

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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By Dr Than Lwin Tun

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Thick fabric used clothes in high demand this rainy season



The Thuwunna Stadium hosts the International Day of Yoga in Yangon on 21 June 2024.

## 10<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga celebrated

The Embassy of India in Yangon marked the 10<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga at Thuwunna Stadium on 21 June with a yoga session on the theme Yoga for self and society, attracting over 500 participants.

The Yangon Region chief minister, the Yangon mayor and the Indian am-

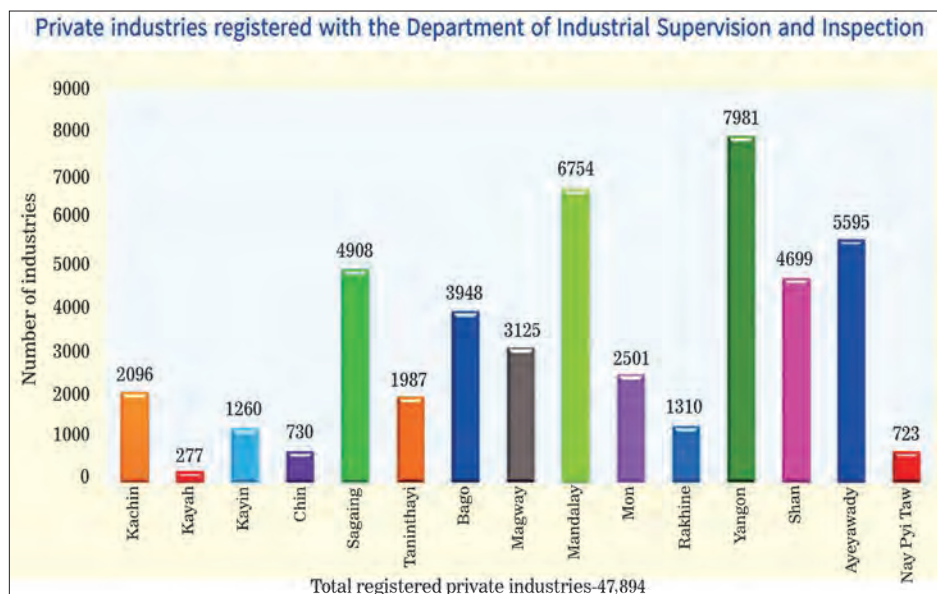
bassador in Yangon attended alongside officials concerned and yoga enthusiasts.

“Yoga is a physical, mental, and spiritual practice originating in India. Yoga promotes mindfulness and brings you inner peace of mind and fitness. Yoga practices developed and spread

globally. International Yoga Day is held annually following its adoption by the United Nations in 2014. International Yoga Day celebrations sweep around the world to promote peace across borders and health, recognizing its universal appeal,” Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur gave a remark.

The embassy celebrated 17 events for the International Day of Yoga between 1 and 21 June across Myanmar, with eight events in Yangon, five in Mandalay, two in Nay Pyi Taw, one in Bagan and one in Sittway respectively. Approximately 3,000 yoga enthusiasts joined the events. — TWA/EM

## DISI-registered private industries reach 47,894 by end of May



A diagram of running operations by domestically registered private industries engaged in food groups.

A total of 47,894 private industries have been registered with the Department of Industrial Supervision and Inspection so far, according to the Ministry of Industry’s data.

The registered private industries grew to 47,609 in the previous financial year 2023-2024. A total of 285 sectors were officially listed in April-May of the current FY 2024-2025.

Fifty per cent of the registered private industries are engaged in the food group. The lists of registered private sectors are classified into 24 business groups: food, tobacco, clothing, wood and finished wood slabs, printing, chemical, rubber and plastic, essential minerals, computer and electronic device, unclassified machine, beverage, fabric, leather, paper and paper products, charcoal fuel,

pharmaceuticals, non-metallic minerals, metal refining equipment, electronics, vehicle and trailer, furniture and machines and equipment repair and installation.

With the private industries growing domestically, the DISI is providing services for small and medium enterprises to get access to technical assistance and funding, explore markets, register the private industrial enterprises in accordance with existing laws and conduct safety inspections of boiler and electrical usage at worksites and environmental impact assessment.

Yangon Region, a commercial hub of Myanmar, is home to the private industries with 7,981, followed by Mandalay Region with 6,754 and Ayeyawady Region with 5,595. — ASH/EM

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar Gazette

### Heads of Service Organizations transferred and appointed

THE State Administration Council has transferred and appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations, as shown against each of their names from the date they assume charges of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) Dr Win Win Than Rector Myeik University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector Dagon University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
(2) Dr Nay Thwe Kyi Rector Bhamo University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector Myeik University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education



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.

## 10<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga celebrated in Nay Pyi Taw



Participants pose for the group photo at yesterday's event in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE collective Yoga session marking the 10<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga was organized at the Maravijaya Buddha Park compound in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The event was initiated by the Indian Embassy to Myanmar and attended by Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Min, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Aye Tun, Nay Pyi Taw Coun-

cil members and officials from the Indian Embassy.

After the opening, Ms Lalan Desai, a Yoga instructor from the Indian Embassy, demonstrated the Yoga session, and attendees participated in it. They posed for photos at the northern stairway of the Maravijaya Buddha Image.

They also grew Ceylon ironwood saplings at designated places to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga. — MNA/KTZH



Photos above and below show devotees holding the Maha Samaya Day celebrations yesterday.

## Maha Samaya Day celebrated at Shwedagon, Kaba Aye pagodas

THE 1386 ME full moon day of Nayon (Maha Samaya Day) was celebrated at the Shwedagon pagoda yesterday.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, regional ministers, members of the pagoda board of trustees, religious organization members and pagoda staff offered alms meal, flowers, water, fruit and candlelight to the pagoda, and offerings donated to Ovadacariya Sayadaws of the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Participants then took Nine Precepts from Ovadacariya Sayadaw State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sasanadhaja Dhamma Cariya Bhaddanta Kancana. After the



ceremonial procedures, they shared merits.

Afterwards, religious organizations and staff of the pagoda worship the pagoda, going round it in a clockwise procession and reciting the

Maha Samaya Sutta.

Similarly, the 1386 ME full moon day of Nayon (Maha Samaya Day) was celebrated at the Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda on the same day. — Ko Ko Zaw (MNA)/KTZH

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# NATIONAL

## Central Committee on National Tourism Development 1/2024 meeting held

The Central Committee on National Tourism Development held its first coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo, in his capacity as Chairman of the committee, first said the UN Tourism data shows that an estimated 1.3 billion international tourists were recorded around the world in 2023. The receipts totalled US\$ 1.5 trillion, and the forward-looking data for 2024 suggests that demand will continue to stay strong.

In Myanmar, there were 1.28 million tourist arrivals in 2023, showing an increase of 4.5

times compared to 230,000 arrivals in 2022. Moreover, there were about 520,000 tourist arrivals from January to May 2024, and it shows an increase of 63 per cent when compared to 310,000 arrivals in the same period of last year. Therefore, efforts should be made to maintain such an increase and meet the number of tourists registered before the outbreak of COVID-19.

He then mentioned the efforts of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism to resolve the challenges in tourism sectors and offer the best services for respective destinations, plans to hold the 5<sup>th</sup> National Sports Festival in Nay Pyi Taw from 9 to 20 December, and stressed the need to apply digital technology in exploring market, online



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo presides over the first coordination meeting of the Central Committee on National Tourism Development yesterday.

cashless payment, and to adopt long-term aim to facilitate the Ease of Doing Businesses including MSMEs and tourism industry.

He also urged to work with the locals to ensure the quality and hygiene of local food and traditional food of ethnic people, and the tourism entrepreneurs and travel agencies to work hard to lure tourists by flights. At the

same time, the government upgraded the airports in the townships of Kengtung, Pathein, and Tachilek.

He then highlighted the efforts of the committee. The Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, vice-chair of the committee, the committee secretary and attendees reported on implementations of decisions made at the 2/2023 committee

meeting, a reshuffle of one member of the Tourism Working Committee and recruitment of the chairman, secretary and members of nine region and state tourism working committees, the adoption of GLMS and tourism-related matters.

After hearing reports, General Mya Tun Oo made proper instructions and concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

## DPM MoFA Union Minister embarks on ACD's 19<sup>th</sup> Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Iran



THE Myanmar delegation led by U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, left Mandalay International Airport for the Islamic Republic of Iran yesterday morning to attend the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) to be held in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran. — MNA

Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe departs for Iran yesterday.

## Tea gathering meeting of ASEAN Ladies Circle-Beijing held

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the tea gathering meeting of the ASEAN Ladies Circle-Beijing was held in Beijing, China, on 19 June.

The rotating tea gathering meeting of the ASEAN Ladies Circle-Beijing was held at the Myanmar Embassy in Beijing, where Daw Mi Mi Maw, the wife of the Myanmar ambassador, gave the opening speech.

The ASEAN Ladies Circle-Beijing is an organization led by the wives of ambassadors from ASEAN embassies in Beijing, China, including women from ASEAN member embassies. The recent event was also an activity for June.

At the meeting, staff members from the Myanmar Embassy and students wore traditional cultural dresses representing their ethnic groups and performed the song 'A Song for Unity'. — ASH/MKKS



The image showcases an event called the Tea Gathering meeting being organized by the ASEAN Ladies Circle-Beijing in Beijing, China.

# NATIONAL



The championship trophy is presented at yesterday's awarding ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw.

FINAL matches plus the awarding ceremony of the 2024 Inter-State/Region Taekwondo Championship was held at Wunna Theikdhi Gymnasium A in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

State Administration Council

members also attended the ceremony and enjoyed the final matches of men's and women's Taekwondo events.

Union Ministers Jeng Phang Naw Taung, U Min Thein Zan and Dr Myo Thein Kyaw pre-

sented medals and cash awards to first, second, joint third prize winners of 49-53 kilogrammes women's attacking event, 68-74 kilos men's attacking event and 43-46 kilos women's attacking event.

## 2024 Inter-State/Region Taekwondo Championship concludes

Next, State Administration Council Members U Yan Kyaw, U Shwe Kyein and Khun San Lwin presented awards to the winners of 46-50 kilos men's attacking event, 50-54 kilos men's attacking event and 54-58 competition men's attacking event.

Afterwards, State Administration Council Members Dr Ba Shwe and Dr Hmu Thang presented medals and cash prizes to the best athletes in both men's and women's competitions.

In the meantime, State Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung presented a championship trophy to the Yan-

gon Region men's team. State Administration Council member Porel Aung Thein also presented another championship trophy to the Yangon Region women's team.

Finally, State Administration Council Member Daw Dwe Bu gave the championship trophy to the mixed event winners Yangon Region team.

The tourney, featuring 263 athletes from 15 men's and 15 women's teams, was held from 17 to 21 June in Nay Pyi Taw with the aim of promoting the Taekwondo sport across Myanmar. — MNA/KZL

### Public Notice

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via short code No "1111" for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).

According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via short code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.

Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via

SMS at short code "1111". Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

*Anti-Corruption Commission*

Answer "1111" to fight against corruption



Answer "1111" to improve services

## ME Singapore announces special passport renewal for first 300 this Sunday

A special programme to extend the passports of the first 300 nationals out of 900 people who have registered to renew their passports will be launched coming Sunday, according to the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore.

The names and appointment times for these 300 people on 23 June were announced on the embassy's website, and they were requested to come to the embassy according to the schedule.

The embassy website will announce the renewal programme for the remaining 600 nationals on 26 June.

The embassy regularly provides passport extension services to about 120 nationals



The Myanmar Embassy in Singapore.

via online appointments and about 75 via WhatsApp appointments on a daily basis, it said.

Due to the difficulty of making an appointment on the embassy's website and the availability of days off from work, the embassy found that many Myanmar nationals were waiting for passport extensions.

Therefore, the embassy stated on 30 May, passport renewal services will be provided under a special arrangement to about 200 nationals with passport expiry dates up to 31 August 2025, and the renewed passports will be issued between 1 pm and 3 pm from 25 to 27 June. — MT/ZN

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# NATIONAL

## Investigations underway to uncover truth regarding incident in which Win Neinmitayon Monastery Sayadaw from Bago passed away

ON 19 June, a vehicle carrying Win Neinmitayon Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Munindabhivamsa of Bago in Bago Region and Kanthonhsint Buddhism Learning Centre Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gunikabhivamsa from Mingaladon Township of Yangon Region was reportedly shot at between Myotha Town and Kamma Village in Mandalay Region. As a result, Win Neinmitayon Monastery

Sayadaw passed away, while Kanthonhsint Buddhism Learning Centre Sayadaw and the driver sustained injuries.

However, on the evening of 20 June, it was noted that a video file of a statement by Kanthonhsint Buddhism Learning Centre Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gunikabhivamsa regarding the incident was circulating on social media.

The initial report was based on information relayed through security forces, but the statement from the Sayadaw presented discrepancies with the initial report.

Therefore, necessary investigations are reportedly underway to disclose the factual circumstances of the incident. If the facts of the incident are revealed, appropriate action will be taken accordingly. — MNA

### Clarification by Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, Leader of the Information Team of the State Administration Council, on investigations to expose the accurate facts about the death of Win Neinmitayon Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Munindabhivamsa of Bago in the incident which happened near Kamma Village of Ngazun Township, Mandalay Region



SAC's Information Team Leader Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun.

TODAY, I would like to respectfully submit a supplication to members of the Sangha and disciples to know the truth about the death of Win Neinmitayon Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Munindabhivamsa of Bago in the incident which happened near Kamma Village of Ngazun Township in Mandalay Region.

First, we respectfully pay homage dedicating to the attributes of a former member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Win Neinmitayon Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Munindabhivamsa of Bago, who has been offered Aggamaha Ganthavacaka Pandita title, Aggamaha Pandita title and Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja title. Likewise, I also respectfully pay homage to Kanthonhsint Buddhism Learning Centre Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gunikabhivamsa, who was injured in the incident.

#### Venerable Sayadaws and disciples,

The incident occurred at 10:30 am on 19 June. Before the incident, it is necessary to know the conditions of the region. Ngazun-Myotha region is a place where PDF terrorists from the Sagaing Region and northern Mandalay Region, under the

disguise of villagers, often collect extorted money and commit to taking hostages and blowing up mines. At about 6 pm on 18 June, about five PDF terrorists in civilian clothes drove three motorcycles along Myotha Village road and fired at Myotha police station. In that incident, one police member and an innocent ordinary villager residing near the police station lost their lives. At about 6:30 am on 19 June, residents informed that the PDF terrorist group took a vehicle from the Pyi Sone Aung bus line running Sameikhon-Mandalay to Phaungkataw-Thakyin area, northwest of Kamma Village. So, security forces from Ngazun in two groups marched to the Phaungkataw-Thakyin area along the eastern and western routes from Ngazun to take security measures. At about more than 10 am, the security forces from the west route exchanged fire with some 20 PDF terrorists near Phaungkataw Village due to blowing up mines. Terrorists retreated to the southern part (Kamma Village) where this incident occurred. Both sides have casualties. At the same time, noisy firing was heard from Kamma Village, where the security

force marched along the eastern route. The security forces quickly marched along the east path to block the terrorists fleeing from the Phaungkataw-Thakyin area, which took an aforesaid vehicle. That security force found a Surf car with a number plate for the public on the road near the pagoda of Kamma Village. Those from the security force's vehicle shouted to stop the Surf with hand postures. Finally, they shot up to stop the Surf. It was generally known that when the Surf overtook, the security forces from the vehicle shot it to stop. Hence, the incident will be investigated in more detail.

#### Venerable Sayadaws and disciples,

Tatmadaw members serving security duties in that region are facing many difficulties. PDF terrorists, under the disguise of civilians in civilian clothes, attack innocent people and security forces in various ways. It is difficult to verify immediately whether they are enemies or civilians. Security forces are trying hard to safeguard towns and villages as well as ordinary people in those situations.

All Buddhists know that Tatmadaw has been propagating and strengthening the culture, language and religion in Myanmar actively up to now. Taking advantage of this incident, malicious media, NUG, and PDF terrorists are stipulating the people for disturbances in time. So far, NUG and PDF terrorists have killed 140 monks and two nuns and attacked 96 monks injured. It can be seen that anyone does not talk about these deaths and injuries. Hence, I would like to request everybody to take care of these incidents.

#### Venerable Sayadaws and disciples,

With regard to that incident, we regret the loss of a treasured member of the Sangha in Patiyatti Sasana. An investigation team with the participation of high-ranking officers will be formed to expose the incident. Due to the findings of the investigation, necessary action will be taken.

We pledge to join hands with members of the Sangha to serve the interests of Buddhism.

Buddha Sasama Ciram Titthatu



The incident location map in Ngazun-Myotha on 19 June 2024.

# NATIONAL

## Ayeyawady River eddies pose navigation challenges for vessels

THE Navigation Department of Region 5, under the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems, has issued a warning to ships travelling on the Ayeyawady River due to whirlpools forming in the first nar-

row stretch of the river since the second week of June.

With the Ayeyawady River currently experiencing high water levels, cargo and passenger vessels travelling between Mandalay and Bhamo, especially along the narrow stretches from Hsinbo to Myitkyina, are advised to exercise caution due to the presence of eddies.

These swirling currents have been reported since the second week of June, and authorities have issued warnings regarding them. In the first week of June, the department advised all vessels, including those travelling from Mandalay ports to Bhamo, to pay close attention to navigational signs for safe manoeuvring, but will temporarily stop installing them along the Ayeyawady River. — TWA/TRKM



The image shows a vessel cruising through the Ayeyawady River at high water levels.

## Meiktila University of Economics to open 2 master degree courses online

MEIKTILA University of Economics will offer online courses for Masters in Banking and Finance (MBF) and Masters in Development Studies (MDevs) on Saturdays and Sundays.

The master's degree courses can be applied for the 2024 -2025 academic year at Meiktila University of Economics by taking out the application form and applying until 27 June 2024.

Applicants must not be attending any other course in any university to join these master's degree courses. If they are civil servants, they must be able to obtain permission from the relevant department where they are working.

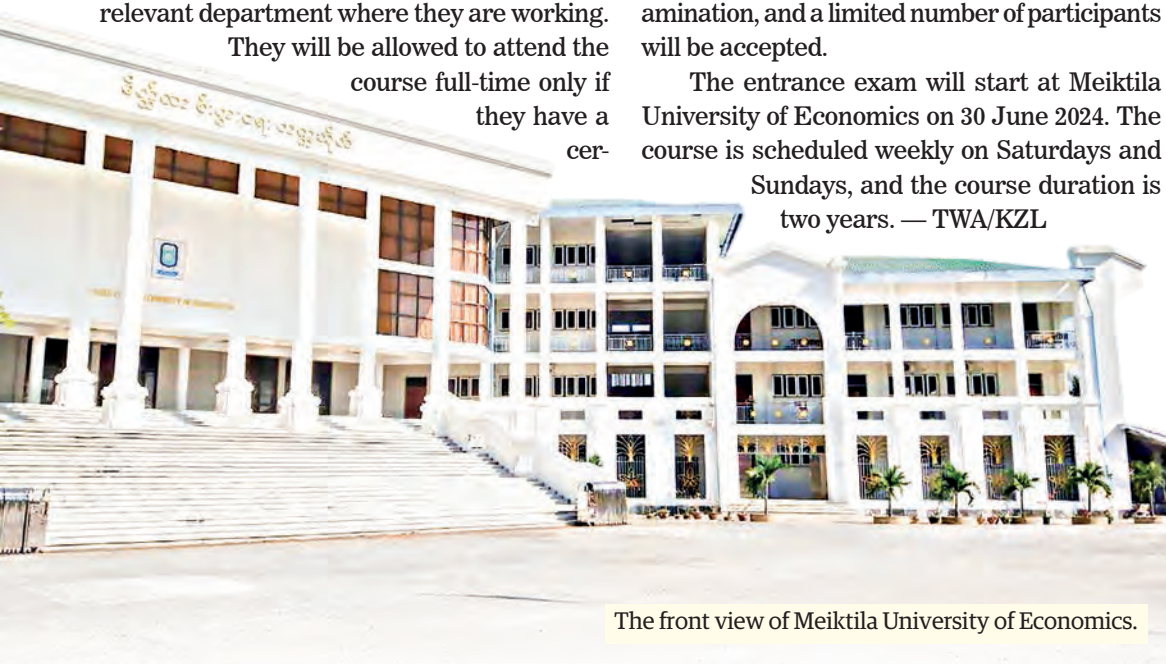
They will be allowed to attend the course full-time only if they have a certificate of approval from the appropriate head.

In addition, the applicants must be able to attend full-time according to the prescribed course and must have at least two years of experience in banking for the MBF course.

The course will be taught through an online system, so they must be proficient in computer and able to use Google Classroom and Zoom applications well.

Applicants for the course must take written and oral exams, and those who pass the written exam will be selected through face-to-face examination, and a limited number of participants will be accepted.

The entrance exam will start at Meiktila University of Economics on 30 June 2024. The course is scheduled weekly on Saturdays and Sundays, and the course duration is two years. — TWA/KZL



The front view of Meiktila University of Economics.



Some vehicles are seen crossing the Thanlyin Bridge 3.

## Trucks to be allowed to pass new Thanlyin Bridge at specified times daily

THE Department of Highways under the Ministry of Construction and the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) are coordinating to set the time allowed for large trucks to pass through the new Thanlyin bridge.

Authorities have allowed large trucks, ranging from 10-wheelers to 22-wheelers, to cross the bridge since 16 June. However, the passage of these trucks may pose risks of traffic congestion and accidents due to the narrow city roads, prompting authorities to establish specific times for

truck passage.

According to the current toll collection rates for trucks on the new Thanlyin Bridge, K12,000 for six to eight-wheel vehicles, K22,000 for 10 to 22-wheelers, and trucks exceeding the allowed load limit are fined based on vehicle size. Trucks carrying no load are charged K4,000.

Arrangements are underway to ensure the proper collection of road tolls, installation of the QR code system, prevention of wastage of money, and ensure systematic traffic flow. — TWA/TH

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## Myanmar boosts food raw material exports to Thailand via Myawady border

MYANMAR is exerting concerted efforts to meet Thailand's growing demand for food raw materials through the Myawady border channel, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar exports agricultural produce such as dried chilli pepper, onion, areca nut, core metal, dried cassava, tamarind with seed and turmeric.

With the flourishing food industry in Thailand, its demand for Myanmar's kitchen groceries has risen as restaurants and food businesses widely use them. Myanmar mostly sends them to Thailand through the Myawady border at present.

Additionally, perishable green items like onions, chilli pepper and cabbage are given

priority in goods inspections at the Myawady border.

The Myawady border saw exports of 230.605 tonnes of dried chilli pepper worth \$0.376 million, 740.2 tonnes of onion worth \$0.373 million, 241 tonnes of dried cassava worth \$0.034 million, 20 tonnes of tamarind worth \$0.005 million and 10.5 tonnes of turmeric worth \$0.002 million in the second week of June. Meanwhile, Myanmar imports plastic goods (\$0.111 million), construction goods (\$0.058 million), food products (\$0.054 million), cotton (\$0.050 million), electronic devices (\$0.038 million), zinc sheets (\$0.016 million), iron and steel products (\$0.011 million), lace fabric (\$0.007 million), bicycle



The general view of the Myawady Trade Zone on the Myanmar-Thai border.

and bicycle parts (\$0.007 million) and papers (\$0.007 million).

The actual trade value between 1 and 14 June 2024 at the Myawady border tallied \$6.07

million, comprising exports worth \$2.39 million and imports worth \$3.67 million. — NN/EM

## Kampaiti border trade value tops US\$15M by mid-June

THE trade value at the Kampaiti border post between Myanmar and China hit US\$15.3 million between 1 and 15 June 2024, according to the news released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The trade value at the Kampaiti border post between Myanmar and China is expected to meet a target of US\$5 million in June in the 2024-2025 financial year, including exports worth \$4 million and imports worth one million dollars, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The actual trade value as of 15 June was \$15.336 million, comprising exports worth \$8.46 million and imports worth \$6.87 million, performing over 306.7 per cent of the trade target.

The main export items at the Kampaiti border were tissue-culture banana, dried chilli, onion, dried mango slice, fresh areca nut, black cardamom, various pulses, tamarind with seeds and aluminium scrap. Meanwhile, Myanmar imports capital goods, inter-



Lorries loaded with export and import cargo are seen crossing the Myanmar-China border.

mediate goods, construction materials, consumer goods, fruits and fuel oil.

The export volumes on 11-15 June 2024 were 125 tonnes of tissue culture banana worth \$0.043 million, 17 tonnes of pumpkin worth \$0.002 million, 467.5 tonnes of onion worth \$0.191 million, 82.5 tonnes of black cardamom worth \$0.165 million, 28 tonnes of dried chilli pepper worth \$0.041 million, 50 tonnes of tamarind with seeds worth \$0.011 million and 1,066 tonnes of pulses worth \$0.753 million.

The main import items are hollow pipe, iron pipe, ceramic tiles, tyres, tangerine, apples, pears, clothing and fuel oil. The import volumes stood at 374.7 tonnes of capital goods worth \$0.45 million, 269.9 tonnes of intermediate goods worth \$1.417 million and 657.9 tonnes of consumer goods worth \$0.405 million.

A combined team, including one-stop service agencies and departments concerned, is making efforts to ensure smooth trade flow and bolster exports. — NN/EM

## Equity market trading value totals K1.5B+ in April

THE grand trading value of the eight listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) registered the highest of over K1.558 billion, with 603,906 shares traded in May, according to the monthly report released by the exchange.

The equity market registered trading values of K1 billion with 425,102 shares in January 2024, K693 million with 253,178 million in February, K1.34 billion with 560,687 shares in March and K473 million with 177,812 shares in April, respectively.

At present, shares of eight listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co Ltd (TMH), the Ever

Flow River Group Public Co Ltd (EFR), Amata Holding Public Co Ltd (AMATA) and Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX) are traded in the security market.

MTSH topped the trading with 294,185 shares worth K854.24 million, followed by 202,769 shares of FPB worth over K311.78 million, 21,582 shares of FMI worth K188.67 million, 39,500 shares of EFR worth over K65.69 million, 28,410 shares of MAEX worth K59.99 million, 5,784 shares of MCB worth K46.28 million, 11,230 shares of TMH worth K29.76 million, 446 shares of AMATA worth K2.06 million and respectively last month.

The trading value in May is more than one billion (426,094 shares), higher than that of April. — NN/EM

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# OPINION

## Protect consumer rights against dangers of counterfeit products

THE market for counterfeit goods remains robust, yielding tremendous profits year after year. Counterfeit products pose a significant challenge for businesses and consumers worldwide. Despite various efforts, no country has yet found an effective way to combat fraudulent goods and imitated trademarks, leading to an increasing prevalence of counterfeit products daily.

Surveys indicate that the counterfeit market was the world's most pervasive crime in 2018, with an estimated value between \$1.7 trillion and \$4.5 trillion. This figure surpasses the combined proceeds from drug trafficking and human trafficking. In Myanmar, many consumers have experienced severe consequences due to counterfeit products. These include loss of life from fake medicines, skin issues from counterfeit cosmetics, diseases from fraudulent foodstuffs, and economic losses from imitated machinery and fertilizers.

Counterfeit products are a grave issue with wide-reaching consequences for health, safety, and economic stability. Collective efforts to implement advanced technologies and stringent regulations are essential in combating this pervasive problem. Protecting consumer rights and ensuring product integrity must be a priority to mitigate the risks associated with counterfeit goods.

Many countries now use QR codes and modern technologies to prevent counterfeiting and ensure product quality. This approach helps protect the reputation of trademarks, reduce business losses, prevent the sale of dangerous counterfeit products, and enhance consumer trust.

It is crucial for everyone to participate in preventing the manufacturing, trafficking, and trading of counterfeit products. Deterrent action against offenders can protect consumer health and rights. By doing so, the dangers of counterfeit and imitated products can be significantly reduced. In fact, as all manufacturers and traders are also consumers, everybody should not neglect the interests of consumers, and they are responsible for focusing on the rights of consumers in combatting counterfeit products.

Counterfeit products are a grave issue with wide-reaching consequences for health, safety, and economic stability. Collective efforts to implement advanced technologies and stringent regulations are essential in combating this pervasive problem. Protecting consumer rights and ensuring product integrity must be a priority to mitigate the risks associated with counterfeit goods.

Counterfeit goods, particularly medicines, currency notes, and cosmetics, represent a substantial global business. The impact of counterfeit drugs and low-quality products became particularly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. It highlighted the urgent need for vigilance against counterfeit products to prevent adverse outcomes.

Imitated drugs can lead to drug resistance in patients and contribute to the emergence of new virus variants and disease genes, posing a global health threat. For example, the low quality of masks and unsafe medical equipment during the pandemic led to disputes between users and manufacturers, potentially putting medical staff at risk. Thus, businesses must prioritize quality control to safeguard consumers' lives and well-being.

# The Importance of Human Resource Management in the Workplace

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

HUMAN resource management (HRM) is the practice of recruiting, hiring, deploying and managing an organization's employees. HRM is often referred to simply as human resources (HR). A company or organization's HR department is usually responsible for creating, putting into effect and overseeing the policies governing workers and the relationship of the organization with its employees. The term human resource was first used in the early 1900s and then more widely in the 1960s to describe the people who work for the organization in aggregate. The modern term human capital management (HCM) is often used by large and midsize companies when discussing HR technology.

The HRM involves creating personnel policies and procedures that support business objectives and strategic plans.

Central to this mission is fostering a culture that reflects core values and empowers employees to be as productive as possible.

The HRM plays an essential role in the success and sustainability of an organization. It involves a range of functions that contribute to the overall effectiveness and efficiency of a workplace. The following is a detailed look at the importance of HRM in the workplace:

- **Recruitment and Selection:** The effective recruitment and selection processes ensure that the organization has the necessary skills and competencies to achieve its goals. Properly managed recruitment helps in reducing turnover rates and improving employee satisfaction.
- **Employee Development and Training:** HRM oversees the continuous development and training of employees. This not



HRM helps organizations create a positive and productive workplace culture conducive to achieving strategic objectives and sustaining long-term success. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ FREEPIK**

only enhances the skills and capabilities of the workforce but also ensures that employees are up-to-date with the latest industry trends and technologies. Continuous learning opportunities lead to higher job satisfaction and better performance.

- **Performance Management:** Effective performance management systems are crucial for assessing employee performance, providing feedback, and

setting goals. HRM develops and implements performance appraisal systems that help identify high performers and those in need of improvement, thereby aligning individual performance with organizational objectives.

- **Compensation and Benefits:** HRM designs and manages compensation structures and benefit programs. Competitive salaries, health benefits,

retirement plans, and other perks are essential for attracting and retaining top talent. A well-structured compensation package also motivates employees to perform better and stay committed to the organization.

- **Employee Relations:** Maintaining positive employee relations is a crucial function of HRM. This includes addressing employee grievances, fostering a positive work environment,

and ensuring open lines of communication between management and staff. Good employee relations reduce conflicts and enhance workplace harmony.

- **Compliance with Labour Laws:** HRM ensures that the organization complies with all relevant labour laws and regulations. This includes fair labour practices, non-discrimination policies, workplace safety, and other legal requirements. Compliance helps in avoiding legal disputes and penalties.
- **Organizational Culture and Change Management:** HRM plays a critical role in shaping and nurturing the organizational culture. It also manages change within the organization by facilitating smooth transitions, whether it's through mergers, acquisitions, or internal restructuring. A robust and adaptive culture enhances employee engagement and organizational resilience.
- **Strategic HR Planning:** HRM

aligns human resource policies and practices with the strategic goals of the organization. This involves workforce planning, talent management, and succession planning. Strategic HR planning ensures that the organization has the right people in the right places at the right times.

- **Enhancing Employee Well-being:** HRM focuses on the overall well-being of employees by implementing wellness programs, offering mental health support, and promoting work-life balance. Healthy and happy employees are more productive and contribute positively to the workplace environment.

- **Diversity and Inclusion:** HRM champions diversity and inclusion within the workplace. By promoting a diverse workforce and inclusive practices, HRM helps in creating an innovative and respectful work environment. The diversity and

inclusion initiatives improve problem-solving, creativity, and decision-making within the organization.

In addition, Human Resource Management is integral to the success of any organization. It involves a wide range of functions that ensure the effective and efficient management of human capital. By focusing on recruitment, development, performance management, compensation, employee relations, compliance, culture, strategic planning, well-being, and diversity, HRM creates a productive, motivated, and engaged workforce as well as drives organizational success and growth.

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## Patient Safety: The Cornerstone of Quality Healthcare

By Dr Zeyar Win



Healthcare providers, policymakers, patient advocacy groups, and various societal stakeholders recognize the pivotal role of patients and their families in enhancing patient safety.

LIVING a healthy life is a fundamental necessity for everyone. Even when various conditions lead to the occurrence of diseases, systematically receiving necessary diagnoses and treatments offers numerous benefits, including recovery,

prevention of the condition from worsening, and other advantages. The essential factor is patient safety in order to achieve such benefits. According to WHO, around one in every ten patients is harmed in health care, and more than three million deaths occur

annually due to unsafe care. In low-to-middle-income countries, as many as 4 in 100 people die from unsafe care.

The phrase 'First, do no harm' is a fundamental principle in any healthcare. No one should be harmed by healthcare. How-

ever, it is known that healthcare systems in both developed and developing countries face significant challenges worldwide in preventing patient risks before they occur. Generally, these conditions are related to humanity, ethics, morality, and financial factors.

Safe healthcare is a fundamental right that should be available to all patients at all times and in all places without exception. Despite this, unsafe healthcare conditions are a leading cause of death and disability worldwide, resulting in millions of patients being harmed annually.

Patient safety means "protecting a patient from unnecessary harm and minimizing the risk of adverse events related to healthcare to the lowest possible level." In a broader healthcare system, patient safety involves establishing practices, procedures, protocols, behaviours, technologies, and processes that systematically and sustainably lower risks and reduce the occurrence of avoidable harm. That includes

minimizing the likelihood of errors and mitigating harm when they occur.

### Inclusive Engagement of All Stakeholders

Patients and their families across various healthcare settings play a pivotal role in enhancing patient safety. It is imperative to globally promote awareness regarding the essential involvement of healthcare professionals in this endeavour.

Healthcare providers, policymakers, patient advocacy groups, and various societal stakeholders recognize the pivotal role of patients and their families in enhancing patient safety. They emphasize the crucial need for active engagement of healthcare professionals and other concerned parties to foster effective communication, promote patient safety culture, and ensure optimal healthcare outcomes.

Patient and family involvement represents a pivotal strategy in the evolution towards a safer healthcare system. We are

transitioning from a paradigm of a "healthcare system for the patient" to one where the emphasis shifts to a "health system that collaborates with the patient".

Indeed, patients and their family members are the primary users of the healthcare system. They should be engaged in decision-making processes with fully informed consent regarding the patient's condition. Their involvement is crucial across all levels of healthcare, including policy-making and planning stages.

Acknowledging the influence of patient safety underscores the imperative to mitigate patient risks within healthcare and enhance system efficiency. Ensuring safe service provision also plays a vital role in rebuilding community trust in the healthcare system. The healthcare landscape on a global scale is evolving within increasingly intricate environments in today's global context. While new treatments, technologies, and care models offer novel therapeutic possibilities, they also

introduce potential new risks to safe healthcare delivery.

### Elevate the Voice of Patients

Within the framework of Patient Engagement for Patient Safety, collaboration among patients, families, and healthcare professionals is essential to safeguarding healthcare. Emphasizing patient partnership in healthcare enhances safety and yields substantial benefits, including heightened patient satisfaction and improved health outcomes.

Through active participation in the healthcare process, patients can actively contribute to improving the safety of their own care and the overall healthcare system.

The motto "Elevate the Voice of Patients" aims to involve patients in their healthcare journey, engage them in policy formulation, ensure representation in governance structures, collaborate on safety strategy development, and recognize them as active partners, actions that are advocated by the World Health

Organization (WHO).

Ensuring safety and patient-centredness, promoting trust and equity, and addressing the concerns and priorities of diverse patients' voices require building trust and providing opportunities for the involvement of families and communities.

Patient safety encompasses systematic processes aimed at consistently and sustainably reducing potential risks to patients in medical care. It involves procedures, behaviours, and technologies within a framework that organizes activities to foster cultures and environments conducive to safety. The framework, developed by healthcare providers and those in charge, emphasizes that patients and their families can significantly reduce the risk of accidents in the medical treatment process through balanced, systematic, and informed cooperation. Therefore, this collaborative approach is conveyed to enhance the effectiveness of patient safety measures.



# NATIONAL

## 4 illegal Chinese citizens arrested with wild animals, weapons



Four Chinese arrestees are seen alongside weapons, munitions and communication devices.

FOUR Chinese nationals living in Myanmar illegally were detained along with firearms, ammunition, communication devices, drugs and wild animals in Tachilek Township,

Shan State (East) on 19 June. A combined team of security forces entered and inspected the old fish pond area of Wa Ka La-064 owned by Daw Eila Kham (father's name is U Aik

Hong) in Wan Chauk Lone Village, Tachilek Township at 3:20 pm on 19 June.

The four illegal Chinese citizens are Xiaohu, aged 34 (father's name is Wangli),

Loungyong, aged 45 (father's name is Loung Fei), Loukxiou, aged 34 (father's name is Liouxianyone and Ar Fein, aged 28 (father's name is Ar Sheng).

They were arrested with

one MK12, one magazine, ten rounds of ammunition, one M16 with one magazine and 19 rounds of ammunition, one CZ512 with one magazine, 91 rounds of .22 one Glock-19 pistol with 8 rounds of ammunition and one magazine, two Sig Sauer pistols with two magazines and 21 rounds of ammunition, eight walkie-talkies and about 150 grammes of ketamine, one drug mixer and illegally possessed wild animals including one lion, one tiger and two bears.

The security forces are taking action against the four Chinese nationals who were arrested in the above incident and Daw Eila Kham (father's name is U Aik Hong), the owner of the farm who allowed them to live illegally, in accordance with existing laws. — MNA/KZL

## Over K1B worth of Happy Water seized in Kengtung

MYANMAR Police Force announced the seizure of 9.6 kilogrammes of Happy Water valued at over K1 billion in Kengtung Township, Shan State (East).

Upon tip-off, a combined Anti-Drug Police Force unit searched a Toyota Wish in Kengtung township at 10 pm on 18 June. Police seized 9.6 kilogrammes of Happy Water valued at over K1 billion that

were carried by Aik San (aka Aik Paung).

The offender admitted the drugs to be transported from Mongpauk to Tachilek. Police charged Khin Khin Oo (aka Si Si, who was involved in the drug transportation and Aik San (aka) Aik Paung and continued to investigate others suspected of involvement in this case. — MNA/MKKS



The photo shows an offender with seized drugs.

## Illegal goods seized in various states/regions

SUPERVISED by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, action is being taken under the law against illicit trading across the nation.

During inspections on 19 June, the on-duty teams managed by the Customs Department nabbed four vehicles (approximately K165 million) carrying 1,360 bags of Muyaw paddy (50 kilogrammes each) from China worth K168.85 million without official documents at the Mayanchung permanent checkpoint, ten kinds of goods valued at K18.295 million including 28 boxes of Printing machine parts from China that were different from the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port, 49,729 kilogrammes of PVC coated copper wire worth K271,521,501 from India that were different from the ID from three containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint and 20 kinds of goods valued at K116.993 million including 24 sets of Mikro machine from Malaysia without official documents from luggage at the

Yangon International Airport. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On the same day, the combined team supervised by the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force captured two trucks (estimated value of K85 million) heading to Yangon from Mandalay, carrying two kinds of goods worth K18.26 million, including 330 kilogrammes of steel lunch box from China that were not declared in the ID at the Ywathagyi Dry Port and an unregistered Toyota Mark II (estimated value of K4 million) in South Okkalapa township. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Export and Import Law.

On 20 June, the combined teams impounded two kinds of goods valued at K1.1 million, including smuggled Exercise bikes that were piled up by the side of the road over the Sinphyu checkpoint in Muse township and an unregistered Shihuai three-wheel motorbike (estimated value of K250,000) in Monywa township. The action was taken under Customs



Confiscated illegal items in different regions and states.

procedures and the Export and Import Law.

Therefore, 30 arrests (estimated value of K849 million) were made on 19 and 20 June, according to the committee. — MNA/MKKS

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# NATIONAL

## MAJA announces JLPT 2024 guidelines



Applicants for JLPT 2024.

AN announcement on dos and don'ts for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test 2024, which will take place soon, was released on 21 June by the JLPT organizing committee, Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni.

It states that the JLPT 2024 has been scheduled to sit on 7 July, and manual test vouchers were already issued until 20 May 2024.

Online applicants can download test vouchers until 7 July and bring them to the exam station by printing them in colour. Showing it on the phone screen is not allowed, and all candidates will have to arrive at exam stations by 8 am.

Along with the test voucher, all candidates will have to bring one

of their original citizenship scrutiny cards (either 10-year-old CSC or 18-year-old CSC), unexpired passport, unexpired driving licence (motorcycle licence is not allowed as it doesn't include the date of birth), birth certificate (under ten years old applicants only), and ID card of religious organization members (novices, monks and nuns). Showing it on the phone screen is not permitted, and candidates won't be allowed to sit the exam if they don't have a test voucher or any of the identification mentioned above.

If the manual test voucher gets damaged or lost, the candidate can retake it at the exam station office on the exam day, and an original ID card and two photos are required. If

the original ID card gets damaged or lost, the original recommendation of the ward authorities or police station is issued in three months, and a copy of the identity card or ID card is required.

Registration number, exam time, date and place are included in the test voucher, and candidates have to wait in restricted areas inside the campus and are warned to avoid crowding.

Further, only 2B and HP pencils are allowed, and stationery and CSCs or any identification card are required to be included in a transparent file. Backpacks and handbags are not allowed to be brought into the exam room, and candidates must leave them outside the campus. — MT/ZS

## Thick fabric used clothes in high demand this rainy season



The image showcases second-hand goods being displayed for sale at Kyimyindine Night Market.

KYAW Thiha from USK thrift shop at Kyimyindine's second-hand clothes market told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM), at present, second-hand clothes are sold well in rainy season.

"The trading has operated as usual in the monsoon season because this is an indoor market. This is monsoon season, so raincoats, shirts, blouses, and trousers made of thick fabric are sold well.

The sale has been doing well," he said.

The sales dropped in previous months; however, they have been doing well now, and the trading of second-hand clothes flourished in December and January of last year. Lately, people enjoy thrifting rather than buying expensive branded clothes.

If you are good at thrifting, worldwide famous brands such as Adidas, Nike, Burberry, and Hugo Boss can be available at a cheap price, and this is why people enjoy buying second-hand clothes.

Second-hand goods are called thrift or vintage among young people, and the second-hand clothes stalls at Kyimyindine Night Market are the most famous in Yangon and are always crowded on weekends. — Thit Taw/ZS

## Increased supply and transport lower Seintalone mango prices

EXPORT of Seintalone mangoes to China has been regular; however, the price has declined as a result of road conditions and a large supply, according to cross-border traders.

This year, Seintalone production has been high in Shan State, and supply is abundant, leading to a decline in price.

"Border trading has operated normally, but mango export has become low. There is still an export of Seintalone mango produced from Shan State. The price was better at the beginning of the fruit's harvest season. Now, mango production has become abundant, so the price can't get much better. Now this is the rainy season, so traffic congestions are happening, and that is taking longer on the journey," said a trader.



Seintalone mangoes are exported to China.

Transport charges have also increased, which is why exports are unable to do things like before. Shan State-produced Seintalone were exported to China through the Mongla route. However, roads are blocked due to heavy rain, causing the journey to take longer. As a result of it, mangoes get ripe quickly, and quality declines after being wet.

Mango production in China is also likely to be plentiful, so traders need to be aware of it, he said. — MT/ZS

# ECONOMY WORLD

## China may take provisional anti-dumping measures against EU pork if necessary: commerce ministry

*This decision aims to address concerns over alleged dumping practices in the pork trade between China and the EU.*



A customer selects pork products at a supermarket in Beijing in June 2024. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ WANG ZHAO/AFP**

CHINA may levy provisional anti-dumping tariffs on the pork and pig by-products imported from the European Union in accordance with the result of the ongoing anti-dumping investigation which started on 17 June according to the Ministry of Commerce.

He Yadong, spokesperson for the Ministry of Commerce, made the remarks at a regular press conference on Thursday, when responding to a question about whether China will im-

pose temporary tariffs on pork imports from the EU.

China may take provisional anti-dumping measures against EU pork if necessary: commerce ministry

China has on Monday launched an anti-dumping investigation into certain pork and pig by-products imported from the EU, He said.

“If the EU’s dumping practice has been confirmed after preliminary investigation and has caused damage

to Chinese domestic industries, temporary anti-dumping measures might be taken in accordance with World Trade Organization rules and China’s anti-dumping regulations,” He said.

After the investigation is completed, the Ministry of Commerce will make a final ruling, and anti-dumping duties may be imposed if the relevant regulations are complied with, the spokesperson said. — Xinhua

### NEWS ROUNDUP: ECON

#### Japan books US\$7.7 bln trade deficit in May

JAPAN logged a trade deficit of 1.22 trillion yen (about US\$7.7 billion) in May, said a government report on Wednesday.

The country remained in the red for the second month, as the weak yen offset gains from the robust growth in exports that hit a record high last month while boosting the value of imports.

The country’s total exports expanded 13.5 per cent from a year earlier to 8.28 trillion yen, a record for May, boosted by continued strength in auto and chip-making machinery demand, preliminary data from the Ministry of Finance showed.

Total imports, meanwhile, rose 9.5 per cent year on year to 9.5 trillion yen, boosted by petroleum products and crude oil among other items.

By destination, Japan’s exports to the United States grew 23.9 per cent to 1.70 trillion yen, while imports jumped 29.7 per cent to 1.23 trillion yen, leading to a surplus of 473.64 billion yen, up 10.9 per cent from a year earlier. — Xinhua

#### Fraud poses top money laundering risk to Singapore: report

SINGAPORE, as a business, financial and trade hub, is vulnerable to being misused as a conduit to launder illicit funds derived from fraud committed abroad, said the Money Laundering National Risk Assessment issued Thursday.

The document, jointly launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, and the Monetary Authority of Singapore, identified fraud, especially cyber-enabled fraud, as the highest foreign money laundering threat.

Organized crime, corruption, tax crimes, and illegal trade activities are among major money laundering threats to Singapore.

The banking sector is most vulnerable to money laundering as criminals often use bank channels to transfer illicit funds. Moreover, digital payment token service providers are increasingly involved in money laundering in Singapore, the document noted.

Singaporean authorities said their anti-money laundering efforts will keep pace with the identified risks. — Xinhua

## Highest ever coal stocks available at thermal power plants, says Coal Ministry

*The demand for coal-based power has surged by 7.30% in the current financial year compared to the corresponding period last year.*

THE Ministry of Coal (MoC) said despite the extremely high demand for power, the coal stocks at Thermal Power Plants remain robust, exceeding 45 million tonnes (MT) as of 16 June, 2024, which is 31.71 per cent higher compared to the same period last year when it was 34.25 MT.

The demand for coal-based power has grown by 7.30 per cent in this financial year compared to last year in the same period. This is highest ever demand of coal, the Ministry said in a release.

As of 16.06.24, cumulative coal production

stands at 207.48 MT, reflecting a growth of 9.27 per cent compared to the corresponding period last year, which was 189.87 MT, the statement read.

Coal India Limited (CIL) has recorded coal production of 160.25 MT, growing by 7.28 per cent compared to the corresponding period last year, which stood at 149.38 MT. Similarly, coal production from captive and commercial mines reached 33 MT, with a growth of 27 per cent compared to the corresponding period last year. — ANI



The thermal power plant in India contributes significantly to electricity generation nationwide. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE /WBPDCL**

# US ban on use of Kaspersky Lab's software to lead to increase in Cybercrimes: Company

*The press office of Kaspersky Lab asserts that the US Commerce Department's recent decision to ban their software in the United States could potentially escalate cybercrimes.*

THE decision of the US Commerce Department to ban the use of Russian multinational cybersecurity firm Kaspersky Lab's software in the United States will lead to an increase in cybercrimes, the company's press office told Sputnik on Friday.

On Thursday, the US Commerce Department issued a new rule prohibiting information and communications technology and services (ICTS) transactions with Kaspersky Lab effective 29 September, imposed new export restrictions on

Kaspersky and blacklisted Kaspersky Lab, Kaspersky Group and Kaspersky Labs Limited for their alleged cooperation with Russia's military and intelligence authorities.

"First of all, this decision will promote cybercrimes. International cooperation among cybersecurity experts is necessary to effectively counter cyber threats, but it is now limited. Moreover, users and businesses in the US will not be able to protect their devices from malware with industry-lead-



This decision, announced on Thursday, includes a prohibition on transactions with Kaspersky Lab, implementation of new export limitations, and blacklisting of the company due to alleged connections with Russia's military and intelligence agencies. **PHOTO: ILLUSTRATIVE PHOTO/GETTY**

ing technology, according to independent tests. Our current customers in the US will face significant challenges as they will now be forced to urgently seek replacements for technologies they have relied on for years," the company said in a statement. The company added that Kaspersky Lab will continue protecting the world from cyber threats and its business "from actions that are aimed at wrongfully damaging the company's reputation and commercial interests." — SPUTNIK

## Argentina has surplus harvest, but farmers want more from Milei

*The current stance reflects a cautious optimism among farmers, who are awaiting concrete action from the government before fully engaging in the market.*

IN the pampas, Argentina's vast and fertile grasslands outside Buenos Aires, grain silos overflow with this year's harvest — but nobody is selling just yet.

Though the country's farmers largely gave their

votes to President Javier Milei in the November election, they now want him to deliver on promises to slash taxes and ease exchange rate controls.

Until then, their bumper harvest will sit. "The silos are full. One

sells just enough to cover expenses," Ricardo Semino, a farmer from Lobos, 110 kilometres (68 miles) southwest of Buenos Aires, told AFP as he finished harvesting his corn and wheat fields.

"Those who can wait,

do so." After the country's worst drought in a century saw agricultural exports plummet, leading to a shortfall of \$20 billion in revenue, the industry is expecting an excellent harvest in 2024. — AFP

## SoftBank's Son sets ambition to realize "super" AI in 10 yrs

SOFTBANK Group Corp CEO Masayoshi Son on Friday put forward his latest ambition to realize artificial intelligence thousands of times smarter than humans within the next 10 years, saying he was "born to" create artificial superintelligence.

Towards that end, the Japanese investment and technology giant will deepen cooperation with such leading firms as US semiconductor giants Nvidia Corp and Intel Corp while also ramping up operations at its British chip designing subsidiary Arm Holdings Plc, Son said at an annual shareholders' meeting.

"The reason I was born is to make ASI a reality. I truly believe so," Son said, defining artificial superintelligence, or ASI, as being "10,000 times smarter than humans".

"All I have done so far was just a warm-up,"

the founder of SoftBank, known for making bold investment decisions and incurring massive losses at times, said.

Son said ASI will change the way the world operates, noting that everything from cleaning and laundry to driving will be automated by robots. He also said ASI could come up with cures for cancer.

During last year's annual shareholders' meeting, Son said he will "mount a counteroffensive" after posting a massive net loss for the second straight year in fiscal 2022, vowing to pursue growth that utilizes the rising popularity of AI.

His next investment step has been drawing attention as the global AI boom has pushed up the stock prices of Arm, which was listed on the US Nasdaq in September, also helping lift SoftBank Group shares. — Kyodo

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# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Russia thinking about possible changes to its nuclear doctrine: Putin

RUSSIA may consider amending nuclear deterrence policy, Russian President Vladimir Putin warned.

According to Putin, this matter became a subject of debate in light of the recent discussions in the world on lowering the threshold of nuclear weapon use.

At the same time, the Rus-

sian president noted that Russia has no need an ability to launch a preemptive nuclear strike.

Putin delivered these remarks on 21 June at a press conference held during his visit to Vietnam. The Russian president arrived in Hanoi on 19 June upon the conclusion of his trip to North Korea. — SPUTNIK



The Iskander-M missile system represents a significant component of Russia's military modernization efforts, providing it with enhanced capabilities for both conventional and nuclear deterrence, as well as for tactical and strategic operations. **PHOTO: IMAGE USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE /SPUTNIK**

## South Korea fires warning shots after new border incursion

SEOULS military said Friday it had fired warning shots after North Korean soldiers briefly crossed the heavily fortified border in the third such incursion this month.

The nuclear-armed North has been reinforcing the border in recent months, adding tactical roads and laying more landmines, which has led to "casualties" among its troops due to accidental explosions, South Korea has said.

On Thursday morning, "several North Korean soldiers who were working inside the DMZ on the central front line crossed the Military Demarcation Line," Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

"After our military's warning broadcasts and warning shots, the North Korean soldiers retreated back northward," they added.

Similar incidents took place on 9 June and Tuesday this week, with Seoul's military saying both incursions appeared to be accidental.

Relations between the two Koreas are at one of their lowest points in years, with Kim Jong Un hosting Russian leader Vladimir Putin this week, and signing a mutual defence agreement that has raised hackles in Seoul.

In response, the South — a major weapons exporter — has said it will "reconsider" a longstanding policy that

has prevented it from supplying arms directly to Ukraine.

"While attention is focused on Putin's pariah partnerships, the Kim regime is recklessly endangering soldiers with rushed construction work at the inter-Korean border," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul.

The work is likely aimed "as much at keeping their countrymen in as it is at keeping the South Koreans out," he said, but warned that "a lack of inter-Korean communication channels and confidence-building mechanisms increases the danger of escalation in border areas." — AFP



Access to the DMZ is highly restricted and controlled by both North and South Korea. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ PIXABAY**

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### officially recognizes Palestinian state

ARMENIA officially recognized the State of Palestine, the Armenian Foreign Ministry said in a statement Friday.

"On various international platforms, we have always advocated a peaceful and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian question and support the two-state principle of resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We are convinced that this is the only way to ensure that Palestinians and Israelis can realize their legitimate aspirations," the ministry said.

"Based on the above and reaffirming its commitment to international law and the principles of equality, sovereignty and peaceful coexistence of peoples, the Republic of Armenia recognizes the State of Palestine," read the statement. — Xinhua

#### Death toll in India's spurious liquor tragedy rises to 49

THE death toll in spurious liquor tragedy in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu has risen to 49, officials said Friday.

The deaths have been reported from Kallakurichi town, about 244 kilometres southwest of Chennai, the capital city of Tamil Nadu.

So far, 49 people have succumbed after being taken ill following the consumption of tainted bootleg liquor on Tuesday evening. — Xinhua

# SPORTS

## ONE Friday Fights 69: Myanmar's Soe Lin Oo to face Thai starfighter Pongsiri

AS the ONE Championship organization regularly holds Friday nights in Bangkok, Thailand, the ONE Friday Fights will continue on 5 July and will feature a bout of famous Myanmar traditional boxer Soe Lin Oo versus Muay Thai star Pongsiri.

The ONE Championship organization announced on the evening of 21 June that Soe Lin Oo's bout will be part of ONE Friday Fights 69. Soe Lin Oo has won two fights since joining the ONE Championship organization, winning both fights and has been the



PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

subject of interest among MMA fans. Pongsiri, who has fought

hundreds of Muay Thai fights,

the last few years. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

## Denmark draws with England, Spain edges Italy in Euro 2024

The game between England and Denmark unfolded at a packed Deutsche Bank Park in Frankfurt, where England took control early on, pressing Denmark onto the defensive.



Joachim Andersen (top R) of Denmark heads the ball during the UEFA Euro 2024 Group C match between Denmark and England in Frankfurt, Germany on 20 June 2024. PHOTO: MENG DINGBO/XINHUA

HARRY Kane's goal wasn't enough for the Three Lions as Morten Hjulmand's hammer secured Denmark a 1-1 draw while Spain won in Group B after beating Italy on the own goal from Riccardo Calafiori in the second round of the Euro 2024 group stage on Thursday.

England dictated the pace and pressed Denmark onto the back foot from the kick-off at a sold out Deutsche Bank Park in Frankfurt.

The Three Lions created their first half chance when

Kyle Walker teed up Phil Foden, who pulled wide from central position with 13 minutes gone.

Walker kept Denmark's defence busy and assisted Harry Kane with the opener after providing a deflected cross into the box, five minutes later.

Denmark remained unimpressed and pushed forward whereas England put all their men behind the ball.

The Danes got rewarded for their efforts at the half hour mark when Morten Hjulmand

drilled the equalizer from 25 metres past England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford.

After the restart England came out with their guns blazing as Foden rattled the woodwork with a low drive in the 56<sup>th</sup> minute before Denmark goalie Kasper Schmeichel denied Ollie Watkins a goal following a one-on-one in the 71<sup>st</sup> minute. Denmark almost clinched a late win, but Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg's curl missed the target narrowly wide in the closings stages. — Xinhua

## AFC U-16 Championship: Myanmar to play Cambodia today

MYANMAR'S U-16 boys' team will take on the Cambodia team in the ASEAN Football Confederation (AFC) U-16 Championship in Indonesia.

Team Myanmar is placed in Group B. The Myanmar versus Cambodia match will begin at 7:00 pm Myanmar Standard Time, while Viet Nam will face Brunei at 2:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

A pre-press conference for the teams from Group B was held yesterday, joined by respective head coaches.

"We started building this team in February and have trained well. Ready for the race. The opponents in the group are good teams, so it's a good opportunity for us. We will play our best in every match and try to

reach the semi-finals and the final," said Myanmar head coach Mitami.

Likewise, Cambodia head coach Inour Kazunori said, "It is a tough group because we are in the same group as good teams. Not every match is easy. We will try our best to produce a good result and advance to the next level".

A total of 12 teams participated in the championship, as four teams were divided into three groups.

Group A showcases Indonesia, Laos, Singapore and the Philippines, while Group B sees Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia and Brunei. Group C comprises Thailand, Malaysia, Timor-Leste and Australia. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar U-16 boys' team head coach Mitami. PHOTO: MFF

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Russia thinking about possible changes to its nuclear doctrine: Putin

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The BRICS nations represent a diverse range of economies and political systems, but they share common goals of promoting economic cooperation, development, and reforming global financial institutions to better reflect the interests of emerging market economies. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIONAL / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

## Thailand pushes forward to join BRICS

*Joining BRICS would enable Thailand to enhance South-South cooperation, play a more active global role, and contribute to shaping international frameworks. The move aligns with Thailand's commitment to multilateralism and empowering developing countries on the global stage.*

THAILAND is pushing forward with its plan to become a member of the BRICS group of emerging economies as early as October at the bloc's next summit in Russia, a Thai foreign ministry official said on Thursday.

Thailand submitted a formal letter of intent to join during the BRICS ministerial meeting over a week ago and hoped to receive positive feedback, said foreign ministry spokesperson Nikorndej Balankura, in a bid to become the

group's first member from Southeast Asia.

Joining BRICS would allow Thailand to leverage further in advancing South-South cooperation as well as to play a more proactive role and contribute to crafting the global architecture, Nikorndej told a news conference.

Thailand places importance on prioritizing multilateralism and strengthening the role of developing countries in the international arena, which aligns with

BRICS principles, and participating in the group would also enhance the kingdom's opportunities on the international stage, a government statement said.

The BRICS is the acronym for an emerging-market cooperative mechanism that initially included Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. In January, the bloc expanded its membership to include Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, and Ethiopia. — Xinhua

**SUSPECTED ONLINE  
TRANSACTIONS**

## Indonesia steps up crackdown on online gambling

INDONESIA has stepped up measures to fight online gambling as the number of transactions suspectedly related to gambling activities is increasing across the country.

Gambling, both online and offline, is illegal in the Southeast Asian nation. Participants and organizers of a gambling event can be sentenced to a maximum of 10 years in prison and a 25-million Indonesian rupiahs (about US\$1,500) fine.

Meanwhile, those distributing online gambling software can face up to six years in prison and a one-billion Indonesian rupiahs (about US\$60,000 dollars) fine.

Recent findings of the country's Financial Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre showed that online gambling activities in Indonesia that took place in the first quarter of 2024 reached a combined transactional value of more than 600 trillion Indonesian rupiahs (about US\$36.4 billion).

The number of people involved in online gambling activities has reached 3.2 million, centre spokesman Natsir Kongah said in a recent online discussion, adding that mostly youths and people from low-income households were engaged in it. — Xinhua

## Vietnam willing to return to nuclear power industry issue: Rosatom CEO

*CEO of Russia's Rosatom stated that Vietnam had previously decided against integrating nuclear energy into its power mix during 2016-2018, despite maintaining cooperation with Russia on nuclear technology projects such as the nuclear technology centre.*

THE leadership of Vietnam is showing a desire to return to the nuclear power industry issue, and talks on the construction of a nuclear power plant (NPP) will resume after it makes the decision, Russia's Rosatom state nuclear corporation CEO Alexey

Likhachev told Sputnik.

"The current leadership of Vietnam is demonstrating a desire to return to the topic of nuclear power industry in general. And when this decision is made, negotiations will automatically resume," Likhachev said.

He said that in 2016-2018, Vietnam decided "not to use nuclear energy in the power balance at all," although nuclear technologies remained and cooperation with Russia continued on the nuclear technology centre project. — SPUTNIK



A worker at a workshop of the Khiagda enterprise in the Republic of Buryatia beginning preparations for the development of the Istochnoye and Verhinskoye natural uranium deposits at the Khiagda ore field. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**