

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives National Security Chiefs of BIMSTEC Member States yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pointed out that the Fourth Meeting of BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs to be hosted by Myanmar will be held transparently and successfully.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received National security Chiefs of BIMSTEC Member States and the Secretary-General of BIMSTEC who arrived in Myanmar to attend the Fourth Meeting of BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs at the Credentials Hall of the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, the Senior General extended greetings. National Security Chiefs of BIMSTEC Member States, representatives and the Secretary-General of BIMSTEC individually explained cooperation and challenges concerning the BIMSTEC and the situation to solve these challenges through collaborative efforts.

## Myanmar reaffirms holding multiparty democratic general election

BIMSTEC Member States cooperate with one another in terms of economic growth, peace, stability, and communications.

The Senior General cordially held talks with National Security Chiefs of BIMSTEC Member States, representatives and the Secretary-General of BIMSTEC about emergence of the BIMSTEC, objectives, cooperation of BIMSTEC member States with one another in economic growth, peace and stability

and communication sector; cooperation among member states in drug eradication, combatting terrorism, anti-human trafficking and cybersecurity development of member countries, situations to solve challenges through collaborative efforts among regional countries, plans of Myanmar to host the Fourth Meeting

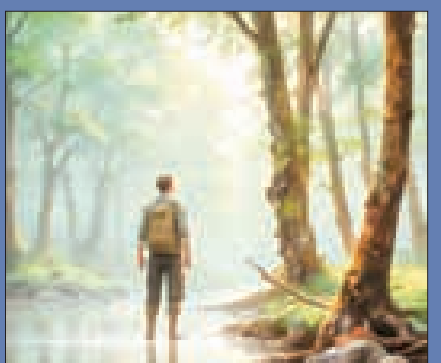
of BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs transparently and successfully, measures to hold the BIMSTEC Summit to be held in Thailand successfully, political progress of Myanmar and preparations for holding a free and fair multiparty democratic general election successfully.

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### Article

#### No-reaction Method of Social Communications

By Hu Wo  
(Cuckoo's Song)



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FDA Myanmar recruitment:  
Over 100 new positions available

### BUSINESS

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Myanmar's fishery exports  
swell to US\$165M+ by 12 July

# NATIONAL



## BIMSTEC member delegates arrive in Nay Pyi Taw for 4<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs' Meeting

BIMSTEC national security chiefs and their wives and members from BIMSTEC member countries flew to Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning via Yangon to attend the Fourth BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs' Meeting, which Myanmar will host.

Officials from relevant ministries greeted the chiefs of

national security who arrived in Nay Pyi Taw at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. BIMSTEC security chiefs and their wives arrived in Yangon on 24 July, where Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and officials at the Yangon International Airport welcomed them.

Also, BIMSTEC Secretary-General Mr Indra Mani Pandey

and senior BIMSTEC security officials who will attend the coordination meeting for the Fourth BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs' Meeting arrived in Yangon on 22 and 23 July. Officials from the State Administration Council office and relevant ministries welcomed them at Yangon International Airport. — MNA/KZL



Photos (above and top) show the arrival of national security chiefs and their wives, as well as delegates from BIMSTEC member states, being welcomed by relevant officials.

## Myanmar's traditional Hngetkyidaung swords popular for room décor

THE Myanmar traditional 'Hngetkyidaung' sword is reportedly purchased to decorate hotels, offices, and private rooms.

Traditional swords, which have been produced in Pyawbwe township, Mandalay Region, for generations, are receiving the highest orders from Yangon.

In addition, sword enthusiasts are ordering their favourite swords in various styles, including replicas of ancient Myanmar swords, resulting in a good trading situation.

"It is a traditional business handed down from the ancestors years ago in Pyawbwe. At present, many Hngetkyidaung swords are being sold. Some bought them for protection, some for charm, and some for decoration in living rooms, offices, and shops with a rack. Some came and bought them. We also got orders from hotels which showed them in glass rooms. Some bought a customized design after showing what they wanted. They also ordered replicas of ancient Myanmar swords," said the

shop owner of "Miba Ayeik" sword trading in Minlantaung village, Pyawbwe Township.

These locally produced swords, including the most famous Hngetkyidaung and Kendo swords, are shipped to all parts of Myanmar, mainly to Yangon and Myanmar.

"People from other cities also buy them: from Myawady, Tachilek, Mawlamyine, Ayeyawady region, and mostly from Yangon and Mandalay. Most of them are from Yangon. Of 1,000 swords sold, about 800 orders came from Yangon. They ordered them for decoration," he said.

"Hngetkyidaung and kendo were already famous before. In the Minlantaung village of Pyawbwe, many swords are sold beside the road. There are many traditional shops for generations. The whole village works in them. Some are blacksmiths, and some are sellers," he said. — Thit Taw/ZN



Myanmar's traditional Hngetkyidaung swords produced in Pyawbwe Township.

## Bagan still draws throngs of pilgrims



Pilgrims are seen visiting Bagan.

PILGRIMS visit the ancient cultural region, Bagan, without stopping, and most of them are from the Yangon, Mandalay, and Bago regions, according to residents.

"There are still visitors in Bagan. Most of our clients are residents of Yangon, Bago, and Mandalay. Bagan has non-stop arrival of pilgrims," said Ko Thant Zin, who provides travel services for pilgrims.

Despite the monsoon season, the weather in Bagan is fine, making the visitor arrivals increase continually, he said.

From Bagan, pilgrims continue to visit other towns.

"Some visitors from Yangon hire us to continue their visit to Mandalay or Taunggyi and Inlay after they finish touring Bagan," said Ko Thant Zin. — Thit Taw/ZS

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar reaffirms holding multiparty democratic ...

### FROM PAGE 1

Also present at the meeting were Council Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Foreign Affairs

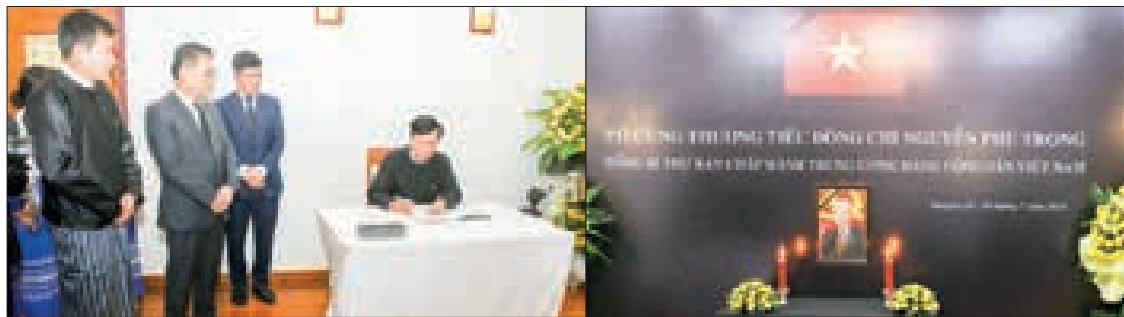
U Than Swe, Union Minister for the Ministry 1 of the State Administration Council Chairman's Office Admiral Moe Aung, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung and officials.

The meeting was also attended by BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs, namely Shri Ajit Doval of India, Ambassador Abdul Motaleb Sarker of Bangladesh, Mr Sonam Wangyel of Bhutan, Mr Harishchandra Ghimire

of Nepal, General Kamal Gunaratne (Retd) WWV RWP RSP USP Ndc psc MPhil of Sri Lanka, Ms Kanyarat Angkanavisalya of Thailand and BIMSTEC Secretary-General Mr Indra Mani Pandey. —MNA/TTA

## On behalf of SAC Chairman, SAC Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe signs book of condolences for demise of General Secretary of Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee

ON behalf of the Chairman of the State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe, Secretary of the State Administration Council, accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, arrived at the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on Thiri Mingala Street, Kamayut Township, Yangon, at 2 pm yesterday to sign the book of condolences for the demise of Mr Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist



SAC Secretary Aung Lin Dwe signs the book of condolences yesterday in Yangon.

Party of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The Secretary of the State Administration Council was welcomed by Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to

Myanmar Mr Ly Quoc Tuan, Defence Attaché Mr Dao Van Duy and officials.

Then, the Secretary of the State Administration Council

met the Ambassador, Defence Attaché and authorities concerned with the Vietnamese Embassy at the parlour in a friendly manner. He also expressed the message

of condolences and sympathies from the Chairman of the State Administration Council for the recent passing of the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam and signed the book of condolences.

Mr Nguyen Phu Trong served as the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam since 2011 and paid an official visit to Myanmar in 2017. He was the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam from 2018 to 2021. — MNA

## NSA & Union Minister receives BIMSTEC national security chiefs



BIMSTEC's National Security Chiefs call on National Security Adviser and Union Minister Admiral Moe Aung yesterday.

ADMIRAL Moe Aung, National Security Adviser and Union Minister for the Ministry 1 of the State Administration Council Chairman's Office, received National Security Chiefs of the BIMSTEC who are in Nay Pyi Taw to attend the Fourth BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs' Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yes-

terday. Union Minister Admiral Moe Aung met with the chiefs of national security, Ambassador Abdul Motaleb Sarker of Bangladesh and Mr Sonam Wangyel from Bhutan yesterday morning, and India's Shri Ajit Doval in the evening, separately.

Similarly, Union Minister Admiral Moe Aung met nation-

al security chief from Nepal, Mr Harishchandra Ghimire, and Secretary-General of BIMSTEC Mr Indra Mani Pandey separately. During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on the situation that will be able to solve the challenges that the countries are experiencing through the cooperation among member states on the security of the regional economy and the status of Myanmar's political development and preparations for a free and fair multiparty democratic general election.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister for the Ministry 1 of State Administration Council Chairman's Office Maj-Gen Khun Thant Zaw Htoo, the director-general and officials. — MNA/TS

## 4<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs' Meeting to be launched

A coordination meeting was held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw to hold the fourth BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs' Meeting.

Officials discussed issues related to the setting of agendas and preliminary discussions for the meetings' reports, as well as issues related to the fight against regional terrorism and transnational crime and the promotion of the fight against drug trafficking. The director-general and officials of the State Administration Council office, high-ranking officials from BIMSTEC member countries, and the secretariat were present at the cording meeting, and the Fourth BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs' Meeting will continue. — MNA/KZL



The coordination meeting for holding the fourth BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs' Meeting in progress yesterday.

### Corrigendum

PLEASE read the name of "General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam and former President Nguyen Phu Trong" instead of "General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam and former President Nguyen Phu Quoc" in the fifth line of the first paragraph in the second column of the news story with the title of "DPM MoD Union Minister leaves for Vietnam to attend state funeral" mentioned on page 3 of this newspaper issued on 25 July 2024. Error is regretted. — Ed

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# NATIONAL

## DPM MoFA Union Minister holds bilateral talks with Vice-Chairman of Standing Committee of 14<sup>th</sup> National People's Congress of China, Deputy Secretary of Chinese People's Congress, Yunnan Provincial Committee, and Governor of Yunnan Province respectively

DURING the visit to Kunming, the Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, together with the Union Minister for Commerce, held a bilateral talk with the Chinese delegation led by Mr Ding Zongli, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the 14<sup>th</sup> National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, on 23 July 2024 at the meeting room of the Dianchi International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

During the talk, they focused on further promotion of the existing friendship and bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and China, development opportunities and shared future between the two countries,



Bilateral talks are in progress between Deputy Prime Minister Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe and the Chinese delegation led by Vice-Chairman Mr Ding Zongli of the Standing Committee of the 14<sup>th</sup> National People's Congress on 23 July 2024.

exchange of high-level official visits of Myanmar and China, acceleration of bilateral coop-

eration projects, China's continuous and constructive support towards Myanmar's develop-

ment endeavours, maintenance of peace and stability along the Myanmar-China border areas,

enhancement of cooperation in combatting illegal drug trafficking and online scamming in border areas, normalization of border trade between the two countries.

In the evening, the Myanmar delegation held talks with the Yunnan delegation led by Mr Wang Yubo, Deputy Secretary of the Chinese People's Congress (CPC), Yunnan Provincial Committee and Governor of Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China, at the Haigeng Garden Hotel. During the meeting, they exchanged views on further promotion of cooperation between Myanmar and Yunnan province. Afterwards, Mr Wang Yubo hosted a dinner for the Myanmar delegation. — MNA

## MoRAC Union Minister receives Pakistani Ambassador

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin received Mr Imran Haider, Ambassador of Pakistan to Myanmar, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed further strengthening in the Myanmar-Pakistan

bilateral relations, collaboration in the museum and library sector between the two countries, promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in the religious and cultural sectors of the two countries and the development of religion-and culture-based tourism. — MNA/TS



The Pakistan's ambassador calls on Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin yesterday.

## MIFER Union Minister receives WFP Country Director and Representative

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw received Mr Stephen Lowrie Anderson, Country Director and Representative for the World Food Programme (WFP) in Myanmar, who is about to leave from Myanmar after completion of the mission, and his delegation at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters relating to the WFP's ongoing Humanitarian Assistance programme and future work plans to be carried out in co-



WFP Country Director and Representative in Myanmar Mr Stephen Lowrie Anderson calls on Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw yesterday.

operation with Myanmar.

Senior officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations,

as well as representatives from the WFP Myanmar office, were also present at the meeting. — MNA

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# NATIONAL

## MoHA honours 2024 matric exam outstanding students

THE Ministry of Home Affairs held a ceremony yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw to honour the children of department employees who passed the 2023-2024 Matric Exam with good grades.

During the ceremony, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, who is also a member of the State Administration Council, highlighted that knowledge and technology development and complete discipline are crucial to improving nationwide education and implementing a comprehensive education system. Parents need to advise their children to pass on their knowledge and make them good national treasures, as well as the importance of continuous learning and self-studying. Libraries



Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and attendees pose for the commemorative group picture at yesterday's event in Nay Pyi Taw.

are the most basic infrastructure for continuous self-studying to combat illiteracy.

After that, the Union minister and wife, deputy ministers and officials presented outstanding awards to the students who gained distinctions from one to six subjects in the matriculation examination for the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

The ministry awarded stipends to 17 students who passed the matric exam with six distinctions, 22 students with five distinctions, 23 with four distinctions, 34 with three distinctions, 60 with two distinctions and 157 with one distinction, totalling 313 outstanding students, as well as 797 who passed with an ordinary pass. — MNA/KZL

## Myanmar delegation led by DPM MoFA Union Minister tours SPIC Yunnan International Power Investment Corporation

DURING their stay in Kunming, the Myanmar delegation led by U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, made a tour to the SPIC Yunnan International Power Investment Corporation on 24 July 2024. The delegation was welcomed by Mr Wu Zhiqun, Chairman of the Corporation and briefed on the works of the SPIC Corporation. Afterwards, Mr Wu Zhiqun and the team presented their ongoing projects in the development of the electric power sector in Myanmar. — MNA



Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe looks into the display at the SPIC Yunnan International Power Investment Corporation.

## Cash donated for reconstruction of houses in Mon State

MON State Chief Minister U Aung Kyi Thein, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Phyo Thant and relevant officials, yesterday attended the cash donation ceremony for the construction of houses that the terrorists in Dhammatha village of Kyaikmaraw Township in Mon State burned down.

The event took place at the religious hall of Sasana 2500 Monastery in Mawlamyine.

During the ceremony, the chief minister talked about the comprehensive efforts in rehabilitation processes by setting up committees, relocation of villagers, assistance including food, clothing, construction materials and kitchen utensils provided by the Ministry of Border Affairs and Mon State government, security affairs, education and healthcare services and access to electricity.

He also appreciated the donation made for the Dhammatha residents.



Mon State Chief Minister U Aung Kyi Thein and officials cordially greet household members at the cash donation event yesterday.

Then, the deputy minister for Border Affairs explained the purpose of providing cash assistance.

The Mon State chief minister handed over K190 million, whereas K190 million was donated by the deputy minister, K76 million by the Mon State Security and Border Affairs minister, commodities, K104,951.280 and 380 kits containing rescue materials

by the Disaster Management Department, K100 million for the cost of CI sheets by donor U Hla Tun and K220,28,500 for CI sheets by other donors and departmental officials.

Peace mediator Sayadaws also expressed gratitude for donations, and the State chief minister and deputy minister cordially greeted the Dhammatha villagers. — Mawlamyine IPRD/KTZH

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

## Seminar on 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence held

THE Chinese Embassy to Myanmar held a seminar commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence at Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel on 25 July 2024, with representatives from Myanmar's political parties, think tanks, University of Foreign Languages (Yangon), media and friendship organizations.

Ms Cao Jing, Minister Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar, shed light on the critical elements delivered by President Xi Jinping at the conference marking the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence held in Beijing on 28 June 2024. Chinese leaders advocated mutual respect for sovereignty & territorial integrity, mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence back in history. With Myanmar's support of the Five Principles in Asia, it helped deepen ties between Asian countries.

The Minister Counsellor highlighted from the important speech addressed by President Xi that if countries follow and carry forward the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence regardless of different communities, levels of country development, religions, culture, ideologies and history, they can establish mutual trust and friendly relations and cooperation to build a community with shared future for humankind.

"China has been supporting Myanmar in many sectors (health, education, infrastructure, social, reduction in poverty). China's Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund contributed to nearly 120 projects in Myanmar. China and Myanmar



Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing and officials pose for the group documentary photo at yesterday's seminar in Yangon.

cooperated to combat transnational telecom and cyber scams for the common interests and security of the people of the two nations. China will encourage Myanmar to restore internal peace and tranquillity with constructive approaches. She also stimulated open, inclusive and effective discussions," she elaborated.

Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing for the Ministry of State Administration Council Chairman's Office 2 emphasized, "Those Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence play a vital role in the history of Myanmar and China friendship relations. Being committed practitioners of the Five Principles, Myanmar and China have maintained friendly relations for 70 years. Myanmar has been actively par-

ticipating in the One Belt, One Road Initiative of China, along with cooperation in many areas and people-to-people exchange. I believe that if we accelerate constructive efforts and friendly consultations, we will enhance common interests, bilateral relations, and cooperation. He hoped that China would collaborate with all countries to build a community with a shared future for humanity to maintain peace and prosperity of the world and the future generations."

Furthermore, U Thant Kyaw, chair of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, USDP Yangon Chairman U Khin Maung Soe and U Khin Maung Htay, vice-president of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association and Dr Chaw Chaw Sein, Pro-rector of YUFL,

discussed win-win cooperation between Myanmar and China and also appreciated China's contributions to health, education, infrastructure and other sectors for interest and development of Myanmar people. Participants also agreed to follow the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence to maintain peace and stability.

Ms Qiao Li, Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar, delivered a closing remark at the seminar that, as Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing said, "Earlier, relatives afar are not as close as neighbours. I had a profound and familiar experience like that proverb during my service for three years in Myanmar. China and Myanmar strengthened strategic multi-sectoral partnerships (such as health, socioeco-

conomic development, economic cooperation, and natural disaster challenges) and deepened the Swemyo Pauk-Phaw friendship to safeguard common interests. China will carry forward the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and, implement the Belt and Road Initiative and establishment of economic corridors between Myanmar and China by linking three initiatives, Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, Global Civilization Initiative, together with Myanmar to build a shared future for humankind and achieve development and prosperity."

In 70 years, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence have been embraced by the international community and have become basic norms in governing international relations as well as fundamental principles of international law. Humanity stands at the crossroads of history, addressing global threats and challenges. China offers a solution: building a community with a shared future for humanity, proposed by President Xi at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations in March 2013. China has established various forms of community with a shared future in dozens of countries and regions. China is advancing efforts to build communities with a shared future in the areas of health, environment, cyberspace, nuclear security, and maritime affairs. According to Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, China has been and will always be a builder of world peace, a contributor to global development and a defender of international order, citing a report of the CGTN extracted from President Xi's keynote speech. — KK/TWA

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# NATIONAL

## MPMDMA expands sales of rare medications at distribution prices in Yangon, Bago

MYANMAR Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Manufacturer Association (MPMDMA) will add one more place in the Yangon and Bago regions to sell hard-to-find pharmaceuticals at the wholesale prices of the pharmaceutical companies, said Dr Win Kyaing, chair of MPMDMA.

Forty pharmaceutical and medical device importing companies offered pharma sales at wholesale price in Yangon starting from 17 July 2024.

“The companies started to sell hard-to-find medicines at Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization’s office in Yangon on Merchant Road in Pabedan Township, Yangon on 17 July. The sales will expand to a place located in the compound of Nawaday Cinema in Mayangon Township, Yangon and the sales centre on the first floor of Thiri Oktha Market in Bago Region. Individuals can buy hard-to-find medicines according to patient records and old blister

packs, bottles, sachets, etc,” he added.

MPMDMA is endeavouring to expand sales in more regions and states.

Drugs for chronic diseases, common diseases and conditions, including medicines for patients with hypertension, heart failure, kidney failure, diabetes, cancer, antibiotics, probiotics and other bone growth stimulators) are currently available at a pharma fair. — ASH/KK



A general front view of the Pharmaceutical Sales Centre 2 that is planned to open on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road.

### Counter-argument to false information

## Malicious media spreads fake news: 6 civilians killed, 12 injured, 5 detained in Mon State



This screenshot discloses false claims.

MALICIOUS media outlets intentionally spread fake news, claiming that an armed engagement broke out between the security forces and terrorists near Kyauktankalay village of Pyinkadogon village-tract in Kyaikto township of Mon State on 23 July. Six died, and 12 were injured after the explosion of heavy weapons launched by security forces. Moreover, these media accused the security forces of detaining five civilians in Pein-negon village.

According to a security official, the security forces were attacked by the terrorists when

they arrived about 800 metres from Kyauktankalay village on 23 July. They retreated after the counterattack by the security forces. Security forces conducted security measures in the vicinity areas and seized one backhoe that was used illegally to explore natural resources. There was no causality or injury.

Terrorists ask for money from civilians, sell drugs and explore natural resources illegally for their survival.

Subversive media outlets circulate false claims and misinformation to cover up their lawless actions. — MNA/KTZH

## Efforts to combat illegal trade continue with major seizures, arrests

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat illegal trade continue effectively and are in line with the law.

On 24 July, Customs Department teams conducted inspections and seized several items: 50 pieces of Thai-made bedsheet materials valued at K4.5 million at Yangon International Airport and three types of illegal goods worth K5.2 million, including 4,200 bottles of Thai-made Lactasoy soya milk and a King Long bus valued at K45 million carrying these goods at Ywathagyi Dry Port. The action was carried out in accordance with Customs Procedures.

Also, on 24 July, the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade

Eradication Special Task Force inspected goods at the Yadanabon Bridge (Mandalay) checkpoint, resulting in the seizure of 55 types of goods valued at approximately K46.08 million. These included 600 kilogrammes of coconut fibre, five swivel office chairs, a Hino Profia truck, and a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (valued at K60 million) transporting these items. The action was conducted according to Customs procedures.

On 25 July, the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized an unregistered Super Custom vehicle worth about K7 million at the Yadanabon checkpoint. The action was taken under the Import-Export Law.

Similarly, on 24 July, the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized 380 used Japanese bicycles (worth K6.46 million) and two Nissan Diesel trucks transporting them near the Shwethanlwin checkpoint in Phayagyi. The action was conducted as per Customs procedures.

On 25 July, 0.623 tonne of illegal teak valued at K548,768 was seized within Bago District. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 13 arrests were made on 24 and 25 July, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods worth approximately K244.79 million. — MNA/TMT



Photos show confiscated illegal items in different regions and states.

# OPINION

## Shape increasing number of model schools

To align with the vision of holistic education, schools must move beyond focusing solely on academic subjects. Comprehensive development requires incorporating lessons from various sectors, including knowledge outside of traditional school subjects. Teachers play a crucial role in this by providing top-quality education across a broad spectrum, thereby equipping students with five essential strengths. Consequently, schools must foster well-rounded students who excel in both learning and personal development.

The five strengths students should develop include physical, mental, economic, social, and moral attributes that are valued in Myanmar society. Enhancing these qualities will improve students' capacities and qualifications. Teachers, despite their demanding

The strengths of teachers and the number of students must be balanced in order to develop the morals, discipline and education of schools harmoniously. Otherwise, schools will fail to have achievements due to degradation in disciplines and academic measures. Teachers must be models for students who are abiding by school disciplines. If so, both schools and students will be outstanding in the society.

environment and student development. Training students in leadership and followership skills are essential and should be integrated into their educational experience. Additionally, collaboration with health department officials to promote health knowledge is vital. This includes teaching students the importance of physical exercise and encouraging them to pursue both general knowledge and school education.

Improving the school's environment through cleanliness and landscaping is equally important. Schools should be well-equipped with the necessary infrastructure, including laboratories, libraries, and multimedia labs, which should be utilized effectively to enhance both student and teacher capacities. Such facilities contribute to making schools stand out in society.

A comprehensive approach to education that encompasses academic excellence and personal development is crucial. By fostering the five strengths in students and improving school environments, schools can produce well-rounded, capable individuals ready to contribute positively to society.

The strengths of teachers and the number of students must be balanced in order to develop the morals, discipline and education of schools harmoniously. Otherwise, schools will fail to have achievements due to degradation in disciplines and academic measures. Teachers must be models for students who are abiding by school disciplines. If so, both schools and students will be outstanding in the society.

# No-reaction Method of Social Communications

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

It is well known that man is a social animal. To be able to lead an independent life in the human world between man and man or between region and region – is likely to be hard in the long run with regard to essential food products, fashion accessories, cosmetics, medicine, transportation, technology, and so many others. At worst, we humans must communicate with each other simply for our safety. In communicating like this, we are given to use verbal language or body language for any or no apparent reason. One theme may be added that should be considered carefully. Every action will have any reaction, as Newton stated in Physics. But in the world of social communication, will we need to respond to every word or behaviour done by others towards us? This is a challenging question, I should believe. Here, the no-reaction method of communication

ought to be the best solution to social problems in relationships.

What I want to mean is that the no-reaction method is just a kind of reaction by which we do not respond to words or behaviours of others towards us out of anger immediately. Even though we have no response to those things at once, it does not show that we will never use 'no reaction' to others; that is, we will have to wait for time to respond to them in the short term or in the long term. While doing no reaction, we can manage to control our temper bit by bit if we go off the deep end during this time and then even find potential solutions to the current situations as soon as possible. In fact, the reason why we do not take an immediate reaction to anything or anyone in our presence is not because we are afraid of these but because we are finding proper solutions to the present problem. In most cases,

my no-reaction method will refer to that communication with anything or anybody is negligible as usual if we wish, seeing that instantaneous communication has tragic consequences.

In some contexts, there is no use in replying to anyone very quickly when communicating with each other. As a quick reaction, our words or behaviours sometimes have no effect on others. While reacting, we will only be exhausted or lost for words, but others may feel nothing about it. Those people who should not give any reaction in mutual relationships also include stubborn ones with superstitious beliefs. They never admit that they are wrong about anything as well as they can be under the illusion that they are always right whatever they do. So, it would be best not to go and talk to any person who does not accept causes and effects, the pros and cons, ad-

vantages and disadvantages, or do's and don'ts on a matter of life and death critically and logically. Even if so, our energy and effort in use for reaction should surely be in vain. Such persons will never listen to us in the letter; no matter how well we say something.

Not only that, but undesirable consequences will arise from a recklessly fast reaction to others' words or behaviours that are totally annoying. In consequence, a negative emotion called hatred may occur undesirably between action and reaction. From this hatred come revenge and vindictiveness — some even commit serious crimes such as murder. Otherwise, afterwards, some keep little contact with or stay away from those who have nothing in common with them. It is only human nature to make others follow one's words or behaviours, sticking to the letter of the law. If a person who always acquiesces in anyone else's likes declines or is adamantly opposed to his wish only once, the former will become the latter's very enemy quite unreasonably. We can hardly control the temporary anger that crops up from unexpected circumstances. Such uncontrollable anger is some kind of habit, of course. A bad habit that has lasted for a long time turns out to be a general routine or even universal truth in the fragility of human society.

As the saying goes, silence is golden, whereas some people say that anyone staying silent means admitting to mistakes. No reaction to poisonous words or behaviours uses little or no language, and it can reduce potentially dangerous social issues. Admittedly, it is rare to find a prominent person with few social enemies. A sudden sense, anger, in particular, naturally comes and goes or appears and disappears. The critical time to perform matters of great importance before too much anger is lost is needed indeed. Figuratively, the language looks like an absolutely sharp sword for social communication; the language tool is possible to make a person alive or dead. Thus, before any case of life or death should go, the best no-reaction method of social communication should go, especially in fast and furious states of affairs. There is no need for us to respond to all cases in everyday occurrence for certain.



Utilizing the no-reaction method promotes peaceful interactions by reducing the likelihood of emotional outbursts and allowing time for rational thinking and problem-solving. ILLUSTRATION: IMAGE USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE/ART OF MAGIC STUDIO

# Natural forest regrowth can be better than planting trees: study



Restoring forests has massive potential to help limit rising global temperatures as trees absorb heat-trapping carbon dioxide emissions from the atmosphere. ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY

COUNTRIES have pledged to plant billions of trees to tackle climate change, but half the time letting forests regenerate naturally would be a better option, a major study said Wednesday.

"There are places where it makes sense to plant trees, and there are places where it makes sense to naturally regenerate forests," Jacob Bukoski, one of the authors of the study told AFP.

"If you want to sequester carbon at the lowest cost, some combination of natural regeneration and plantations makes a lot of sense," said the researcher at Oregon State University in the United States.

Restoring forests has massive potential to help limit rising global temperatures because trees absorb heat-trapping carbon dioxide emissions from the atmosphere.

The study, which spanned 138 countries and was published in the journal Nature Climate Change, compared the cost and climate benefits of planting one tree species in an area or allowing natural forest regrowth — two common reforestation approaches — over a 30-year period.

## Key points

- A recent study suggests natural forest regrowth might be better than tree planting in many places to fight climate change.
- It looked at 138 countries over 30 years and found natural regrowth could save costs and be more effective.
- Jacob Bukoski from Oregon State University said both methods have advantages depending on the area.
- The study found natural regrowth was cheaper in 46% of places; tree plantations were better in the rest.
- It highlights the need for careful planning to get the most climate benefits from reforestation efforts.

It found that in 46 per cent of the studied areas, letting forests grow back naturally was the more cost-effective option. The rest of the time, plantations were found to be cheaper.

## Missed opportunities

"It suggests that the current heavier emphasis on plantations within national reforestation programmes could be leading to missed opportunities for cost-effective climate mitigation," the study said.

Previous research has shown that as much as two-thirds of reforestation commitments, said Bukoski.

In recent years there has been "a proliferation of single species plantations to try to meet climate goals", he added.

Fast-growing single species plantations — also called monoculture — are more costly to

implement but provide revenue from the production and sale of wood products.

When the wood is harvested, a portion of the carbon stored in the trees is released into the atmosphere — but the rest is trapped in the timber.

Naturally regenerated forests grow more slowly but are more biodiverse and store a greater amount of carbon over a longer time period.

The researchers said their mapping could help guide international initiatives and countries' plans to cut emissions by presenting a more nuanced approach to reforestation.

They found that natural regeneration was especially cost-effective in much of western Mexico, the Andean region, the Southern Cone of South America, west and central Africa, India, southern China, Malaysia, and

Indonesia.

Conversely, plantations proved the better option in large parts of the Caribbean, Central America, Brazil, north, east and southern Africa, northern China, mainland Southeast Asia and the Philippines.

The study used machine learning to analyse costs and carbon sequestration data from observations from thousands of sites suitable for reforestation.

Mixed species plantations and agroforestry, which integrate trees in agricultural landscapes, were left out because of a lack of good data.

The researchers added that factors such as demand for timber, the creation of economic opportunities and biodiversity restoration also needed to be taken into account when deciding on a reforestation method.

SOURCE: AFP



# NATIONAL



This photo showcases the graduation ceremony of the domestic vocational course under the rural family income-increasing project in January 2024.

## Small-scale manufacturing businesses to be expanded in Yangon Region

UNDER the project to create small-scale manufacturing businesses and promote the income of rural families, 16 small-scale manufacturing businesses will be implemented in Yangon Region in the current financial year,

according to the Small-Scale Industries Department under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

The project began with nine businesses in 151 villages in the 2023-2024 financial year and will expand to 221

villages in the 2024-2025 financial year.

This initiative aims to create job opportunities for local people, providing technical know-how and business-related equipment. — TWA/MKKS

## FDA Myanmar recruitment: Over 100 new positions available

THE Food and Drug Administration Department (FDA Myanmar) is recruiting staff for over 100 positions.

A total of 105 positions will be filled to serve in the Department of Food and Drug Administration across regions, states, and districts.

The openings include pharmaceutical technicians/deputy supervisors (medicine), deputy supervisors (food), and laboratory technicians.

Applications must be sent to the Director-General of the

Food and Drug Administration, Zeya Theikdhi Ward, Nay Pyi Taw, by 23 August. Applicants must not exceed 30 years of age on the application deadline.

The list of applicants who will take the written exam, along with the date, time, and place for the exam, will be announced at the Food and Drug Administration Office in Nay Pyi Taw, on the Food and Drug Administration Facebook page, and on the FDA website: [www.fda.gov.mm](http://www.fda.gov.mm). — TWA/TKO



FDA Myanmar's staff members are in action.

## Book launch and music festival for late renowned singer Mar Mar Aye

THE book launch for 'Yin Phwint Kyi Par Thungechin' (Open Your Heart, Friend), written by the late renowned Myanmar singer Mar Mar Aye, and her literature and music festival will take place at the Royal Music Academy in Thimgangyun on 27 July.

At the event, Mar Mar Aye's songs will be performed by pianists and well-known singers for the audience.

"A phrase in the book's introduction, 'my sorrowful notes', truly reflects its content. The book reveals that even a successful and famous

person's life is far from perfect. It is written as though Mar Mar Aye is sharing her experiences with a friend. Our Lin Lunn Khin Publishing House is releasing this second edition of 'Yin Phwint Kyi Par Thungechin' to mark what would have been Mar Mar Aye's 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday and the half-year anniversary of her passing," said a representative of the publishing house.

The book features Mar Mar Aye's reflections on her married life, presented in the form of letters to a friend. — ASH/TRKM

## MoE allows external candidates for 2025 matriculation exam



This picture captures students sitting for the 2024 matriculation examination.

THE Ministry of Education announced that students who

passed the Grade 9 examination under the old academic

system and those who failed the matriculation examination under both the old and new systems will be permitted to sit the 2025 matriculation examination externally.

It is also stated that students taking the 2025 matriculation examination from outside, apart from regular schools, can choose any of the new system's subject combinations.

According to the Ministry of Education, the pass rate for the 2024 matriculation examination was 57.9 per cent. — TWA/MKKS

## Myanmar ships over 540MT of honey in Q1

MYANMAR conveyed 544.31 metric tons of honey valued at US\$0.816 million in Q1 (April-June) of the current financial year 2024-2025, according to the Apiculture Division under the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

The seaborne honey export hit 517.31 tonnes, while the border posts registered 27 tonnes of honey exports in the past three months.

Myanmar's honey mostly went to Japan, with 335.31 tonnes worth \$502,965, while 0.5 tonne worth \$750 were exported to South Korea, 181.5 tonnes worth \$272,250 to Thailand, and 27 tonnes worth \$40,500 to China.

Myanmar primarily exports honey to China, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, the US and Singapore. Myanmar delivered over 2,200 metric tons of honey



Beehives at a beekeeping farm in Myanmar.

to foreign trade partners in the last FY 2023-2024 (April-March), the Apiculture Division's data showed.

Sagaing and Mandalay regions are the leading producers of Myanmar's honey. Myanmar's beekeeping businesses are also

found in Yangon, Bago, and Magway regions, as well as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, and Shan states. Myanmar produces sesame hon-

ey, jujube honey, Niger honey, sunflower honey, lychee honey and flower honey.

Myanmar's honey production is estimated at over 4,000 metric tons annually. Sixty per cent went to foreign markets, while the remaining was designated for domestic consumption. Honey is utilized as a traditional medicine in the country.

There are some state-owned beekeeping stations with 6,200 beehives in 31 townships and over 950 private beekeeping businesses operating with nearly 200,000 beehives.

Moreover, two million acres of crops yearly contribute to bee pollination every year. The beekeeping businesses near the crop fields contribute to the successful yield of the crop as well as quality bee production. — NN/KK

## Myanmar's fishery exports swell to US\$165M+ by 12 July



Female workers diligently sort out fishery products at the processing workplace.

MYANMAR has delivered fisheries worth US\$165.192 million to foreign trade partners as of 12 July in the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April, surging from \$137.894 million registered in the FY 2023-2024, the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce showed.

The figures showed an increase of \$27.298 million compared with that recorded in the corresponding period last FY 2023-2024.

Myanmar sends fisheries products to international markets via maritime trade and border trade channels.

Myanmar exports fishery products to Japan, European countries, China and Thailand through maritime trade channels and also delivers fish, shrimp, prawn and other seafood to neighbouring countries via border posts (Muse, Myawady, Kawthoung, Sittway, Myeik and Maungtau).

More than 20 fish species, including hilsa, rohu, catfish, and seabass, are conveyed to foreign markets, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

Myanmar ships fishery products to over 40 countries, mainly to Thailand and China. — NN/KK

## Great Indian Travel Bazaar invites Myanmar businesspeople

THE Great Indian Travel Bazaar (GITB), which is scheduled to be held on 5-7 May in Jaipur, Rajasthan, cordially invited Myanmar businesspeople with a view to promoting tourism in the state, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan State, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) jointly organized the GITB, supported by the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Rajasthan (HRAR), Indian Heritage Hotels Association (IHHA) and Rajasthan Association of Tour Operators (RATO).

The GITB has been held since 2008, creating a platform to bring together over 280 tour operators from more than 50 countries, domestic tour agencies, hotels and Indian businesses at one

place. It is the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the GITB in 2024.

The Department of Tourism, Government of India and FICCI will select external tour operators as hosted buyers to attend the 14<sup>th</sup> GITB that will be held at the end of April or May 2025.

The invitees will cover flight tickets, three-night stay accommodation and a bus shuttle from the hotel to the event. There will be a plan to connect them with Indian tour operators during the events.

Individuals can enquire about details of the GITB through Ms Samanda by sending an email via [samanda.syi-em@ficci.com](mailto:samanda.syi-em@ficci.com) or the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization through the contact number 067 408622 or email [event.td.myantrade@gmail.com](mailto:event.td.myantrade@gmail.com). — NN/KK

### Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit [www.moi.gov.mm/mal](http://www.moi.gov.mm/mal), [www.moi.gov.mm/km](http://www.moi.gov.mm/km), [www.moi.gov.mm/nlm](http://www.moi.gov.mm/nlm) and [www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper](http://www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper).

News and Periodicals Enterprise

# ECONOMY WORLD



With the increasing adoption of solar panels and wind turbines, wholesale electricity prices are sometimes turning negative. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ILLUSTRATION OF PIXABAY**

## Renewables overproduction turns electricity prices negative

WITH the proliferation of solar panels and wind turbines an unusual phenomenon is becoming more and more frequent: wholesale electricity prices turn negative.

While that may brighten the mood of consumers whose power bills have surged in recent years, it could undermine the further development of renewables, a key element in the fight against global warming.

The increasingly frequent phenomenon is “extremely problematic” for the wind and solar sector, said Matthias

Vandenbulcke, strategy director of the renewables industry group France Renouvelables.

“It allows some to have harmful, even dangerous rhetoric which says ‘renewables are useless’,” Vandenbulcke said. In southern Australia, wholesale electricity prices have been negative some 20 per cent of the time since last year, according to the International Energy Agency.

The share of negatively priced hours in southern California was above 20 per cent in the first half of the year, more

than triple from the same period in 2023, the IEA said.

In the first six months of the year in France, there were negative prices around five per cent of the time, beating the record set last year, according to the electricity grid operator RTE.

In Switzerland the price tumbled as far as -400 euros (-\$436) per megawatt hour on July 14. The lowest prices are usually recorded around mid-day during the summer when solar production is at its peak. — AFP

### BRIEFS: ECON

#### China-Russia energy cooperation becomes more productive

ENERGY cooperation between Russia and China has recently become more intense and productive, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday at the sixth China-Russia Energy Business Forum.

“Bilateral cooperation in the oil and gas, coal and electricity sectors is systematically expanding,” Putin said, adding that the country’s supplies of energy resources to China are reaching record volumes.

Putin said that relations between Russia and China have been dynamically evolving in line with a comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation, and “one of the most significant components of these relations has traditionally been energy cooperation”. — Xinhua

#### Japan govt panel OKs sharpest minimum wage rise

A Japanese government panel on Wednesday agreed to hike the country’s minimum wage by 50 yen (32 cents), the sharpest rise ever that will bring the average hourly pay to a record 1,054 yen from 1,004 yen, as many workers feel the pinch of soaring prices, sources familiar with the matter said. The move follows historic pay rises by private companies in this year’s spring wage talks. According to a survey by the Japanese Trade Union Confederation, the country’s biggest labour union, businesses agreed on an average 5.10 per cent rise, the first time in 33 years that the hike exceeded five per cent.

Corporate executives have been pressured by the government and labour unions to raise wages as Japan saw its core consumer prices rise 3.1 per cent last year, the sharpest increase in 41 years, driving up costs of everything from eggs to hotel accommodations. — Kyodo

#### Chinese big lenders lower deposit interest rates

CHINA’S major state-owned commercial banks on Thursday announced reductions in deposit interest rates.

The one-year fixed-term deposit interest rate was cut by 10 basis points to 1.35 per cent, according to the official deposit interest rates released by the country’s “big four” commercial banks, namely, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Agricultural Bank of China, Bank of China and China Construction Bank.

After the reductions, the demand deposit interest rate of the “big four” commercial banks is 0.15 per cent. The deposit interest rates with terms of two, three and five years are 1.45 per cent, 1.75 per cent and 1.8 per cent, respectively. — Xinhua

## Ireland data centres consume more power than houses

DATA centres based in Ireland, a European hub for the energy-guzzling facilities, now consume over a fifth of the EU member’s electricity, overtaking that used by all urban Irish homes combined, official statistics showed Tuesday.

According to Ireland’s Central Statistics Office (CSO), data centres consumed 21 per cent of all metered electricity consumption in 2023, up from five per cent

in 2015 and 18 per cent in 2022.

For the first time that exceeded electricity consumption in urban homes: 18 per cent in 2023, down from 19 per cent the previous year. Rural households accounted for 10 per cent. The results come with increasingly heated debate in Ireland around the energy needs of data centres which house computer storage facilities. Concerns are rising

around the pressure the centres put on the electricity grid, especially as demand accelerates due to breakthroughs in artificial intelligence. Earlier this year Ireland’s grid operator Eirgrid predicted the emergence of looming “electricity supply challenges” for Ireland this decade, in part due to “growth of demand driven by large energy users and data centres”. — AFP



The latest statistics indicate a shift where the electricity consumed by data centres has exceeded that used by urban Irish homes, which accounted for 18% of consumption in 2023, down slightly from 19% in the previous year. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

## S Korea's Hyundai Motor logs record earnings in Q2

*Hyundai Motor achieved its highest-ever quarterly earnings in Q2 with an operating profit of 4.28 trillion won, driven by strong global demand, favourable currency rates.*



South Korea's Hyundai Motor Co reported a record high quarterly profit and revenue for the three months ended June. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SOUTH Korea's biggest automaker Hyundai Motor logged its highest-ever earnings in the second quarter due to strong global demand and favourable currency rates, the company said Thursday.

Operating profit increased 0.7 per cent from a year earlier to hit a new quarterly high of 4.28 trillion won (US\$3.1 billion) in the April-June quarter.

Revenue gained 6.6 per cent to reach a record high of

45.02 trillion won (\$32.6 billion), and net income soared 24.7 per cent to 4.17 trillion won (\$3 billion).

The company recorded an operating profit margin of 9.5 per cent in the second quarter.

Hyundai sold 1,057,168 vehicles worldwide in the second quarter, nearly unchanged compared to the same quarter of 2023.

Automotive sales in markets outside South Korea grew

two per cent to 871,431 units on solid demand for new models such as Santa Fe, Santa Fe Hybrid and Genesis GV80, but domestic car sales decreased 9.6 per cent to 185,737 units.

Hyundai's global sales of electrified vehicles, including hybrids, plug-in hybrids, battery electric vehicles and fuel cell electric vehicles, rose 0.2 per cent to 192,242 units in the second quarter from a year earlier. — Xinhua

### BRIEFS: TOP STORIES

#### Hong Kong airport's passenger traffic rises over 50% in first half of year

HONG Kong (AAHK) on Wednesday announced that over the first half of 2024, the passenger volume went up 52.8 per cent to 25.3 million, compared with the same period in 2023.

Passenger traffic maintained a steady recovery in June during which the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) handled 4.3 million passengers, AAHK said in a press release.

On 21 July passenger traffic at the HKIA saw a new height after the pandemic, recording a daily throughput of over 171,000. AAHK expected the growth in passenger volume to continue during the summer peak and the passenger traffic at the HKIA on peak days will fully recover to the pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2024.

Cargo throughput maintained its rising momentum and recorded a double-digit year-on-year growth for six consecutive months in the first half of 2024, AAHK's statistics showed.

Export cargo remained the main driver of the growth, increased by 24.9 per cent compared to the same month last year.

On a 12-month rolling basis, passenger volume rose 125.9 per cent year on year to 48.2 million, and cargo throughput reported a 14.8 per cent increase to 4.7 million tonnes. — Xinhua

#### Frankfurt airport halts traffic after intrusion by climate activists: police

FRANKFURT airport, Germany's busiest, was forced Thursday to suspend arrivals and departures after environmental activists forced their way into the apron.

"We are doing everything to remove the climate activists from the tarmac," a police spokesman told AFP.

Frankfurt airport advised passengers to check the status of their flights on its website.

According to climate activist group Letzte Generation (Last Generation), six of its members had used pincers to cut openings in the wire fence before making their way "by foot, with bicycles and skateboards to different points around the runways".

A photo circulated by the group depicted a protester sitting on the tarmac with a banner "oil kills".

The group is pushing for a binding international accord that would lead to an end in oil, gas and coal use by 2030.

Thursday's protest action came a day after similar operations across several European airports. — AFP

## Nissan lowers net profit view as severe US competition hikes costs

*Nissan Motor Co lowered its net profit outlook for the financial year ending next March to 300 billion yen (\$2.0 billion) from 380 billion yen due to heightened competition in the US, which increased sales and marketing costs.*

NISSAN Motor Co said Thursday it lowered its net profit outlook for the year ending next March to 300 billion yen (\$2.0 billion) from a previous 380 billion yen, as increased competition in the

United States drove up sales and marketing expenses.

It also downgraded its operating profit view for fiscal 2024 to 500 billion yen from 600 billion yen but lifted its sales forecast to 14

trillion yen from 13.6 trillion yen due to a weaker yen, which bloats overseas sales when repatriated.

For the first quarter ended June, profit plunged as the automaker increased incentives it



Nissan Rogue: the 5-passenger mid-size crossover. **PHOTO: NISSAN**

paid to its dealerships in the United States in an attempt to ride out severe competition, it said.

Operating profit slumped 99.2 per cent from a year earlier

to 995 million yen and net profit dropped 72.9 per cent to 28.56 billion yen, while sales grew 2.8 per cent to 3.0 trillion yen, the Japanese automaker said. — Kyodo

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## NSA Ajit Doval attends state funeral of Vietnam Gen Secy Nguyen Phu Trong

*Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of Vietnam and a key figure in Vietnamese politics, recently passed away. His death has sparked an international wave of condolences from leaders worldwide.*

NATIONAL Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh paid their respects to the late General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Nguyen Phu Trong, in separate solemn ceremonies marking his state funeral.

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval represented India at the state funeral held in Hanoi on Thursday. He personally conveyed India's condolences to Vietnamese President To Lam, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, and the bereaved family. The Indian Embassy to Vietnam issued a statement highlighting Doval's presence and India's solidarity with Vietnam during this period of mourning. Simultaneously, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited the Vietnam Embassy in India to express his condolences



Vietnamese leaders, foreign guests and thousands of residents have paid their respects to Vietnam's Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong as his two-day state funeral started Thursday.

PHOTO: ANI

on behalf of the Indian government and people.

General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong, a prominent figure in Vietnamese politics, passed away recently, prompting an outpouring of condolences from leaders across the globe. Vietnam's Nguyen Phu Trong was widely regarded as the country's most influential figure, as reported by state media. His death concludes over 13 years of leadership after he recently stepped down due to health reasons.

According to state media reports on Friday, Trong died at a military hospital due to advanced age and a severe illness. His passing comes amidst a period of political transition in Vietnam, where a new president was appointed in May following the resignation of his predecessor. — ANI

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Elon Musk denies Trump donation reports

ELON MUSK has denied reports that he was donating US\$45 million (RM211 million) a month to a fund backing former US president Donald Trump's latest White House bid.

In a post Tuesday on X, Musk called the report he was funding a so-called political Super-PAC "ridiculous". Super PACs are specially designed groups that can spend unlimited amounts on political candidates and causes.

"I am making some donations to America PAC, but at a much lower level and the key values of the PAC are supporting a meritocracy & individual freedom." "Republicans are mostly, but not entirely, on the side of merit & freedom," he added. — AFP

#### Death toll in tequila factory blast in Mexico

THE number of people killed after three containers exploded at a tequila distillery in the western Mexican town of Tequila has risen to six, local authorities said Wednesday.

Following cooling and debris removal work, state and municipal firefighters discovered the body of a sixth factory worker "inside a retention pit, in the container area", the Civil Protection agency in the western Jalisco state said in a statement.

"With this discovery, six people have died as a result of the incident that occurred at the tequila company," it added.

Immediately after the blast on Tuesday afternoon at the Jose Cuervo Tequila factory, the bodies of five victims were found. — Xinhua

## Philippines says tanker carrying 1.4 million litres of oil capsizes in Manila Bay

A Philippine-flagged tanker carrying 1.4 million litres of industrial fuel oil capsized and sank off Manila on Thursday, authorities said, as they raced to contain a spill.

The MT Terra Nova was heading for the central city of Iloilo when it capsized in Manila

Bay, nearly seven kilometres (4.3 miles) off Limay municipality in Bataan province, near the capital, in the early hours.

The vessel went down as heavy rains fuelled by Typhoon Gaemi and the seasonal monsoon have lashed Manila and surrounding regions in recent

days.

An oil spill stretching several kilometres has been detected in the busy waterway.

"We are racing against time and we will try to do our best to contain it immediately and stop the fuel from leaking," Philippine Coast Guard spokesman Rear Admiral Armando Balilo said at a briefing.

He warned that if all the oil in the tanker were to leak, it would be the biggest spill in Philippine history. "There is a big danger that Manila will be affected, even the shoreline of Manila, if the fuel will leak, because it is within Manila Bay," Balilo said. Thousands of fishermen and tour operators are dependent on the waters for their livelihoods. Transport Secretary Jaime Bautista said 16 of the 17 crew members had been rescued from the stricken vessel. — AFP



A photo released by the coast guard showed the MT Terra Nova almost entirely submerged in rough seas. PHOTO: PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD

# SPORTS

## ASEAN Club Championship: Group A sees Shan United

MYANMAR club Shan United FC, who qualified for the 2024-2025 season ASEAN Club Championship, fell to Group A in the final round.

The final stage will be divided into two groups of six teams. Group A features BG Pathum United of Thailand, Terengganu FC of Malaysia, Thanh Hoa FC of Vietnam, Svay Rieng of Cambodia and Shan United of Myanmar. Meanwhile, Group B consists of Buriram United of Thailand, Kuala Lumpur City of Malaysia, Masaka FC of Indonesia Hanoi FC of Viet-

Nam, Borneo FC of Indonesia, Kaya FC of the Philippines and Lion City Sailors FC of Singapore. The group matches will be played from 21 August 2024 to 6 February 2025, while the semifinals will run on 2 and 30 April 2025. The final match will be played on 14 and 21 May.

Shan United will play three away games and two home games out of the five group matches. As group matches, the Shan team will play away games against Thanh Hoa FC of Vietnam on 21 August, Makasa FC of Indonesia on 25 Sep-

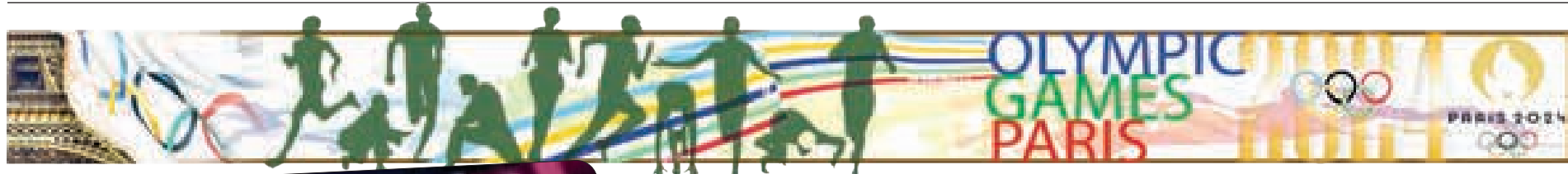
tember and Svay Rieng FC of Cambodia on 5 February.

Shan United will also play a home game against Terengganu FC of Malaysia on 8 January and BG Pathum United of Thailand on 22 January.

Shan United met Brunei Club Kasuka in the qualifying round and won the qualifiers by 4-2 on aggregate. The Shan United team drew one goal each in the first-round away match but won the second-round home game by three goals to one. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



A player from Shan United attempts to score against Kasuka FC. PHOTO: THAW GYI



## Paris Olympics: Thet Htar Thuzar faces Japanese player in opener

THE Badminton Championship of the 2024 Paris Olympics will start on 27 July in Paris, France, and Myanmar badminton icon Thet Htar Thuzar will face Japanese player Yamaguchi in the opening group match.

The group matches will run from 27 July, and Thet Htar Thuzar is placed in Group C with World Class 5 Japanese player Yamaguchi and World Class 32 Canadian player Michelle Li. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

## Punters surf the Olympic odds

THE Olympics may not come close to the betting revenue from the World Cup but once every four years it gives followers of sports such as surfing and breakdancing a rare chance to have a flutter.

For English bookmakers two weeks of Olympic action comes at a good time in the sporting calendar and with only an hour's time difference between France and the United Kingdom. "The Olympics will attract plenty of interest, particularly as with the exception of Glorious Goodwood and a bit of Test cricket, there isn't an awful lot of competing sport right now," David Stevens, Head of Public Relations at Coral, told AFP. For William Woodhams, CEO of the world's oldest bookmaker Fitzdares, the Olympics won't excite as much interest among their clients. — AFP



Surfing gives fans a chance to place a bet at the Olympics every four years. PHOTO: POOL/AFP

## South Korean athlete breaks archery world record



Lim Sihyeon (L) of South Korea and Laura van der Winkel (R) of the Netherlands compete during the women's individual ranking round of archery of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France, on 25 July 2024. PHOTO: HE CANLING/XINHUA

LIM Si-hyeon from South Korea broke the archery world record with 694 shots at women's individual ranking round at the Paris Olympics on Thursday, beating the previous record of 692 shots. — Xinhua

NSA Ajit Doval attends state funeral of Vietnam Gen Secy Nguyen Phu Trong

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# WORLD

## Netanyahu lays out vague vision for post-conflict Gaza

**I**SRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu laid out a vague vision for post-conflict Gaza during his speech to the US Congress on Wednesday.

“The day after we defeat Hamas, a new Gaza could emerge,” Netanyahu said. “My vision for that day is of a demilitarized and deradicalized Gaza.”

“Israel does not seek to resettle Gaza. But for the foreseeable future, we must retain overriding security control there to prevent the resurgence of terror, to ensure Gaza never again poses a threat to Israel,” he told a joint meeting of the Congress.

“A new generation of Palestinians must no longer be taught to hate Jews but rather to live in peace with us,” he added.

Roughly 70 Democrats from the House and Senate boycotted Netanyahu’s speech. The most notable was the absence of US Vice-President Kamala Harris, who serves as president of the Senate.

Outside the US Capitol and at Washington’s Union Station, hundreds of demonstrators gathered in protest against Netanyahu’s visit to the United States, demanding Washington stop military aid to Israel.

As the war in Gaza enters its 10<sup>th</sup> month, at least 39,090 Palestinians have been killed and 90,147 others injured. Israel and Hamas have failed to reach a complete ceasefire agreement and a hostage release deal after multiple rounds of negotiations.

People in the Gaza Strip have become

exhausted by ongoing displacement and unlivable conditions, and are trapped in increasingly small and overcrowded areas, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said on Wednesday.

— Xinhua

*Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu laid out a vision for post-conflict Gaza, calling for a demilitarized and deradicalized territory with Israel maintaining overriding security control.*



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrives to speak to a joint meeting of Congress at the US Capitol on 24 July 2024 in Washington, DC. **PHOTO: DREW ANGERER/AFP**

## Foreign residents surge in Japan as number of citizens drops



Ueno Park is a spacious public park in the Ueno district of Taitō, Tokyo, Japan. The park was established in 1873 on lands formerly belonging to the temple of Kan’ei-ji. **PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK**

THE number of foreign nationals living in Japan has hit a record high, according to official data released Wednesday that also showed the nation’s largest-ever yearly drop in Japanese citizens.

With chronically low birth rates, Japan has the world’s second-oldest population after tiny Monaco.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has introduced policies aimed at boosting births, warning the country is “on the verge of whether we can continue to function as a society”.

The government has also been reviewing immigration policies to make moving to Japan more attractive to overseas workers.

As of 1 January, there were 3.32 million foreign residents in the country, the figures showed.

That marks a surge of 11 per cent on-year and a record high since the internal affairs ministry began logging the data in 2013.

Foreign nationals accounted for around 2.7 per cent of Japan’s total population of 124.9 million. — AFP

## Tourist resort mudslide forces 288 to evacuate in China’s Sichuan

A mudslide at a tourist resort in southwest China’s Sichuan Province on Thursday forced 288 people to evacuate, the resort’s management authorities said.

No casualties have been reported so far after the mudslide occurred at around 11 am at the Hailuoguo Scenic Spot in the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Garze, said Li Shibing, deputy director of the resort’s management committee.

Local residents, construction workers and employees from a nearby water factory were among the evacuated.

The mudslide caused severe damage to bridge and other facilities and led to a rising water level in a nearby gully, which threatened the safety of the downstream residents. — Xinhua