair is growing, he has to call the barber. He sat on a chair in the front yard and fenced off the hairdresser's drape he had brought with him. There are no mirrors on the sidewalk. The barber did his job professionally. His friend, Hla Khin Maung, was left with only a lock of hair because of the housewife's incompetence. Some housewives were unaware that they had become hair stylists. Many of his friends had their haircuts on the black market. Black-market haircuts meant that the front door of the barbershop was closed, and they had to have their hair cut in the closet with a lot of sweat entering from the side door.

Ma Hsu Lin Htet is the assistant manager of an office. There was a computer, a calculator, files, and documents on her office table. However, during the COVID-19 period, she was surrounded by scattered dolls, baby clothes, and toys. Office closures have made it possible for her to shop online. During this time, Ma Hsu's friends also became kitchen experts. On social networking sites, they could exchange recipes in cooking groups. They went through the COVID period by doing their own cooking and frying.

Sociologists have identified during COVID and post-COVID periods as the "New Normal". It means living a new lifestyle, not just a normal one. The Thingyan festival did not throw water, and the pagoda festivals with lights were turned off at night. Some children have come before the screens without having to sit on a stump in the classroom. Some people no longer had the chance to have a long chat in the cafes. Some well-established businesses collapsed. People who have never dreamed of becoming a shopkeeper are also selling online.

During the New Normal, online culture became more and more influential upon us. From one wanting to eat a bowl of noodles to making conferences and performing educational activities, they are finally being used online. In the past, if you had a meeting, you had to find a place. We had to go where there was a meeting room. We had to make an appointment in advance. Meetings are now available online. There is so much to learn online. It's a time of not only intermediaries but also online teachers. If you want to learn how to knit wool online, you can. If you want to learn how to build seagoing ships, you can also go online. If you want to make a fortune-telling plan, you can. It is emerging as an online marketplace vividly.

It is not important whether one wants to accept changes in the New Normal or not. There have been changes, whether one likes it or not. If one does not follow along with such changes, one will surely be left behind. Even if one goes shopping for food, he or she can only leave with a permit issued by the ward office. It hurt restaurants that had hoped to reopen at some point without a parcel system. Shops that were selling with parcels were connected to modern couriers.

The catastrophe brought about many social changes. Weddings and donations are no longer allowed. Weddings had to be arranged in summarization. If one wants to donate, he or she has to do it with a parcel system. One of my relatives was swept away by the second wave of COVID. He was a very friendly person in the ward. However, he died of an infectious disease, and his family was forced to leave and go to quarantine centres immediately, and no one was allowed to accompany him to his funeral. At least even for his life-lost alms-food and 7th-day alms-food, they had to go to the monastery to them.



During this time, some celebrities became big sellers. One of the movie stars became a successful role model. Diamond and gold jewellery were sold like onions. Some buyers are just like buying vegetables. She sold jewellery live online, selling from 4 or 5 lakhs to 400 or 500 lakhs. Apart from jewellery, apartments, and houses, she even sold cars. Later, some movie stars started selling live online. This is also a new lifestyle being seen in the New Normal.

New Norman has had an impact on our social life. In this change, some people have completely changed their lives, like their palms are upside down. There have been changes in some societies, but the changes are not noticeable. In this change, there are those who are unknowingly enslaved. But New Norma will definitely make the changes. Whether you want to change or not, everything will be dragged into the current of changing styles in the New Normal.

During the pandemic, people had to make adjustments, like getting haircuts at home or in secret. As mentioned above, Ko Kyaw Kha, for example, never thought he would have to call a barber to his house. Haircuts, once a simple task done in a barbershop, became an underground activity due to restrictions. Many people get their hair cut in private, away from public view, and barbers operate behind closed doors. For some, like his friend Hla Khin Maung, this led to unfortunate results. However, as restrictions lifted, barbershops reopened, and this aspect of the New Normal began to fade.

In offices, the shift to remote work was one of the biggest changes. Ma Hsu Lin Htet, who once worked in a professional office environment, now found herself surrounded by children's toys and clothes. With offices closed, online shopping and cooking became popular ways to pass the time. Her friends, who had never been interested in cooking, suddenly became kitchen experts, sharing recipes online. This new lifestyle might have lasted longer, but as businesses reopened, many returned to their normal routines.

The shift to online education and meetings was another major part of the New Normal. Students, instead of attending classes in person, were learning from home through screens. Conferences and meetings that once required travel and scheduling were now held online. While some found this convenient, many missed face-to-face interactions. Now, with the gradual reopening of schools and businesses, there is a return to traditional forms of education and meetings.

Despite these changes, many are finding ways to nullify the effects of the New Normal. People are eager to return to their old ways of life. Cafes are open again, and friends can meet for long conversations without restrictions. Businesses that survived the pandemic are reopening, and those that had to close are trying to rebuild. While some online practices may remain, such as shopping and learning, many prefer the in-person experiences they had before the pandemic.

The pandemic brought significant changes to social traditions. Weddings, once large and joyful events, were reduced to small, private gatherings. Donating and giving alms were done through parcel systems instead of community events. Funerals, too, were affected. Families had to mourn from a distance, and many were not allowed to attend the burial of their loved ones. Now, with restrictions easing, these traditions are starting to return to normal.

One of the lasting impacts of the New Normal has been the rise of online businesses. Many celebrities, for example, turned to online selling. Jewellery, houses, and cars were sold through live-streams, and some became successful entrepreneurs. However, with the reopening of stores and markets, the excitement of online shopping may begin to fade, and traditional shopping experiences may regain popularity.

After the New Normal period, many people found themselves reflecting on the value of traditional lifestyles that were temporarily put on hold. The sudden changes from working remotely to avoiding social gatherings brought convenience for some but left many yearning for the comfort of familiar routines. The desire to return to in-person interactions, whether in cafes, offices, or schools, has become a strong emotional pull for people who miss the sense of community that face-to-face connections provide. Though online platforms and virtual spaces helped bridge the gap during the pandemic, they cannot fully replace the warmth of real-world experiences. As restrictions fade, there is a growing movement towards reclaiming these traditional practices, with many viewing them as vital for mental well-being and social harmony.

However, the shift back to traditional lifestyles also raises questions about what should remain from the New Normal. For some, the flexibility of working from home and the efficiency of online learning have proven beneficial. There is now a balance to be struck between embracing old habits and keeping the valuable innovations from this challenging period. As society transitions back, people are reflecting on how much of the traditional lifestyle they genuinely want to return to and whether a hybrid model, combining the best of both worlds, might serve them better in the long run. The New Normal has redefined what is possible, and as people move forward, they are increasingly thoughtful about which aspects of their pre-pandemic lives they wish to restore.

All in all, while the New Normal brought about many changes, not all of them were permanent. As society adapts and restrictions lift, many aspects of life are returning to how they were before. The desire for normalcy is strong, and many are working to nullify the changes brought by the pandemic. Whether through returning to barbershops, reopening businesses, or resuming social traditions, people are eager to move beyond the New Normal and embrace their former way of life. ■

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

(Issued at 01:40 hour MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude (3.0) Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about (8) miles northeast of Yedashe), latitude 19.11°N, longitude 96.47°E, depth (10) kilometres, about 13 miles north-northeast of Toungoo seismological observatory was recorded at 01 hour 22 min 56 sec MST on 13 October 2024.

Bay of Bengal Condition

Issued at 15:30 hours MST on 13 October 2024

ACCORDING to the observations at 14:30 hours MST today, a low-pressure area may form over southwest Bay of Bengal around 14 October 2024. It is likely to move west-northwestwards and may reach North Tamilnadu and adjoining South Andhra Pradesh Coast, India. — DMH

NATIONAL

Myanmar ambassador attends Phulpati Parade in Nepal to mark Dashain Festival

MYANMAR Ambassador to Nepal, U Myo Myint Maung, attended the "Phulpati Parade" held by the Nepali Army in Kathmandu on 10 October, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The " Phulpati Parade" is organized by the Nepali Army to mark the seventh day of the ten-day-long Dashain Festival. It is reported that the Myanmar Ambassador to Nepal, U Myo Myint Maung, participated in the event following an invitation from the Chief of Army Staff of Nepal General Ashok Raj Sigdel.

The ceremony was attended by Nepali President Ram Chandra Paudel, who took salute of the Guard of Honour at the parade. Other attendees included Vice President Ramsahaya Prasad Yadav, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, the Speakers of Parliament, Deputy Prime Ministers, ministers, high-ranking government officials, and heads of diplomatic missions based in Nepal. — ASH/TMT



The "Phulpati Parade" organized by the Nepali Army in progress.



This photo depicts lamp pagoda sculpture procession and oil lamp offerings at the Shwedagon Pagoda last year.

Shwedagon to host Thadingyut procession and oil lamp offerings

THE Shwedagon Pagoda in the Yangon Region will hold a ceremony on the day before the full moon of Thadingyut (16 October) featuring a procession of lamps decorated as Cetis and oil lamp offerings, under the arrangements for pilgrims to offer oil lamps, according to U Bo Thin, a member of the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees, religious associations, and staff will hold a procession of Buddha images and carry a lamp pagoda sculpture round the pagoda in a clockwise direction, conveying Buddha images and illuminated shrines at 5:00 pm, followed by an oil lamp offering in the auspicious precinct of the pagoda at 6:00 pm on 16 October.

"At 5:30 am on the full moon day of Thadingyut, we will offer morning alms to the pagoda. At 9:30 am, we will host ceremonies to receive the Five Precepts and listen to a sermon from the Sayadaws, as well as the Buddha Pujaniya Festival, before offering alms to the monks. We will arrange for the public to be able to offer oil lamps around the Shwedagon Pagoda," U Bo Thin said. — ASH/TH

Illegal timbers, fuel, industrial materials, consumer goods and unlicensed vehicles seized

UNDER the leadership of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, action is taken against those in illegal trade under the law across the country.

On 10 October, a combined team under the management of the Ayeyawady Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized five barrels each of illegal and gasoline (estimated value of K5.46 million) in Kyaiklat Township, Pyapon District.

In addition, inspection was carried out by the combined team under the management of the Magway Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force. They seized 0.536 tonne of illegal teak, 3.040 tonnes of other timber, 20 bags of cutch resin (estimated value of K1.61 million) and one Nissan Diesel Truck loaded with these timbers (estimated value of K15 million) in Thayet and Pakokku districts, a total (estimated value of K16 million) and action is taken in accordance with the Forest Law.

On 11 October, a combined squad under the management of the Kachin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted an inspection near the Checkpoint of Bala Min Htin Bridge, Waingmaw Township, and impounded four commercial goods and one consumer goods (estimated value of K147 million) and eight Dong Feng trucks and one Cheng Long truck (estimated value of K315 million) carrying these items, a total (estimated value of K462 million) and action is taken in accordance with customs procedures.

In addition, a combined team under the management of the Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force nabbed two types of smuggled commercial goods and one type of consumer goods (estimated value of K 22.1 million) piled at the top of Pingsengwa Village near Kengtung Township, and action is taken in accordance with customs procedures.

A combined team under the management of the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections at the Myitnge Inspection Station and seized 20 types of business equipment (estimated value of K37 million) and one industrial light truck (estimated value of K25 million) carrying these items from one vehicle driving from Yangon to Mandalay, 11 types of consumer goods (estimated value of K30.20 million) and one Ka Bar Kyaw Micro Bus, one Toyota Hilux Surf, one Foton View Mini Bus, one Shwe Kyar Micro Bus (estimated value of K139 million) at 21st-mile station on PyinOoLwin-Mandalay Road and 11 types of commercial materials (estimated value of K 10 million) from one Nissan Caravan (estimated value of K 20 million) on 386th-mile post on Yangon-Mandalay highway. These illegal commodities worth total estimated value of K 261,266,104 were seized and action is taken in accordance with customs procedures.

Also, the Customs Department's inspection teams conducted inspections at the import desk of Yangon International Airport and seized a total of 10 types of commercial goods and two types of consumer goods (estimated value of K77,566,775) that could not be presented with official documents.

Furthermore, on 11 October, the combined squad under the management of Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized two vehicles driving from Mandalay to Yangon near Phayagyi intersection, two types of commercial equipment (estimated value of K14.39 million) and one Nissan Diesel truck, one IVECO Tractor Head and one trailer (estimated value of K90 million) carrying these items, according to customs procedures, and on 12 October, 1.568 tonnes of illegal teak and 6.651 tonnes of other timbers (estimated value of K 5,903,456) were impounded in Bago District and prosecuted under the Forest Law.

The total number of arrests on the 11 and 12 October was 38 cases (estimated value of K955,296,488). — MNA/TKO

LIFESTYLE
WORLD

Han Kang's books sell out in South Korea after Nobel win

After Han Kang's historic Nobel Prize win, South Korean bookstores experienced chaos as her sales soared to 60,000 copies in one day—an increase of 451 times — while local publishers' share prices surged, marking a significant moment for Korean literature.

MAJOR South Korean bookstores sold out of author Han Kang's books Friday, as sales skyrocketed and the share price of local publishers soared following her historic Nobel Prize win.

The first Asian woman to win the literary award, short story writer and novelist Han is best known overseas for "The Vegetarian", her first novel to be translated into English, which won the Man Booker Prize in 2016.

The 53-year-old was honoured with the Nobel "for her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life", the Swedish Academy said.



Major South Korean bookstores sold out of author Han Kang's books Friday, following her historic Nobel Prize win. **PHOTO: JUNG YEON-JE / AFP**

Shortly after the announcement, which came late Thursday in Seoul, major bookstore websites across the country crashed as people rushed to order her books.

Han Kang's works have dominated Kyobo's bestseller list, selling 60,000 copies in a single day, an increase of 451 times from the previous day. Kyobo's spokesperson expressed excitement over the surge in interest, noting the rarity of a Nobel Prize-winning work in Korean.

Online retailers like YES24 reported nearly 80,000 sales of Han's books, leading to a 30 per cent stock price jump.

Many of her Korean editions sold out, leaving only English copies available. Han's father expressed pride in her achievement, while readers celebrated her recognition for addressing South Korea's painful history and minority experiences. — AFP

Green transformation revives, improves traditional high-emission industries



This photo taken on 23 August 2023 shows the Big Air Shougang in the Shougang Park in Shijingshan District of Beijing, capital of China. **PHOTO: REN CHAO/XINHUA**

RIDING along Beijing's iconic Chang'an Street to the city's west, cycling enthusiasts have the chance to sip a cup of iced coffee and enjoy the grand view of steel furnaces at Shougang Park, a recreation destination that has been transformed from an area known for steel mills.

Echoing China's high-quality development drive, Shougang Park, where the Beijing Winter Olympic venue Big Air Shougang is located, is striving to act as a model of industrial zone revival, through the integration of industrial upgrading and green development.

Shougang Group, a prominent Chinese steelmaker founded in 1919, once achieved an annual output of 10 million tonnes. In response to Beijing's pollution control initiatives, the company relocated production to Hebei Province, halting operations in Beijing in 2010.

The former industrial site has since been transformed into Shougang Park, a hub for business, technology, sports, and culture, meeting green building standards. Shougang's new factories focus on energy conservation and carbon reduction, achieving 10 million tonnes of low-carbon steel production using high-ratio pellet smelting technology. — Xinhua

Actress Oyama, voice of iconic anime character Doraemon, dies at 90

NOBUYO Oyama, a voice actress best known for playing the titular character in the popular Japanese anime series "Doraemon," has died, her agency said Friday. She was 90.

A native of Tokyo, Oyama had a successful career as a voice actress after graduating from Haiyuza acting school.

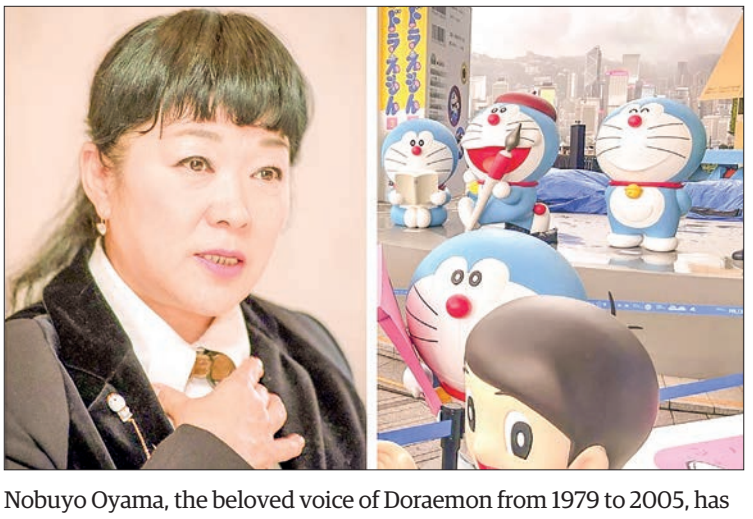
She started off dubbing a foreign drama before branching into various anime roles, including providing the original voice for Katsuo Isono in "Sazae-san," the world's longest-running animated TV show.

But it was her portrayal of Doraemon, whom she played from 1979 to 2005 in the TV Asahi series, that was her most iconic role.

Her costar Noriko Ohara, who voiced Nobita Nobi in the Doraemon series, died in July.

Nobuyo Oyama, renowned for voicing Doraemon, was celebrated by the series' creator Fujiko F. Fujio, who praised her iconic line, "Boku Doraemon" ("I'm Doraemon"), which resonated with generations of children.

Her autobiography, "Boku Doraemon deshita" (I was Doraemon), garnered significant attention upon its 2006 release. — Kyodo



Nobuyo Oyama, the beloved voice of Doraemon from 1979 to 2005, has passed away at 90, leaving a legacy that shaped the hearts of anime fans around the world. **PHOTO: KYODO**

ECONOMY
WORLD

Lancang-Mekong sub-region emerges as new growth center in Asia

This region has gained significant geo-political and geo-economic attention, as noted by Cambodian official Meas Kim Heng.



This undated aerial drone photo shows the Chinese-invested Huadian Sihanoukville Power Generation Co., Ltd. in Sihanoukville, southwest Cambodia. **PHOTO: HUADIAN SIHANOUKVILLE POWER GENERATION CO., LTD./HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

LANCANG-MEKONG sub-region has emerged as a new growth center in the Asian region, attaining noteworthy strategic attention in terms of its geo-political and geo-economic significance, a Cambodian official has said.

Meas Kim Heng, a secretary of state of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFAIC), made the remarks in Phnom Penh during the official book launch ceremony titled "Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC): Towards Peace and Prosperity" on Wednesday, according to a MFAIC's press release on Friday. LMC countries include China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Kim Heng highlighted six priority areas of LMC for future direction, namely Lancang-Mekong Economic Development Belt, agriculture, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), water management, transboundary crime, and digital economy and green economy.

"Closer collaboration among Lancang-Mekong countries is an essential prerequisite for turning the region into a region with strong integration and resilient regional economic development," he said. — Xinhua

Mideast tensions to negatively impact Turkish economy

HEIGHTENED tensions in the Middle East will hinder Türkiye's efforts to get its ailing economy back on its feet amid prolonged uncertainty and raising concerns about potential shockwaves in global markets, analysts said.

One year on, the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict that has also engulfed Lebanon continues unabated, with no peace in sight.

Given its geographical proximity, political ties, and economic interdependence with countries in the Middle East, Türkiye, a regional power, is vulnerable to the ongoing crisis.

"The conflict in the region could disrupt energy supplies, leading to higher costs and inflation," said Ali Oguz Dirioz, an associate professor of international relations at Ankara's TOBB University of Economics and Technology, noting that the country is heavily dependent on imported oil and gas, primarily from countries in the Middle East.

Türkiye's ongoing trade with Middle Eastern countries is at risk due to escalating tensions, which could disrupt crucial trade routes and impact exports and imports, according to Dirioz.

The country has faced significant economic challenges over the past five years, including high inflation, a weakened currency, and a large current account deficit. By mid-2023, Türkiye shifted from low interest rates to a disinflation strategy, successfully reducing consumer price growth from 85 per cent to below 50 per cent and rebuilding central bank reserves. — Xinhua



People shop for clothes at a store in Ankara, Türkiye, on 30 September 2024. **MUSTAFA KAYA/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brazil orders closure of 2,000 betting sites

BRAZILIAN authorities on Friday began closing down more than 2,000 betting sites, including those that sponsors popular football team Corinthians and other first division clubs, as part of a push to regulate online gambling.

Latin America's biggest economy is struggling with what Finance Minister Fernando Haddad has called a betting "pandemic," prompting the government to tighten the screws on the sector. — AFP

World Bank trims Bangladesh growth outlook to 4% in fiscal 2024-25

THE World Bank has lowered its 2024-25 fiscal year (July 2024-June 2025) economic growth outlook for Bangladesh mainly due to the South Asian country's political instability.

The global lender in a report titled "South Asia Development Update for October 2024" released on Thursday has forecast a 4 per cent growth for Bangladesh's gross domestic product (GDP) in the current fiscal year — down from 5.2 per cent forecast earlier.

This major reduction in growth comes after significant uncertainties around the political and economic outlook following the July-August political turmoil.



People take a raft in the floodwater in Mymensingh, Bangladesh, 7 October 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

In the medium to long term, the lender expects growth to gradually recover, supported by key reforms in the financial sector, increased domestic resource mobilization, improved business climate, and expanded trade.

For fiscal 2025-26, the bank forecasts Bangladesh's economy to grow by 5.5 per cent.

Bangladesh and the Maldives are the two of the South Asian countries for which the global lender has downgraded growth projections. — Xinhua

Egypt's Suez Canal cuts transit, mooring fees for Red Sea yachts

EGYPT'S Suez Canal Authority (SCA) announced Saturday a 20-50 per cent reduction in transit and mooring fees for yachts in the Red Sea, effective on 1 November.

"The move is part of the SCA's flexible marketing policies to encourage yacht tourism and develop marine tourism in the Red Sea region by providing facilities and incentives for yachts crossing the canal," the SCA said in a statement.

Yachts with a tonnage of 300 and below traveling from the north to the Red Sea will receive a 20 per cent discount on transit fees for the return journey, on the condition that they re-cross the Suez Canal from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean within a maximum of 60 days from their initial trips, according to the statement.

It added that yachts staying at the Ismailia yacht marina for more than 90 days will be granted a 20 per cent discount on transit fees for the journey during which the storage occurred.

Yachts that arrive timely for transit and mooring at a yacht marina in Port Said or Suez to complete transit procedures will receive a 50 per cent discount on mooring fees, provided that they do not stay overnight or use any services such as electricity and water. — Xinhua



The move is part of the SCA's flexible marketing policies to encourage yacht tourism and develop marine tourism in the Red Sea region. **PHOTO: SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY**

Liberia signs deal with Elon Musk's Starlink

LIBERIA has signed a one-year licensing agreement with tech billionaire Elon Musk's Starlink satellite internet service, in a bid to boost coverage across the poorly connected West African state. Internet coverage in Liberia currently stands at around 60 per cent, acting chairman of the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA), Abdullah L Kamara, told journalists at the signing of the agreement Thursday.

The aim is to push that number towards 100 per cent with the help of the Starlink deal, he added.

"Every village, town, and even your farm can have access to internet" thanks to the agreement, said Kamara said. The event was livestreamed on the LTA Facebook page.

Starlink's network of low-Earth orbit satellites can provide internet to remote locations or areas that normal communications infrastructure do not reach. — AFP

US$7.2 billion of cultural tourism projects inked in central China

Fifty cultural tourism projects worth 51 billion yuan were signed in Hubei Province, boosting China's inbound tourism recovery.

FIFTY cultural tourism projects with a total contract value of 51 billion yuan (about US$7.2 billion) were signed in central China's Hubei Province during an international travel agents conference held on Sunday.



People watch a performance at a tourist attraction in Zhuxi County of Shiyan City, central China's Hubei Province, 12 October 2024. **PHOTO: WU ZHIZUN/XINHUA**

Travel agents from major domestic resort cities and nearly 30 countries and regions that are key sources of inbound tourists to China, along with domestic key tourism group leaders, attended the conference, aiming to boost the recovery of China's inbound tourism sector and establish Hubei as a world-class tourist destination.

During the conference, 17 city-level regions across the province inked 50 cultural tourism projects with a total investment estimated to reach 59.5 billion yuan.

Hubei also launched five boutique routes for international travels during the event, covering its renowned Shennongjia World Heritage Site, Wudang Mountain and the Three Gorges. — Xinhua

UK's flagship investment summit suffers bumpy build-up

THE UK government hosts international business leaders on Monday to try and secure much-needed investment for Britain but the build-up has been chaotic with a major firm reportedly threatening to shelve a project.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer, the leader of the new Labour government, hopes the International Investment Summit in London will show the UK is "the best place in the world to do business". Labour leader Keir Starmer, in power for just three months after a decisive election victory, faces low approval ratings with only 18 per cent of Britons supporting his government. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (24005E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (24005E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-10-2024** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (917N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (917N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-10-2024** 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:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Iran parliament speaker visits Beirut site of deadliest Israeli strike

IRAN'S parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf on Saturday denounced Israel's "crimes" as he visited the site of the deadliest Israeli strikes on central Beirut in recent weeks, an AFP photographer said.

A source close to Hezbollah had said Thursday night's strikes in the densely populated Basta neighbourhood and the nearby Nweiri district had targeted the Iran-backed Lebanese group's security chief Wafiq Safa.

While neither Israel's military nor Hezbollah confirmed Safa was the target or commented on his fate, Lebanon's health ministry said the strikes killed at least 22 people — the deadliest inside the capital in weeks of escalation.

Speaking to reporters in Basta, accompanied by two Hezbollah lawmakers, Ghalibaf denounced what he called Israel's "crimes".

Ghalibaf, alongside Hezbollah lawmakers, criticized the silence of international organizations and the UN Security Council, asserting their ability to intervene against Israel's "crimes."



Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf after visiting the site of an Israeli air strike on Beirut's Basta neighbourhood. **PHOTO: AFP**

"International organisations and the UN Security Council have the capability (to stop Israel) but they are unfortunately keeping silent," he said. Earlier Saturday, Ghalibaf met Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati, who told him his government's priority was "to work towards a ceasefire", Lebanon's official National News Agency (NNA) said. Mikati had on Friday urged the United Nations to pass a resolution calling for an "immediate" ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah. Ghalibaf told reporters after meeting his counterpart Nabih Berri, a key Hezbollah ally, that Iran "will certainly support the decisions of the Lebanese government, the Lebanese people, and the resistance (Hezbollah) in this period". When Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi visited Lebanon last week, he said Tehran backed efforts for a simultaneous ceasefire with Israel in both Gaza and Lebanon. — AFP

BRIEF: WORLD

WWII bomb defused in Hamburg

SEVERAL thousand people were forced to leave their homes in Hamburg's trendy Sternschanze district after the World War II-era bomb was discovered.

According to dpa, more than 5,000 people were evacuated to safety from the 300-metre (984-foot) exclusion zone, fire officials said. Police also cleared restaurants and bars in the area. The bomb was found during construction work on the grounds of a primary school. — ANI

Over 22,000 Sri Lankans displaced by rain-related incidents

OVER 22,000 Sri Lankans have been displaced due to recent rain-related incidents such as floods, strong winds, tree falls and lightnings, according to the country's Disaster Management Center (DMC).

In its latest situation report released on Saturday, the DMC said 22,064 people belonging to 5,348 families had been displaced in 11 districts across the South Asian country from 7 October until Saturday morning. — Xinhua

World's largest floating offshore wind turbine rolls off production line in China

THE world's most powerful floating offshore wind turbine, with a generating capacity of 20 megawatts, has rolled off the production line in Yancheng city, east China's Jiangsu Province, according to the country's leading train maker CRRC Corporation Limited (CRRC).

The wind turbine, independently developed by China, features a wind wheel with a diameter of 260 metres and a swept area of 53,100 square metres, roughly the size of seven standard soccer fields.

The turbine can generate 62 million kWh of electricity annually, enough to power about 37,000 households, saving 25,000 tonnes of coal while cutting carbon dioxide emissions by 62,000 tonnes.

With its semi-submersible floating platform and mooring system, enhanced by smart control and sensing technologies, the turbine extends wind power's reach into deeper waters, ensuring stable operation.



This undated photo shows a worker assembling the floating offshore wind turbine in Yancheng, east China's Jiangsu Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

"Floating offshore wind turbines are a key technological trend shaping the future of wind energy development," said Wang Dian, deputy general manager of CRRC Qi Hang New Energy Technology Co., Ltd. — Xinhua

Fire breaks out on oil tanker off Germany

FIRE broke out on board a small oil tanker off Germany Friday, with seven crew rescued from the burning vessel in the Baltic Sea, emergency services said.

Eyewitnesses reported a loud explosion around 9:15 am local time (0715 GMT), said local newspaper Ostsee-Zeitung, and dark smoke soon billowed from the ship, which the report said is used to resupply vessels at sea with fuel.

"A fire broke out on the Annika tanker on Friday morning," the Central Command for Maritime Emergencies said, adding that the vessel was carrying about 640 tonnes of fuel oil. — AFP

SPORTS

Myanmar ties Sri Lanka 0-0 in second friendly

Myanmar and Sri Lanka men's national football teams met for the second time this month in a FIFA friendly match at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre, Yangon yesterday. After a competitive 90 minutes, the game ended in a goalless draw, with both teams showcasing solid defensive performances. The result marked a stark contrast to their previous encounter earlier in the month, where Myanmar triumphed with a 2-0 victory.

In the first match, Myanmar's attack had proven too strong for the Sri Lankan defence, with two well-taken goals sealing a comfortable win. However, this time around, Sri Lanka made noticeable improvements, especially with their defensive style, successfully shutting down Myanmar's key attacking threats. Myanmar, despite having home advantage and controlling much of the possession, struggled to break down Sri Lanka's compact backline.

Both teams created a few opportunities in the first half, but the finishing lacked precision on both sides. Myanmar's forwards, who were instrumental in their previous win, found themselves frustrated by Sri Lanka's resilient defence. In the second half, Sri Lanka's counter-attacks also failed to yield any significant chances, as Myanmar's defence held firm.

The two teams leave the month with contrasting results, Myanmar having the satisfaction of an earlier victory but unable to find the winning edge in this second encounter, while Sri Lanka can take pride in their improved performance after the 2-0 defeat in their first meeting. This latest draw will provide valuable lessons for both sides as they continue to prepare for future international fixtures.

Among the spectators at the friendly match were Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Prabashini Ponnamperuma, Myanmar Football Federation President U Zaw Zaw and guests. — KZL



Myanmar's Captain Maung Maung Lwin (blue) attempts to dribble past the opponent during FIFA second friendly match against Sri Lanka at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon on 13 October 2024. **PHOTO: MFF**

Ronaldo scores in Portugal's Nations League win as Spain sink Denmark



Cristiano Ronaldo (R) scored his 133rd international goal in Portugal's win over Poland. **PHOTO: AFP**

CRISTIANO RONALDO scored as Portugal beat Poland 3-1 for their third straight Nations League win on Saturday, while European champions Spain put an end to Denmark's perfect start in the competition. Bernardo Silva volleyed Portugal ahead in the 26th minute in Warsaw as Bruno Fernandes cleverly nodded a cross from Ruben Neves back towards the Manchester City midfielder.

Ronaldo then found himself in the right place at the right time to turn in the rebound for Portugal's second after Rafael Leao's shot came back off the post following a brilliant surging run by the AC Milan winger.

The 39-year-old Ronaldo has now struck in all three games of this Nations League campaign for Portugal, taking his record men's international goals tally to 133.

Piotr Zielinski cut the deficit for Poland but Jan Bednarek's own goal sealed victory for Portugal, the lone remaining team in League A with a 100 per cent record, and they could secure a place in the quarter-finals next week.

"We worked very hard the last few days, preparing various solutions for this game, and we were able to show it on the pitch. I am really satisfied because we controlled this game," said Portugal coach Roberto Martinez. "We played great as a team." Portugal have a maximum nine points in Group A1, three ahead of Croatia who beat Scotland 2-1 to condemn their opponents to a third successive defeat in the section. — AFP

Sinner outplays Djokovic to clinch Shanghai Masters crown

WORLD No. 1 Jannik Sinner sealed a 7-6 (4), 6-3 victory over Novak Djokovic to clinch the ATP Shanghai Masters crown on Sunday, denying the Serbian's effort to win his 100th tour-level title.

Both players showed resilience in the first set as neither was able to break serve, but Sinner dominated the tiebreak by quickly taking a 4-1 lead en route to his win. The pivotal point of the second set came in the fourth game, where the Italian earned two break points at 40-15. Although Djokovic saved one with an ace, Sinner seized the second opportunity to convert his break, which laid the foundation for his championship. "It was a very tough match, obviously, playing against Novak is one of the toughest challenges we have," Sinner noted. "Because he doesn't have any weaknesses. You have to try and use the small chances that he gives you, but there are not many during the match." — Xinhua



Jannik Sinner (R) is congratulated by Novak Djokovic after winning the Shanghai Masters. **PHOTO: AFP**

Iran parliament speaker visits Beirut site of deadliest Israeli strike

PAGE 14



WORLD

Global business travel back on track lifted by China: WTTC president



This photo taken on 29 April 2024 shows a view of Elizabeth Quay in Perth, Australia. **PHOTO: MA PING/XINHUA**

A WTTC report reveals business travel will exceed pre-pandemic levels, reaching $1.5 trillion, with China poised to lead globally.

A new report from the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) showed that business travel is set to surpass pre-pandemic levels this year, faster than previously predicted, to reach a record US$1.5 trillion as China is posed to overtake the United States as the world's biggest travel and tourism market in the next few years.

As the WTTC's 24th Global Summit concluded in Perth, Australia, WTTC President and CEO Julia Simpson said that after a few challenging years, business travel is not only back on track but recovering much faster than expected.

"Many business powerhouses such as the United States, China and Germany are expected to reach record numbers this year," she said, adding while virtual meetings played a crucial role during the pandemic, keeping people and businesses connected, the report showed that business was better face to face.

According to WTTC's "2024 Economic Impact Trends Report," business travel spending in the United States, which accounted for 30 per cent of the global total in 2019, is expected to reach 472 billion dollars this year — 13.4 per cent above the country's 2019 record.

In China, the world's second-largest market for business travel, spending is forecast to grow 13.1 per cent above 2019 to reach almost 211 billion dollars.

In 2023, travel and tourism's contribution to global gross domestic product (GDP) almost reached pre-pandemic levels at 9.9 trillion dollars, just 4 per cent shy of the sector's peak. — Xinhua

A MAPBIOMAS REPORT

22 mln hectares of forest affected by fires in Brazil

LARGE areas of Brazil's forest were affected by fires, with 22.38 million hectares devastated in the first nine months of this year, according to the latest report released Friday by monitoring network MapBiomas. The fires consumed 10.65 million hectares in September alone, the report said.

Among the states of the South American country, Mato Grosso, Para and Tocantins in the northern region have been the worst hit. The Amazon region has been the biome most affected by fire, with 11.3 million hectares burned, according to the report. — Xinhua

US deploys THAAD missile defence system in Israel amid tensions

THE US is set to deploy its THAAD missile defence system in Israel, according to reports by Channel 12 and Army Radio.

The move, part of preparations for Israel's expected retaliation to Iran's recent missile strike, will see US troops operating the system on Israeli territory.

Earlier it was reported that the US continues to consult with Israel on its possible response to Iran's ballistic missile attack last week, and US and Israeli defence chiefs may schedule a call later this week to discuss the situation.

Pentagon spokesperson Sabrina Singh said Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant cancelled his planned visit to the Pentagon this week.

"A call could always be scheduled for later today or later this week, and that being said, we still continue to consult with the Israelis on what their response might be," Singh told a press briefing.

Iran launched a massive missile attack on Israel in October. The IDF reported approximately 180 ballistic missiles fired, claiming most of them were intercepted.



US military deploys a THAAD missile defence system in Israel, March 2019. **PHOTO: US ARMY EUROPE VIA THE TIMES OF ISRAEL/FILE**

The Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said the attack was in retaliation for Israelis assassinations of of Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah, Hamas Political Bureau Chief Ismail Haniyeh — in Tehran — and Quds Force Commander Abbas Nilforoushan. — SPUTNIK