

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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MRF launches online platform for rice warehouse registration, bolstering market stability

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Myanmar's traditional snacks, jaggery and brown slab sugar, enjoy strong sales



Some international tourists are seen walking on the U Bein Bridge across the Taungthaman Lake in Amarapura, Mandalay Region.

## Surge in tourist numbers at Taungthaman Lake underscores emerging tourism trend

**A**CCORDING to U Soe Win, secretary of the U Bein Bridge maintenance team, approximately 2,000 domestic and foreign travellers visit Taungthaman Lake and U Bein Bridge daily, with around 150 boats operating each day.

The report highlights Taungthaman as a popular destination for both domes-

tic and foreign travellers, experiencing a surge in visitors starting from 1 February 2024.

“Since February began, we’ve seen a significant increase in visitors to Taungthaman Lake. In January, we had around 150 visitors per day, but this number has now risen to 2,000 daily. Many visitors come specifically to witness the sunset over

Taungthaman Lake. Approximately 150 boats are available for visitors’ use to accommodate the growing numbers.

Domestic travellers from Mandalay, PyinOoLwin, Taunggyi, and Yangon, and international tourists from Thailand, Viet Nam, and South Korea are among the most frequent U Bein Bridge and Taungthaman Lake visitors. — ASH/TMT

## Myanmar’s fruit exports cross US\$96M in 9 months

THE value of Myanmar’s fruit exports totalled US\$96.069 million in the past nine months of the current financial year 2023-2024, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar delivered watermelon, muskmelon, avocado, mango and other fruits to for-

eign trade partners during the April-December period through maritime trade and border channels.

Myanmar’s fruits are primarily sent to neighbouring countries, especially China. There are 25 types of fruits designated for export.

Myanmar conducts border trade with China through the Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti and Kengtung borders. Myanmar’s traders currently turn to the Mongla border amid the suspension of those border crossings. — TWA/KK



The photo shows trucks loaded with watermelons to be exported to China.

# NATIONAL

## National Objectives of 77<sup>th</sup> Union Day 2024

- To protect the perpetuity of the Union by the entire ethnic people through the Union spirit
- To join hands in harmony with the government, Tatmadaw, and the entire people to ensure the state stability and the rule of law
- To promote all-inclusive livestock breeding-based manufacturing industries and MSMEs, ensuring the socioeconomic development of the entire ethnic people
- To make collaborative efforts of all ethnic nationals to ensure the prosperity of the nation and food security which are the two national visions
- To strive to emerge a modern and developing country, as well as a Union based on democratic and federal systems, by all ethnic nationals

## Mottos of 77<sup>th</sup> Union Day 2024

1. Unity is strength  
Power of Union
2. Drifting in one boat, on the same voyage we float  
Ethnic brethren of the land joining hand in hand
3. Marching towards with unity  
Ensuring the destination of the Union
4. Let's firmly join hands among ethnic national brethren  
of the Union
5. Let's go forward with unity of the ethnic nationals

## India-Myanmar Friendship Association hosts Women Prestige Awards 2024 Ceremony

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), the gathering of the India-Myanmar Friendship Association and the ceremony to present outstanding women with the Women Prestige Awards 2024 took place at the Myanmar embassy in New Delhi, India, on 4 February.

Attendees included diplomats from friendly countries, members of the India-Myanmar Friendship Association, Indian business organizations and entrepreneurs, as well as friends and family members.

During his speech at the event, the Myanmar Ambassador highlighted that the Myanmar embassy spearheaded the establishment of the India-My-

anmar Friendship Association with a view to strengthening friendship, trust, understanding, and interrelations between the people of India and Myanmar. He also mentioned the embassy's close collaboration with association members to achieve its aims and objectives.

At the ceremony, 11 Women Prestige Awards 2024 were presented to women who have demonstrated strong capabilities and are actively involved in social welfare work. Following the award ceremony, the guests were treated to traditional Indian songs and dances, followed by a lunch reception. — ASH/TKO



Memorial photo of awards winners and performances.

### Myanmar Gazette

## Head of Service Organization transferred and appointed

THE State Administration Council has transferred and appointed U Htein Lin, Director-General of the Department of International Affairs and Corruption Prevention of the Anti-Corruption Commission, as Director-General of the Anti-Corruption Commission Office from the date he assumes charge of his duties.



The photo shows a sightseeing view of Ayekyun village's pagoda festival.

## Nearly 300 domestic visitors tour Ayekyun village in Madaya daily

AYEKYUN village in Madaya Township of Mandalay Region, where community-based tourism (CBT) is being implemented, receives approximately 300 domestic visitors daily, according to U Maung Maung Lay, chairman of the Irrawaddy dolphin conservation team under the Department of Fisheries (Mandalay Region).

Visitors to the village

mainly come to observe the Irrawaddy dolphins and learn about the local people's handicraft industries.

"The villages in Mandalay Region implementing the CBT programmes are Sinkyun, Ayekyun, Myayson, Seinpankon in Madaya township, Myitkungyi, and Saethel in Singu township. Visitors to Ayekyun village mainly come

to observe the Irrawaddy dolphins inhabiting the Ayeyawady River," said U Maung Maung Lay.

The number of visitors to Ayekyun village is increasing as domestic visitors show interest in the weaving, pottery, bamboo hat, cheroot, sandal industries, and the traditional handicraft industry. — ASH/MKKS

# NATIONAL

## Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade & Goods holds 1/2024 meeting

IN his capacity as Chairman of the Central Committee on Ensuring the Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo attended the 1/2024 meeting of the central committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the Union Minister said the central committee is currently working with the ministries concerned to streamline the domestic and foreign training sectors in accordance with the nine objectives of SAC.

The committee prioritized the fuel in the import sector as it is essential in trade, transportation, agriculture, livestock, social, health, business and other service-related industries. Moreover, it supervises to ensure affordable fuel prices and allows imports



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo presides over the 1/2024 meeting of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods yesterday.

freely. The new fuel importing companies will also be reviewed systematically. There were 65 illegal fuel seizures, 298.057 tonnes valued at K738.392 million in December 2023, and 14 seizures, 74.225 tonnes worth of K176.429

million in January 2024.

Moreover, the department concerned also develops software applications for people to easily assess the types of fuel and prices of the fuel stations within 30 miles. The pilot projects are also being

conducted at 107 fuel stations in Nay Pyi Taw starting in February.

The basic palm oil reference prices are also released weekly, and the proper arrangements are made to facilitate fuel-related matters, the raw material

import sector, and the import of spare parts and machines to run the factories as usual. Under the strict supervision, the export earnings were received from the export companies. Moreover, the export earnings were also reduced to 35:65 per cent instead of 50:50 per cent.

The Union minister talked about the permission for fertilizer and insecticide imports using export incomes from rubber export (between 1 December 2023 and 31 March 2024) and fuel and edible oil imports using export incomes from rice, broken rice, beans and pulses and maize export.

Finally, General Mya Tun Oo urged the committee members and officials to emphasize not causing delays in trading sectors, facilitating flows of trade and goods, and promoting the export sector, and concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

## DPM MoFA Union Minister receives Bangladeshi Ambassador



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister U Than Swe and the Bangladeshi ambassador exchange handshake during the latter's courtesy call yesterday.

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Than Swe received Dr Md Monwar Hossain, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the call, they cordially discussed matters on further enhancing the bilateral ties and expanding cooperation in areas of mutual interest between the two countries, as well as closer collaboration in maintaining peace and stability along the Myanmar and Bangladesh border. — MNA

## MNHRC inspects Myaungmya Prison, Police Lock-up and Court Detention Centre and Labutta Youth Strength Training School

THE inspection team, led by U Kyaw Soe and U Tin Aung, members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, inspected the Police Lock-up and Court Detention Centre in Myaungmya Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 5 February 2024 and inspected Myaungmya Prison on 6 February 2024 and Labutta Youth Strength Training School in Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 7 February 2024 under Sections 43 and 44 of the Commission Law.

The inspection team inspected the Myaungmya Police Lock-up and Court Detention Centre, the conditions of the remand period of detainees, family visits, food supply, and the water sanitation system of the detention centres.

The inspection team in-

spected the prison under the MNHRC law and procedures to see whether the prisoners and detainees enjoy fundamental rights, including appropriate food supply, access to healthcare, adequate purified water, and cleanliness of police lock-up and court detention centre. The inspection team enquired about prisoners to ensure they could get their personal items and items sent by families, family visits and human rights violations and torture cases in the prison and detention centres. The inspection team also privately interviewed the prisoners who wished to meet with the team freely and privately and inspected the dormitories, clinic, library, kitchen, food storage, water purifier, and water sanitation system.

Additionally, the MNHRC

donated 50 books for the prisoners.

Then, the inspection team inspected the Labutta Youth Strength Training School under the MNHRC Law and procedures to determine whether the students in the training school can get fundamental human rights, including healthcare services, food supply, provision of adequate purified water, availability of Citizenship Scrutiny Card, support programmes for physical and mental development as well as rights to education, vocational training, communication with their families, reintegration with their families and freedom of religion.

MNHRC will send recommendations to the relevant departments for necessary action based on the findings during the inspection. — MNHRC

# NATIONAL

## 77<sup>th</sup> Shan State Day celebrated in Taunggyi

THE 77<sup>th</sup> Shan State Day was celebrated at the Awayya hot-air balloon field in Taunggyi Township, Shan State, yesterday morning. The celebration was attended by members of the State Administration Council (SAC) Dr Ba Shwe and Khun San Lwin, Union Ministers U Min Thein Zan, Dr Soe Win, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, and Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung, deputy ministers, Shan State government ministers, guests, ethnic cultural troupes, and locals.

During the celebration, SAC member Khun San Lwin read the message from SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadde Maha Thray Sithu Thadde Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing for the 77<sup>th</sup> Shan State Day. Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung then delivered a

speech.

Following the speeches, the 77<sup>th</sup> Shan State Day exhibition was inaugurated by SAC members Dr Ba Shwe, Khun San Lwin, Union Ministers U Min Thein Zan, Dr Soe Win, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, and Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung. Guests had the opportunity to explore exhibition booths displaying traditional ethnic cuisines, departmental booths, and MSME booths.

Later, a ceremony was held at City Hall to award certificates of honour. Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung delivered the opening speech. The awards included outstanding awards for management (second class and third class) presented by SAC member Dr Ba Shwe, an outstanding award for security and



The 77<sup>th</sup> Shan State Day ceremony in progress at the Awayya hot-air balloon field in Taunggyi Township, Shan State, yesterday.

rule of law (first class) by SAC member Khun San Lwin, and awards for agriculture, livestock farming, social activities, and sports presented by Shan State ministers, the Shan State Advocate-General, and the secretary

of the Shan State Government. Additionally, winners of the 2023 Tazaungdaing Festival photography competition were honoured during the ceremony. Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung, Shan State ministers, and other

officials awarded prizes to the winners, while Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan provided sports equipment for Shan State, which Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung received. — MNA/ TMT

## Counter-argument to false information

### Misinformation: Kanswe village set on fire by security forces, about 300 people seized

MALICIOUS news media named Khit Thit media is spreading false information that the security forces entered Kanswe village, Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, on 5 February, and the security forces set fire to the village because PDF terrorists attacked the village with a drone

and about 300 people who were hiding in the monastery were taken as hostages.

There was reportedly an encounter between the security forces operating in the area near the village and PDF terrorists, and the local people were not arrested by the security forces. —MNA/KZL



Screenshot validates false claims.

### Malicious media accuses security forces of burning two PDF's alive

THE malicious media outlets intentionally spread video footage showing two men being burned alive, accusing the security force members of committing such actions.

The regional security officials and locals affirmed that PDF terrorists attacked the security forces and regional guard unit members in Myaukkhinyan village of Gangaw Township of Magway Region in November first week

of 2023. They retreated with huge losses, and none of the terrorists were arrested alive.

According to the investigation, the two men in the video footage spreading online were PDFs, and they were intentionally murdered after territorial conflict, financial problems and unwillingness to make terrorist attacks anymore. Therefore, it is just a fabricated video posing as regional guard unit members.

The brutal activities of PDFs – killing people by using tyre rims, slashing, beating and burning to impose threats among the public – can be seen on social media.

The malicious media intentionally spread such brutal actions of PDFs, claiming that the security forces members committed these actions to mislead the international countries and people. — MNA/ KZLH

### False news: Two people from Kokosu Village arrested, chopped to death

MALICIOUS news media are spreading false information on social networks that a person in charge of a terrorist group called PDF said that two people from Kokosu village, YeU Township, Sagaing Region, were arrested, tortured and killed by security forces on 6 February.

According to a resident who does not accept terrorist acts, the terrorists near Kokosu village in YeU Township threatened the villagers because the news of their preparation for an ambush attack leaked and killed two villagers accusing of being informants.

The security forces are working with the public to en-



Screenshot validates misinformation.

sure the area security and the community peace and stability. Malicious news media are conspiring to cover up the acts of terrorists and to create a false impression of the security forces. — MNA/KZL

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

# NATIONAL

## Moken or Salon people's spirit festivals in Kawthoung, Myeik Archipelago

THE Moken or Salon People's Spirit Festival will take place from the second week of February to March in Kawthoung and the Myeik Archipelago.

Informally known as sea gypsies, the Salon people reside in Makyonegalat Village in the Sungebarline Village-tract in Kawthoung Township. Each village has held the Spirit Festival for generations under the guidance of shamans.

Traditionally, villagers search for two tortoises along the shore and delay the festival until they are found. The community refrains from consuming clams attached to rocks, fearing they may develop severe diarrhoea or fever when venturing into the sea if they do so.

Shamans invite spirits to the festival, wishing abundant catches throughout the year and good health. They then offer food and drinks to the spirits. Ceremonies will occur



Captivating photos capture the vibrant spirit festival celebrations in the Myeik Archipelago.

at Nyaungwhee Island on 11 February, LaNgan Village on 12 February, and Makyonegalat Village on 10 March.

Makyonegalat Village boasts the largest Salon population among villages in Kawthoung and the Myeik Archipelago, with nearly 400 households. The community's religious landscape is diverse, encompassing Buddhism, Christianity, and an-

imism as the major faiths.

The Salon people observe a distinct funeral rite where family members dance around the deceased to express their love. The body is then buried along with their tools and food.

U Ngwe Win, chairman of the Moken Salon Literature and Culture Association in Kyunsu Township, emphasized the cultural significance of the Spirit



smallest among Myanmar's ethnic groups, sustains their livelihood from the sea. It's important to preserve one's cultural identity. Thus, we hold the festival annually. The regional government supports the festival, too".

While shaspmans remain vital in cultural practices, their traditional role as healers has diminished with the community's increasing reliance on modern medicine. The animist belief has been waning, too.

The association collaborates closely with the regional government to enhance the well-being of the Salon people. As part of their efforts, the government plans to arrange a documentary photoshoot featuring the Salon people, funded by the Union budget, in July. Additionally, initiatives are underway to raise awareness about the community, aiming to attract curious visitors. — Thitsa (MNA)/NT

Festival, stating: "The Spirit Festival is deeply ingrained in the Salon people's heritage. They refrain from going to the sea during this period."

Shamans gather and visit the hosting village. The community believes that spirit dances bring prosperity for the upcoming year. The festival usually attracts local and foreign visitors.

"The Salon community, the

## Pigeon pea, black gram prices retreat after hitting record high

THE prices of black gram and pigeon peas faltered on 6 and 7 February after hitting the all-time highest on 5 February 2024.

The prices peaked at K3.5 million per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality) and K4.197 million per tonne of pigeon pea on 5 February. The prices slid to K3.445 million for black gram and K4.15 million for pigeon peas on 6 February and registered a further decline to K3.43 million for black gram and K4.105 million for pigeon peas.

The highest price of black gram was K3 million per tonne on 27 December 2023. The black gram price peaked at K3.5 million on 5 February.

Similarly, the pigeon pea price surged to K4.197 million per tonne five months after hitting a high of K4.15 million on 8 September 2023.



The photo shows black grams found in the market.

Meanwhile, the green gram (Shwe Wah) price also increased to K4,530 per viss on 5 February 2024 from K4,415 per viss on 4 February.

The FOB prices touched a high of US\$1,035-1,055 per tonne of black gram (FAQ),

\$1,135-\$1,155 for black gram (Special Quality), \$1,200-\$1,220 for pigeon pea, \$800-\$830 for green gram from central Myanmar regions and \$890-\$920 for green gram (Shwewah) on 5-7 February.

The FOB prices stood at \$910-\$930 per tonne of black gram (FAQ), \$1,060-\$1,080 for pigeon peas, \$750-\$780 for green gram from central Myanmar regions and \$850-\$880 for green gram (Shwewah) on 22-24 January 2024.

Some traders are storing them in the hope of raising prices in the future.

India forecast Myanmar's black gram production is expected to rise. The price is likely to decline during the harvest time. Some traders pointed out that black gram prices will dip as India buys them after observing the market condition closely. — TWA/KK



Group of Ngapali bikers.

## Group cycling event around Ngapali beach, Thandwe for 77<sup>th</sup> Union Day

IN honour of the 77<sup>th</sup> Union Day, a group bicycle ride around Thandwe town will be organized by the Riders Ngapali, according to the group. The event will start at 6 am on 10 February in front of the PVR Hotel, and cyclists can ride any bicycle. Those who cannot make it to the starting point can join the event along the way. "The group cycling to commemorate the 77<sup>th</sup> Union Day will be held on 10 February. It has also been held in previous years. Many hobbyists joined in those events," said an organ-

izer from the Riders Ngapali. The route will start from the PVR Hotel at 6 am, go around Thandwe from the Ngapali junction and finish at Mazin airport on Ngapali beach. Cyclists from Thandwe will meet at Denko filling station, and after joining the Ngapali group, they will cycle around Thandwe to Mazin airport.

The Thandwe District Sports and Physical Education Department has arranged breakfast for all the cyclists at the finish point, the Riders Ngapali group said. — MT/ZN

# NATIONAL

## Confessions on illegal businesses of AA group

THE government is striving to forge the rule of law and development of the nation in all aspects. Trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs, which is posing a great menace to humankind, including new generation youths, to Rakhine State and the international community, has been presented to the people. At present, AA terrorists allow illegal entry of Bengalis into the country by taking money for their interest to purchase and supply man/arms, rations and fuel to their group. In this regard, the confessions of Zaw Min Tun (aka) Soe Moe Lin (aka) Ko Nyi, son of U Kyaw Than Myint, and owner of Thali Swa rice noodle shop, Rakhine artiste/singer Hla Maung Thein (aka) Bo Wine, son of U Kyaw Hla, who contacted Bengali brokers for handling illegal entrance into Myanmar, purchased a ship to be used in the transport of rations and fuel to AA group and took responsibilities of sending rations under the order of Min Khant at the rank of Colonel from AA group were mentioned as follows: -



The confessions of Zaw Min Tun (a) Soe Moe Lin (a) Ko Nyi I was introduced by Ko Tun



The bows of illegal boats namely Lamin Myitta 7 and Ta Tine Ya.

from Masaekhan, Yathedaung Township. I knew Ko Kyaw Naing living in Sittway. And Ko Kyaw Naing, introduced me to Ko Nay Moe Aung from the AA terrorist group. I knew Ko Yin (a) Ko Myo Ko Ko because Ko Maung Phyu from Sittway introduced me to him. He lives in Pauktaw, MraukU and Sittway.

He has shrimp ponds and three fishing boats. Those three ships are Shwe Thazin, Lamin Myitta and Ta Tine Ya. In November 2023, they were arrested while loading fuel for AA terrorists. Ko Myo Ko Ko asked me to run those ships. The Shwe Thazin vessel was bought for K230 million, Lamin Myitta K50 million and Ta Tine Ya K40 million. I signed the contract on those ships because they did not come. I signed the transaction contract. Ko Yin (a) Ko Myo Ko Ko knew Ko Min Khant, a colonel-rank AA member. He

provided all the food and fuel to AA. He introduced me to Ko Min Khant, a colonel-rank AA member.

He said he moved into Yathedaung, Kyauktaw and MraukU. I met him in MraukU once. After that, we were in contact on Telegram. There is an AA camp about a mile from Oakpho village in Yathedaung Township. I met Ko Min Khant there because I was told by Ko Yin (a) Ko Myo Ko Ko. Then, I went there to discuss the Bengali issue and the issue of tax collection. It was said that AA occupied the Zee Chaung Dam in Kyauktaw. Ko Myo Ko Ko fetched me there. There were about four or five people there. After discussing the smuggling of Bengali, he sent me back from there.

Ko Min Khant, a colonel in AA, asked me to report about the Bengalis who sneaked in



The sterns of illegal boats namely Lamin Myitta 7 and Ta Tine Ya.

without paying taxes, fishing boats that did not pay taxes and AA deserters through Telegram. I smuggled illegal Bengali into the country four times with Hamidula, Abdu Zawle, and Naw Ziamauk from Maungdaw and Ko Nay Moe Aung of the AA terrorist group. Bengali brokers said smuggled Bengalis paid the AA group K200,000 each. They entered two times a month. There were between 70 and 100 Bengalis at a time. Then, each Bengali from the boats sent by Bengali brokers had to pay K700,000. Bengali brokers get K2 million for each. From there, they went to Yay or Mawlamyine and Thailand or Malaysia. AA collected a tax of one million per fishing boat for one season.

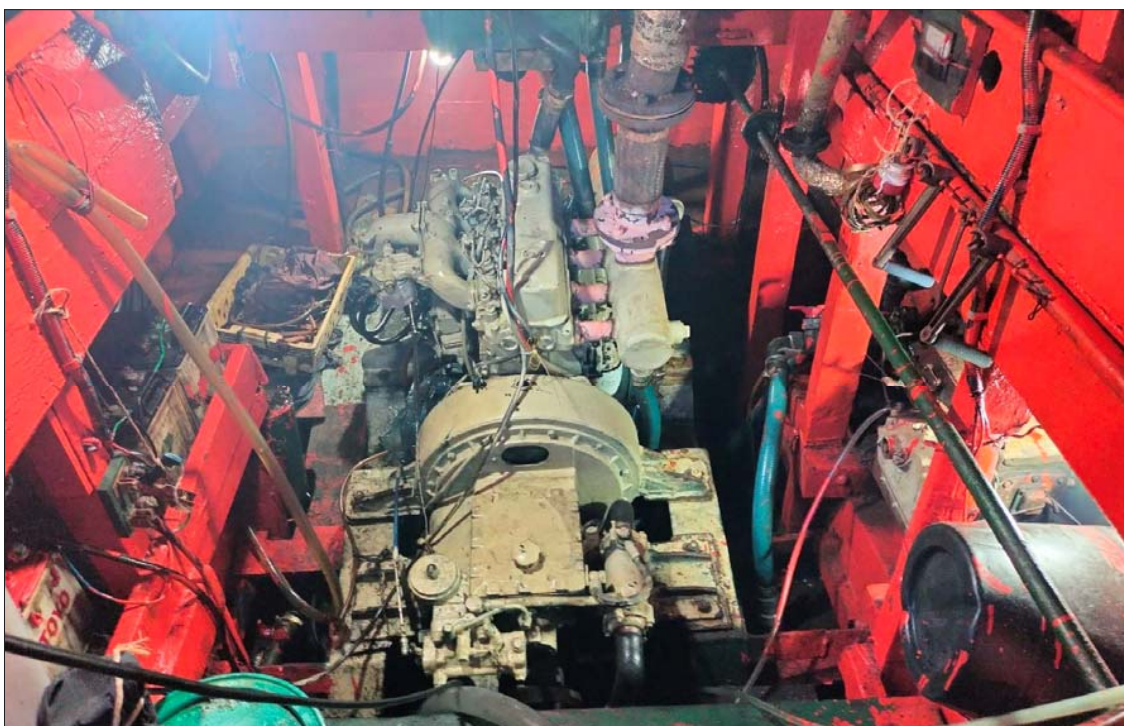
Ko Yin (a) Ko Myo Ko Ko had bought three satellite phones for the ships. A satellite phone costs K4 million. Then, he said to buy a radar. The radar cost over K30 million, so I didn't purchase it. Akhara was introduced to me by Ko Myo Ko Ko in 2023. I bought him machine parts and engine oil when he arrived at Sittway. Money was transferred through Wave Money and KPay. When I arrived in Yangon, I was called to come to Rakhine State by Ko Myo Ko Ko and Ko Min Khant. At that time, my wife did not have an ID card, so she made a fake card named Eaint Thu Lin, which cost K80,000. But I gave K100,000. The next day, I went and took it. I went to the Thali Swa Monti shop.

After taking it, my wife went to Mandalay, but I went to Rakhine through the country lane. On 29 December, Ko Yin (a) Ko Myo Ko Ko asked me to take

a ticket from the Shwe Pwint Phyu express car from Bo Win and made me take that express car. He also said I must get off at five miles before I got to Minbu and then contact Zaw Moe and A Ba San there. I was arrested on the way. I had bought the AA group fuel and food with the money collected from smuggled Bengalis. I just bought them and gave them to Ko Nay Moe Aung. Only Ko Nay Moe Aung, who was in the rank of colonel, Min Khant managed them. I was afraid that I would be killed if I didn't come back to Rakhine State from Yangon. My mother was also there. She is over 70 years old. I was afraid that my mother would be killed. I knew that if I returned with that car ticket, I would be arrested.

But I returned because I was afraid that I would be killed again. I wanted to earn my living honestly in Yangon. My wife said that she didn't like to be with me, so she left for Mandalay. I was sick for two or three days. I didn't want to go. I dreamed that I met my mother. I knew that my family would be in trouble because of me. My wife said that she wanted to get divorced. My mother had to spend K1.5 million on medical expenses per month. So, I went.

They had asked me to do it. Now, there is no one to take responsibility for me. In addition to not being responsible, I was the only one arrested in this car, and they asked to arrest me exactly. I did what they invited me to do as I was scared. Now, I regret doing those things. I also want to see my mother again. I don't like to do them anymore.



The main engine of Lamin Myitta 7.

# NATIONAL



Arakan singer Hla Maung Thein (a) Bo Wine, an owner of Thali Swa Monti (rice noodle) shop.

I entered the art field in 2015 and released an album called "How brave are Arakan Men!" in 2016. In March 2019, Ko Zaw Min Oo, the captain of the AA group, and I sang the songs at the stage show four times. Among those four times, on the morning of the last day of singing, when I was about to return home, he made me bring his worker and a small backpack to Ponnagyun. When we arrived at Ponnagyun market, a man was waiting on the street. A package was given to him. I left his worker who came along with me there. Then, when I arrived there again, I met that worker. I asked him what the package that he had given was. He said that the one wrapped in yellow tape was drugs. That's when I found out.

In October 2022, we lost contact with Ko Zin Min Oo, who is in the rank of captain and had been fired from the AA group. There was no contact at all. Then, in November 2022, I got contact with him again.

He was in Htigyaingt. He told me to come and attend the pig husbandry course of his acquaintance there. I went to him. I stayed and learned there. After nearly two months of studying the pig farming, I came back. At that time, I realized that Ko Zin Min Oo, a captain-rank member in the AA group, was working for the AA group again. In February 2023, Ko Zin Min Oo from the AA group rented a house for me in Mandalay for K250,000 a month.

At that time, he gave me the money I needed. When I was in Mandalay, I delivered auto spare parts to Ko Zin Min Oo, who is in the rank of a captain in the AA group, about four times. Also, I sent him books one time. Then, I was told that I had to send the essential items, but I would not have to make mistakes in delivering those things.

Ko Zin Min Oo, who is the rank of captain in the AA group, and I did not get along anymore, so I immediately returned to Rakhine State. After living with Arakan singer Ma Yu Yu Hlaing, we moved to Pyinmana with our family to open a Monti shop near Pyinmana. We opened a Monti shop called Thali Swa near Pyinmana for three months.

After that, we arrived in Yangon last August. In Yangon, we opened the Thali Swa Monti shop at the top of 31<sup>st</sup> Street in South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region. In November 2023, Saya U Aung Gyan told me to come and sing. I went to Rakhine from Yangon. I stayed there for about 40 days. Then my friend Akhara knew I was there, and he lived near the house I was waiting in, so he came to me. I told him I had not been

okay. My friend told me that if I wanted to work, there was a boss in Yangon. If I went to Yangon, I could work with the boss. I came back to Yangon.

When I arrived in Yangon, Zaw Min Tun (a) Soe Moe Lin (a) Ko Nyi and I talked to him on the phone. After that, he arranged to see me one day. The next day, we met at the RV restaurant in Kyaukmyaung, Tamway. Seeing me that day, he told me about the work. I had to go and visit the ship. I had to check how many people were on board the vessel and whether people on that ship had stolen the fuel. The next day, he called me. His wife's ID card had been banned. He said he wanted to make a fake ID card. I created the fake ID of Ko Nyi's wife at K80,000. He gave me K100,000, but it cost K80,000. I made this

fake ID card with the name of Eaint Thu Lin at the shop in Pansodan. Ko Zaw Min Tun (a) Soe Moe Lin (a) Ko Nyi then called me. He told me to buy him an express ticket. I bought him a Shwe Pwint Phyu express car ticket to Minbu.

I met him about five times, two times outside and three times in my shop. On 30 December 2023, I was arrested at my Thali Swa Monti shop in South Okkalapa.

I want to say that our family have earned our living honestly. Don't destroy your life as you make your living honestly due to such a few nonsense things.

From now on, I'd like to ask the AA group so as not to use the lives of such people. I want to say that I am very sorry that our honest lives have been destroyed so quickly.



Suspects from the boat Lamin Myitta 7.



Suspects from the vessel Ta Tine Ya.

## Arrest warrant issued for U Kyaw Lwin for online scam, money laundering

U Kyaw Lwin, son of U Ali, living at No 250 in Anawa ward, Kawthoung township, Tanintharyi region, committed an online scam, money laundering from such illegal gambling, material transformation and was suspected of converting and concealing the money and materials obtained from such unlawful gambling, according to the relevant information. Therefore, an arrest warrant was issued on 7 January 2024



to take legal action against U Kyaw Lwin by Kawthoung Court. — MNA/TKO

## MMPO donates to Shwedagon renovation on behalf of late musician Ywasa Sein Tin Han

ACCORDING to U Aye Kyu Lay, vice-chairperson of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO), the organization donated K500,000 towards the comprehensive renovation of the Shwedagon Pagoda on behalf of the late Ywasa Sein Tin Han, the leader and conductor of a Myanmar ensemble, on 5 February.

Ywasa Sein Tin Han was born to puppet actor U Phoe Thit and puppet actress Daw Mya Hmone on 11 July, 1932, in Soonlun village, Myingyan township, Mandalay Region. He relocated to Mandalay in 1942 and studied the art of Myanmar orchestra, eventually leading the orchestra of Alinka Kyawswa Sein Baydar in 1954.

He married Daw Sein Tin in 1961. He was known for his cultural articles, musical compositions, and contributions of short stories to magazines. He also penned the famous Myan-



MMPO donated eternity money to the Shwedagon Pagoda on behalf of the leader of Myanmar orchestra Sein Tin Han Sein Tin Han passed away on 17 May 2004.

mar song "Htanywet Badee". He passed away on 17 May 2004. — ASH/TRKM

## OPINION

### Warmly welcome the 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Shan State Day

**E**STABLISHING a harmonious and prosperous Union that encompasses the Shan State is a paramount objective for the entire nation of Myanmar, resonating with the principles embedded in the Panglong Agreement, the significant occasion of the historic Union Day.

This occasion holds profound significance for Myanmar, uniting not only the nation as a whole but also bringing together diverse ethnic groups residing within the picturesque landscapes of the Shan State. Among these are the Shan, Palaung, Pa-O, Wa, Danu, Kokang, Lahu, Arkha, and Inntha ethnic communities, coexisting with Kachin, Kayah, and Lisu ethnic groups, each contributing to the rich tapestry of cultural diversity.

Now, it is vital for all to thoroughly understand that armed conflicts in the country and all attacks and disturbances lead to the disintegration of the nation and utter devastation of all ethnic people. All stakeholders have to protect the state and the people with the patriotic spirit and national spirit and nurture a new generation of youths of the nation to become well-versed in human resources, with best wishes for the entire Shan State to be peaceful, prosperous and developed in all aspects and for all ethnic people to enjoy the improvement of socioeconomic life.

As a gesture of honouring the 7th of February, when leaders of Shan, Kachin and Chin ethnics adopted the decisions to take independence together with the central lands of Myanmar, such a significant day was designated to hold the Shan State Day for 77 years. Hence, Shan State Day is a prominent day concerned with the entire Myanmar people and all ethnicities adopting the provisions of the Panglong Agreement, which is fundamental for the historic Union Day.

Now, it is vital for all to thoroughly understand that armed conflicts in the country and all attacks and disturbances lead to the disintegration of the nation and utter devastation of all ethnic people. All stakeholders have to protect the state and the people with the patriotic spirit and national spirit and nurture a new generation of youths of the nation to become well-versed in human resources, with best wishes for the entire Shan State to be peaceful, prosperous and developed in all aspects and for all ethnic people to enjoy the improvement of socioeconomic life.

The Shan State, adorned with natural beauty in its land and forests, has witnessed the preservation of unique cultural practices and traditions by various ethnic communities. The collective efforts of Saophas, patriots, public leaders, and ethnic nationalists from the Shan State during the struggle against colonial forces, in the fight for independence, and resistance against fascism form an honourable chapter in the state's history.

In pursuing Myanmar's independence, General Aung San, a national leader, engaged in pivotal discussions with Saophas and Shan State representatives during a significant meeting in Taunggyi. The historic journey continued with General Aung San's visit to London in January 1947, where he fervently advocated for Myanmar's independence, encompassing both the plains and the hilly regions.

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## The Transformative Power of Negligence

By Yin Nwe Ko

**I**N the tapestry of life, certain moments stand out as pivotal, marking a turning point that shapes our understanding of ourselves and the world around us. One such epoch in my narrative unfolded during my ninth-grade year. It was a time when my family confronted the challenges of my father's illness, diagnosed as anaemia. Little did I know that this experience would be a catalyst for a profound exploration into the realms of mental health and the transformative power of negligence.

The echoes of that period still resonate in my memory. My father, once a robust figure in our household, was suddenly confined to a hospital bed. The elders murmured about anaemia; a condition that not only weakened him physically but also left an indelible mark on his psyche. As the days passed and my father's health gradually improved, a peculiar pattern emerged — a subtle transformation that unfolded in the shadows of evening.

Despite his efforts to project an image of health, a discerning eye could catch the flicker of fear in his eyes as darkness enveloped our surroundings. In those moments, he awaited the arrival of an intimate friend, a beacon of comfort in the encroaching night. It became a routine; a friend's visit in the early evening brought joy and animated conversations, but my father's demeanour shifted as the departure hour loomed. He would insist that his friend stay the night, a plea often met with understanding.

Our home became a haven for my father's friends. Almost every day, one of them would grace our doorstep, bringing with them laughter, camaraderie, and a temporary respite from my father's fear of the impending night. Little did I comprehend the depth of his struggle — an internal battle that transcended the physical ailment of anaemia. It wasn't just about the depletion of red blood cells; it was about a mental state that haunted him, even in the presence of loved ones.

As I reflect on those days, I see a mirror reflecting not only

my father's struggle but a foreshadowing of my own journey. In its intricate design, life wove a connection between us not just through shared genetics but through a shared vulnerability to the unseen struggles of the mind.

Fast forward to my later years, and I grappled with a similar unease. Diagnosed with hypertension rather than anaemia, I navigated the complexities of my own mental landscape. The fear of solitude, once my father's burden, became my own, especially when left alone at home. While my condition was not as debilitating as my father's, it manifested as an inferior state of mind, a subtle but persistent companion in my daily life.

In my less-informed days, I sought solace in various medications, hoping to alleviate the mental disquiet. However, the relief I sought remained elusive. It was in the midst of this search for understanding that serendipity played its hand, leading me to a transformative encounter with the teachings of Lord Buddha, as expounded by Sitagu Sayadawgyi.

Sitagu Sayadawgyi's sermon unfolded like a revelation, providing a profound definition of Buddhism beyond religious confines. It was presented as a guide for life, a blueprint for navigating the complexities of existence. At its core was the concept of cultivating a stable mind, a prerequisite for embellishing one's life. The sermon introduced three contemplative practices to achieve this coveted mental stability:

1. Not having pleasure upon those who came to me.
2. Not having any worry or grief upon those who left me.
3. Not having expectations about who would come to me and when.

As I delved into these principles, I realized they were more than just guidelines; they were tantamount to practising negligence. The term, often misunderstood in common parlance, held profound significance in the literature of Buddhism. Far from its negative connotations, negligence, as expounded by Sitagu Sayadawgyi, was a practice of detachment,

my father's struggle but a foreshadowing of my own journey. In its intricate design, life wove a connection between us not just through shared genetics but through a shared vulnerability to the unseen struggles of the mind.



Negligence was not a dismissal of the world but a conscious choice to untangle from attachment, fostering mindful living and appreciation of each moment. **ILLUSTRATION: ANNLA/ISTOCK**

a conscious effort to disentangle oneself from the shackles of emotional attachment.

The virtuous person, according to Buddhism, is one who can seamlessly embody these three principles. Such an individual not only stabilizes their mind but also attains a certain happiness that transcends the ephemeral pleasures of the world. Conversely, attachment to any of the aforementioned ways leads to mental unrest and unhappiness — a misery that permeates both the mental and physical realms.

The revelation of negligence as a path to mental stability struck a chord within me. It was as if I had stumbled upon a divine medicine, a remedy for the ailments that had plagued my mind for years. The stability of the mind emerged as the crux, and through the practice of negligence, I discovered a path to achieve it.

In the wake of this revelation, my journey took a new trajectory. I embarked on a conscious effort to incorporate negligence into my daily life. It was a process of unlearning deeply ingrained attachment patterns and embracing a detachment mindset. The initial steps were challenging, as the tendrils of attachment clung tenaciously to my consciousness.

The first principle — Not having pleasure upon those who

came to me — demanded a shift in perspective. It was about appreciating the transient nature of joy derived from external sources and understanding that true happiness could only spring from within. As I navigated social interactions with this newfound awareness, I observed a subtle shift in my emotional landscape. The joy derived from external stimuli became less potent, and a sense of inner contentment started to blossom.

The second principle — Not having any worry or grief upon those who left me — presented its own set of challenges. It required acknowledging the impermanence of relationships and accepting the ebb and flow of human connections. In the face of physical or emotional departures, I endeavoured to cultivate an attitude of equanimity. The pangs of separation, once poignant, began to lose their sharpness as I embraced the inherent transience of life.

The third principle — Not having expectations about who would come to me and when — proved to be a profound lesson in relinquishing control. It was about surrendering to the unpredictability of life and releasing the mental constructs of anticipated outcomes. As I embraced the uncertainty of each day, a sense of freedom blossomed. The mental burden of expectations lifted, pav-

ing the way for a more profound connection with the present moment.

As these principles gradually took root in my daily life, I noticed a profound shift in my mental landscape. The once-looming fear of solitude began to dissipate. Once fraught with unease, the moments of being alone became an opportunity for introspection and inner peace. I realized that true stability of the mind was not about avoiding solitude but about embracing it with an open heart.

In the broader context, the practice of negligence extended beyond my personal sphere. It became a lens through which I viewed the world, a guiding principle in navigating the complexities of relationships, and a source of resilience in the face of life's inevitable challenges. The teachings of Lord Buddha channelled through Sitagu Sayadawgyi's sermon, became a compass that steered me towards a more meaningful and fulfilling existence.

In essence, negligence was not a neglectful dismissal of the world but a conscious choice to disentangle oneself from the web of attachment that often ensnares the mind. It was a practice of mindful living, an invitation to savour the richness of each moment without being shackled.

### Research suggests up to three meals of kimchi per day may lower men's obesity risk

*Kimchi, a fermented dish made with vegetables like cabbage and radish, contains few calories and is rich in dietary fibre, lactic acid bacteria, vitamins, and polyphenols, contributing to its potential health benefits.*

**A**CCORDING to research published in the open access journal *BMJ Open*, eating up to three servings of traditional Korean kimchi per day may lower men's overall risk of obesity, while radish kimchi is related with a lower incidence of belly bulge in both sexes.

Kimchi is made by salting and fermenting vegetables with various flavourings and seasonings, such as onion, garlic, and fish sauce.

Cabbage and radish are usually the main vegetables used in kimchi, which contains few calories and is rich in dietary fibre, microbiome-enhancing lactic acid bacteria, vitamins, and polyphenols.

Previously published experimental studies have shown that *Lactobacillus brevis* and *L. plantarum* isolated from kimchi had an anti-obesity effect.

And the researchers wanted to know if regular consumption might be associated with a reduction in the risk of overall and/or abdominal obesity, which is considered to be particularly harmful to health.

They drew on data from 115,726 participants (36,756 men; 78,970 women; average age 51) taking part in the Health Examinees (HEXA) study.

HEXA is a large, community-based long term study of the larger Korean Genome and Epidemiology Study, designed to examine environmental and genetic risk factors for common long term conditions among Korean adults over the age of 40.

Dietary intake for the previous year was assessed using a validated 106-item food frequency questionnaire for which participants were asked to state how often they ate a serving of each foodstuff, from never or seldom, up to three times a day.

Total kimchi included baechu (cabbage kimchi); kkakdugi (radish kimchi); nabak and dongchimi (watery kimchi); and others, such as mustard greens kimchi. A portion of baechu or kkakdugi kimchi is 50 grammes, while a portion of nabak or dongchimi kimchi is 95 g. Height and weight, for BMI, and waist circumference were measured for each participant.

A BMI of 18.5 was defined as underweight; normal weight 18.5 to 25; and obesity as above 25. Abdominal obesity was defined as a waist circumference of at least 90 centimetres for men and at least 85 cm for women. Some 36 per cent of the men and 25 per cent of the women were obese.

The results indicated a J-shaped curve, possibly because higher consumption is associated with higher intake of total energy, carbohydrates, protein, fat, sodium and cooked rice, say the researchers.

Compared with those who ate less than 1 daily serving of total kimchi, participants who ate five or more servings weighed more, had a larger waist size, and were more likely to be obese.

They were also more likely to not be highly educated, have a low income, and to drink alcohol. But after accounting for potentially influential factors, eating up to three daily servings of total kimchi was associated with an 11 per cent lower prevalence of obesity compared with less than 1 daily serving.

**SOURCE: ANI**



The study, drawing on data from 115,726 participants in the Health Examinees (HEXA) study, explores the link between regular kimchi consumption and a potential reduction in the risk of overall and abdominal obesity. **ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ SHUTTERSTOCK**



# NATIONAL

## Weekly market update of dry groceries at Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Centre

FOR a week from 31 January to 6 February 2024, the prices of black gram and pigeon peas declined after a record high. The onion price rebounded. The wholesale reference price for palm oil was set lower this week.

### Onion

The wholesale prices rose to K1,300-K2,700 per viss depending on the quality, size and producing areas (Seikphyu, Myittha and Myingyan) on 7 February from K900-K2,500 per viss on 3 February.

The highest price in the Pakokku market was K1,750 only, with an entry of K54,000 viss, while the onion fetched K1,950 per viss at maximum in the Myingyan market that day, with the supply of 89,760 visses of onion.

### Garlic

The garlic prices from Aungban, Shan State, touched a high of K16,200-K17,000 per



Dry groceries are organized for sale at a retail outlet.

viss depending on varieties and qualities, whereas Kyukok garlic price dipped to K8,900-K9,000 per viss on 7 February.

### Potato

Chinese potato price fetched K2,250-K2,550 per viss on 7 February, with 78,000 visses flowing into the market.

### Chilli pepper

The wholesale prices of chilli peppers declined a bit to K8,800-K12,000 per viss for long chilli pepper and Moehtaung variety on 7 February. Those Moehtaung chillies processed in cold storage fetched K10,300-K10,400 per viss. The price of bell peppers from Sinphyukyun was K15,500-K16,000 per viss.

### Rice

The prices hit K86,000-K90,000 per sack of non-premium monsoon rice and K97,000-K110,000 per sack of Pawkywe variety on 7 February. Meanwhile, the new Pawsan rice of premium quality was worth K135,000-K160,000 per sack, depending on the produc-

ing areas (Pyapon, Myaungmya, Shwebo). The glutinous rice fetched K100,000-K110,000 per sack on 30 January.

### Palm oil

For a week from 5 to 11 February 2023, the wholesale reference price of Yangon Region was set lower a bit to K5,275 per viss compared to that of the previous week. The FOB price stood at \$875 per tonne on 29 January and slid to \$845 on 5 February and \$855 on 6 February.

### Pulses

The prices of various pulses soared to K3,445,000 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K3,715,000 per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC), K4,150,200 per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) RC, K4,530 per viss of green gram (Shwewah) and K6,380-K6,600 per viss of chickpea in Yangon's wholesale markets on 7 February 2024. — TWA/KK



Rice bags displayed at the shopping mall.

## MRF launches online platform for rice warehouse registration, bolstering market stability

THE Myanmar Rice Federation has reported that nearly 300 warehouses have registered on the MyRO (Myanmar Rice Online) platform, which aids in calculating the remaining rice supply in the country.

The federation stated that the platform would contribute to stabilizing local rice prices by providing information on the status of rice reserves. Additionally, it is anticipated to address issues of price speculation.

Merchants are required to

register on the MyRO if they store up to 50 tonnes of rice or 5,000 baskets of paddy for commercial purposes, following the official announcement made on 4 November 2023.

On 3 January, the Consumer Affairs Department also issued notifications to merchants, instructing them to register their warehouses if they sell rice at shopping centres. Furthermore, the federation announced the requirement to register on 12 January. — TWA/NT

## Kampaiti trade zone logs US\$4.772 mln in early February

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Commerce statistics, the Kampaiti trade zone conducted trade worth US\$4.772 million in early February this year.

Exports accounted for \$4.267 million, while imports

amounted to \$0.505 million as of 3 February. The total trade value reached \$4.772 million, representing nearly 23.278 per cent of the trade target of US\$20.5 million.

As of 3 February, exports through the Kampaiti trade

zone included tissue-cultured bananas, Aemahta rice, watermelons, chillis, onions, and pumpkins. Imports comprised galvanized wire coils, artificial grass, clothing, industrial materials, and consumer goods. — TWA/MKKS

## About 500,000 pilgrims visit Shwedagon Pagoda in January

ABOUT 500,000 domestic and foreign pilgrims visited the Shwedagon Pagoda in January 2024, according to the board of trustees of the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Five hundred forty-three thousand and nine hundred fifty-four visitors, including

12,200 monks, 5,597 nuns, 234,777 male local visitors, 284,450 female visitors, 3,284 male foreigners and 3,646 female foreigners visited the pagoda.

The number of local pilgrims is around 20,000 per day on regular business days, and

there are more pilgrims on weekends and major public holidays. In addition, the number of foreign pilgrims is approximately 150 per day, with the most significant number coming from China, Thailand, Viet Nam, America, Europe, and Africa. — TWA/KZL

## Kyat-dollar exchange rate dips to K3,500 in market

KYAT depreciation against the greenback slows down at approximately K3,500 on 7 February at the over-the-counter market after hitting K3,560 at the end of January.

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) intervened in the currency market by injecting the dollars into the financial market to steer the dollar gains in the forex market.

The CBM sold \$13 million on 1 February in the forex market and five million dollars and 50 million Thai Baht on 2 February for the exporters/importers and \$11 million and 200 million Thai Baht on 5 February, totalling \$29 million and 250 million Thai Baht on an online trading platform within five days.

The CBM sold \$68.33 million, 313.5 million Thai baht and 4.2 million Chinese yuan in January 2024.

Meanwhile, the reference exchange rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar is K2,100.



Those illegally holding foreign currencies are to face legal actions under the Foreign Exchange Management Law, the CBM warned again

On 5 December, the Central Bank of Myanmar allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate forex exchanges freely as per the market rate determined by the supply and demand

market forces.

Additionally, the CBM notified that outward remittance must comply with the rules and regulations of the Foreign Exchange Management Committee.

The dollar gained to around K4,000 on 19 August 2023.

Under Section 9 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, only those entities holding foreign exchange dealer licences

can deal in foreign currency and traveller's cheques. Those holding foreign currencies without valid licences and permits will face legal actions under the law, according to the CBM's notification released on 21 August 2023.

According to Notification 7/2014 dated 30 September 2014 issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar, affirmingly stating that under Stanza 15 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, domestic residents are allowed to keep US\$10,000 at maximum or equivalent amount of foreign currencies for six months.

If those foreign currencies that have been unused for over six months have to be exchanged in local currency at the market price through authorized dealers or deposited into bank accounts.

Those illegally holding foreign currencies are to face legal actions under the Foreign Exchange Management Law, the CBM warned again. — NN/EM

## DICA: 750 companies fail to submit AR on MyCO in Jan

A total of 750 companies were struck off the register in January as they failed to submit annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

According to the DICA's notification, the DICA notified any registered company that fails to file its AR on the MyCO are to be struck off the register from the date of the directive under 430 (F) of the Myanmar Companies Law.

The DICA's statistics showed that 6,400 companies

did not file the AR in 2023.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018 under the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

All registered companies must 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) under 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, thousands 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.

DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit

its AR within 13 months will be advised 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/EM

## Myanmar businesspersons invited to join 6<sup>th</sup> Iran Expo

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, the 6<sup>th</sup> Export Potential Exhibition of Iran (Iran Expo) has invited Myanmar businesspeople to feature their products, services, and business ideas at the expo.

The Iran Expo will be held from 27 April to 1 May 2024 in Tehran, Iran.

As per the invitation, those business people who register their name through Iran will be allowed three-day hotel accommodation, local travel costs, and the interpreter's assistance. The associations' chairpersons will be provided round-trip flight tickets. Those interested can visit [irantsn.com/en](http://irantsn.com/en) for further details of the expo.

Myanmar businesspersons who wish to put their products to show at the expo can make queries through [event.td.myantrade@gmail.com](mailto:event.td.myantrade@gmail.com) or phone 067 408622, 067 408623. — NN/KK

## Two Korean furniture shows welcome Myanmar businesspersons

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, Myanmar businesspersons has been invited to exhibit the latest furniture and interior home and lifestyle products at the two furniture expos. This year, the Korea Federation of Furniture Industry Cooperatives (KFFIC) will organize two exhibitions: the Seoul International Furni-

ture and Life Show (SOFURN and LIFESHOW) and the Korea International Furniture and Interior Fair (KOFURN).

The SOFURN and LIFESHOW are set to be at the Convention and Exhibition Centre (COEX) from 2 to 5 May 2024.

The exhibition will showcase household, office, and studio furniture, the latest inte-

rior trends, beauty and health devices, picnic furniture, and park and street furniture. The KOFURN is slated to take place at the Korea International Exhibition Centre (KINTEX) from 29 August to 1 September 2024, featuring home products, kitchen and dining room furniture, studio furniture, wooden furniture-making machines, and

raw materials. Those Myanmar businesspersons with common interest can send the registration to Manager Mr Jacob Lee through email [mumu9376@kffic.kr](mailto:mumu9376@kffic.kr); WhatsApp: +82 1026151153, with a copy to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization via email [event.td.myantrade@gmail.com](mailto:event.td.myantrade@gmail.com) and at 067 408622, 067 408623. — NN/KK

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar's traditional snacks, jaggery and brown slab sugar, enjoy strong sales

JAGGERY and brown slab sugar, Myanmar's traditional snacks, are selling well amid high demand, according to the traders.

"The market for Myanmar traditional food- jaggery and slab sugar- is good. Demand and supply are non-stop. As there are many buyers, we sell a lot.

We distribute from Pakokku. Jaggery is mainly used for the snack industry and desserts. Because there are many users, we sell a lot. Some redistribute, and that helps sales," said Ma Than Than Maw Jaggery Retail and Wholesale from Pakokku.

According to its business circle, jaggery and brown slab

sugar are mainly produced in Yesakyo, Myaing and NyaungU townships.

The wholesale price of a viss of sweetener jaggery is K5,000 to K7,000, and dessert jaggery is about K6,000. The retail price of brown slab sugar is K5,000 per viss, and the wholesale price is K4,500. — Thit Taw/ZN



Jaggery and brown slab sugar, Myanmar's traditional snacks, are selling well amid high demand, according to the traders.

## Invention of local charcoal powder machine progresses



The photo shows the charcoal powder-making machine from husk and sawdust.

A local businessman, U Ko Oo, invented charcoal powder-making machine from fuel substances and husk and sawdust, as his customers requested.

In addition to husk and sawdust, the machine, which would also change dried leaves into charcoal powder within a short time, is under modification in stages, and he has created it as his customers ordered. U Ko Oo previously invented a charcoal-making machine.

"This is my new creation because I have received orders for charcoal powder-making machines using husk and sawdust. If you put dried leaves in the screw conveyor, then it would directly transform them into charcoal powder, so does bamboo. It can produce charcoal in the form of a tube. You can choose the type of heating power, husk

or sawdust. Currently, it attracts a lot of attention as it can change any wastes like husk, sawdust and dried leaves into charcoal," said U Ko Oo.

At present, he has received orders from Yangon as well as Zigon and Myitkyina.

The machine's price starts from around K3.5 million but varies depending on size.

"This is a commercially used machine. Customers make charcoal in the form of tubes from powder. Those who sell charcoal tubes are found almost everywhere, but charcoal powder is rare, and not everyone knows how to transform husk and sawdust into charcoal powder. So it can attract a lot of attention because it can directly change husk or sawdust into charcoal," he explained. — MT/ZS

## Confiscation of illegal items: Timbers, foodstuffs, industrial materials and industrial raw materials and vehicles

DURING inspections on 6 February, the combined teams managed by the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force apprehended various goods valued at K42.34 million in Mingala Taungnyunt township. This included 468 bottles of Jagermeister without official documents. In Dagon (East) township, goods worth K353.25 million were seized, comprising 3,125 bales of industrial raw materials, which also lacked official documents. Additionally, a Mitsubishi Fuso tractor head with a trailer, estimated at K72 million, was intercepted while travelling from Hpa-an to Yangon. It carried goods valued at K13.616 million, including 6,000 kilogrammes of white offset paper exceeding the quantity declared in the Import Declaration (ID) at the

Ywathagyi Dry Port. These actions were taken per Customs procedures.

Similarly, on-duty teams seized a Mitsubishi Fuso truck, valued at K30 million, en route from Yangon to Mandalay near Zechan village in Sintgaing township. It was carrying 158 bales of industrial raw materials without official documents. At the Mandalay International Airport (Import Desk), ten types of medicines valued at K11.203 million, including 99 boxes of Kris Algin High Precision Alginate without official documents, were confiscated from luggage. These actions were conducted in line with Customs procedures.

On 6 and 7 February, joint teams supervised by the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force impounded a

Volvo tractor head with a trailer, estimated at K70 million, travelling to Kyaukse from Thamanya. It was carrying 5,100 kilogrammes of Double Rhino woven polypropylene bags valued at K15.3 million near Shwethanlwin Tollgate in Phayagyi. In DaikU township, four unregistered vehicles, approximately worth K20 million, were seized, and a total of 0.790 tonne of illegal teak worth K520,664 in Natalin district. These actions were taken under Customs procedures, the Export and Import Law, and the Forest Law.

According to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, 13 arrests were made on 6 and 7 February, with an estimated value of K660.481 million. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated vehicles in Bago Region.

## Sony India announces new no-pressure wireless sports headphones

*With a focus on runner's form, Float Run ensures comfort and stability without compromising sound quality.*

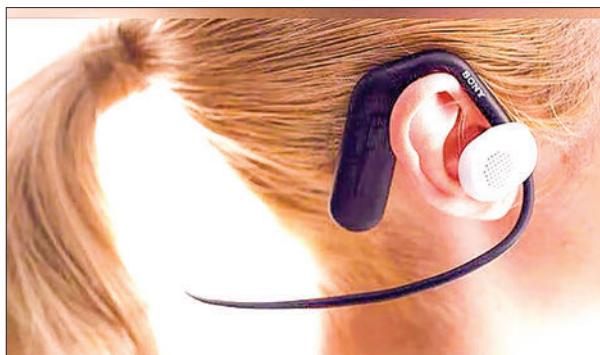
SONY India on Wednesday announced a new model of wireless sports headphones designed with runners in mind.

Sony Float Run(1) WI-OE610, a novel headphone style that positions the speaker near, but without touching the ear canal, leaving the ear safely uncovered while still delivering a rich sound experience.

The Float Run headphones focus on the runner's form, for a comfortable and stable experience without having to compromise sound quality.

Float Run offers important features to run-

ners or athletes, including a light-weight design with a flexible neckband that does not slip when in motion and a pressure-free design that sits off the ears, so runners no longer



The innovative design positions the speaker near the ear canal, providing a rich sound experience while keeping the ear uncovered. **PHOTO: ANI**

need to worry about sweat or chafing getting in the way of their workout.

This product was well received by crowdfunding, which led to its official launch.

Comfortable design for runners to go the distance through an innovative and comfortable design for a stress-free listening experience

With a special off-ear design, runners won't have to worry about pressure or stuffiness on their ears. For extended comfort, these wireless sports headphones sit on the ears of the wearer, so they can enjoy comfort for longer without disruption. Additionally, Float Run headphones only weigh approximately 33 grammes, so runners can focus on their surroundings. — ANI



While not an immediate flight safety concern, the problem could lead to delays in near-term 737 deliveries. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Boeing says new problem found in 737 could slow deliveries

*Boeing announced on Sunday new issues with the fuselage of its 737 model, requiring "rework" on approximately 50 undelivered airplanes due to non-conformance in drilling holes.*

US aircraft manufacturer Boeing said Sunday it has learned of new problems with the fuselage of its flagship 737 model which, while not posing an immediate in-flight danger, will require "rework" on dozens of planes.

"This past Thursday, a supplier notified us of a non-conformance in some 737 fuselages," Boeing Commercial Airplanes chief executive Stan Deal said in a statement to employees that was released to reporters.

According to Deal, an employee working at the supplier "flagged to his manager that two holes may not have been drilled exactly to our requirements."

"While this potential condition is not an immediate flight safety issue and all 737s can continue operating safely, we currently believe we will have to perform rework on about 50 undelivered airplanes," an issue that "could delay some near-term 737 deliveries". — AFP

## TotalEnergies posts record annual profit at \$21.4 billion

FRENCH group TotalEnergies reported on Wednesday the highest profit of its history for 2023, underpinned by performances in its liquefied natural gas and electricity divisions.

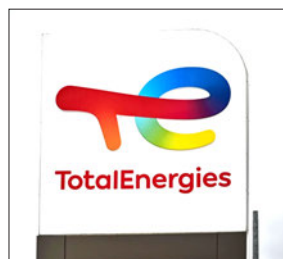
Net profit came in at \$21.4 billion, an increase

of four per cent over 2022.

Its bottom line put the French energy conglomerate ahead of its global peers Shell, BP, Exxon-Mobil and Chevron which all reported lower earnings in the face of weaker energy prices.

But TotalEnergies's

2022 net profit had been weighed down by a huge exceptional charge — \$15 billion — from its withdrawal from Russia following that country's invasion of Ukraine. Once non-recurring items were stripped out, profits suffered a sharp downturn



Net profit came in at \$21.4 billion, an increase of four per cent over 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

last year, with adjusted net profit falling 36 per cent to \$23.2 billion. — AFP

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (403W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (403W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-2-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD.**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC QIUMING VOY.NO. (2402S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC QIUMING VOY.NO. (2402S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-2-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO.,LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BRIGHT ELEGANCE VOY.NO. (2401)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BRIGHT ELEGANCE VOY.NO. (2401)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-2-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDINGS PTE LTD**

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Canberra, Wellington to discuss New Zealand's involvement in 2<sup>nd</sup> pillar of AUKUS – Reports

*Canberra has committed to sending a working group to brief the New Zealand government on the development of advanced technologies under the AUKUS agreement.*

CANBERRA and Wellington will discuss New Zealand's possible participation in the second pillar of the AUKUS partnership between Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom in 2024, Australian media reported on Thursday.

Canberra pledged to send a working group to New Zealand in 2024 to brief the government on the development of the second pillar of AUKUS, the part of the partnership involving the development of advanced technologies, the RNZ broadcaster reported.

Earlier in the day, the foreign and defense ministers of the

two countries held a meeting in Melbourne under the first Australia-New Zealand Foreign and Defence Ministerial Consultations (ANZMIN 2+2).

"The meetings took place in the context of the most challenging strategic environment in decades.

Ministers welcomed the establishment of the 2+2 mechanism as a step to further strengthen the Australia-New Zealand alliance to address challenges in close partnership," the ministers said in a joint statement released by the Australian Defence Ministry. — SPUTNIK



AUKUS member-states unveiled the trilateral defence partnership in September 2021, initiating plans for Australia to build a fleet of nuclear submarines with US and UK technology. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AFP**

## Rome restores towering colonnade of Trajan's Basilica

*The restoration, including the towering two-storey Corinthian colonnade, highlights the monument's magnificence, aiming to give visitors a true sense of its architectural significance.*



The archaeological restoration site of the two-storey colonnade of the basilica Ulpia in the Trajan Forum (Foro Traiano). **PHOTO: ANDREAS SOLARO/AFP**

ROME'S most majestic forum has recovered some of its former glory with a partial reconstruction of the imposing columns of Trajan's basilica – using funds from a now-sanctioned Russian oligarch.

The restoration of a portion of the Basilica Ulpia, which soared above the ancient Ital-

ian city for over a millennia, helps bring to life the grandeur and magnificence of the original marble monument.

While most work on Rome's ubiquitous ruins points downwards, the rebuilding of the basilica's two-storey Corinthian colonnade has brought the focus up — over 23 metres

to be exact.

"If visitors can't sense the height of the monuments, they won't understand the meaning of the architecture," Claudio Parisi Presicce, Rome's top official for cultural heritage, told AFP on a tour of the site.

The Basilica Ulpia was the centrepiece of Trajan's Forum, the largest and last of the imperial forums, named after Marcus Ulpius Traianus, emperor from 98 to 117 AD.

Inaugurated in the second century, it mostly collapsed during the Middle Ages, but was unearthed by excavations in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and 1930s.

The current project, which began in 2021, identified three green marble columns that had been left for nearly 100 years "propped up in a corner with no connection with the floor plan," Parisi Presicce said. — AFP

## 'Houthis can play the long game': Suez Canal shipping revenues cut nearly in half

THE total income for shipping firms last month dropped to \$428 million in comparison to \$804 million for the same period in 2023.

Following the conflict between Palestine and Israel, Yemen's Houthis have launched a series of attacks on ships in solidarity with Palestine. Since then, revenue for Egypt's Suez Canal has dropped by almost half in January, a recent report notes.

Meanwhile, the number of ships now using the canal fell by 36 per cent.

But Osama Rabie, the Suez Canal Authority chief, says that

the Suez Canal remains the "best, fastest and safest" route while the alternative — the Cape of Good Hope — does not offer services to ships if they break down, is unsustainable and difficult to navigate.

The US and the UK have launched airstrikes at the Houthis, but it appears that the Shia Islamist organization's actions won't end any time soon.

Thomas C Mountain, a historian and independent journalist, says that while Egypt is experiencing economic instability, the Houthis are attacking shipping "symbolically". — SPUTNIK



The photo shows tugboats pulling the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier MV Glory in the Suez Canal, 9 January 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

# SPORTS

## Qatar beat Iran 3-2 in thriller to reach Asian Cup final

HOSTS and holders Qatar squeezed into an Asian Cup final showdown with Jordan after beating Iran 3-2 with an 82<sup>nd</sup>-minute winner in a frenetic semi-final on Wednesday.

Almoez Ali struck in Doha to send Qatar into their second straight final, further exorcising the demons of their first-round exit at the 2022 World Cup.

Qatar lost all three of their World Cup games on home soil just over a year ago, the worst record of any host in the competition's history.

But that was all a distant

memory as they celebrated in front of over 40,000 fans after a breathless encounter at Al Thumama Stadium.

Sardour Azmoun gave Iran the lead in the fourth minute before Qatar equalized soon after when Jassem Gaber's shot went in via a heavy deflection.

Qatar's Akram Afif then notched his fifth goal of the tournament with a wonderful strike minutes before half-time, only for Iran to equalize through an Alireza Jahanbakhsh penalty early in the second period. — AFP



Qatar's defender (16) Boualem Khoukhi heads the ball past Iran's defender (04) Shojae Khalilzadeh and forward (09) Mehdi Taremi during the Qatar 2023 AFC Asian Cup semi-final football match between Iran and Qatar at al-Thumama Stadium in Doha on 7 February 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Myanmar futsal team suffers big loss to Indonesian club in friendly match



A Myanmar futsal player (red) is seen kicking the ball against the Indonesian Bintang Timur FC goalkeeper during their first friendly match played on 7 February 2024. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE Myanmar national futsal team, training in Indonesia as a preliminary preparation for the 2024 futsal Asian Cup tournament, lost 11 goals to one against Indonesian league champion Bintang Timur FC on 7 February in the first friendly

match.

The Myanmar team lost three goals in the first half and conceded eight goals in the second half, and that caused a considerable loss.

Ko Ko Lwin scored an equalizer for the Myanmar

team in the second half. Bintang Timur FC is the champion of the Indonesian Futsal League. The Myanmar national futsal team will play against Bintang Timur FC again on 9 February as the second friendly match. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## From Asian Cup final to Premier League? Jordan's coach hopes so

JORDAN coach Hussein Ammouta hopes their surprise run to the Asian Cup final will spark broader development in the country's football and propel Jordanian players into the Premier League.

Second-half goals from the impressive attacking duo of Yazan al-Naimat and Mousa al-Tamari sent Jordan into the final for the first time with a 2-0 win over South Korea.

South Korea's coach Jürgen Klinsmann and skipper Son Heung-min admitted that Jordan, the lowest-ranked team left in the tournament, fully deserved their semi-final victory on Tuesday.

"The players delivered a heroic performance," the Moroccan Ammouta said after taking Jordan into the final for

*Ammouta praised his players' heroic performance, leading Jordan to their first-ever Asian Cup final appearance. They await either Iran or Qatar in the final.*

Jordan's forward Yazan Al-Naimat scores the opening goal. **PHOTO: AFP**



the first time at their fifth Asian Cup.

They will face either Iran

or the hosts and reigning champions Qatar.

No matter what happens on

Saturday, the widely admired Ammouta says their landmark achievement must be the spark

for something longer lasting in Jordanian football.

"We need to invest in infrastructure, in the training and formation of our players to reach higher levels," he said.

"We need to pay attention to age categories".

Ammouta says that change is already afoot, citing the example of the impressive Tamari, who together with Naimat terrorised South Korea's shell-shocked defence. Tamari, who set Naimat up for the opening goal on 53 minutes before slicing through the Korean defence for a second 13 minutes later, left Jordan's domestic league in 2018. First came a move to Cypriot giants APOEL, before leaving for Belgian football two years later with Oud-Heverlee Leuven. — AFP



The China-Brazil Earth Resource Satellite-4A is launched on a Long March-4B carrier rocket at Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in north China's Shanxi Province on 20 December 2019. **PHOTO: ZHENG TAOTAO/XINHUA**

## Experts see broad prospects for China-Brazil aerospace cooperation

*The successful launch of the first China-Brazil earth-resource satellite in 1999 marked a historic milestone, earning recognition as one of China's top 10 scientific and technological advances of the year.*

**C**HINA and Brazil plan to jointly develop new earth-resource satellites and continue to promote the construction of the BRICS Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation, showing broad prospects for aerospace cooperation between the two countries, according to experts.

Over the past 30 years, China and Brazil have achieved fruitful results

in the China-Brazil Earth Resource Satellite (CBERS) project, space experts from the two countries said at the China Brazil Space Cooperation Symposium held by the China National Space Administration (CNSA) in Beijing on Monday.

CBERS has become the longest and most influential international cooperation project in the field of aerospace, and

is a model of "South-South cooperation", the experts said.

Ma Shijun, CBERS Project Mission Manager, said that in 1988, the two countries signed an agreement to jointly develop the CBERS project, sharing the cost and separately developing its systems. Both sides had advantages and they were highly complementary, Ma said. — Xinhua

### PRESERVING THE CULTURAL HERITAGE

## Indian Embassy in Cambodia lauds ASI's discovery of five exquisite sandstone sculptures

THE Indian Embassy in Cambodia on Wednesday lauded Archaeological Survey of India's discovery of five exquisite sandstone sculptures during the removal of scattered stones and dismantling the superstructure of the Entrance Gopura.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which is restoring Ta Prohm Temple in Cambodia, handed over five statues to the APSARA National Authority, Cambodia-based Agence Kampuchea Presse reported.

The Indian Embassy in Cambodia said that this collaboration showcases the unwavering commitment towards preserving the cultural heritage of two nations.

In a post on X, Indian Embassy in Cambodia stated, "ASIGoI made an incredible discovery - five exquisite sandstone sculptures during the removal of scattered stones & dismantling the superstructure of the Entrance Gopura. This collaboration showcases the unwavering commitment towards preserving the rich cultural heritage of India, Cambodia."

The Indian Embassy in Cambodia made the statement in response to the Cambodia Prime Minister's Office post on X. In a post on X, Cambodia Prime Minister's Office stated, "The Archaeological Survey of India on Thursday handed over five statues found at the end of 2023 to the APSARA National Authority." — ANI

## World Defence Show 2024 in Riyadh: 773 exhibitors from 75 countries gather for event

*Running until 8 February, the show provides a crucial platform for industry experts and decision-makers to shape the future of defence and security, fostering international partnerships in the sector.*

THE World Defence Show 2024 is currently underway in Riyadh, attracting significant participation from over 773 exhibitors across 75 countries.

Government entities and leading local and international defence and security compa-

nies are actively joining the event, highlighting the growing importance of the sector in the region.

According to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), the defence sector is projected to contribute approximately SAR

93.75 billion to the GDP by 2030.

Scheduled to run until 8 February, the show serves as a vital platform for industry experts, manufacturers, and decision-makers to connect and shape the future of defence and security. — ANI



The Saudi Falcons aerobatic flight team performs at the 'World Defence Show 2024', north of the Saudi capital Riyadh on 4 February 2024. **PHOTO: FAYEZ NURELDINE / AFP**