

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



This picture captures rescue and relief personnel evacuating people in flooded areas in Myanmar due to Typhoon Yagi.

Article

Theravada Buddhism and World's Peace

By Sann Ni Lar Winn

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MoH monitors food poisoning incident in Ottwin Township

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Actress Khaing Hnin Wai warns of fake flood relief donation accounts

Norway contributes US\$500,000 in aid for Myanmar's flood relief

Norway has reportedly contributed US\$500,000 to assist Myanmar's flood-stricken areas.

According to the Norwegian Embassy, Norway's UNOPS has provided this sum in collaboration with donors to sup-

port the rehabilitation of regions impacted by the floods in Myanmar. The emergency relief supplies include shelter, food, purified water, and medicines, which will be distributed by the Norwegian Red Cross and its partner organizations through the

Myanmar Red Cross Society.

Myanmar has experienced widespread floods since early September due to Typhoon Yagi, and the United States will also contribute to flood relief efforts. — ASH/MKKS

WFP launches major food aid for 500,000 flood victims in Myanmar

The World Food Programme (WFP) will launch an emergency food aid operation this week to assist flood-hit people in Myanmar.

According to Ms Sheela Matthew, the WFP resident representative to Myanmar, the programme will provide food support to around 500,000 flood victims.

WFP has been offering flood relief aid since July, and the scale of its operations will now be significantly expanded.

The organization plans to distribute one month's worth of emergency food supplies, including rice, fortified biscuits, and nutritional support, to about 500,000 flood-battered people, meeting their immediate needs.

"This flood, caused by Super Typhoon Yagi, is one of the worst in Myanmar's modern history. Large parts of the country are submerged, and in some areas, it is the first time in decades they have experienced such flooding. The impact on food security is severe. Even before the floods,

more than 13 million people in Myanmar were already facing food shortages in August. Our staff teams are working swiftly to meet these growing needs," said Ms Sheela Matthew.

Before Typhoon Yagi, WFP had already provided emergency food assistance to around 185,000 flood victims in July and August, when tens of thousands of paddy fields were flooded. — ASH/TKO

This picture captures flood victims struck by flash floods due to Super Typhoon Yagi.



NATIONAL



Ten (10) days remain until the National Census.



Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed U Myint Nating Oo from the Ministry of Defence as Director-General of the Planning and Administrative Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

National Day of Nepal: Nepali Embassy holds reception in Yangon

A reception to mark the 10th anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of Nepal and National Day was held at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening.

The ceremony was opened with the National Anthem of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the National Anthem of Nepal, followed by Mr Harishchandra Ghimire, Ambassador of Nepal to Myanmar, delivering a welcoming speech.

Next, the Nepali ambassador and guests cut the cake to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of Nepal and its National Day. The ambassador and attendees had a group photo taken, and the ambassador hosted a dinner for those who attended the celebration. Traditional Nepali cultural dances were performed during the dinner. — GNLM

Condition of Southwest Monsoon Withdrawal

Issued at 19 September 2024

DURING the past 24 hours, Southwest monsoon has been withdrawn from the Northern Myanmar areas.

Special Weather News

Issued at 17:30 hours MST on 19-9-2024

According to the observations at 16:30 hrs MST today, the Tropical Storm "SOULIK" over South China Sea has moved Westwards and is crossing Vietnam coast, North of Da Nang. It is likely to continue to move the inland areas of Vietnam. The remnant clouds and wind wave from the tropical storm start cross over Southeastern parts of Myanmar and then continue to move West-Southwestwards and it may re-initiate into a Low-Pressure Area over the Andaman sea and Bay of Bengal on (20 September 2024). Due to the wave propagation speed, rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavyfalls and strong wind during 20 September 2024 upto 25 September 2024.

Advisory

People should be awared of the heavy rainfall with strong wind, the natural disasters such as flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flight. — DMH

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Amendment Law to the Trust Act

(State Administration Council Law No 55/2024)
2nd Waning of Tawthalin 1386 ME
19 September 2024

THE State Administration Council has hereby enacted this Law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

(1) This Law shall be called the Amendment Law to the Trust Act.
(2) After Chapter III of the Trust Act, Chapter III A shall be inserted as follows: -

CHAPTER III A.
OF THE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AND REPORTING OBLIGATIONS OF TRUSTEES
30 A.

Customer Due-Diligence, Record-Keeping and Reporting Obligations of AML/CFT

(1) Any trustee of any trust governed under this Act is bound to the following obligations of Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT): -

- (a) to obtain and hold adequate, accurate and current information on the identity of author of the trust, the trustee(s), the beneficiaries and any other natural person exercising ultimate effective control over the trust;
- (b) to hold basic information on other regulated agents of and service providers to, the trust, including investment advisors or managers, accountants, and tax advisers;
- (c) to keep all information accurately and up to date on a timely basis;
- (d) to disclose the trustee's status to Financial Institutions and Designated Non-Financial Businesses or Professions (Fls/DNFBPS) and report to the relevant competent authorities when forming a business relationship or carrying out an occasional transaction above the threshold;
- (e) to provide any information relating to the trust to competent authority and upon request by Financial Institutions and Designated Non-Financial Businesses or Professions (Fls/DNFBPs), any information on beneficiary and assets of the trust to be held or managed under the terms of the business relationship to Financial Institutions and Designated Non-Financial Businesses or Professions (Fls/DNFBPs) under the existing laws;

(2) A trustee is bound to keep above all information at least five years after their involvement with the discharge of trustee.

(3) A trustee shall comply with the Anti-Money Laundering Law and the Counter Terrorism Law.

I hereby sign under Article 419 of the State Constitution.

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council




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WORLD TOURISM DAY 2024 | TOURISM AND PEACE

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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)

DPM MoTC Union Minister attends Nepali National Day reception

Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo attended a reception at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon yesterday to mark the 10th anniversary of Nepal's Constitution and National Day. The event began with national anthems of Myanmar and Nepal, followed by

traditional Nepali dances. Nepal's Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Harishchandra Ghimire delivered a welcome address. The Deputy Prime Minister and the Ambassador then cut a cake to celebrate the anniversary. The event was embodied with a group photo and dinner, with attendees including U Soe Thein, Chief Minister



Deputy Prime Minister Union Transport & Communications Minister General Mya Tun Oo and Nepali Ambassador Mr Harishchandra Ghimire cut a cake to celebrate yesterday's event in Yangon.

of Yangon Region, U Lwin Oo, Affairs, U Bo Htay, Yangon City Deputy Minister for Foreign Development Committee Chair- man Mayor, diplomats and officials. — MNA/TS

MoHA Union Minister comforts flood victims in Toungoo

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, who is also National Disaster Management Committee Vice-Chair 1, comforted the flood-stricken people in Toungoo District yesterday.

The Union minister first inspected the cleaning measures and provided foodstuffs to the flood victims at a temporary relief camp within Bodawgon Monastery in Yedashe township.

He also observed the flooded mileposts 162/7 of



Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae (C) is pictured during his inspection tour in flood-stricken areas in Toungoo yesterday.

Yedashe Toungoo road section on the Yangon-Mandalay highway, and gave proper instructions on how to place road signs and danger signs and facilitate the flow of goods.

He then proceeded to the disaster management office established at Sasanahitakari Beikman in Toungoo, temporary relief camps at Oakkyut 1 post-primary school in Ward 10 and Shwegugyi Pagoda in Ward 1.

During the inspection tours, the Union minister

donated basic foodstuffs and family utensils for 685 people of 191 households.

The Ayeyawady Foundation donated 1,000 rice bags, K50 million from Pwint Htoo San Company, K10 million from U Sai Mon (Mone Wun Myanmar) family and K7 million from the entrepreneurs from Bago and Thanetpin townships.

The Union minister met departmental staff under the ministry at the Bago Region government office. — MNA/KTZH

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Anti-corruption awareness seminar held in Nay Pyi Taw



A commemorative group photo taken at the Anti-Corruption Awareness Seminar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE Anti-Corruption Commission and Union Supreme Court jointly organized an awareness seminar on anti-corruption in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Chief Justice U Tha Htay first said that those working in government departments should know the nature of corruption. Corruption is a global problem, and Myanmar faces it as well.

The country signed the United Nations Convention Against Corruption in 2005 and became the 165th member states. He then mentioned the different types of corruption, such as bribery, extortion, fraud, misappropriation, nepotism, cronyism, appropriation of public assets and property for private gain and influence peddling.

He also urged the participants to fight against corruption as it affects the State's image and capacity, including sustainable development goals for the country, good governance, law enforcement, and the rights of every citizen.

Afterwards, attendees coordinated the discussion. — MNA/KTZH

YRIC approves wholly foreign investment in manufacturing sector

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) endorsed one wholly foreign enterprise with an estimated capital of US\$1 million to execute the manufacturing of various clothing on the Cutting-Making and Packaging (CMP) basis at the recent meeting (9/2024) held on 18 September, creating 700 jobs for locals.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and committee members inspected the sample products manufactured by existing businesses. They also coordinated general matters of nine companies during the meeting.

The manufacturing sector has attracted the most foreign investments in Yangon Region, with enterprises engaging in the production of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, containers, and garments on a CMP basis.

China is the leading investor in Myanmar's CMP garment factories, followed by Chinese Taipei, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, and Japan. The clothes and apparel are sent to Thailand, China, Singapore, and other European countries.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is focused on garments and textiles produced on a Cutting, Making, and Packing basis, contributing to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

There are 547 active factories operated under the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association as of August 2024, comprising 321 from China, 56 from South Korea, 18 from Japan, 16 from other countries, 47 domestic factories and 27 joint ventures, and 48 factories were temporarily closed, according to the MGMA's monthly Newsletter. — San Kyaw Oo (IPRD)/KK



Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Myint participates in the 23rd SEAMEO CHAT Management Board meeting online yesterday.

MoE Deputy Minister attends 23rd SEAMEO CHAT management board meeting

DEPUTY Minister for Education Dr Zaw Myint took part in the 23rd management board meeting of the SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition held yesterday via videoconferencing.

During the meeting, the deputy minister stated that the SEAMEO CHAT was established to preserve the historical heritage and traditional culture of Southeast Asia. The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Or-

ganization (SEAMEO) is among the 26 SEAMEO regional centres in the member countries. SEAMEO CHAT was opened in Myanmar in 2000. Since then, SEAMEO CHAT's management team has held 18 meetings in Yangon, two in Nay Pyi Taw and once each in Mandalay and Bagan.

The deputy minister also discussed the success of the ongoing processes and future work plans and sug-

gested that such a meeting of the management team, where decisions are made, is essential and can lead to improvements.

Deputy Director Ms Pintip Lamnirath of the Administration and Relations Department of the SEAMEO Secretariat, the SEAMEO CHAT director and representatives from member countries attended the meeting virtually. — MNA/TS

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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

Myanmar delegation returns from 2nd ASEAN-MRC Water Security Dialogue in Laos

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi arrived back in Yangon yesterday evening after attending the second ASEAN-Mekong River Commission (MRC) Water Security Dialogue in Laos.

During the visit to Laos, the Myanmar delegation attended the opening ceremony of the second ASEAN-MRC Water Security Dialogue at Souphattra Hotel in Vientiane, Laos, on 18 September morning.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister said the Mekong River plays a pivotal role in freshwater resources fishery resources, food security, hydropower generation and socioeconomic status development not only in the MRC states but also in the ASEAN regions.

Myanmar is endowed with abundant water resources, holding 16 per cent of water resources



Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi poses for the documentary group picture at the second ASEAN-Mekong River Commission (MRC Water Security Dialogue) in Laos on 18 September.

among the ASEAN countries and 12 per cent of all Asia. Currently, most of the world's nations are facing water-related disasters due to climate change.

He also urged the setting of innovative policies for climate change and water security, supervision of water management,

application of nature-based methods, and investment in the water management sector and human resources development. He also pledged that Myanmar would actively cooperate with regional countries.

The dialogue was attended by representatives, water re-

sources and environmental ministers, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, senior officials of the ASEAN Secretariat, and water management experts from China, Canada, Australia, Switzerland, New Zealand and the US.

At noon, the Union minister met Thai National Mekong

Committee Secretary-General Dr Surasri Kidtimonton and discussed the in Myanmar, efforts to control wildfire outbreak and transboundary haze pollution, drafting of plans, conducting public awareness at Myanmar and Thai border areas, release of early flood warnings, water management cases and cooperation in watersheds prevention sector.

He then called on Dr Bounkham Vorachit, the Natural Resources and Environmental Minister of Laos, and they discussed ongoing work plans to reduce haze pollution in Laos and Myanmar.

During the meeting with Brunei Development Minister Mr Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Muhammad Juanda bin Haji Abdul Rashid, and openly exchanged views on the situation in which Myanmar can sign as a member in establishing ASEAN Climate Change Centre (ACCC) in Brunei. — MNA/KTZH

Govt repatriates Myanmar national from Dubai



Ma Khin Khin Lwin Aung. PHOTO: KANU

THE government is actively working to repatriate Myanmar nationals who are facing difficulties overseas. By collaborating closely with the Myanmar Consulate-General and relevant foreign embassies, authorities are committed

to ensuring the safe return of citizens encountering problems abroad.

Recently, the Myanmar Consulate-General coordinated with the appropriate authorities in Dubai to repatriate Ma Khin Khin Lwin Aung, a Myanmar citizen who had experienced difficulties in Dubai, the UAE. She arrived back in Yangon at 10:15 pm on 18 September, following a flight from Dubai.

The government, along with Myanmar embassies and consulates-general, remains dedicated to assisting nationals who face challenges while working abroad. Ma Khin Khin Lwin Aung and her family have expressed their gratitude to the government, the Myanmar Embassy, and the Myanmar Consulate-General for their support and efforts. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/TRKM

Myanmar joins ACW and US-ASEAN Business Council Roundtable

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that U Thet Win, Myanmar Chargé d'Affaires ad interim in Washington DC, attended the roundtable and networking event with the private sector jointly organized by the ASEAN Committee in Washington (ACW) and US-ASEAN Business Council (US-ABC) on 16 September in Washington DC.

At the roundtable, the participants exchanged views on the prospects of business operations in ASEAN member states in the areas of the sustainable and resilient supply-chain sector, cybersecurity, infrastructure develop-

ment, regional maritime transport, logistics, and others. The event was attended by ASEAN ambassadors, chargés d'affaires and representatives from other ASEAN embassies.

It was co-chaired by Mr Jose Manuel G. Romualdez, Ambassador of the Philippines to the United States, and Mr Marc Mealy, Senior Vice President of the USABC. The Ambassador of Timor-Leste to the United States was present as an observer, and members of the US-ASEAN Business Council, CEOs and representatives from US businesses also attended the event. — ASH/TMT



This photo shows attendees at the roundtable and networking event of ACW and US-ASEAN Business Council in Washington DC on 16 September.

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NATIONAL

Notice to well-wishers

19 September 2024

1. It has been found that well-wishers donate food and other relief items with incredible generosity to the people currently sheltering at temporary relief camps and in their homes in flood-stricken villages and wards following Typhoon Yagi.
2. However, the donated food cooked by well-wishers is kept instead of being consumed instantly due to weather conditions. Such a situation can grow microbes that can cause food poisoning and spoil. After consuming such food, flood victims have health risks such as vomiting and diarrhoea.
3. Therefore, well-wishers are urged not to donate prepared meals but rice, oil, salt, beans, dried fish, eggs and fresh meat and fish to supervisory teams and management teams of relevant townships so that team members can cook themselves for those residing at relief camps. Moreover, management teams and health workers must conduct strict supervision of the donated food to ensure hygiene.

National Disaster Management Committee

Announcement: Donations accepted for flood-stricken victims

IT is announced that donations will be accepted at ceremonies held at 2 pm on 21 September 2024 to support victims struck by the floods due to heavy rains from the remnants of Typhoon Yagi and the deep depression in the Bay of Bengal. These ceremonies will take place in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Kayin State, Bago Region, Mandalay Region, Mon State, Yangon Region, Shan State, and Ayeyawady Region.

Those wishing to donate can contact the relevant state and regional governments, as well as the following representatives from the Disaster Management Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

1. Daw Lei Lei Aye, Director-General, Phone 09 2021491
2. U Win Shwe, Deputy Director-General, Phone 09 254170011
3. Daw Su Su Tun, Director, Phone 09 43009291

National Disaster Management Committee

Post-flood cleanup, healthcare initiatives begin in recovered areas

AS floodwaters recede across multiple regions, including Nay Pyi Taw, concerted efforts are underway to restore normality through essential cleanup measures and healthcare support.

Rescue and recovery measures are actively ongoing in villages and townships stricken by flooding across states and regions, including Nay Pyi Taw. In areas

such as Kalaw and Loikaw townships, as well as others, responsible teams have been relocating flood-stricken residents, conducting cleanup activities, and removing debris like tree branches and silt left behind by flash floods.

Locals are also involved in these efforts. Additionally, various government departments, organizations, and donors continue to provide

food and monetary donations for those battered by floods.

Yesterday, generous donations of food and clothing worth K209.35 million were made to the Mandalay Region government by well-wishers, with the chief minister accepting the contributions and issuing certificates of appreciation.

Repairs on flood-damaged roads and bridges are ongoing to



Relief and rehabilitation measures are underway for the flood-battered areas.

restore vital infrastructure. According to official reports, as of 7 am yesterday, floods impacted 53 townships across various states and regions, damaging 4,471 homes and submerging 168,704 houses.

The death toll rose to 293 people, with 89 still missing. A total of 425 flood relief camps were established, providing aid to 47,019 families, or 161,592 people. Floods also damaged 113 government buildings, 919

schools, 331 religious structures, some roads, bridges, power lines and telecom towers. Additionally, 129,150 livestock died, and floodwaters submerged an estimated number of 766,586 acres of crops. — MNA/KZL



Patients are seen undergoing treatments at the Toungoo General Hospital.

MoH monitors food poisoning incident in Ottwin Township

THE Ministry of Health has been closely monitoring and managing the response to a food poisoning incident involving temporary relief villagers at Shwephyu Yadana Monastery in Watphyugon Village, Ottwin Township, Toungoo District, Bago Region.

On 18 September, villagers consumed fried vermicelli, sauce, rice,

and eggs cooked with ripe tamarind fruit, which were donated by well-wishers that morning. By around 8 pm, many villagers began experiencing stomach aches, vomiting, and diarrhoea. As a result, 68 villagers were admitted as outpatients, and 65 were hospitalized as inpatients at Toungoo General Hospital. Physicians and medical specialists provided

intensive care, and the patients are reportedly recovering.

Following the report of the incident, medical teams from the Ottwin Township Department of Public Health, the Bago Region Public Health Department, and Nyaunglebin Township medical officer arrived at the village on the evening of 18 September to implement

necessary disease control measures.

As of the following day, a total of 41 inpatients were discharged after recovery. The Ministry of Health urged well-wishers to donate warm and hygienic food to disaster-stricken victims and management teams at temporary relief camps, ensuring that all donated food is clean and safe. — MNA/TMT

DICA report: 12,500 companies fail to file AR in Jan-Aug

A total of 12,500 companies were struck off the register in the past eight months (January-August) of 2024 as they were unable to file annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA's statistics indicated that 750 companies in January 2024, 600 in February, 1,650 in March and 2,000 each in April, May and June, 2,500 in July and 1,000 in August did not file the AR.

The DICA notified those companies that failed to file their AR on the MyCO and were struck off the register from the date of the directive under 430 (F) of Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA's notification.

A total of 6,400 companies also failed to submit the AR in 2023. The registration and re-registration of companies on



The facade of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) office.

the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

All registered companies need to submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation and at

least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial

statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thou-

sands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/KK

CBM sells 3.2M Thai baht on 18 Sept

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over 3.2 million Thai baht on 18 September after it announced the sale of 10 million baht for importers on that day, according to its notification dated 17 September.

It also injected US\$30,000 on 17 September, \$5 million on 16 September, \$230,000, over 1.5 million yuan and over 956,000 baht on 13 September into the financial market.

CBM announced on 12 September that it would pump \$10 million into the fuel oil sector and \$7 million into the edible oil sector through the foreign exchange trading platform. It sold \$12.4 million and 80 million baht on 4 September, \$90,000 on 5 September and \$100,000 on 6 September, respectively.

Following CBM's notification dated 14 August about contribution of \$100 million towards the fuel oil sector, it sold over \$9.498 million at exchange rate of K3,400 on 15 August, over \$89.975 million at exchange rate of K3,410 on 19 August, \$31 million at exchange rate of K3,440 on 22 August, over \$35 million at exchange rate of K3,460 on 26 August and \$16.9 million at exchange rate of K3,472 on 28 August, respectively.

CBM announced on 9 August that it would sell \$6 million, five million yuan and 10 million baht into the edible oil, fuel oil and pharmaceutical sectors through online foreign exchange trading platforms in the coming weeks.

CBM sold \$5 million and five million yuan for the fuel oil, edible oil and pharmaceutical sectors on 2 August, after selling 69 million baht and

nine million yuan for those importing edible oil, fertilizer, pharmaceuticals and medical devices on 1 August.

Therefore, CBM injected over \$190 million, 19 million yuan and 79 million baht in August.

This move is to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and the currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been joining hands with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK



This photo shows a stack of Thai baht banknotes.

Myanmar draws US\$35M FDI from China in 5 months this FY

MYANMAR attracted US\$35.37 million in investment from China in the past five months of the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April, including an expansion of the capital by the existing enterprises, statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) indicated.

Myanmar Investment Commission gave the green light to 14 Chinese enterprises to invest in Myanmar from April to August. Chinese companies primarily made investments in labour-intensive manufacturing industries that can create a large number of jobs for locals.

Singapore is the leading investing country in Myanmar, pumping \$87.74 million from two enterprises. Thailand stood as the second largest investor this FY, with an estimated capital of \$44 million made by one enterprise. China is ranked third in the line-up.

Three enterprises from Indonesia and two from India, Chinese Taipei, the Republic of Korea, and Hong Kong SAR invested in Myanmar. The existing enterprises from China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong SAR, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and the UK also increased investments.

Myanmar Investment Commission permitted 26 foreign projects from seven countries (China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand) to make investments of \$207.6 million in the past five months this FY 2024-2025, including expansions of capital by existing enterprises.

The Transport and Communications sector found capital expansion of \$82.66 million. The manufacturing sector drew \$75.6 million, and the services sector received \$44 million. One enterprise put FDI of \$3.7 million into the power sector, while one business made investments of less than US\$ one million in the agriculture sector, respectively. — KK

OPINION

Clean up the world to be newer and healthier

CLEANUP activities are essential for society, promoting both physical and mental well-being by reducing the risk of diseases and fostering mindfulness. A cleaner environment helps people lead healthier, more focused lives. Globally, cleanup efforts remain crucial as the world is overwhelmed by physical and mental waste. People generate mental waste themselves and through negative influences from others, necessitating internal cleansing as well as physical cleanups of their surroundings.

Improper waste disposal practices have left the world vulnerable to environmental degradation. Irresponsible actions have resulted in waste being scattered across various regions, making global cleanup efforts even more necessary. Addressing these waste challenges can prevent the spread of infectious diseases and create healthier communities. As such, everyone must contribute to a cleaner world, ensuring that landfill-type waste is minimized and the environment is protected.

One prominent event in this global movement is World Cleanup Day, set for 20 September 2024, in Tromsø, Norway. The theme, "Arctic Cities and Marine Litter," focuses on the unique challenges faced by cities within the Arctic Circle. Tromsø, with its harsh weather conditions, geographical isolation, and expensive infrastructure, struggles with effective waste management. The event is supported by UN-Habitat, GRID-Arendal, the Norwegian Retailers' Environment Fund, and various government bodies, aiming to inspire communities worldwide to adopt sustainable practices that protect the Arctic.

The fragile ecosystem of the Arctic demands targeted cleanup efforts, particularly in reducing plastic and marine litter. World Cleanup Day emphasizes the importance of innovation, community involvement, and collaboration in establishing sustainable waste systems. Professional cleanups, coupled with innovative funding strategies, play a vital role in tackling waste issues, especially in complex urban environments.

On 8 December 2023, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 78/122, officially declaring 20 September as World Cleanup Day. This resolution reflects the growing global commitment to addressing environmental degradation. Over the years, numerous governments and communities have participated in cleanup efforts, with World Cleanup Day serving as a celebration of their achievements.

In fact, it is a reminder of the shared responsibility to maintain a clean, healthy environment and ensure sustainable waste management practices. This collective effort can lead to a more sustainable world for future generations. Hence, every country and everybody needs to make efforts to clean up the whole world to be newer and healthier for the sake of the new socioeconomic life of generations.

In fact, it is a reminder of the shared responsibility to maintain a clean, healthy environment and ensure sustainable waste management practices. This collective effort can lead to a more sustainable world for future generations. Hence, every country and everybody needs to make efforts to clean up the whole world to be newer and healthier for the sake of the new socioeconomic life of generations.

ACCORDING to the chronicles, Bagan was founded in AD 107. Anawrahta, the first unifier of Myanmar, established "Theravada, Buddhism" with the help of Buddhist Missionary "Shin Araham".

Theravada Buddhism is more of a system of philosophy and practical ethics than a religion, and Buddhism is certainly not a religion.

In the coming October, the Six World Buddhist Forum is slated to take place in the city of Ningbo in east China, Zhejiang Province, with an aim to promote world peace improve the well-being and strength for building a community with a shared future for humanity. The Buddhists, experts, scholars and delegates from about 70 countries and regions around the world shall attend this forum.

Generally, in our childhood, we worship the Buddha, Dhamma and Samga according to traditional Buddhism. In this way, we have been obeying the law, disciplined, and avoiding evil since childhood.

The Five Precepts are the basic moral codes of conduct. Our life would be a truly happy one, and our society would become a much safer and more peaceful place if the Five Precepts were observed in earnest. When we examine the social implications of the Five Precepts, we find that:

- (1) To abstain from taking life (Killing)
- (2) To abstain from taking what is not one's own by right (Stealing)
- (3) To abstain from sexual mis-

Theravada Buddhism and World's Peace

By Sann Ni Lar Winn

conduct

- (4) To abstain from untruthfulness and
- (5) To abstain from intoxicating drinks and drugs

From the olden days to today, we all face absolutism, hegemonism, capitalism, neo-colonialism, fascism, terrorism and many wars because of greediness and anger. At least we can avoid many wars and armed conflicts by obeying the noble Buddhist five precepts and taking advantage of peace. So, the Five Precepts always give the destruction of life and the spirit of tolerance.

Remember the three fierce, unyielding enemies, namely, Greed (Lobha), Anger (Dosa) and Delusion (Mogha), which wage war on us.

"Theravada Buddhism advise every person to strive and work hard to achieve his goals, material or spiritual, through his efforts. It teaches every person to be kind and gentle. Buddhists are peace-loving people and have never made war. Today, there is violence everywhere in our society because many people are selfish and lack kindness.

Besides, Buddha's "Mangala

Sutta" gives us a positive Guideline for our life. If we consistently follow it, we shall progress both materially and spiritually; if we follow it, we will progress towards a happy life.

I think that if we all practice the noble Buddha's "Mangala Sutta", the world shall get true peace. The blessings that the Buddha enunciated in the Mangala Sutta are thirty-eight in number. If we carefully examine the thirty-eight blessings, we shall find that each is useful in itself and directly relevant to our lives. The first blessing, for example, tells us not to get involved with evil people and allow ourselves to be influenced by their wicked ways. The second one advises us to associate with good people, for such an association would bring us no harm and happiness and property.

May I say that it is the Buddha's Dhamma that should be studied by one and all for a new insight into all mental issues that affect it?

Nowadays, there is dissatisfaction almost everywhere, and desertification creates ill feelings. Ill-feeling creates Hatred. Hatred creates Enmity.

Enmity creates war. War creates Enemies. Enemies create Wars.

War creates Enemies and so on in a vicious circle.

Therefore, it is time for us to work and learn how to live the Buddha's way successfully. Life, like the sea, has its waves of tricks, but the Buddha-Dhamma winds are strong enough to bring us through each wave successfully.

The noble Buddha, who points the way to eternal peace, has said,

"Victory breeds more Enmity and Hatred. Defeat brings humiliation, Frustration and all kinds of Disharmony. If the cause of strife is removed, there will be no more strife and Enmity and thus peace of mind and body will be secured".

Every day, in a routine way, we may also strive to gain awareness of the Noble Eight-Fold Path, especially Right thought, speech, action, livelihood and effort. Every time our behaviour, which can be based on the moral (Sila), is free from "Lobha" (Greed), "Dosa" (Anger) and "Moha" (Ignorance), we should obey the virtues of loving-kind (Metta) and volition (C-

tana) in connection with all social affairs every day.

Every Buddhist always pay homage to five Unique Benefactors,

- (1) Gratitude and dignities of Buddha are infinity. (Buddha Guno Anando)
- (2) Gratitude and dignities of doctrines are countless (Dhamma Guno Anando)
- (3) Gratitude and dignities of monks have no limit. (Samgha Guno Anando)
- (4) Gratitude and dignities of parents are beyond. (Mata Petu Guno Anando)
- (5) Gratitude and dignities of teachers are limitless. (Accariya Guno Anando)

- (1) We take refuge in the Buddha
- (2) We take refuge in the Dhamma
- (3) We take refuge in the Samgha
- (4) We take refuge in the Parents
- (5) We take refuge in the Teachers

(1) We observe the precept to abstain from sexual misconduct and unlawful cruel indulgence in another's wife or husband.

(2) We observe the precept to abstain from telling all and from

to spend one's wealth.

(3) We observe the precept to abstain from sexual misconduct and unlawful cruel indulgence in another's wife or husband.

(4) We observe the precept to abstain from telling all and from



Theravada Buddhism offers a profound pathway to fostering global peace and harmony among diverse cultures. PHOTO: PIXABAY

speaking filthy language to hurt part and parcel of another.

(5) We observe the precept to abstain from intoxication and drug abuse.

In conclusion, according to the five processes, our life would

be truly happy, and our society would become safer and more peaceful, at least in the world. They will be able to live happily in a way that is genuinely Buddhist.

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be truly happy, and our society would become safer and more peaceful, at least in the world. They will be able to live happily in a way that is genuinely Buddhist.

To have a good dream and sound sleep

By Mya Thae (Research)



To enjoy a good dream and sound sleep, create a calming bedtime routine and let your mind drift into tranquility. ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY

REST and sound sleep are essential not only for human beings but also for creatures. It is important to sleep well and rest. The scientists said that sleeping eight hours a day is enough sleep time. But most of the people sleep only six hours a day. Because of the different kinds of causes, some people sleep only three hours or four hours a day like me.

Some writers write many manuscripts without sleeping at night. When you never sleep for several nights, you can find many

health problems. Some editors, reporters and workers never sleep the whole night. It can cause several kinds of diseases, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer, and Alzheimer's. Among them, cancer is a dreadful disease. This disease does not show the symptoms, and the patients can live only six months.

Kathy Svanaasein was 36 years old, and she had two children. She only slept five hours at night. She was a lawyer, and she carried out her work 20 hours to

25 hours within one week at home and practised her work to be an expert 20 hours. When she was free, she volunteered as a teacher at her son's school. Sometimes, her job was in emergency, and she performed her work the whole night.

A sleeping expert from the America National Basic Sleeping Group said that, from eight hours of sleep, you lack half an hour on a weekday. At the end of the year, you lose 330 hours of sleeping time. Thus, you can encounter any kind of disease.

However, one of the researchers points out that sleeping is only the third need for health. Nutritious food and regular exercise are the central points of health.

Researchers knew that good things were lost without sleeping.

They understand that a person who never sleeps during the day is alert and in good health for a long time. However, by performing another research, it needs to rest a few times a day. It is suitable for sleeping for half an hour between 1 pm and 3 pm during the day. It isn't exciting when you wake up to sleep a lot of time in the day.

In 1999, a sleeping researcher, Even Cauter from Chicago University, conducted an experiment on the subject. He carried out that four youngsters who started diabetes disease will sleep six nights for four hours. Within one week, glucose in their bodies decreases. Even Cauter believed that sleeplessness releases fat. Hormones from growth maintain fats and muscle in the body.

In the experiment, rats died without sleeping for three weeks. If there is not enough sleeping time, the amount of white blood corpuscles will change, and the disease cannot be attacked enough. It can increase cancer disease.

Richard Stevan, a researcher at Connecticut Health Centre, said the light of midnight causes more cancer. Therefore, blind girls can never cause cancer more than girls who are not blind. To get away from the disease, people should sleep at midnight.

If you cannot sleep at night, you will discuss it with doctors and take sleep-well medicine systematically. Meditation is good for sound sleep. That is actually best for every person. If you take meditation before you go to bed,

the mind is straightforward if you mark breathing in and breathing out. Telling beads is also suitable for sleep. Don't think of unhappy things before you go to bed. The disease can happen if you are the whole night without sleeping.

Our Enlightened Buddha slept only one and a half hours. He had a lot of work to rescue human beings and all of the creatures from life-cycle.

A recent researcher solved the problem of sleeplessness. They gave sleep-well medicine one night and made six hours to sleep. Researchers assumed they were in good health, like full-time sleepers.

Reference:
Rested In Your Dream
By Susan Briak
Reader's Digest, July 2001

NATIONAL

Yamethin grapes mainly transported to Yangon



GRAPES grown in Yamethin Township have received orders majorly from Yangon Region.

Currently, Yamethin grapes, which are harvested during the monsoon season, are transported to Yangon, Mawlamyine, and Mandalay, but the majority of orders are placed from Yangon. However, the price of monsoon grapes is not as reasonable as grapes harvested in other seasons.

“We transport grapes pri-

This picture captures a grape farm in Yamethin Township.

marily to Yangon, Mawlamyine and Mandalay. However, Yangon is the biggest buyer. Last summer was a grape peak season, and farmers could make profits. Fruits are produced from February to May. The summer grape price was pretty good, and the trade was good, too. But monsoon grape price is not much good,” said Ko Aung Ko Win, a grape farmer from Yamethin Township.

There are many grape plantations in Yamethin, and grapes are distributed nationwide.

“Yamethin is the biggest grape producer, and grapes are distributed across the country from Yamethin. There are lots of grape brokers who distribute nationwide. In Yamethin, grape farms can make a profit. I have around 3,000 grape plants,” he said.

In Yamethin, grape plantations have been expanded in Thekyun, West Oatpho, Letha and Kalamyaw village-tracts, and according to 2013 statistics, there are a total of about 5,000 grape plantation acres in Yamethin Township. — Thit Taw/ZS

Counter-argument to false information

False reports in Ywathitkalay Village dismissed by authorities

REPORTS circulating on certain media outlets regarding the alleged forced recruitment of new soldiers by Tatmadaw in Ywathitkalay Village were false claims.

According to official sources, on the morning of 16 September, it was claimed by malicious news sources that over 20 men from Ywathitkalay, in Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay Region, were forcefully arrested by Tatmadaw and local administrative officials. However, these reports were inaccurate and misleading.

In reality, the young people joining Tatmadaw are doing so of their own accord, driven by a strong sense of patriotism and the desire to defend the nation against violent perpetrations committed by groups like PDF terrorists which seek to destabilize the country. Many have also voluntarily signed up for the People’s Military Service Training programme, now in its fifth successful round.

Graduates of the programme are actively serving in various units, fulfilling their duties to safeguard the nation’s security. Officials stated that government media continues to provide clear information on military service law and that the public can reach out through available hotlines for further enquiries. These false claims from malicious news media are aimed at spreading fear and pushing young people towards misguided actions. — MNA/KZL

Authorities seize illegal goods across various townships

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts are being made to curb illegal trade effectively in accordance with the law.

On 18 September, enforcement teams under the management of the Customs Department conducted inspections. At Myanmar Industrial Port, they discovered two types of undeclared business materials (approximately K16.55 million) inside a container, differing from the items declared in the import documents. Additionally, at the Asia World Container checkpoint, two types of business materials (estimated value of K86.81 million) without proper documentation were seized, and the action was carried out as per Customs procedures.

On the same day, inspection teams under the management of the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized an unregistered motorcycle (approximately K150,000) in Nandawun, Monywa Township, under the Export and Import Law, as well as 28 barrels of illegal diesel and 37 barrels of petrol (approximately K42.25 million) at the Kantalu checkpoint in Sagaing.

Additionally, food items without proper documentation (estimated value of K9.6 million) were seized in accordance with the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Meanwhile, under the management of the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force, inspections in Chaungwa village, Kyauktan Township, along the Yangon River led to the seizure of 9.061 tonnes of illegal timber (estimated value: K1.23 million) and the boat used for transporting the items (approximately K18 million).

In Shwepyitha Township’s Sartalin village, two vehicles carrying 0.954 tonne of illegal timber (estimated value of K648,856) and two TownAce vehicles (approximately K40 million) were also confiscated under the Forest Law. Additionally, two unregistered vehicles (approximately K8 million) were seized in Mingaladon and Dagon Myothit (East) townships under the Export and Import Law.



Confiscated illegal goods.

In Mandalay Region, inspections by the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force led to the discovery of business materials (estimated value of K42.19 million), along with a Mitsubishi Canter truck (approximately K25 million) at the Kywetatson checkpoint. The authorities also seized another vehicle carrying undocumented business materials (approximately K13.11 million) and a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (estimated of K35 million) at Sinywa Tollgate. In Bago Region, the Phayagyi checkpoint inspection uncovered consumer goods (approximately K5.6 million) transported without proper documentation on a Foton truck (approximately K35 million), and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Additionally, Mon State authorities discovered 64 barrels of petrol (estimated value of K45.68 million) on a Hino bowser near Bilin Township along the Yangon-Mawlamyine highway, and the items were confiscated in line with Customs procedures.

On 18 September, 20 cases of illegal trade were reported, with the combined estimated value of seized goods reaching K574.83 million, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Myanmar writers, artistes strengthen cultural ties with China on friendship trip

MYANMAR writers and artistes engaged in discussions with Chinese literary figures from Guangzhou, Nanning, Beijing, Xi'an, Yichang, and Kunming during a Myanmar-China friendship trip.

The Myanmar delegation, made up of 11 writers and 15 artistes, participated in the 12-day trip from 5 to 16 September.

During the visit, Myanmar writers and artistes held friendly meetings with Chinese litterateurs and artistes from various cities, including Guangzhou, Nanning, Beijing, Xi'an, Yichang,

and Kunming. They had extensive discussions on topics related to literature and the arts.

Notable members of the Myanmar delegation included U Ohn Maung (Myinmu-Maung Naing Moe), chairman of the Myanmar Writers Association, musician U Maung Maung Zaw Htet (Diramore), and Daw Khin Wuttyi, chairperson of the Bago Township Writers' Association. — ASH/MKKS

Photos show representatives of Myanmar writers and artistes visiting China.



Value-addition, food processing training for aquaculture products held in Myeik

SMALL-SCALE Industries Department under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development conducted value addition and food processing one-week free training for fish paste, dried fish and dried shrimp at the religious house of Thabut village monastery in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region on 18 September, with a view to creating small-scale businesses, enhancing rural livelihoods and incomes.

U Tun Win Soe, chair of the Myeik Township Administration Body, gave an opening remark that the Small-Scale Industries Development implemented seven projects to promote sustainable rural livelihoods and incomes since the 2023-2024 financial year. The department carried out two projects in three villages of Myeik District in the 2024-2025 FY.

Those who achieve both practical and theoretical tests can receive certificates. The

committee members and trainers will analyze and select five outstanding trainees to support equipment valued at K1.4 million per person to establish the start-up. Therefore, he urged trainers to make an effort.

Myeik District's Small-Scale Industries Department offered the 14th edition of rural livelihoods and economic enhancement courses for 166 trainees in the 2023-2024 FY. The department aims to provide the 11th edition of the course this FY, and this training is the fifth edition, said Daw Thu Thu San, head of the district department.

This one-week free training from 18 to 24 September has 15 trainees, aiming locals to engage with value-addition to increase profitability. It provides both practical and theoretical approaches for value addition and food processing of aquaculture products to help them set up a business. — Myint Oo (Myeik)/KK

Actress Khaing Hnin Wai warns of fake flood relief donation accounts



This photo shows actress Khaing Hnin Wai donating K10 million to a mother who lost her son helping rescue activities during the flash floods.

ACCORDING to actress Khaing Hnin Wai, who is active in philanthropy, there are fraudulent individuals collecting donations for flood-hit areas using fake accounts purporting to belong to well-known artistes.

"I appreciate all the generous donations for the flood victims. Due to the high volume of donors, our KPay account limits have been reached. As a result, we have had to share our staff's KPay accounts. Unfortunately, some people are exploiting this situation by posting fake

KPay accounts in the comments. The only legitimate KPay accounts are those listed on Khaing Hnin Wai's official page with a blue verification mark. For those wishing to donate, please use the KPay accounts marked with this blue verification. Banking transfers are also more secure. Only the accounts listed on the verified Khaing Hnin Wai page should be used for KPay donations," Khaing Hnin Wai affirmed.

She also stressed that fraudulent activities could prevent donations from reaching those in genuine need, as some individuals are attempting to exploit the crisis.

Similarly, actress May Mie Ko Ko, who is actively participating in the flood relief efforts, commented via social media, "Due to the large number of donations, we are unable to verify each one in detail. At this time, we must rely on trust. We have been informed of fake pages, and I urge everyone not to create such fraudulent pages. If you wish to contribute, please ensure your donations go through the verified channels. Misleading practices are unacceptable."

As of 18 September, the Khaing Hnin Wai Foundation has received over K1 billion in donations. The foundation plans to distribute approximately K600 million and essential supplies to 200 households in Kalaw and Kayah State, with each household receiving K3 million. — Htun Htun/TKO

MMFA to offer customer engagement strategy for leaders on 26 Oct

MYANMAR MicroFinance Association (MMFA) will open the Customer Engagement Strategy and Methods for Leader course (Batch 1) from 9 am to 4 pm on 26-27 October.

This course is tailored to

those with senior/supervisor levels working for microfinance companies and those engaged in the microfinance sector.

It will help develop mindset, skill set, action, smart planning, and client pipeline man-

agement, as well as learn how sustainability can drive client engagement, REACH Methods, and continuous development.

Trainers of Customer Engagement Strategy and Methods for Leaders (In-Person)

are Daw Swe Nu Tun (Certified Trainer of MMFA, Training Manager – Hana Microfinance). The course fee is K100,000, and members can get a discount of K80,000. Trainees will get a certificate for completion of the

course.

Those interested can register for the class by 20 October through <https://shorturl.at/fJME7>. Individuals can enquire about details through 09 965209010. — NN/KK

ECONOMY WORLD

ASEAN seeks to attract more foreign investment

The meeting focused on enhancing ASEAN's attractiveness for foreign investment and discussed the progress of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).



This photo taken on 6 September 2023 shows Wuling Air electric vehicles for the 43rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/XU QIN/XINHUA/FILE**

REPRESENTATIVES from the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) attended the 56th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting to discuss several key issues aimed at positioning ASEAN as an attractive region for foreign investment.

The meeting was held in Lao capital Vientiane on Tues-

day and chaired by Lao Minister of Industry and Commerce Malaythong Kommasith, the local Pasaxon newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The meeting discussed the progress of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and reaffirmed ASEAN's steadfast commitment to regional economic integration amidst the

increasing challenges posed by global economic fragmentation, geopolitical tensions, and climate changes.

The meeting emphasized ASEAN's strategic focus on promoting transformative sectors, such as the digital and green economy, to reinforce ASEAN's position as an epicenter for growth. — Xinhua

Japan logs 695.29 bln yen trade deficit in Aug on weak yen

JAPAN posted a 695.29 billion yen (\$4.9 billion) trade deficit in August as a weak yen inflated the value of imports, even

though exports expanded to a record for the month, government data showed Wednesday.

Helped by pharmaceutical

and oil products, imports increased 2.3 per cent from a year earlier to 9.14 trillion yen, rising for the fifth consecutive month and marking the second-largest for August. Exports also rose 5.6 per cent to 8.44 trillion yen, up for the ninth straight month, according to a preliminary report by the Finance Ministry.

Japan's trade balance remained in the red for the second consecutive month, but the deficit shrank 26 per cent from a year ago supported by exports of chipmaking devices as well as semiconductors and other electronics components.

— Kyodo



Exports dropped 0.7 per cent to 1.61 trillion yen, the first decline in 35 months, due to weak auto shipments. A cargo vessel loads cars at a port in Imizu, Toyama Prefecture on the Sea of Japan on 17 August 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Energy companies have spent \$5.6 bln on 'sportswashing': report

OIL and gas giants have spent \$5.6 billion on sports sponsorship through some 205 accords, said a study by research group New Weather Institute released on Wednesday that describes the outlays as "sportswashing".

The report, entitled "Dirty Money – How Fossil Fuel Sponsors are Polluting Sport", says football, motor sports, rugby and golf are the sports most sponsored by energy companies.

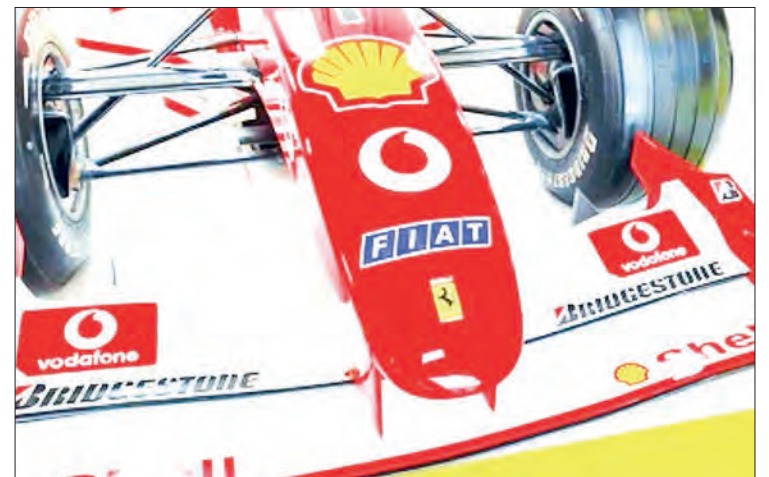
The biggest spenders in the industry include Aramco (\$1.3 billion), Ineos (\$777 million), Shell (\$470 million) and

TotalEnergies (\$340 million).

Middle East petrol states are growing their presence in the sports world, even as the summer of 2024 was globally the hottest ever, the report says.

The study identified 205 still active sports agreements signed by companies linked to fossil fuels, of which only 41 revealed financial details.

To fill the data gap, the authors made estimates based on similar agreements whose amounts were disclosed, using SportBusiness database and publicly available sources. — AFP



A Shell logo placed prominently on the car's nose, during the Azerbaijan Grand Prix. **PHOTO: AFP**

BRIEF

Danish bank to pay \$7 mln fine in France in laundering probe

DANSKE Bank, Denmark's largest, has agreed to pay 6.3 million euros (\$7 million) to end legal pursuits in France linked to alleged money laundering in its Estonian subsidiary that resulted in heavy US penalties.

The fine was agreed on 27 August with France's national financial crime prosecutors and validated by a court Wednesday. The agreement does not involve any admission of guilt.

The bank's Estonian unit allegedly laundering some 200 billion euros through some 15,000 accounts from 2007 to 2015, according to an independent auditor's report published in 2018.

Danske last December pleaded guilty in the United States and paid a \$2 billion fine.

The bank last October had set aside an amount roughly equal to its US fine in expectations of legal pursuits in several countries.

Probes are underway in Estonia, Denmark, and Britain.

France charged Danske in 2019 with organized money laundering, which it denied, saying it was unaware of its Estonian subsidiary's activities. — AFP

China's homegrown C919 aircraft arrives in Xizang for first time

The flight landed at Lhasa Gonggar International Airport, situated at an elevation of 3,569 metres in the Yarlung Zangbo River Valley.

CHINA'S homegrown C919 jetliner, developed by the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC), completed a flight from southwest China's Sichuan Province to the neighboring Xizang Autonomous Region on Thursday, marking the aircraft's first landing in Xizang.

The destination of this trial flight, Lhasa Gonggar International Airport, is located in the

Yarlung Zangbo River Valley, at an elevation of 3,569 metres. Surrounded by steep mountains, the local complex and variable meteorological environment places high demands on the high-altitude operational performance of aircraft.

The C919 aircraft will now conduct research and development test flights for some key systems such as environmental



The first C919 aircraft of China Southern Airlines receives a ceremonial water salute on its arrival at Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province, 29 August 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

control, avionics and propulsion that are critical for high-altitude operations, as well as adaptability checks for high-plateau airports. This is expected to lay the

foundation for meeting the operational needs of high-altitude air routes and the development of high-altitude aircraft variants in the future, said the COMAC.

Airports with an elevation of over 2,438 metres above sea level are referred to as high-plateau airports, according to industry insiders. — Xinhua

Germany pledges billions to boost start-ups



A recent declaration signed by the government, public lender KfW, and major business entities like Allianz, Commerzbank, and Deutsche Bank aims to facilitate funding for start-ups. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE German government and private investors pledged Tuesday to work together to pour billions of euros into funding for start-ups over the coming years, in a bid to keep young companies from moving abroad.

Under a new programme dubbed the "WIN" initiative, Berlin secured financing pledges of up to 12 billion euros (\$13 billion) by 2030 from investors to support the start-up environment in Europe's largest economy.

The declaration — signed by the government, public lender KfW, business groups and companies such as Allianz, Commerzbank and Deutsche Bank — pledges to make it easier for start-ups to get the funding injections they need to grow their business.

Start-ups need "better financing options" so they can scale up in Germany and Europe instead of having to relocate to places like the United States to raise capital, Chancellor Olaf Scholz said. — AFP

Australian workers protest govt takeover of union

THOUSANDS of Australian workers on Wednesday walked off job sites and joined protests against the federal government's crackdown on a major construction trade union.

Members and supporters of the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU) joined rallies in Sydney and Melbourne

to protest against the government's decision to force the construction arm of the union into administration.

The government in August placed all branches of the construction arm of the CFMEU into administration in response to allegations of corruption and criminal infiltration. — Xinhua

Boeing begins furloughs amid labour strike

BOEING said Wednesday it would start furloughs of professional and white-collar staff as it seeks to conserve cash amid a labour strike that shuttered Seattle manufacturing plants — while talks with a union stalled.

The furloughs, which pertain to executives, managers and employees, will be initiated in the coming days and affect tens of thousands of Boeing employees, company officials said.

Boeing plans for "selected employees to take one week of furlough every four weeks on

a rolling basis for the duration of the strike," said a message to employees from CEO Kelly Ortberg.

The new Boeing boss added that he and the rest of the leadership team "will take a commensurate pay reduction for the duration of the strike".

Boeing had said that furloughs were on the table earlier in the week when it announced a hiring freeze, travel budget austerity measures and a reduction of supplier expenditures. — AFP

Agricultural fair opens in N Afghanistan

A two-day agricultural fair to put on display local agricultural products opened in Mazar-i-Sharif city the provincial capital of northern Afghanistan's Balkh province on Tuesday, Mohammad Farooq, an official with the provincial agricultural directorate, said Wednesday.

In order to support local agricultural products and develop the agriculture sector in the country, the official noted that more exhibitions would be held in the future.

A variety of local agricultural products have been put on display in 60 kiosks including 30 booths run by women at the two-day exhibition that will conclude Wednesday evening.

Welcoming the step, a stall-runner at the exhibition, Safa Zaki urged the Afghan administration to organize such agricultural fairs abroad to pave the way for exporting local agricultural products to foreign countries. — Xinhua

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

UNGA calls for end to Israeli occupation in Palestine within a year

It demands an end to Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory within 12 months and calls for compliance with international law.



An electronic screen shows result of the UN General Assembly vote on a draft resolution demanding an end to Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory at the UN headquarters in New York on 18 September 2024. PHOTO: UN

THE UN General Assembly (UNGA) passed a non-binding resolution on Wednesday demanding an end to Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory within the next 12 months by an overwhelming margin.

The resolution was adopted with 124 votes in favour, 14 against and 43 abstentions, during the UNGA's 10th emergency special session considering Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The resolution demanding that Israel comply with all its legal obligations under international law, including advisory opinions by the International Court of Justice, was introduced by the State of

Palestine on Tuesday and was co-sponsored by more than two dozen nations.

By the newly adopted resolution, the UNGA "demands that Israel brings to an end without delay its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which constitutes a wrongful act of a continuing character entailing its international responsibility and do so no later than 12 months from the adoption of the present resolution."

The UNGA also demands that Israel comply without delay with all its legal obligations under international law, including as stipulated by the International Court of Justice. — Xinhua

BRIEF: WORLD

N Korea claims to have test-fired new type of ballistic missile

NORTH Korean state media reported Thursday that leader Kim Jong Un supervised successful tests the previous day of a new tactical ballistic missile, designed to carry a 4.5-tonne conventional warhead, and an improved strategic cruise missile.

The North's state-run Korean Central News Agency reported that the test-firing of the new Hwasongpho-11 Da-4.5 tactical ballistic missile was aimed at verifying the ability to accurately hit a target at a range of 320 kilometres.

According to South Korea's military, the North on Wednesday fired short-range ballistic missiles northeastward from the Kaechon area in South Phyongan Province near Pyongyang that flew about 400 kilometres. — Kyodo

Former Republican officials, lawmakers endorse Harris

MORE than 100 former US Republican officials and lawmakers endorsed Democratic presidential nominee Vice-President Kamala Harris on Wednesday, while calling Republican candidate and former President Donald Trump "unfit to serve again as president".

In a letter shared by the Harris campaign, 111 Republicans, including former officials who served under Ronald Reagan, George HW Bush, George W Bush and Trump, said that despite their disagreements with Harris' policies, "we believe that she possesses the essential qualities to serve as President and Donald Trump does not."

"As president," the letter said, Trump "promoted daily chaos in government, praised our enemies and undermined our allies, politicized the military and disparaged our veterans, prioritized his personal interest above American interests and betrayed our values, democracy and this country's founding documents." — Xinhua

Lebanon introduces ban on comms transport on board of aircraft

THE Directorate General of Civil Aviation of Lebanon said on Thursday that it had banned the transport of all types of walkie-talkies and pagers on board of aircraft departing from Beirut International Airport.

"All airlines operating at Rafic Hariri International Airport are required to notify their passengers departing from Bei-

rut of the ban on carrying any type of pagers and walkie-talkies until further notice," the regulator said in a statement.

On Tuesday, pager detonations took place in different parts of Lebanon. The Lebanese Health Ministry said that the blasts had killed 12 people and left over 2,800 injured.

A second wave of mass

explosions of communication devices belonging to Hezbollah members in Lebanon on Wednesday killed at least 20 people and wounded more than 450, according to the health ministry. Lebanon's communications ministry said the ICOM IC-V82 radios that exploded were unlicensed. — SPUTNIK



The departure terminal at Rafic Hariri International Airport in Lebanon buzzes with travellers. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

SPORTS

Tun Tun Min to face Kyaw Swa Win in Lethwei Championship

IN the upcoming traditional Myanmar Lethwei Open-Weight Championship, Tun Tun Min and Kyaw Swa Win are set to face off. The MLWC (Myanmar Lethwei World Championship) will take place on the afternoon of 22 September at the Theinphyu Lethwei Stadium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon. The event will feature seven open-weight championship matches, including the highly anticipated bout between Tun Tun Min and Kyaw Swa Win. Other notable matches include the 80-kilogramme division fight between Ya Marn and Aung Khaing, the 65-kilogramme division clash between Sein Lone Chaw and Super Yaychan, the 64-kilogramme division fight between Saw Ba Hein and Mya Lone Chaw, and the 60-kilogramme division fight between Salai Thang Kwee Shein and Maung Zaw. Tickets for the event are priced at K10,000, K30,000, K50,000, and K100,000. — Arkar Linn/KZL



PHOTO: MLWC



"Binbin" and "Nini", the adorable Siberian tiger mascots for the 9th Asian Winter Games in 2025, greet visitors at Harbin Songhua River Ice and Snow Carnival in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 13 January 2024. PHOTO: CFP/FILE

Xinhua becomes host media for 9th Asian Winter Games

China and has produced numerous Winter Olympic champions. This will mark the city's third time hosting a major international winter

XINHUA News Agency on Thursday signed a memorandum of cooperation with the organizing committee of the 9th Asian Winter Games in Harbin.

The 9th Asian Winter Games, scheduled to take place from 7 to 14 February 2025, will be another major international ice and snow competition in China, following the success of the Beijing Winter Olympics.

Harbin, known for its rich ice and snow culture, is the birthplace of winter sports in

sports event, having previously hosted the 1996 Asian Winter Games and the 2009 Winter Universiade.

Xinhua, China's national news agency and a global media organization with an extensive network, is officially recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as an international news agency. It has a longstanding reputation for covering international multi-sport events.

Jing Ruyue, secretary general of Xinhua, highlighted that the news agency will leverage its expertise in sports reporting and event media operations to serve as the host media for the Games.

According to Jing, Xinhua plans to provide comprehensive and authoritative coverage throughout all stages of the event — from pre-event preparations to competition highlights and post-event reporting.

Jing also emphasized Xinhua's goal of using the platform to promote Harbin's unique cultural and winter sports heritage on an international stage, sharing compelling Chinese stories with the world. — Xinhua

This is the third major winter sports event hosted by Harbin, following the 1996 Asian Winter Games and the 2009 Winter Universiade.

Manchester City arrive in India for Champions 4-in-a-Row trophy tour

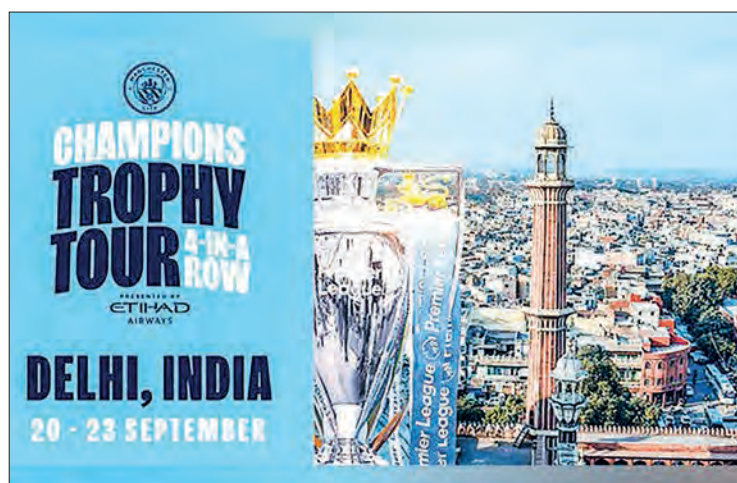
MANCHESTER City, who rewrote the history books by winning the English Premier League four times in a row last season, have arrived in India's capital city as part of the club's Champions 4-in-a-row Trophy Tour.

To celebrate this historic achievement, Manchester City have brought the Premier League trophy to New Delhi, alongside the Club World Cup and Community Shield trophies.

The trophies will be accompanied alongside former Manchester City and England winger Shaun Wright-Phillips across a

range of activities for Citizens in India, including a fan event on Sunday, 22 September, where fans are invited to watch Manchester City take on Arsenal FC at Vegas Mall. These activities will be on a first come-first served basis, though fans are encouraged to pre-register through this link: <https://www.mancity.com/news/club/delhi-india-4-in-a-row-trophy-tour-announcement-2024-63860463>.

Speaking on the visit as a whole, Club Legend Shaun Wright-Phillips commented: "We are really looking forward to vis-



The tour features the Premier League trophy, the Club World Cup, and the Community Shield, accompanied by former player Shaun Wright-Phillips. PHOTO: ANI

iting India as part of the club's Champions 4-in-a-row tour. The club were fortunate enough to visit last year, and we're excited to interact with our fan base in India again, as we bring the Premier League, Club World Cup, and Community Shield Trophies around the world".

Commenting on the fixture against Arsenal FC, he added: "Our latest visit also coincides with our important Premier League fixture vs Arsenal, which fans can watch at a special fan event and screening on the Sunday". — ANI



TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Mongolia introduces electronic visas for all categories

MONGOLIA'S Immigration Agency announced on Thursday that it has begun issuing all categories of visas electronically.

In line with the government's objective to streamline visa issuance and improve service delivery for foreigners visiting Mongolia for official or personal reasons, all 54 categories of visas issued by Mongolia's Immigration Agency, based on inviter requests, are now available electronically, the agency stated.

The move is part of the Mongolian government's efforts to promote the development of the tourism sector. Inviter requests can be submitted directly through the department's official website.

Currently, Mongolia's economy relies heavily on mineral resource exports. Promoting tourism is considered a key priority for diversifying the economy and enhancing the competitiveness of the domestic tourism sector in a global context.

In 2021, the Asian country began issuing certain types of visas electronically, and since then, more than 110,000 e-visas have been granted to foreigners, according to the immigration agency. — Xinhua



Trucks deliver containers at Dinh Vu port in Hai Phong, Vietnam, 31 March 2022 PHOTO: VNA/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA

Vietnam's economy projected to grow 6.5-7.5% in 2025

The first scenario forecasts GDP growth of 6.5-7 per cent with inflation at 4-4.5 per cent, while the second scenario suggests 7-7.5 per cent growth and 4.5 per cent inflation.

V IETNAM'S economy is forecast to grow around 6.5 to 7.5 per cent next year in the economic development scenarios presented by the Ministry of Planning and Investment, local media reported Wednesday.

The country's gross domestic product (GDP) growth is predicted at 6.5-7 per cent in its first scenario with the inflation rate

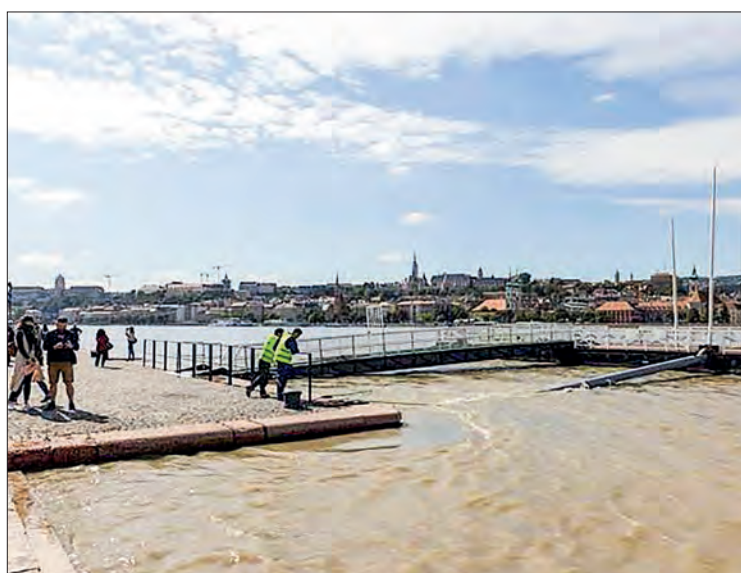
staying at 4-4.5 per cent. The average economic expansion for the 2021-2025 period will be 5.8-6 per cent.

In the second scenario, the ministry eyes a GDP growth of around 7-7.5 per cent, and inflation rate at 4.5 per cent. The average GDP growth is projected at 5.9-6.1 per cent.

The ministry has been in favour of the

first one since the domestic economy has been affected by adverse external developments, while several intrinsic problems could not be improved in a short term.

The Asian Development Bank predicted that the Vietnamese economy will grow 6.2 per cent in 2025 while the World Bank forecast a 6.5 per cent growth next year. — Xinhua



People observe the water level of the Danube River in Budapest, Hungary, 17 September 2024. PHOTO: ATTILA VOLGYI/XINHUA

Hungary facing most challenging phase of flood defence: PM Orban

HUNGARY has entered the most challenging phase of dealing with the current wave of flooding, Prime Minister Viktor Orban announced on Wednesday.

Orban told a press conference in Budapest that the peak of the flood wave hit Hungary from Tuesday night to dawn on Wednesday. Defence efforts are projected to last for around a week, with the floodwaters expected to leave the southern border to Serbia by next Thursday.

The flood wave on the Danube is expected to peak at 846 centimetres in Budapest on Saturday between afternoon and evening, 40-50 centimetres lower than the historic high in 2013, Orban said.

He told journalists that this phase of flood defence, involving water management officials, disaster management, the military, and volunteers, would be the most difficult. However, the Prime Minister added that the country's flood defenses have

successfully withstood the strain so far. He characterized this year's defence as "preparing for known and anticipated events", emphasizing that previous experience from 2013 has equipped authorities to handle the situation. Around 4,400 workers have been despatched by the water and disaster management authorities, Orban said. Police and prison services are currently participating in flood defence efforts across 544 kilometres of river in Hungary. — Xinhua