

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



362 votive tablets discovered at BEHS No 4 in Thaton township

THE General Administration Department of Thaton Township in Mon State reported the discovery of 362 votive tablets in the compound of No 4 Basic Education High School in Thaton Township.

The votive tablets were unearthed

on the morning of 15 September during construction work for a new building in the compound of the school.

A total of 19 ancient votive tablets discovered in the school compound on 30 August has been handed over to the Mon State Department of Archae-

ology and National Museum. Over 240 votive tablets in various mudras were unearthed during excavation for a new building in the compound adjacent to the Myanmar Baptist Christian Church near the school in Theingon ward. — ASH/KZW

Myanmar-China border trade surges in past five months

The figure indicated a sharp increase of US\$698 million this FY compared to that registered in the year-ago period.



The photo shows the Mang Wein border post in Muse which is the major point for the Sino-Myanmar border trade.

THE border trade value between Myanmar and China soared to over US\$1.8 billion between 1 April and 8 September of the current financial year 2023-2024 from \$1.1 billion recorded in the corresponding period last FY 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

The figure indicated a sharp in-

crease of \$698 million this FY compared to that registered in the year-ago period.

Myanmar conducts cross-border trade with the neighbouring country China via Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti and Kengtung. The Muse border saw a majority of the trade worth \$1.147 billion. The trade value stood at \$567.975 million via Chinshwehaw, \$57.86

million via Kampaiti, \$32.99 million via Lweje and \$3.36 million via Kengtung respectively.

Next, Myanmar's Chinshwehaw border saw trade worth \$23.76 million between 2 and 8 September. Myanmar exported black gram, lima bean, peanut, kidney bean, lablab bean, black sesame, **SEE PAGE-7**

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Regular diesel price surges by nearly 50% over 5-month period

NATIONAL

Myanmar showcases products on third day of 20th China-ASEAN Expo



Visitors are seen thronging Myanmar's booths at the 20th China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning, China.

MYANMAR continues to display its products on the third day of the 20th China-ASEAN Expo commencing on 16 September in Nanning, the capital of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China.

Agricultural produce, fishery products, Myanmar tradi-

tional handicrafts, garments, foodstuffs, gems and jewellery are on display and sale in 80 booths.

Myanmar booths, which are full of agricultural produce, fishing products, Myanmar traditional arts and crafts, clothes, foodstuffs, gems and jewellery,

are perfectly displayed and sold.

On the third day of the expo, like the previous days, Myanmar booths are crowded with visitors who are interested in Myanmar products, and the Myanmar cultural dances are performed at the desirable city hall. — MNA/MKKS

10 special civil appeal cases passed judgements; 5 more cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Chief Justice of the Union U Thar Htay and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Myo Tint, U Khin Maung Gyi, U Tin Hone and Daw Pyone Pyone Aye was convened monday morning at the Supreme Court of the Union and passed judgements for 10 special civil appeal cases – Nos 37/2022 (Yangon), 38/2022 (Yangon), 39/2022 (Yangon), 57/2022 (Shan), 40/2022 (Sagaing), 3/2023 (Shan), 4/2023 (Shan), 103/2019 (Mandalay), 20/2021 (Kachin) and 46/2022 (Mandalay).

In addition, a total of six special appeal cases — Nos 32/2022 (Rakhine), 45/2022 (Rakhine), 6/2023 (Bago), 12/2023 (Mandalay) and 14/2023 (Magway) were heard under the COVID-19 prevention and control guidelines. — MNA



COVID-19 report, 18 September 2023

NEW TESTS	5,001
NEW CASES	3
CASUALTIES	0

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.

Plan underway to supply high-quality animal vaccines to disease control zones



Medical staff are seen working diligently to ensure that animal vaccines meet the required quality standards and are delivered to designated disease control zones.

EFFORTS are being made to maintain the quality of animal vaccines and distribute them based on disease control zones, as per the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Ir-

rigation.

The Animal Drug Production and Disease Control Branch under the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Insein Township is

involved in the production and distribution of animal vaccines. They are working diligently to ensure that these vaccines meet the required quality standards and are supplied in

accordance with the designated disease control zones.

In addition, the Animal Drug Production and Disease Control Branch is conducting inspections of imported raw feedstuffs and finished goods and have also expanded their efforts to check content of fungal toxins in cow's milk.

Similarly, the Department of Fisheries has achieved the International Official Accredited Laboratory Certificate (ISO/IEC 17025:2017) for the fifth time for its Antibiotic Residue and Virus Inspection Laboratory under the Development and Research Branch in Thakayta Township, Yangon Region. Antibiotic residue and virus inspection laboratory activities for exported aquatic products are carried out strictly according to food safety standards. — ASH/KZW

NATIONAL

SAC members oversee healthcare measures, development process in Kachin, Kayah, Shan, Rakhine

AS the whole country is accelerating the development process in all regions and states to improve the socioeconomic life of the people, members of the State Administration Council are on trips to oversee construction tasks and healthcare services in relevant areas.

Putao in Kachin State

SAC member Daw Dwe Bu together with Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan enjoyed the Tai Khamti Literature and Culture Committee Chairman's Trophy men's open football tournament at the people's sports ground in Putao of Kachin State on 17 September. The SAC member presented the championship trophy and the chief minister gave away individual medals to the first prize-winning Panhlaing ward.

Loikaw in Kayah State

Kayah State Human papillomavirus-HPV vaccination ceremony for girls between ages 9 and 12 took place at the state hall in Loikaw yesterday morning, with the attendance of SAC member Porel Aung Thein and

Kayah State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin. The SAC member visited the exhibition on school health measures displayed by the Kayah State Public Health Department and vaccination of HPV to school girls. He inspected the paving of the asphalt concrete on road sections in Loikaw. **Thandwe, Gwa in Rakhine State**

SAC member Dr Ba Shwe looked into development tasks in Thandwe District and met residents to talk about the development of Gwa Township yesterday morning. At Thandwe Basic Education High School (Myoma), he viewed vaccination of HPV to school girls. He then comforted patients at Kyeintali People's Hospital and viewed a thriving monsoon paddy seed production farm in Gwa Township. After inspecting the maintenance of the Gwa Creek Bridge, the SAC member met departmental officials and town elders at the Gwa Township General Administration Department and explained the endeavours of the government for education promotion programmes for the youths.



One of the SAC members views development measures and meets locals in Thandwe, Rakhine State yesterday.

Kengtung, Tachilek in Shan State

SAC members U Shwe Kyein and U Yan Kyaw viewed round thriving tea plantations in Wamseng of Kengtung Township on 17 September. They also inspected the two-storey RC Kengtung Saopha Palace which

has been completed by 74 per cent and beautification tasks at Naungton Lake. They also visited the Kengtung Buddha Park. In Tachilek, they asked after health of Presiding Patron of Naga Htakaung Buddhist Learning Centre of Tachilek State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Maha

Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Mangaladhamma Jotikadhaja Naga Hnakaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhammasiri and donated offerings. Then, they visited Tachilek Shwedagon Replica Pagoda. — MNA/TTA

MoFA Union Minister receives Chinese Special Envoy for Asian Affairs



PRC Special Envoy for Asian Affairs Mr Deng Xijun calls on Union Minister U Than SWE yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than SWE received Mr Deng Xijun, Special Envoy for

Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters pertaining to the further enhancement of the existing Pauk-Phaw relations, accelerating the mutually beneficial cooperation, the maintenance of peace and stability along the border between Myanmar and China, latest developments on peace and national reconciliation process of Myanmar, China's continuous constructive support towards Myanmar's development endeavours as well as closer collaboration both in the regional and international arenas, especially ASEAN and the United Nations. — MNA

PRC Special Envoy for Asian Affairs calls on Union Minister

UNION Minister for the Union Government Office 2 received Mr Deng Xijun Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the delegation at the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government 2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the courtesy call,

they cordially discussed and exchanged views on the enhancement of friendly relations and bilateral cooperation between the two countries, repatriation of the displaced people from Rakhine State, the progress of peace implementation including the 8th anniversary of signing the NCA and the humanitarian assistance in Myanmar. — MNA



Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing receives the Chinese Special Envoy for Asian Affairs yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

NATIONAL

MoALI UM attends 7th ASEAN-China Agricultural Cooperation Forum

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung, currently in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in the People's Republic of China to attend the Conference on Import and Export Food Safety Cooperation of the BRI countries (Belt and Road Initiative), attended the opening ceremony of the 7th ASEAN-China Agricultural Cooperation Forum on 16 September.

The forum was jointly held by the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and the Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

In his opening speech, the Union minister said that it is a good time for the forum that bring good intentions as it will focus on the prioritized agricultural sectors between the ASEAN and China depending on the challenges and chances after the COVID-19 period. The ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) to address COVID-19 was adopted at the 37th ASEAN Summit. Of the five broad strategies mentioned in the framework, it should em-



Union Minister U Min Naung delivers the opening address at the seventh ASEAN-China Agricultural Cooperation Forum held in Nanning, China on 16 September 2023.

phasize the two strategies such as Maximizing the Potential of the Intra-ASEAN Market and Broader Economic Integration and Accelerating Inclusive Digital Transformation. Being a great trade partner country of the ASEAN countries as well as a key partner of Myanmar,

China should cooperate closely in promoting the regional food security value chains with the member countries.

He also had a discussion with Chinese MARA Minister Tang Renjian regarding the strengthening bilateral relations in agricultural sectors, ag-

ricultural science research, exchange of seedlings and genes and establishment of models of tropical crop fields.

Moreover, they focused on capacity-building training for Myanmar laboratory experts, study tours to construct salt-water prevention dykes and

sluice gates in delta regions, maintenance training of agricultural gears, and technological assistance for saltwater and freshwater farming.

The Union minister also expressed the willingness to establish a modern fishery industry, upgrade the transboundary animal disease control under South-South Cooperation (SSC) and invited Chinese companies to make investments in the production of corn silage in Myanmar.

The Union minister, who attended the 20th China-ASEAN Expo, 20th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit, 7th ASEAN-China Agricultural Cooperation Forum, Conference on Import and Export Food Safety Cooperation of the BRI countries, 7th China-ASEAN Summit for Drug Development and Cooperation held in Nanning from 17 to 19 September, made a study tour to the Centre for infectious Disease Prevention and Control in Jiangsu and arrived back in Myanmar yesterday afternoon. — MNA/KTZH

MIFER opens training of news writing and photography

MINISTRY of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations held the opening ceremony of news writing and photographic training, intending to improve the news writing and photographic skills systematically and efficiently to the ministry's staff, at Office No 1, Nay Pyi Taw on 18 September 2023. MIFER Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw attended and delivered the opening speech.

The Union minister emphasized the implementation of

the nation's economic policy to develop investment promotion and foreign economic relations, the Five-Point Roadmap of the State Administration Council, the first-time training to improve the news writing capacity of MIFER's staff, and the need for the staff to follow the rules of official letter writing and to be aware of the news writing skills.

He also pointed out that today's globalization is high-speed developing not only the fourth Industrial Revolution

(4IR) but also Artificial Intelligence (AI). These speedy changes led to the improvement of the World Wide Web (www) and it can be seen that a large number of local and international news are spreading around the world in every minute and second. Therefore, it is important to write righteous, fast and effective news.

The Union minister said that this is a week's training and called on the staff to try hard during the training to ap-

ply effectively and efficiently as well as to serve this knowledge and skills to fulfil the ministry's objectives for the country's economic development and national interest. Moreover, he appreciated and said thanks to the trainers and representatives from the Ministry of Information for supporting to hold this training. He underlined that trainees are required to study carefully to apply in practical fields and to share this knowledge from the training with

colleagues.

The ceremony was also attended by the deputy minister, director-general, deputy permanent secretary, and deputy director-general, including nearly 100 staff from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and trainers from the Ministry of Information.

The 15 trainees have joined the news writing and photographic training of MIFER. — MIFER

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515
ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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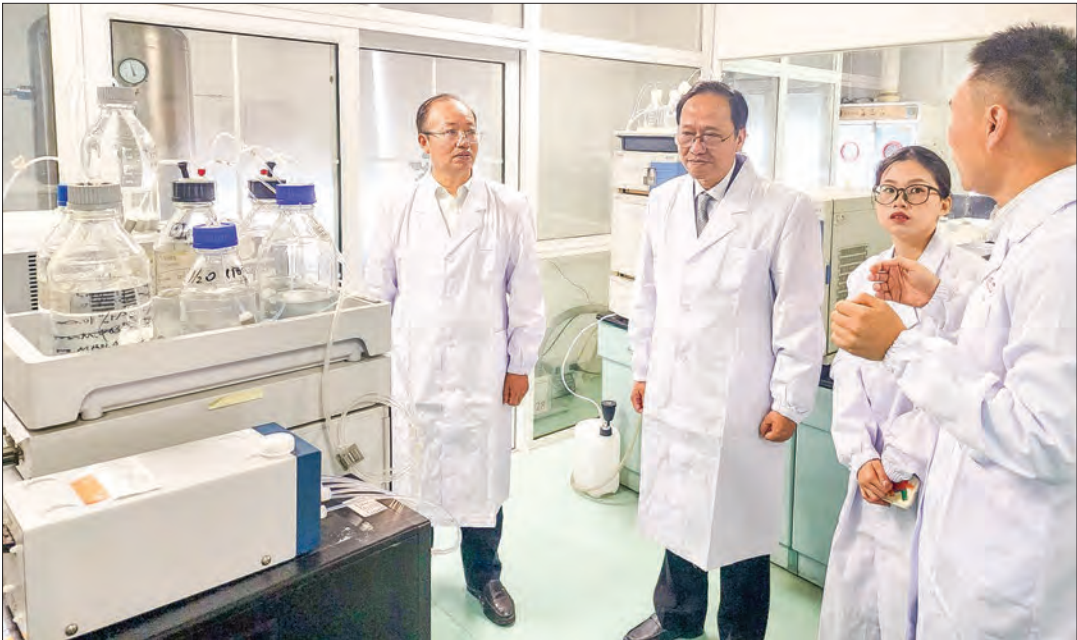
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

Myanmar delegation explores health cooperation with China



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win (2L) is pictured during his observation tours in Jiangsu Province of China on 17 September 2023.

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win visited the Centre of Disease Prevention and Control in Jiangsu Province, China, on 17 September. During the visit, discussions focused on strengthening collaboration in public health and disease prevention.

Mr Zhou Minghao, Vice-Chairman of the Jiangsu Province Health Commission, extended greetings and discussed plans for increased cooperation in health matters

between the two nations. Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win emphasized the importance of prioritizing health and fitness on a national level. He highlighted the joint implementation of the Myanmar Centre for Disease Control and Health Staff Training Centre in Nay Pyi Taw, in partnership with China, to enhance epidemic prevention and control capabilities.

The Ministry of Health also committed to providing training at the Centre for Dis-

ease Prevention and Control and facilitating exchanges between health experts from Myanmar and China. Discussions revolved around health sector cooperation, border area healthcare, infectious disease prevention, traditional medicine, and the exchange of souvenirs.

The delegation toured various laboratories, discussing potential areas of collaboration, before returning to Yangon yesterday from their visit to China. — MNA/TS

MoSWRR Union Minister receives ICRC resident representative



ICRC Resident Representative Ms Elena Ajmone Sessera calls on Union Minister Dr Soe Win yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win received a delegation led by Ms Elena

Ajmone Sessera, Resident Representative to Myanmar of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at

the ministry yesterday.

They cordially exchanged views on various topics including the offer of humanitarian aid to the victims of the social conflict in Rakhine State through ICRC, IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies), and MRCS (Myanmar Red Cross Society). They also discussed the ministry's expenditure of K144 billion for internally displaced persons and ICRC's provision of prostheses for mine victims, as well as cooperation in humanitarian work between the ministry and ICRC. — MNA/MKKS

15th China-ASEAN Financial Cooperation and Development Summit Forum held in Nanning

THE 15th China-ASEAN Financial Cooperation and Development Summit Forum was held yesterday in Nanning, China, attended and delivered speeches by the governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) and heads of ASEAN Central Banks.

The CBM governor stated that China and the ASEAN member countries have established a robust partnership. Discussions will focus on enhancing regional economic cooperation and further aligning China's Asian Silk Road (Belt and Road Initiative) with the ASEAN agenda. At the 10th meeting of ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors held in Indonesia, a commitment was made to uphold financial stability and deepen financial integration among ASEAN member countries.

Due to the market instability, emerging and developing countries are working to stabilize their financial systems and reduce their reliance on the US dollar. There is a pressing need to promote regional innovation and cooperation. The role of the Chinese yuan has expanded, it now ranks third as the preferred currency for cross-border commercial payments. In economic cooperation between China and Myanmar, the Asian Silk Road (Belt and Road Initiative) can bolster Myanmar's economic

connectivity and cooperation. The development of infrastructure for Myanmar's economic projects will create significant opportunities for trade and investment linkages, accelerating economic growth.

Regarding the cross-border trade between China and Myanmar, she also mentioned that the yuan-kyat programme has been implemented. Given our country's geographical position, this initiative opens up a significant potential for increasing cross-border payments. Financial cooperation plays a vital role in the partnership between the two countries. The expansion of banking and financial services, coupled with increased cross-border investments, is expected to facilitate trade and provide support in terms of investment and financial inclusion.

The team led by Mr Liu Ning, head of the Guangxi state, deputy head of the Management for Foreign Exchange of the People's Republic of China, heads and deputy heads of central banks from Myanmar, Laos, Thailand and Cambodia, as well as representatives from ICBC, BOC, ABC, CCB, CDB, ADB, EXIM Bank of China, officials from China Insurance Corporation and officials from Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen Stock Exchanges attended the forum. — MNA/KZW



The 15th China-ASEAN Financial Cooperation and Development Summit Forum in progress yesterday in Nanning, China.

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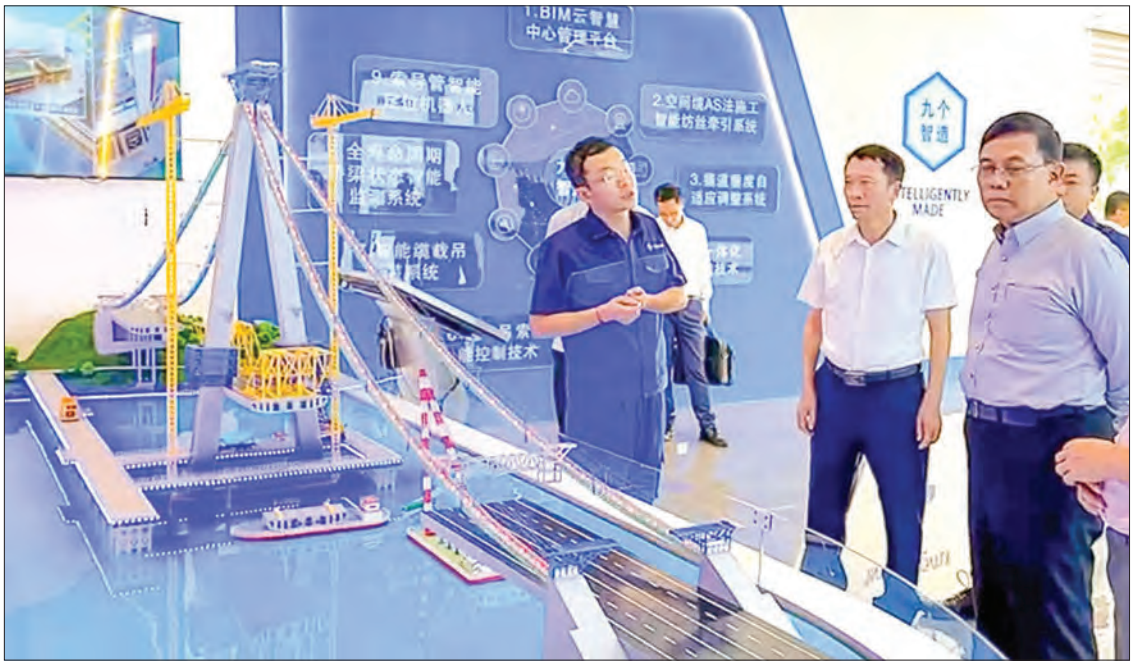
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NATIONAL

Myanmar delegation attends China-ASEAN Construction Ministers' meeting

UNION Construction Minister U Myo Thant attended the construction ministers' meeting held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhaung Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China, on 15 and 16 September. On 17 September, he participated in the opening ceremony of the 20th China-ASEAN Expo, together with guests from China and ASEAN countries.

In the afternoon, the Union minister and party travelled from Nanning to Tengxian. They visited the construction site of the Tengzhou Xunjiang bridge, where a long-span cable-stayed and suspension system combination is currently being built as part of the Pingcen Expressway



Union Minister U Myo Thant (R) is seen during the observation tours in Nanning, China, on 15-17 September.

project. He engaged in discussions and enquired about the technical aspects of the project. The project leaders provided further explanations and took a group photo together.

The Union minister and party then proceeded to the construction site of the Tengzhou Tunnel, which is connected to the bridge project. Project engineers provided a briefing on the project details and offered a tour of the tunnel construction site.

The Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister U Myo Thant returned to Myanmar from Guangzhou, Guangdong Province of China, via China Southern Airlines. — MNA/KZW

CRIME NEWS

K300 million worth of stimulant tablets captured in Waw township

A total of K300 million worth of stimulant tablets was captured in Waw township, Myanmar Police Force stated.

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force seized a total of 200,000 stimulant tablets worth K300 million that were hidden in tomato boxes from a Taunggyi-Myawady passenger bus on the Yangon-Mawlamyine Road near Nyaungkhashay village in Waw township at 10 am on 12

September.

The police force arrested Saw Lin Htein (aka) Kyaw Kyaw, the owner of the seized drugs, together with a Toyota Ipsum car in the Seinlaemyaing highway bus terminal in Myawady township at noon on 13 September.

Police have taken legal action against offenders and an investigation is underway to identify perpetrators of the crime chain. — MNA/MKKS



An offender is seen alongside seized stimulant tablets and a vehicle.

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, consumer goods, industrial materials and vehicles confiscated

A combined team under the supervision of Mon State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force impounded a Toyota HiAce (approximately worth K15 million) carrying 8,500 bottles of GSD energy drink worth K7 million without official documents near the Sangyi traffic light on the circular road of Mawlamyine University on 15 September. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The Customs on-duty teams conducted inspections on 15 September and nabbed 135 Verage suitcases worth K4,252,500 that exceeded the quantity mentioned in the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal container checkpoint, 19,000 kilograms of HDPE plastic sheets worth K42.294 million that exceeded the quantity mentioned in the ID from two containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, 1.096 kilograms of spare parts of SIDEL compressor worth K1,131,094 that



Seizure of illegal items at Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint.

were different from ID from luggage at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk) and an Isuzu Giga tractor head with a trailer and a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (approximately K70 million), headed to Yangon from Myawady, carrying two kinds of goods worth K9.826 million, including 600 steel food carriers (Golden Bodhi) and 5,200 kilograms of blankets that were not declared in the ID, at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The combined teams confiscated an Isuzu truck (estimated value of K30 million),

travelling from Myawady to Yangon, carrying three kinds of goods worth K8.715 million, including 48,000 grammes of coffee cookies (Siam Foods) that were not declared in the ID, near Shwethanlwin Tollgate in Phayagyi and a total of 1.046 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K523,200 in Toungoo district on 16 September. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

A total of 12 arrests were made on 15 and 16 September with an estimated value of K188,741,794, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar-China border trade surges in past five months

FROM PAGE-1
rubber, dried konjac and onions to China via the Chinshwehaw border, whereas telephone and telecommunication equipment, engines, wire, motorcycle and parts, vehicles and auto parts, air-conditioners, agricultural machinery, construction materials, power distribution components, iron and steel, chemical, cotton, paints, plastic materials, fertilizer, tyre and tube, dried battery cells, bulbs, pharmaceuticals, furniture, seasoning powder, lace textile and thread were imported.

On 8 September, 1,017 tonnes of tissue-culture bananas worth \$350,810 were exported via the Kampaiti border, while iron sheets in coil, artificial turf, apple, orange, ceramic tile plain, construction materials, other capital goods and consumer goods were imported.

Rice, broken rice, corn, rattan, green gram, peanut, rubber and lead carbonate were conveyed to China via Lweje between 6 and 10 September, while paper roll, cotton, tissue roll, artificial grass, organic and compound fertilizer were brought into the country.

Meanwhile, trade at Muse 105th mile trade zone was estimated at \$34.559 million on 10 September. The export items were eel, rubber, aluminium, corn, broken rice, onion, copper, fish powder and crab. The country imported vehicles and machinery, materials used in baking factories, apples, grapes, ceramic tiles, iron pipes, air-conditioners and other goods. — TWA/KK

Traders ramp up sales of aged rice as fresh rice supplies near

Stringent market regulations prevent price increases



The photo shows a pile of rice sacks and a variety of rice for sale at a rice depot.

WITH the supply of fresh rice nearing, the trade depots bolstered the sales of old rice stocks in the domestic market.

Monsoon paddy is newly harvested in some delta regions. There is adequate supply for the domestic market while there is high potential for rice exports. The new monsoon paddy will flood the market in the coming months, U Maung Win, a rice trader, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The institutions concerned cooperated on the rice subsidy scheme and have sold thousands of rice sacks to consumers starting from 7 August.

Therefore, the rice can be purchased at a fair price through Yangon's wholesale depots. The prevailing prices stood at K125,000 per sack of Pawsan rice from Shwebo, around K100,000 for Pawsan from other producing regions (Myaungmya, Pyapon, Mawgyun, Bogalay), K96,000 for Pawkywel, K72,000 for 90-day short matured rice and K69,000 for rice grown under intercropping system on 13 September.

Rice volatility would continue unless there is no market regulation. Some traders who kept the rice stocks in hand earlier aimed to raise the prices of rice to over K150,000 for Shwebo Pawsan and K120,000 for Pawsan from delta regions. Thanks to market supervision, the soaring price did not reach those levels of highs. — TWA/EM

Myanmar's exports to regional countries cross US\$1.77 bln in 4 months: MoC reports

MYANMAR'S exports to regional countries topped over K1.77 billion as of July in the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

The value of Myanmar's regional trade with ASEAN through the sea route and land border crossed over \$4.9 billion in the first four months of this FY.

The ministry reported that imports surpassed exports in regional trade, with exports reaching over \$1.77 billion and imports valued at over \$3.13 billion.

Thailand has been Myanmar's largest trade partner among regional countries, with trade valued at over \$2.38 billion, followed by Singapore (\$1.35 billion), Malaysia (over \$495.889 million) and Indonesia (\$457.866 million). Viet Nam has emerged



Cargo ships are seen berthing alongside the port terminals in Yangon River.

as the nation's fifth largest trade partner, with bilateral trade estimated at \$175 million.

Meanwhile, Myanmar's bilateral trade with the Philippines was \$29.897 million, with Cambodia \$10.083 million, while

trade with Laos stood at \$1.38 million, and Brunei, at \$5.98 million.

Myanmar's main export items included agricultural and fishery products, as well as minerals, while imports in-

cluded food and beverages, electronic tools, motor vehicles, and consumer goods. Apart from its main trade partner China, Myanmar's foreign trade was mostly conducted with the regional trade partners. — KK

Ads

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NATIONAL

Liquefied petroleum gas to be distributed at low price

PLANS are underway to distribute the liquefied petroleum gas produced by the liquefied petroleum gas plant (Minbu) to the people at cheap prices in Magway Region, according to the Ministry of Energy.

The ministry is making efforts to increase the production of oil and natural gas from the Htaukshapin-Htanka-Yenanma oil field and the Mann oil field under Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise.

As plans are being developed to distribute the petroleum gas produced by the LNG plant (Minbu) to the people, officials are carrying out maintenance of No 1 LNG plant (Minbu) according to the specified procedures and guidelines. It is necessary to inspect and repair the control system during the maintenance of the machines.

Union Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin said during a visit to the oil fields and oil gas plant that the plant will be able to operate at full capacity if the

plant is re-opened.

Currently No 1 LNG plant (Minbu) is drilling well No 885 to search for oil and natural gas. Crude oil produced from Htaukshapin-Kanni oil field and Mann oil field is used as the raw material for the oil refinery. The natural gas produced from the Mann oil field is used as raw material for the LNG plant (Minbu).

As the Ministry of Energy needs to explore new potential for increasing the production of oil and natural gas needed by the state, it is necessary to maintain the current production in the long run.

In order to increase the production of oil and natural gas, officials are carrying out exploration applying new modern technologies, and they are analyzing and presenting additional investments for industrial equipment, as well as ensuring the safety of natural gas pipelines and steel tanks to store crude oil. — ASH/KZL



Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin inspects the preparatory work for increasing production of oil and gas at No 1 LNG Plant (Minbu).

Earliest renovation needed for Dhammarazaka Pagoda damaged by lightning



The general view of the Dhammarazake Pagoda in the Bagan Cultural Heritage Zone.

THE Dhammarazaka Pagoda in the Bagan cultural heritage area was damaged by lightning strikes at 3:45 pm on 17 September, and it will be renovated as soon as possible, according to U Kyaw Myo Win, Director and In-charge of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan).

These lightning strikes at Dhammarazaka Pagoda caused the gold plate around the Pagoda's circular decorative band between the bell

and the lotus petals to turn black without any bricks falling apart, and there was no damage to other ancient buildings in the Bagan cultural heritage area.

Additionally, there was heavy rain in the Bagan cultural heritage area on the night of 16 September, but there was no flooding because there was good water flow in the tanks and drains.

“On the night of 16 September, there was heavy rain in

Bagan. There was a significant amount of water, although the rainfall duration was not long. One-fourth of the moat was filled with water. The water flowed directly into the tanks without pooling on the floors of the Ananda Temple and the Shwezigon Temple. The walls of the Culamani Temple were not waterlogged as the water flowed into the drains through the original water outlets,” said U Kyaw Myo Win. — ASH/MKKS

Election sub-commissions to scrutinize political parties’ member lists

PEOPLE who are not listed as residents according to the law within the party member lists submitted by political parties include individuals with identical names and Citizenship Scrutiny Card numbers, as well as individuals and employees who share CSC numbers. During the verification process, it was discovered that some party members do not meet the criteria, particularly those with incom-

plete addresses. According to the Union Election Commission (UEC), inspections are currently underway in collaboration with the respective Township General Administration Departments to assess their compatibility with ground conditions.

To thoroughly verify the party member lists submitted by different political parties, township officials from the respective parties have organized and

forwarded the party membership proposals along with proof of party membership cards. According to a press release from the UEC, inspections are currently being carried out by the relevant township election sub-commissions.

The Union Election Commission is verifying the accuracy of party membership lists submitted by political parties using MLPPS and CVLMS software.

These lists are also sent to the Ministry of Immigration and Population for cross-verification. Additionally, the respective township election sub-commissions are conducting inspections using Admin DEO software.

Under Section 5 (f) of the Political Parties Registration Law, political parties, within 90 days from their registration date, must meet certain requirements based on their scope. If it

operates only within a specific region or state, it must also have a minimum of 1,000 party members. It has also been announced that each township is required to compile a list confirming the party's membership numbers that have been organized. This list should then be submitted in duplicate, using Form H, to both the Union Election Commission and the respective township election sub-commissions. — TC/KZW

YPS card reload locations expand once more

ACCORDING to Yangon Payment Services (YPS), more locations where YPS cards can be topped up were expanded.

YPS cards, which are used to pay fares instead of cash on some YBS bus lines operating in the Yangon Region, can be conveniently purchased at Capital chains, YPS Card sales KIO SK, Mingala high-end movie theatres, Capital high-end malls, and Wellington pharmacies, in addition to G & G convenience stores.

Two types of bus lines can be paid for with the YPS card: flat-type and distance-type. When using the YPS card on distance-type vehicles, the card must be tapped each time when boarding and alighting from the bus, whereas, on flat-type bus lines, it must be used only once when getting on the bus.

The Yangon Payment Service (YPS) system commenced on 16 YBS bus lines. YPS has also announced that YPS cards can now be used to pay bus fares on 75 bus lines, making it a convenient and time-saving option. — TWA/CT



A cashier counter of a Capital branch where YPS cards can be reloaded.

Regular diesel price surges by nearly 50% over 5-month period

Truck owner profits and diesel prices display an inverse relationship.



Bowser trucks are seen for fuel distribution in the market.

ON 4 May, a litre of octane 92 and regular diesel were priced at K1,915 and K1,795 respectively, but on 18 September, the prices rose to K2,440 and K2,650.

Between 16 and 18 September 2023, approximately five months after 4 May 2023, regular diesel and octane 92 prices increased by 47 per cent and 27 per cent respectively, U Thaung Shwe, a truck owner, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Although prices have risen, the fuel price has not yet

reached its record price of K3,245 for a litre of regular diesel and K2,605 for a litre of octane 92 on 31 August 2022.

There is still significant use of diesel in the transportation and electricity generation sectors. When comparing fuel consumption and cargo tonnage in the transportation sector, the fuel cost of trailers that can carry approximately 20,000 tonnes of cargo is lower than that of 12-wheeler trucks that can only carry around 10,000 tonnes of cargo.

The prices of manufac-

tured products have increased in most manufacturing industries that use electricity, justifying the availability of electricity and the rise in fuel prices. However, when the price of fuel falls, the prices of these goods do not decrease, as reported by a shop owner.

In the transport sector, the freight rate is not directly related to the fuel price, but it is often used as an excuse. When there is a shortage of trucks to transport cargo, freight charges tend to rise regardless of fuel price fluctuations. — TWA/CT

China's demand pushes up butter bean price

THE prices of butter beans escalated, tracking the strong demand by China. The Mandalay commodity market saw a bustling trade activity of butter beans in the second week of September.

The price is up by K10,000-30,000 per three-basket bag on the back of an increase in China's demand and domestic demand.

The prices tremendous-

ly rose to K365,000-390,000 per bag in the second week from K350,000-370,000 in the first week of September and K345,000-360,000 recorded last month, depending on the sizes.

The butter beans are shipped to India, China, Japan and European countries. The harvest season of this winter crop begins in early January and butter beans are abundantly harvested in February and

March. The acreage of butter bean cultivation has increased to meet the growing market demand.

They are commonly grown in the central regions of Myanmar; Minbu, Sinphyukyun and Salin areas in the Magway Region, Mahlaing, Taungtha and Natogyi areas in the Mandalay Region and Gangaw, Kalay, Kalewa, Shwebo and Kabaw Valley in Sagaing Region. — TWA/EM



The photo shows a sample of butter beans in the market.

ECONOMY
WORLD

RCEP to promote construction of world’s largest
tourism economic community: report

THE Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) free trade agreement will reshape the global tourism development pattern and help build the world’s largest tourism economic community, according to a report released by the International Mountain Tourism Alliance and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) on Saturday.

The RCEP has 15 members: the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states, plus China, Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK), Australia and New Zealand. The RCEP agreement was signed in November 2020 and entered into force on 1 January 2022, with the aim of gradually eliminating tariffs on over 90 per cent of goods traded among its members.

According to Jin Zhun, secretary general of the CASS tourism research centre, open and sound international economic



This picture taken on 10 September 2023 shows a Thai tour guide (C) along with a group of Chinese tourists inside the Grand Palace in Bangkok. PHOTO: AFP

and trade relations will help optimize the regional market environment, boost economic and

cultural exchanges, and link the tourism supply and demand in different countries.

The report shows that in 2019, RCEP countries received a total of 398 million overseas tour-

ists and had 260 million outbound tourists, respectively accounting for 29 per cent and 24 per cent of the global totals.

RCEP countries are major sources of tourists between themselves, the report said. For example, eight of the top 10 inbound tourist sources for Myanmar and the ROK are RCEP countries.

The report noted that in RCEP countries, mountainous areas account for more than half of all land areas and constitute core tourism spaces. These countries boast 46 mountainous UNESCO World Heritage Sites and provide huge space for the development of mountain tourism.

“The RCEP will promote a stronger tourism economic cycle, and its member countries will develop into important international tourist destinations with more than one-third of international tourist flows and consumption,” Jin said. — Xinhua



A helicopter is displayed during the 20th China-ASEAN Expo at Nanning International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Nanning, capital of south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, 17 September 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

Investment deals totalling
\$67.9 bln signed at China-
ASEAN Expo

A record number of investment deals were inked during a signing ceremony at the 20th China-ASEAN Expo on Sunday in Nanning, the capital of south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Organizers said the ceremony saw deals signed for 470 projects with a combined investment of 487.3 billion yuan

(about 67.9 billion US dollars).

Over 65 per cent of that investment came from deals in the manufacturing sector.

The number of deals, the total investment figure and the manufacturing sector’s share of the total investment have already hit record highs this year, organizers said. — Xinhua

Singapore’s key exports decline for
11th consecutive month

THE non-oil domestic exports (NODX) in Singapore declined by 20.1 per cent year-on-year in August, marking a contraction for the 11th straight month, government agency Enterprise Singapore announced Monday.

The figure is lower than the 20.3-per-cent decline in the previous month, Enterprise

Singapore noted, adding that NODX in August fell 3.8 per cent month-on-month, compared to the previous 3.5-per-cent contraction in July.

In August, electronic exports contracted by 21.1 per cent and non-electronic exports declined by 19.9 per cent, according to the government

agency.

Singapore’s total trade contracted in August 2023, both in exports and imports. On a year-on-year basis, the total trade declined by 15.2 per cent during this period, following the 20.9 per cent contraction in the preceding month. — Xinhua



A container vessel prepares to dock at the Pasir Panjang port terminal in Singapore on 30 August 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Cow waste to be transformed into rocket fuel for space startup

A Japanese chemical manufacturing company has been working on creating liquid biomethane from cow waste to be used as rocket fuel, potentially providing a solution for dairy farmers grappling with disposal challenges.

Air Water Inc said it would begin conducting trials in the fall, with the fuel to be loaded on a rocket created by space startup firm Interstellar Technologies Inc. based in Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido.



Photo shows an image of Interstellar Technologies Inc rocket "Zero", expected to be fuelled by liquefied biomethane produced by Air Water Inc. (Photo courtesy of Interstellar Technologies Inc) **PHOTO: KYODO**

Air Water has been manufacturing liquid biomethane in Hokkaido since 2021. It ferments the dung and urine in a plant constructed on a dairy farm in the town of Taiki before transporting

the generated biogas to a factory in Obihiro. The methane is then separated from the product, cooled and made into liquid biomethane.

Rockets require liquid fuel to generate enough

power to blast off into space. While high-purity methane is usually manufactured using liquid natural gas, the company has been working on creating methane of a similar quality through waste-sourced

biogas. Interstellar Technologies will conduct tests to confirm the fuel created from cow waste can be used for its devices and aims to utilize it for its "Zero" rocket with a small satellite payload. — Kyodo

US buys record amount of Russian fertilizers from January to July

THE United States imported a record amount of Russian fertilizers worth 944 million US dollars from January to July, local media reported on Sunday.

The export value of Russian fertilizers to the United States rose by five per cent in the first seven months from the same period of last year, which stood at 900 million dollars, the previous peak, according to Russia's news agency RIA Novosti. Yet in July, US purchases fell threefold compared to June, the lowest since August 2021. Russia was the second largest supplier of fertilizers to the United States in the first seven months of this year, only after Canada. — Xinhua

MYANMA Port Authority "NOTICE of High Tide"

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.31 feet to 21.42 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of September 28th to October 3rd, 2023. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

Stock markets slide before central bank decisions on rates

STOCK markets mostly slid on Monday as traders looked ahead to interest-rate decisions this week from the US Federal Reserve and Bank of England.

While the Fed is expected to hold rates steady on Wednesday — causing the dollar to drop — the Bank of England is forecast to hike once more a day later.

Investors will be keeping a close watch also on the Bank of Japan's own policy decision this week.

The rate announcements come amid rising concerns that inflation will stay high for longer as oil prices head towards \$100 per barrel.

"It's a big week ahead for central bank interest rate decisions, which can understandably make investors a bit jittery," noted Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell.

A recent run of indicators suggests the US economy and labour market remain resilient even after more than a year of interest rate hikes, meaning the central bank will have to keep open the option of another hike. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V CL RUBY VOY.NO. (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CL RUBY VOY.NO. (001)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-9-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-5** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (296N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (296N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-9-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V NITHI BHUM VOY.NO. (283N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NITHI BHUM VOY.NO. (283N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-9-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V NORD HAKATA VOY.NO. (A730)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORD HAKATA VOY.NO. (A730)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-9-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDING PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Pope to defend migrants in Marseille trip



Pope Francis steps into the popemobile at the end of a private audience with Carabinieri's officers at the Vatican on 16 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

CALLS for compassion for migrants suffering in North Africa and those attempting to reach Europe or die trying will be at the heart of Pope Francis's visit to Marseille this week.

The pontiff is making a two-day trip to France's second-largest city, a historic gateway for immigrants, where he is expected to insist on the causes of migration, from poverty to climate change, and

urge greater tolerance.

He is also likely to address the horrors many migrants face in North Africa, from internment in brutal camps to being left by traffickers to die in the desert.

The visit comes as a surge in the number of migrant arrivals in Italy revives a bitter debate over how European countries manage asylum seekers.

"It represents a challenge

that is not easy, as we also see from the news in recent days, but which must be faced together," Francis said after his Angelus prayer on Sunday in Rome.

"It is essential for the future of all, which will be prosperous only if it is built on fraternity, putting human dignity and real people, especially those most in need, in first place," he said. — AFP

Nipah virus situation under control in India's Kerala state: official

THE spread of the Nipah virus in India's southern state of Kerala was under control as no new cases had been reported over the past couple of days, the state's health minister Veena George said on Monday.

The virus hit the state last week after two deaths were reported. So far, a total of six cases have been detected within the state.

"Currently the situation is under control. There are 352 people on the high-risk contact list. Health workers have intensified prevention activities in places where Nipah virus has

been confirmed," the minister reportedly said.

She further stated that as many as 1,233 people were on the contact list, 23 people had been admitted to the medical college, and 34,167 house visits had been completed as part of the precautionary measures.

This was said to be the fourth outbreak of the deadly virus in Kerala in the past few years. The Indian Council of Medical Research and the World Health Organization found that nine states in India had the probability of Nipah occurrence, the minister added. — Xinhua



Health workers wearing protective gears shift a man with symptoms of Nipah virus to an isolation ward at a government hospital in Kozhikode in south Indian state of Kerala on 16 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Bystanders less likely to give women CPR: research

BYSTANDERS are less likely to give life-saving CPR to women having a cardiac arrest in public than men, leading to more women dying from the common health emergency, researchers said Monday.

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) combines mouth-to-mouth breathing and chest compressions to pump blood to the brain of people whose hearts have stopped beating, potentially staving off death until medical help arrives.

In research to be presented at a medical conference in Spain this week, but which has not yet been peer-reviewed, a team of Canadian doctors sought to



A woman receives CPR training as she practices on a dummy during a civil defence drill against possible artillery attacks by North Korea, in a subway station in Seoul on 23 August 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

understand how bystanders administer the procedure differently to men and women.

They looked at records of cardiac arrests that took place outside of hospital in

the United States and Canada between 2005 and 2015, which included nearly 40,000 patients.

Overall, 54 per cent of the patients received CPR from a bystander, the research said.

For cardiac arrests in a public place, such as in the street, 61 per cent of women were given CPR by a bystander — compared to 68 per cent of men.

Alexis Cournoyer, an emergency physician at the Hopital du Sacre-Coeur de Montreal who conducted the research, told AFP that this gap "increases women's mortality following a cardiac arrest — that's for sure". — AFP

Biden grants clemency to Iranians as US confirms prisoner swap

THE United States on Monday confirmed a prisoner swap with Iran and said that President Joe Biden had granted clemency to five Iranians jailed or awaiting trial for non-violent crimes.

A US official said that seven US citizens were on a Qatari plane that departed Iran. They include three previously identified Americans — Siamak Namazi, Morad Tahbaz and Emad Sharqi — and two who wish to remain anonymous. Also on the plane are Namazi's mother and Sharqi's wife, both of whom are US citizens who were barred from leaving Iran, although they were not imprisoned. — AFP

SPORTS

Asian Games
landmark for
eSports fires
Olympic dreams

ESPORTS’ debut as a medal event at the Asian Games starting this week will change attitudes and be a major step towards Olympic recognition at last, gamers and experts say.

Gaming was a demonstration sport at the 2018 Asian Games but gold medals will be up for grabs this time in Hangzhou in seven different games.

Players will battle in EA Sports FC, PUBG Mobile, Arena of Valour, Dota 2, League of Legends, Dream Three Kingdoms 2 and Street Fighter V.

For Mayank Prajapati, India’s medal hope in the Street Fighter beat’em up game, the Asian Games opening on Saturday will mark how far he and eSports have come.

He recalled how his father would beat him for sneaking off to play video games.



This picture taken on 11 September 2023 shows eSports League of Legends South Korean (L) and Vietnamese (R) national teams playing a friendly match ahead of the upcoming Asian Games in Gwangmyeong. **PHOTO: AFP**

“I played my first game in the late 1990s at an arcade machine at a market with the two rupees I had,” the 33-year-old said.

“It was my first exposure with Street Fighter and I fell in love with the game.

“I got addicted and often lied to my parents, saying ‘I am going for tuition’, but spent hours playing.”

Prajapati, a 3D designer, recalled how his father once tracked him down out playing video games at night, surrounded by half a dozen cheering children. “I got a lot of scolding... I think I got beaten up,” laughed Prajapati, himself now a father to a two-year-old boy.

Prajapati’s tale is a familiar one among gamers from different countries. — AFP



Myanmar rowing teams undergo training for XIX Asian Games.

Myanmar rowing team set to compete
in six events in XIX Asian Games

MYANMAR rowers are scheduled to take part in nine events of the rowing contest involved in the XIX Asian Games to be held in Hangzhou of the People’s Republic of China from 23 September to 8 October.

“Myanmar rowers will participate in six events namely the 200-metre, 500-metre and 1000-metre men’s and women’s 10-oar events. They have taken a one-month break after the SEA Games, and they are now under training at the camp. They hope to secure medals in the coming Asian Games,” said President of the Myanmar Rowing Federation U Thaung Htaik Min.

Yesterday morning, President of the Sports Media Federation U Nyan Tun, vice presidents and executives viewed the training of rowers at the Wushu training hall of the Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon) and spoke words of encouragement to them.

Myanmar Wushu athletes will take part in the women’s Jianshu/Qiangshu event, Nanquan/Nandao event, Taijiquan/Taijijian events and the men’s Taijiquan/Taijijian event.

Myanmar sports contingent plans to compete in the men’s and women’s football, rowing, Wushu, archery, e-sports, Sepak Takraw and Taekwondo events in the XIX Asian Games. — Bala Soe/TTA

Myanmar faces Bangladesh in men’s football
event of Asian Games today

THE men’s football tournament in the XIX Asian Games to be hosted by China will kick off today when Myanmar will face Bangladesh in the opening match.

On the first day, nine matches will be held in six groups. Myanmar and Bangladesh will play the opening match of their group at 2:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time today. In addition, China versus India, Viet Nam vs Mongolia, Saudi Arabia vs Iran, Bahrain vs Thailand, South Korea vs Kuwait, North Korea vs Chinese Taipei, and Indonesia vs Kirgizstan will be held the same day.

Group A is formed with host China, Bangladesh, Myanmar and India; Group B comprises Viet Nam, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Mongolia; Group C consists of Uzbekistan and Hong Kong; Japan, Palestine and Qatar fall in Group D; South Korea, Bahrain, Thailand and Kuwait are included in Group E; and Group F contains North Korea, Indonesia, Kirgizstan and Chinese Taipei.

As Syria and Afghanistan withdrew from Group C, Uzbekistan and Hong Kong had to play matches in two legs.

The men’s football tournament lasts from 19 to 25 September. According to the competition rules, two top teams from each group and four best third-placed teams, totalling 16 will have the chance to sail into the knockout stage. — Ko Nyi Lay/TTA



Players of Myanmar men’s national football team are seen at the training camp. **PHOTO: MFF**



WORLD

Iran projectile wounds two after falling during military test

AN Iranian projectile that veered off course during a military test fell Monday in the north of the country, wounding two people, officials and local media said.

The incident took place when Iran's military was conducting tests for its drone and attack systems in a desert region before the projectile experienced a technical problem.

The projectile "disintegrated and its parts fell on the city of Gorgan", the provincial capital of the northern Golestan province, defence ministry spokesman Reza Talaei-Nik said.

"Two people were wounded," ISNA news agency reported, quoting provincial official Ali Mohajer. The type of projectile was not immediately clear, with some local media reporting it to be a drone while others said it was a missile.

Local media shared footage showing the cordoned off area where the debris had fallen, with some shops in the vicinity having sustained heavy damage. — AFP

Thailand urged to halt crop burning after air pollution spike

THAILAND must ban stubble burning by farmers to improve air quality, the head of a leading agricultural body said Monday, after a spike in dangerous pollution left millions needing medical treatment.

The kingdom suffered dire air quality earlier in the year, with Bangkok and the northern city of Chiang Mai ranked among the most polluted cities in the world on some days in April.

Authorities urged people to stay indoors and work from home as concentrations of the most dangerous PM2.5 particles — so tiny they can enter the bloodstream — reached unsafe levels.

One of the leading sources of the particles is farmers torching stubble to prepare land for the next crop, with "burning season" peaking between December and April.

The head of the kingdom's top agricultural body said the practice must be halted.

"The government should ban crop-burning — the method widely used among farm-



(FILES) This picture shows buildings amid air pollution in Bangkok on 17 April 2023. Thailand must ban stubble burning by farmers to improve air quality, the head of a leading agricultural body said Monday, after a spike in dangerous pollution left millions needing medical treatment. **PHOTO: AFP**

ers in Thailand," said Pornsil Patcharintanakul, president of Thai Feed Mill Association (TFMA), which operates under the commerce ministry.

He urged the government of new Prime Minister Srettha

Thavasin to take action swiftly because of the urgency of the matter.

More than two million people sought medical treatment in Thailand this year because of problems linked to air pol-

lution. Pornsil, whose organization monitors the quality of animal feed, said Thailand should follow international farming guidelines that forbid stubble-burning. — AFP

All deputy defence ministers of Ukraine dismissed



This handout photograph taken and released by the Ukrainian Presidential press service on 7 September 2023 shows Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Valerii Zaluzhnyi (C), Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Sergiy Shapoval (R) and Ukraine's new Defence Minister Rustem Umerov (L) during Umerov's official introducing to the leadership of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the heads of relevant units. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / UKRAINIAN PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SERVICE / AFP**

THE Ukrainian government dismissed all six deputy defence ministers and the state secretary of the Defence Ministry, said Taras Melnychuk, the cabinet's representative in the parliament, on Monday.

Deputy Defence Ministers Volodymyr Havrylov, Rostyslav Zamlynskiy, Hanna Malyar, Denys Sharapov, Andriy Shevchenko and Vitaliy Deynega, as well as State Secretary Kostyantyn Vashchenko have been ousted by the cabinet, Melnychuk wrote on Telegram. The move came after Rustem Umerov became Ukraine's new defence minister earlier this month, replacing Oleksii Reznikov. — Xinhua

UN meet looks to salvage promises on helping world's poorest

WORLD leaders meet Monday at the United Nations in a bid to salvage ambitious promises to lift the planet's poorest, at a time when vulnerable nations are facing a volley of crises.

But the development summit, on the eve of the annual UN General Assembly that opens Tuesday, threatens to be eclipsed by growing geopolitical tensions — which will be symbolized by the presence at the meeting in New York of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

In 2015, UN member states adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, 17 targets to transform the world by 2030 including by completely ending extreme

poverty and making sure not a single of the planet's eight billion people goes hungry.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the summit will seek a "global rescue plan" on the targets, as he acknowledged that only about 15 per cent were on track to be met and that metrics on some were heading in reverse.

The goals are "about the hopes, dreams, rights and expectations of people and the health of our natural environment," Guterres said.

"They're about righting historic wrongs, healing global divisions and putting our world on a path to lasting peace," he said. — AFP