

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets faculty members including the rector of the Yangon Western University in Hlinethaya Township yesterday.

## Educational vision set to teach polytechnics to students to seek jobs easily

**T**he government is implementing the educational vision to teach polytechnic subjects to students so as to apply their educational knowl-

edge in respective employment, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

During the inspection tour of Yangon Western Technological University in

Hlinethaya Township of Yangon Region yesterday morning, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung

Hlaing recounted that he discussed Universities of Computer Studies and Technological Universities must be formed as polytechnic universities for students to have a broader learning arena. So, he continued that experts have to continue discussions to fulfil the state's educational requirements.

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Kayin children learning Kayin literature and the textbook cover on the Poe Kayin course for primary class.

## Kayin language curriculum for fifth grade to finish by 2025

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## PYIN OO LWIN **NAN MYAING**

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# NATIONAL

## Educational vision set to teach polytechnics to students to seek jobs easily



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing looks into the progress of the three-storey lecture hall being built on Yangon Western Technological University campus in Hlinethaya Township of Yangon Region yesterday.

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He continued that Myanmar has a few universities to produce agricultural and livestock experts despite focusing on agricultural and livestock farming works. Hence, the Senior General said that he discussed the establishment of agriculture and

livestock schools as well as technical schools.

He noted that faculty members have to teach students to have actual knowledge and scrutinize actual outstanding students for learning further studies.

The Senior General inspect-

ed the progress of the three-storey lecture hall on the university campus and left the necessary instructions.

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw and officials reported on the establishment of technological and computer universities

under the Advanced Science and Technology Department, the process of establishment of polytechnic universities, admission of students at hostels, and further construction of buildings at the university.

On arrival at Yangon Western University, the Senior Gener-

al underscored that the students who passed the KG+9 have a chance to attend the agriculture, livestock, and industrial schools in order to learn further studies, adding the students who passed the basic education also have a chance to attend universities and colleges depending on respective subjects.

The Senior General highlighted that only when teachers are qualified will they teach students to become outstanding ones. So, the Senior General stressed the need to shape the chain of highly-qualified education for all.

Although Myanmar is on the path to democracy, people are weak in abiding by the law, which is basic for democracy, and they have lesser economic awareness of the development of the economy.

The Senior General stressed that as students need to have legal and economic knowledge, all universities provide law and economic subjects to students aimed at enabling students to be capable of improving their socioeconomic life and society.

The Senior General inspected the university and left instructions on growing shade trees and beautifying the university campus. — MNA/TTA

## MoSWRR Union Minister provides aid to IDPs in Kalaw District

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement Dr Soe Win, accompanied by Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Zaw Aye, along with deputy ministers from the Ministry of Border Affairs and the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, visited internally displaced people (IDPs) taking shelter at the Phayakyain Monastery in Nyaungshwe, Shan State (South), yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister distributed shirts manufactured by the Smart Garment Factory and provided soaps. Additionally, financial assistance was offered to individuals aged over 70, people with disabilities, pregnant women, and children under the age of five.



Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement Dr Soe Win provides clothes, rice, edible oil, salt, beans, instant noodles, and eggs to internally displaced people (IDPs) taking shelter at the Phayakyain Monastery in Nyaungshwe, Shan State (South), yesterday.

Relevant ministries and the Shan State government provided rice, edible oil, salt, beans, instant noodles, and eggs. The

Ministry of Ethnic Affairs contributed cash assistance to each household. The officials listened to the requirements of the IDPs

and addressed them accordingly.

Subsequently, the Union minister and his entourage visited the Yangon Monastery in

Nyaungshwe to pay respect and offer alms to the resident monks. Furthermore, they extended greetings to the IDPs housed in temporary shelters at the monastery, offering necessary assistance.

The delegation team then stopped at another shelter at the Maha Yanaung Pagoda to extend greetings and assist the IDPs.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Border Affairs, Shan State government, and Ministry of Ethnic Affairs collectively offered aid amounting to K522 million, including provisions and cash, benefiting 21,846 IDPs across Kalaw, Nyaungshwe, and Pekhon townships. — MNA/NT



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects development of Hlinethaya Township under the proper urban construction process yesterday.

Only when industrial zones get sufficient electricity will they operate manufacturing at full capacity, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning, accompanied by Council Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo and Council member Lt-Gen Nyo Saw, discussed the urban development process with businesspersons of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises and chairmen of industrial zones in Yangon Region at the hall in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone.

The Senior General stressed

## Sufficient electricity helps operate manufacturing in industrial zones at full capacity

that the regional government needs to strive to generate electricity from natural gas, solar energy, and windmills to ensure the sufficiency of electricity in the Yangon Region.

He continued that other regions and states have to operate the electric power sector and other sectors within the frameworks of their authority.

Improving the transport sector with electric vehicles and boosting the electrical industries is necessary. He added

that if local demands for fuel and cooking oil are fulfilled, spending amount of foreign currency can be reduced.

The Senior General spotlighted that urban and housing projects must align with the town plans with pleasant and beautifying measures. He continued that arrangements must be made for people from all walks of life to have convenience in their livelihoods and to create a good environment in order to improve the living standards of

urban people.

The Senior General stressed the need to improve education standards for the future State and facilitate residents with basic education schools and sports grounds.

The Senior General underscored that long-term plans must be implemented to develop Hlinethaya Township under the proper urban construction process.

The regional chief minister and officials reported on the

operation of industrial zones, plans to improve Bayintnaung Park and Bayintnaung Bridge Park, systematic running of vehicles, seeking permission for import of import-substitute raw materials, and systematic settlement of housings in Hlinethaya Township.

The Senior General also inspected the progress of the Bayintnaung Bridge Park project, left necessary instructions, and toured Hlinethaya Township. — MNA/TTA

## Union Minister meets Thilawa SEZ Management Committee chairperson, investors

UNION Minister at the Ministry-2 of the Chairman Office of the State Administration Council U Aung Naing Oo, who is also the Chairman of the Central Working Committee on Myanmar Special Economic Zone (SEZ), held a meeting with the management committee and investors of Thilawa SEZ in Yangon on the morning of 13 January.

During the meeting, the Union Minister emphasized the need for the successful implementation of the Thilawa SEZ, the resumption of conditions, the continuous processing of current investments, and the attraction of new investments.

Furthermore, discussions and coordination took place in a separate meeting with entrepreneurs involved in investment activities in the Thilawa SEZ. Topics covered included state conditions, challenges faced, and issues related to increasing exports in the business promotion zone.

Later, officials from Myanmar-Japan Thilawa Development Limited (MJTD), the developer of Thilawa SEZ, had a separate discussion with the chairman and Thilawa SEZ management committee members to plan and coordinate future activities. — MNA/TKO



Union Minister at the Ministry-2 of the Chairman Office of the State Administration Council U Aung Naing Oo, who is also the Chairman of the Central Working Committee on Myanmar Special Economic Zone (SEZ), holds talks with the management committee officials and investors of Thilawa SEZ in Yangon yesterday.

# NATIONAL

## Yangon launches ASEAN compulsory motor insurance system



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein delivers speech at the launching ceremony of the ASEAN Compulsory Motor Insurance System (ACMI) in Yangon yesterday.



compensation to an effective extent in case a Myanmar citizen is harmed, injured, or killed by a vehicle in transit movement.

He commended the ACMI System for benefiting vehicle owners and drivers engaged in commodity transportation along the ASEAN boundary, aligning with ASEAN's spirit of 'One Vision, One Identity, One Community'.

The chairperson of the Insurance Business Supervisory Board also delivered a speech, and the managing director of the Myanmar Insurance presented a video clip.

Implementing the ACMI system in Myanmar is expected to bring several benefits, including earning insurance premiums from vehicles in transit entering Myanmar, enhancing commodity flows and economic cooperation with ASEAN countries, and improving trades and services. — MNA/ TMT

THE launching ceremony of the ASEAN Compulsory Motor Insurance System (ACMI) took place in Yangon at the Head Office of the Myanmar Insurance yesterday.

The ACMI, in line with Protocol 5 of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on

the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT), mandates third-party liability insurance for vehicles engaged in transit movement and will facilitate online payments.

Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein

highlighted that Myanmar is one of the four ASEAN countries actively implementing the ACMI System through the digital platform, a fact announced at the 24<sup>th</sup> Council of Bureaux Meeting in Halong, Viet Nam, on 6 December 2023. He emphasized that the online availability

of third-party liability insurance for vehicles crossing the border into Myanmar will save time, human effort, and opportunity costs while generating additional income for the country. The Deputy Prime Minister asserted that the system would be beneficial, ensuring financial

### Counter-argument to false information

#### False news: Tatmadaw attacked with heavy weapons causing casualties



The screenshot validates false news about Tatmadaw.

THE false news is spreading on the malicious media outlets describing Tatmadaw attacked with heavy weapons and aviation to the villages and the quarters of Kyauktaw, MraukU, Maungtaw, Minbya, and An townships of Rakhine State and caused six deaths and eleven injuries.

The actual situation was the security forces serving their duties near the mentioned townships were attacked by AA terrorists with

heavy weapons and dropped bombs. And their ammunition and drop bombs damaged the shelters of the local people.

Therefore, the malicious media are spreading untrue information intentionally to hide the violent actions of the terrorists that destroyed the lives and shelters of innocent civilians, and their purpose is to create misconceptions between Tatmadaw and the citizens. — MNA/TRKM

#### Northern Alliance falsely claims Tatmadaw attack on ceasefire activation day in Shan State (North)

MALICIOUS media outlets, Khit Thit Media and DVB TV News, are spreading untrue information describing three Northern Alliance (AA+MNDA+TNLA) officially announcing Tatmadaw attacked with heavy weapons and airstrike on the day of the ceasefire enforcement in Shan State (North).

Tatmadaw reportedly fol-

lows temporary ceasefire agreements starting from the signed day, and the malicious media outlets are just propagandizing to defame Tatmadaw and to cause misunderstanding between Tatmadaw and the people with the envy of good results from peace talks of Tatmadaw and three partners of Northern Alliance.

— MNA/TRKM

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# NATIONAL

## Kayin language curriculum for ...

### FROM PAGE-1

ACCORDING to Mahn Than Win Oo, Chairperson of the Kayin Literature and Culture Association (Yangon Region), the Kayin language curriculum for the fifth grade is scheduled to be completed in 2025.

Currently, the Kayin language is taught up to the third grade in basic education schools in regions and states with a significant Kayin ethnic population. It is anticipated that the teaching of the Kayin language will be extended up to the fifth grade.

The Kayin Literature Curriculum Development Team has already initiated the compilation of the Kayin language text for the fourth grade, with completion expected in the current year (2024).

The texts primarily focus on the West Poe Kayin language and Zakaw Kayin language, and a separate text for the East Poe Kayin language is also under development in Kayin State.

The Kayin ethnics reside in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Bago, and Taninthayi Regions, as well as in Mon and Kayin States. — ASH/TKO



The textbook cover on the Poe Kayin course for primary class.

## News in Brief

### Thailand, Myanmar collaborate to combat online gambling, scams

CHAIRMAN of SAC, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, and Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, General Songwit Noonpackdee, held a meeting via video conferencing to discuss border trade and security cooperation between the two countries. They addressed issues such as combating illegal trade, exchanging information, and jointly combatting online gambling and scams in the border region. The conditions for collaborative efforts between the two countries in combating these challenges were thoroughly discussed.

### Thai government reinitiates contact with Dawei SEZ

THE Thai government has shown renewed interest in the Dawei Special Economic Zone and is ready to resume communication. According to Thailand's current government policy, the establishment of a special economic zone in the eastern province of Thailand and the implementation of the Eastern Economic Corridor to connect it with the Dawei Special Economic Zone are believed to enhance connectivity, as stated by SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win. In January 2021, the authorization tender contract of the Italian-Thai company, originally granted to operate the Dawei Special Economic Zone project, was cancelled.

### Commission-enacted law ensures rigorous adherence to rules for free, fair elections

THE law enacted by the UEC to ensure the free and fairness of the election stipulates that representatives from relevant political parties will be allowed to verify the completeness and correctness of the ballots. This was announced during a symposium on recommendations for the successful conduct of the multi-party democratic general election, held at the Mingala hall of the Yangon Region government office on 12 January. It was emphasized that the implementation of this law will be carried out strictly under the rules.

### 2024 plans for MNL 1, 2, women's football tournaments

THE organizing committee of the Myanmar National League has announced that women's scoring football competitions, MNL 1 and MNL 2, will be held. The 2024-2025 Myanmar National League-1 scoring football tournament is scheduled from 6 July to the end of February 2025, while the 2024 Myanmar National League-2 scoring football tournament will take place from 16 July to the end of December 2024. The 2024 Myanmar Women's League football tournament is set to run from 23 April to October 2024. The MNL U-20 Youth League 2024 championship is scheduled from 5 May to the end of December 2024. It is noted that these competitions will adhere to the FIFA football calendar, in addition to the Myanmar National League Cup. — Htun Htun/KZW

## Online availability of ACR identity cards for Myanmar citizens in Philippines



A panoramic view of Manila Capital in the Philippines.

THE Myanmar Embassy in Manila issued a statement on 11 January, informing Myanmar citizens in the Philippines that they can now apply for the Alien Certificate of Registration (ACR) identity cards through the website.

According to the Alien Registration Act of 1950, the Bureau of Immigration Philippines will oversee the annual report and facilitate the appli-

cation process for Myanmar citizens to obtain ACR identity cards.

Reportedly, Myanmar citizens residing legally in the Philippines can submit their applications for Alien Certificate of Registration (ACR) identity cards from 2 January to 1 March through e-services. immigration.gov.ph, the official website of the Bureau of Immigration Philippines.

Additionally, applications can be made directly at the SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City, Robinsons Place Manila, and other units of the Bureau of Immigration Philippines. Therefore, the Myanmar Embassy in Manila has advised Myanmar citizens in the Philippines to complete their ACR Identity card applications before the deadline on 1 March. — TWA/TRKM

# NATIONAL



On 10 January 2024, 151 new manufacturing workers were despatched to the Republic of Korea via the Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) and the EPS system, and they landed at Incheon International Airport in Korea.

## ME in Korea facilitates passport renewal process for nationals

THE Myanmar Embassy to Korea has issued the required documents for Myanmar nationals to obtain their regular passports on their behalf.

If the beneficiary is unable to collect the documents for various reasons, withdrawal by another person is permitted to prevent any mishandling, ensuring that there are no issues with the retrieval process.

A Power of Attorney for representation, a receipt of appointment for retrieval, copies of the passport (for both the principal and representative), and the ID card (for both the beneficiary and the representative) are required. Additionally, the proxy must be written by the beneficiary.

After the passports have been renewed, individuals must retrieve them personally between 2 pm and 4 pm on the appointed day. — TWA/KZW

resentation, a receipt of appointment for retrieval, copies of the passport (for both the principal and representative), and the ID card (for both the beneficiary and the representative) are required. Additionally, the proxy must be written by the beneficiary.

## Population and household census survey based on estimated population

THIS year, the Population and Household Census will be conducted in 18,132 plots based on the Yangon Region's estimated population, the Yangon Region Census Enumeration Supervisory Committee Chairman, the Yangon Region Chief Minister said.

As mentioned at the meeting, the YR chief minister said to coordinate the work on the successful enumeration of population and household census held at the Yangon Region Government Office meeting hall on 11 January.

He said that the 2024 Population and Household Census are being conducted to confirm and publish Myanmar's population statistics and to forecast future population and socio-economic data more accurately.

The census will be enu-



Trial census data collection at and Tarkauk village-tract Aingwaing village in Maubin District on 3 October 2023.

merated nationwide from 1 to 15 October 2024, and the 2024 census will be conducted through four processes: preparation, enumeration, listing, analysis, and reporting.

In Yangon Region, preparatory activities, basic area

census, formation of census supervisory committee and different committee levels, mapping using GIS technology, formation of enumeration plots, and experimental census collection have been completed. — TWA/TKO

A total of 52 construction permits were issued municipal area of the Yangon City Development Committee during the first week of January.

In addition, 13 Building Completion Certificates (BCC) have been approved, and the list of 44 buildings that have applied for construction permits from four to 17 units has been sent to the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC).

To allow the construction of the building, endorsements have been sent to related departments, such as four to the Fire Services Department, 25 to the Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation), and five to the Urban Land Management Department. It is necessary to have a Standard Operating Procedure communicated to the Electricity Supply Enterprise by the landowners and licensed contractors for obtaining electricity when building construction permits are issued.

The licensed contractors will be invited to a meeting this week

## 52 construction permits issued in Yangon municipal area in January 2024



A building under construction that has received a building construction permit.

to get the BCC and install electricity meters in the buildings. The Yangon Electricity Supply

Corporation will take responsibility for installing the electricity meters. — TWA/KZL

## Over 13,000 vehicles apprehended for excessive speeding on Yangon-Mandalay expressway in 2023

IN 2023, the Nay Pyi Taw Expressway Police Force Headquarters reported more than 13,000 arrests of vehicles exceeding the speed limit on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway. It is reported that vehicles exceeding the speed limit on the expressway undergo measurement and inspection using speed-measuring machines. Images of these speeding vehicles are captured, assigned personnel are dispatched to toll gates and mini toll gates along the main road, and action is being taken.

The speed limits on the expressway are as follows: 100 kilometres per hour for small vehicles, 90 kilometres per hour for passenger express vehicles, and the speed limit is set at 60 kilometres per hour for light trucks like



A speed limit sign along the highway, guiding vehicles on the road.

Hijet equipped with a telematics system.

The vehicles seized on the highway were processed under the 2010 Vehicle Management Law. It is reported that further action is being taken in the Vehicle Courts of Hlegu, Phyu, Zabuthiri, Meiktila, and TadaU Townships. — TWA/KZW

## Black gram price on upward trend

THE prices of black gram (urad) continue upward, fetching nearly K100,000 per basket in the domestic market, according to the Ayeya Trade Convention Centre.

In early January this year, the lowest rates were K96,500-K99,000 per basket in Ayeyawady Region.

Surge in Myanmar's black gram price is the steady demand by India. India also imports the urad from Brazil and other countries. Yet, they prefer Myanmar's black gram because of better quality and an ample supply. India extended the free import policy of black gram (urad) and pigeon pea (tur) until March 2025.

Next, India's pulse output dropped more than expected due to erratic weather in India, prompting them to import a large quantity from abroad. India was reportedly to bring

in 400,000 tonnes of pigeon pea (tur) and one million tonnes of black gram (urad) from Myanmar in two months (January-February) 2024, citing reports by foreign agencies.

India's growing demand and low stocks in the domestic market are contributing factors to the price rise of black grams and pigeon peas. Nonetheless, the prices are expected to decline during the harvest season (February-April). The traders forecast the black gram price is likely to stay strong at approximately K90,000 per basket.

Myanmar conveyed over 1.15 million tonnes of various pulses worth US\$978 million in the past nine months of the current financial year 2023-2024, the Ministry of Commerce stated. Myanmar mainly exports black gram, green gram, and pigeon peas to



Sample of quality black gram.

foreign markets. Black grams and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India, while green

grams are exported to China and Europe.

India has growing con-

sumption requirements for black grams and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black grams and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulse's annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that annual quota.

Black gram, which India primarily purchases, is commonly found only in Myanmar. In contrast, pigeon peas, green grams, and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia, as stated by the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. — NN/EM

## CBM intensifies crackdown on illegal Hundi businesses

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has been clamping down on the illegitimate Hundi business, an informal money transfer system.

The CBM has been joining hands with the anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing task force comprising officials from the Department of General Administration, Bureau of Special Investigation, and Myanmar Financial Intelligence Unit to investigate Hundi brokers, conduct awareness campaigns of informal money transfer system and prosecution, provide anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing courses and disseminate information about applying for inward and outward remittance licence.

The CBM has been forwarding investigation reports to the Ministry of Home Affairs and the law enforcement authorities to take action against the Hundi operators.

Similarly, the CBM worked with the Ministry of Home Affairs and law enforcement agen-



The photo depicts Yangon branch of Central Bank of Myanmar.

cies under the guidance of the Monitoring and Steering Committee on the Gold and Currency Market and conducted interrogation and prosecution against those disputable Hundi brokers using banking transactions.

Following the CBM's investigation and legal proceedings

against 99 alleged money transfer operators, the Myanmar Police Force has taken action against 20 individuals. Also, 20 more Hundi brokers face lawsuits at the respective township courts, and the course of action continues.

Those individuals include

nine Hundi brokers involved in illegal inward money transfers of Myanmar workers in Thailand, China, and Malaysia, three individuals making illegitimate money transactions for goods purchase, and eight illicit foreign exchangers. They are to face sentences and fines under the

existing laws.

To eliminate Hundi brokers, the CBM teamed up with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Bureau of Special Investigation, and Myanmar Financial Intelligence Unit to carry out further investigation and prosecution against the Hundi businesses and ensure law enforcement by working closely with the authorities concerned. The CBM has issued remittance licences for 14 companies as of 19 December 2023 after doing some procedures to curb and reduce illegal Hundi businesses.

Additionally, those aforementioned institutions cooperated to offer anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing courses under the existing laws. Furthermore, they often meet those holding remittance licences to realize work processes, challenges and actual situations on the ground and coordinate matters. They also bridge connections between the licence holders and overseas recruitment agencies. — NN/EM

# OPINION

Seek the best way to grasp firm market share of Myanmar's coffee

**I**N the quest for a significant share of the global coffee market, Myanmar's business community must focus on producing high-quality coffee products. Coffee has emerged as a pivotal commodity, rivalling even oil in global importance. With 75 countries, including Myanmar, contributing to worldwide coffee production, it is imperative for Myanmar to position itself for international success strategically.

Myanmar currently boasts approximately 49,000 acres of coffee plantations, with 38,000 acres dedicated to Arabica coffee for export and an additional 12,000 acres allocated to Robusta coffee. These coffee plantations cover 60 per cent of cultivable lands in the nation. Recognizing the potential, both the government and private enterprises are collaborating to expand coffee cultivation across 300,000 acres in three designated coffee zones. This ambitious initiative is essential for Myanmar to compete with coffee-producing giants like Vietnam, which cultivates over 700,000 hectares of coffee.

Currently, the time is ripe for Myanmar's coffee entrepreneurs to strategically expand their operations strategically, emphasizing quality, trademark recognition, and increased sown acreage. Myanmar businesspersons must sustain fine results of high-quality coffee products in the international market. By doing so, they can position Myanmar as a formidable player in the competitive international coffee market.

generating \$4.18 billion in income.

Recognizing the potential of areas like PyinOoLwin in the Mandalay Region and Ywangan in Shan State, known for producing internationally recognized specialty coffee, Myanmar's business community must strive to capture the market share for trademark and quality coffee products globally. This requires expanding coffee cultivation within the legal framework and focusing on producing finished coffee products for both local consumption and export purposes.

Currently, the time is ripe for Myanmar's coffee entrepreneurs to strategically expand their operations strategically, emphasizing quality, trademark recognition, and increased sown acreage. Myanmar businesspersons must sustain fine results of high-quality coffee products in the international market. By doing so, they can position Myanmar as a formidable player in the competitive international coffee market.

The current top destinations for Myanmar's coffee exports include Switzerland, China, Thailand, the US, Britain, Iceland, South Korea, Japan, Germany, and the United Arab Emirates. However, as Myanmar primarily exports raw coffee goods, it is crucial for local entrepreneurs to establish production facilities to contribute to the growth of coffee cultivation. This not only creates job opportunities but also addresses the issue of importing coffee products from abroad, reducing unnecessary foreign currency spending.

Myanmar's status as a coffee exporter contrasts with its practice of importing coffee products. To counter this imbalance, businesses must prioritize the production of high-quality coffee goods, saving the country from unnecessary expenditure on imports. By closely monitoring the global coffee export landscape, Myanmar can compete with established coffee exporters, as exemplified by Vietnam's export of 1.61 million tonnes,

# The Significance of Precision Medicine in Health Care Development

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

**P**RECISION medicine is a medical approach to disease diagnosis, prevention, and treatment that takes into account each patient's unique genetics, history, and lifestyle. The treatments are improved, and adverse effects are minimized, lowering the overall cost of healthcare for society.

**What impact will precision medicine have on the healthcare sector?**

Precision medicine has the ability to overcome traditional medicine's limitations by focusing on prevention rather than reaction. Precision medicine, which uses genetic insights and other medical improvements in technology to provide a better

understanding of diseases, is fast evolving as research develops. This method enables doctors to make more precise diagnoses and develop specialized treatment strategies.

Pharmaceutical companies' drugs and therapies are frequently employed to treat large groups of people, and as a result, they work for some individuals but not for others. It is expected that just half of individuals who take a prescription medicine that makes it to market will benefit from it. By treating each patient as an individual, precision medicine offers the ability to overcome traditional medicine's limitations by moving the focus from reaction to prevention.

**How does precision medicine work?**

The precision therapy approach to drug development is significantly more targeted. Scientists have discovered more about the genetics behind how diseases begin and behave as a result of their comprehensive research. Many diseases have now been proven to be connected to genetic alterations. It is feasible to study the role of genome variation among various individuals and populations thanks to the availability of a human genome reference sequence.

It is now possible to see the influence of genome variation on health on a larger scale as our understanding of the role

of genome variation in disease improves. With this knowledge, it is feasible to identify how particular gene alterations produce disease and what makes one person's heart disease, diabetes, or cancer operate differently from another's. With this knowledge, treatments can be tweaked to improve their effectiveness.

**What advantages can precision medicine offer?**

By determining a patient's risk of developing a disease, an effective prevention plan can be devised, eliminating unnecessary suffering for the patient. This is also good for society since it reduces the financial burden that illness and poor treatments have on healthcare systems.

Precision medicine has the ability to prevent undesirable side effects if people do get a disease. It is also feasible to discover the most beneficial treatment plan before attempting other ways, speeding up the recovery process and maybe extending life expectancy, thanks to medical accuracy.

Precision medicine also reduces pharmaceutical clinical trial time, cost and failure rate. Although developing targeted treatments can be more expensive, it eliminates the complexities and costs involved in trial and error in traditional medicine development.

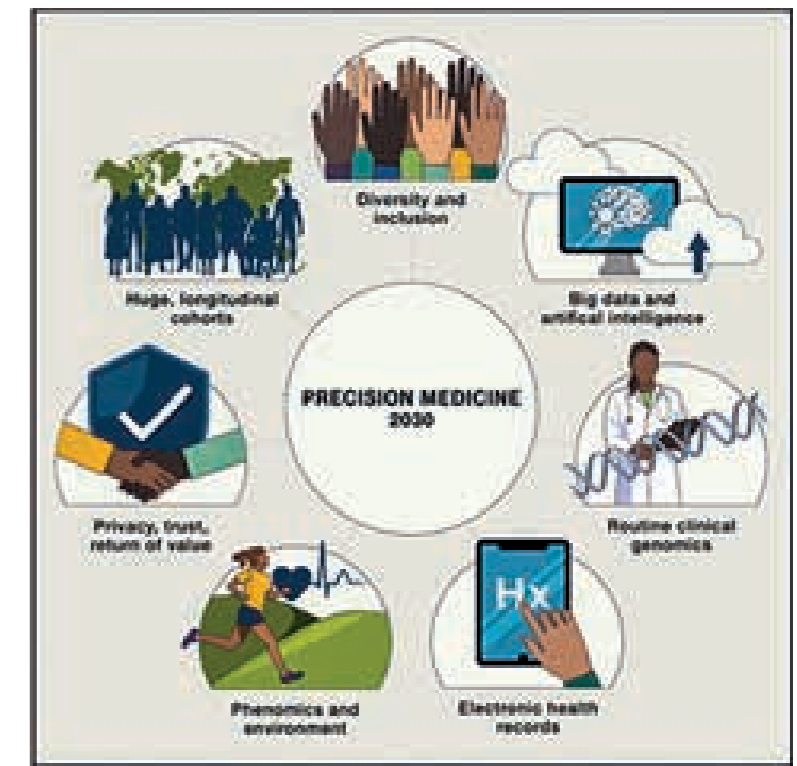
**Is Precision Medicine the Way of the Future in Health-**

**care?**

Precision medicine presents a huge chance to influence the future of healthcare. While precision medicine is now the most progressed in oncology, it also has a wide range of fascinating applications outside of oncology and late-stage diseases, such as uncommon and genetic diseases, and it has some promise in treating COVID-19.

Precision medicine, on the other hand, is a difficult procedure to integrate into healthcare.

To be successful with precision, healthcare providers will require digital tools to assist them in grasping the complex data generated by the approach. While Artificial Intelligence platforms have emerged as viable



Seven opportunities for precision medicine by 2030.

tools for enabling precision medicine, these technologies will also pose difficulties for healthcare providers.

Another obstacle to precision medicine is primary care clinicians' lack of training and

understanding. As public interest in commercial genetic testing grows, primary care physicians are asked to provide a clinical context for their patient's test results.

**SEE PAGE-11**



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Price	- K4,000

## Seik Hsaung Hlyin Aung Ya Myi

THIRTY years ago, two people roamed about the City of New York, holding a small book to seek a publisher who would turn their manuscript into a published book. As they were the new pens, they could not find a publisher who would take the risk of publishing the writings of the unknown pens. Nevertheless, their undaunted effort had won them an organization in Florida that was interested in publishing their writings.

As a consequence, their dream had been fulfilled. Their first book is 'Chicken Soup for the Soul', which is only translated into Myanmar by Kyaw Swa (UM-2),

who is not very productive. However, he is noted for his translation works. Saya Kyaw Swa is known to be well-read. He reads selectively, and so he has translated the good books only.

This book under review is composed of 28 episodes, dealing with the bond between parents and children, the parental love, and the thoughts of the teenagers.

The readers will be able to learn lessons on ethics and courage. This book also contains short poems and some valuable quotations. Concerning the history of the book, the writers started in 1993 with the simple idea that

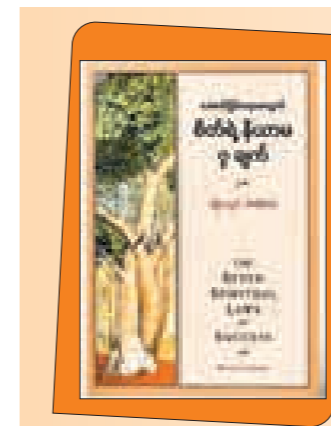
people could help each other by sharing stories about their lives. For years, people had told the founders, motivational speakers Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen, inspiring stories about themselves. Jack and Mark included these stories in their talks, and their audiences repeatedly asked if they had ever been published. The writers call it Chicken Soup for the Soul because they wanted it to soothe and provide comfort, just like their grandmother's cooking.

The stories demonstrate the best qualities we share as human beings — compassion, grace, forgiveness, generosity, and faith and they share collected wisdom

on love, parenting, teaching, death, and the overcoming of obstacles.

The Chicken Soup Series has touched the lives of millions of people worldwide. Motivational speakers Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen collaborated on the first Chicken Soup for the Soul book, compiling inspirational, true stories they had heard from their audience members. Many of the stories came from audience members of their inspirational talks. There are reasons suggested why soups are suitable for your soul, but we think it's all in the delivery, as they are often made with love for someone feeling under the weather or unwell. A bowl of heart-warming soup can make you feel comforted and cared for.

It is worth mentioning here in this juncture the mission statement of Chicken Soup for the Soul. The corporate mission statement is to inspire and empower people to live their highest vision in a context of love and joy. Another exciting thing is that the stories in the Chicken Soup are true. Although there are only 28 stories in this book, there are more than 100 Chicken Soup stories.



Book Title	- Seik Ye Niyama Khunnit Chet (The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success by Deepak Chopra)
Writer	- Myo Lwin (MBA)
Publishing House	- Thar Nge
Publication Date	- January 2024 (1 <sup>st</sup> Edition)
Price	- K3,800

## Seik Ye Niyama Khunnit Chet (The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success by Deepak Chopra)

THIS book under review was written by an Indian writer named Deepak Chopra and was published in 1994. He has written about 80 books, and some of his writings have been translated into 43 languages. His books are included in The New York Times' bestseller list.

This book, titled "The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success", is a bestseller, too. This translated version was published by Thar Nge Sarpay and used the book's original cover. Books on success

stories and tips for achievement of success are mostly concerned with secular strategies, but this book on success is rather spiritual.

Nevertheless, this book is based more on psychological and philosophical ideas. Superficially looking, the readers will think that the ideas are based on Buddhism. Nonetheless, this book is of high value for all readers regardless of the religious faiths the readers are professing.

The Seven Spiritual Laws

of Success by Deepak Chopra is a spiritual guide that offers principles for achieving success and fulfillment. It emphasizes the power of intention, letting go of attachment, and living in the present moment. The work is divided into seven sections, one chapter for each of the seven spiritual laws of success. The seven laws are:

- The Law of Pure Potentiality;
- The Law of Giving and Receiving;
- The Law of Karma;
- The Law of Least Effort;
- The Law of Intention and

Desire; The Law of Detachment; and The Law of Dharma.

The first law is based on the fact that we are, in our essential state, pure consciousness, which is pure potentiality. It is the field of all possibilities and infinite creativity. Pure consciousness is our spiritual essence.

The sixth law — i.e., The Law of Detachment — says that to acquire anything in the physical universe, you have to relinquish your attachment to it. This does not mean that you give up the intention to create your desire. You do not give up the intention, and you do not give up the desire. In this regard, it would not be inappropriate to mention that spiritual success is not about what we do or the possessions we accumulate. Spiritual success is about who we are, our character, integrity, and also our faith.

Spiritual success is also about the qualities of success, like discipline, honesty, loyalty, and love.



# NATIONAL Entertainment



**Sitt Naing**  
RENOWNED for his role as the titular character in the supernatural drama series *Aung Myat Tha*, Sitt Naing has garnered a dedicated fan base. After retiring from his breakout role for many reasons, he is now preparing to make a comeback, taking on the Arga Min Gaung character role in another supernatural drama series. A talented cast, including Lin Aung, Christina, Shwe Poe Eain, and Hmu Thakhin, will join him, bringing the script penned by Thanlyin Phoe Kyaw to life. Director Thiha Min Nyi mentioned that the series has a budget exceeding K60 million, ensuring its uniqueness and quality.

**Rebecca Win**

SHE presides as a judge, sharing the panel with composers Myint Moe Aung and Saw Khu Sel in the Myanmar Star singing contest for contestants under 25. The competition is set to bestow a grand prize of K100 million upon the winner, K30 million for the first runner-up, and K10 million for the second runner-up. She performed alongside Myo Kyawt Myaing, Sithu Lwin, Mi Sandi, Eternal Gosh, Project K, and other singers during the closing ceremony of Coke Studio: New Year's Eve Special. This special event was broadcast live on New Year's Eve on MRTV 4 and Channel 7.



Celebrity



**Aye Mon (writer)**

AN essay recitation event, "Sarpay Gita Aesthetic Sharing," is scheduled from 12 pm to 2 pm on 14 January (Sunday) at the Secretariat Yangon. Aye, Bhone Thike, Htet Myat Naing Zin, and Aye Mon will recite essays from the writer's compilation titled "Let Others Have It Too." Maung Maung Thi and Min Thu will provide classical guitar music in the background. The writer introduced her book at a ceremony on 31 December.

**May Thet Htar Swe**

THE singer presented alms to the monks and donated K3.7 million to construct a new abode at the Dhammazedhi Monastery in Sangyoung Township, Yangon, to celebrate her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on 10 January. She also invited and paid respect to her mentors. Her contribution stemmed from her earnings, so she graciously extended the merits to her audiences.



MV teaser photo for "Aphoetan Lutharng" (valuable adolescence).

## "Aphoetan Lutharng" written & performed by Mi Sandi released

SINGER Mi Sandi stated that the song "Aphoetan Lutharng" (valuable adolescence), written and performed herself, was released on 10 January.

According to their statement, Director Ye Zaw Myo created the song MV, and Z Production produced it as a New Year present for the youths. Singer Mi Sandi also explained the reason why she composed this song: She aimed for the youths who are facing the thick and thin of life while chasing their dreams but never giving up. She expressed she was also one of them and said, "I cried a lot while composing this song, and it also gave me strength. The ones who are always fighting the storms of life no matter what happens, both for themselves and their loved ones, are the precious people. Your dreams will come true one day."

It is known that the mentioned song MV is now available on Facebook, YouTube, and Z Production. – ASH/TRKM



**Tun Ko Ko**

THE actor assumed the role of Aung Myat Tha in his namesake series. Nyo Min Lwin also replaced the original director. Tun Ko Ko mentioned that he is devout and was drawn to the show's religious elements, explaining his decision to take on this role. He invited the fans to give feedback on his performance.

**Hlwan Paing**

HLWAN PAING expressed joy upon learning that several friends had received nominations for the upcoming Academy Awards. He said he wanted the film "Kan Kaung" to win since many efforts were poured into this film. The versatile singer-cum-actor is known for his role as an unstable gambler in the drama series "Luck Kaung", currently available on the Mahar Application alongside co-stars Myint Myat, Khin Hlaing, Nan Khin Zayyar, Htun Pearl Yadana, and Thinzar, directed by Ko Zaw (AyonU). Additionally, Hlwan Paing shared insights into his upcoming album, which is planned to be released to celebrate his birthday in March. The album is set to feature mostly upbeat and stage-friendly songs. – Htun Htun/NT



## The Significance of Precision Medicine in Health Care Development

### FROM PAGE-9

Most practitioners, on the other hand, have not received extensive training in genomes or genetics. Healthcare educators will need to incorporate genomes and genetics into their continuing professional development training courses or curricula to enhance the adoption of precision medicine procedures.

The benefits of precision medicine may not be accessible to everyone. Specific populations are excluded from benefiting from this revolutionary technology since some precision medicines will not work for them or will be too expensive. The industry must address current disparities for everyone to benefit from precision therapy.

Precision medicine, in general, has vast and priceless potential to enhance patient outcomes and challenge the future of healthcare. However, to fully appreciate the benefits and capabilities of precision medicine, the industry must address infrastructure, disparities, and knowledge gaps.

Personalized Care is the term used in the clinic when the Precision Medicine theory is implement-

ed. Doctors have been practising Precision Medicine and providing Personalized Care for many years. High blood pressure, for example, is still frequently tested because it's a strong risk factor for vascular disease that responds well to lifestyle adjustments.

The seven opportunities to accelerate an equitable realization of the promise of precision medicine are (1) huge, interoperable, longitudinal cohorts, (2) improved diversity and inclusion in science, (3) big data and artificial intelligence, (4) routine clinical genomics to guide prevention, diagnosis, and therapy, (5) electronic health records (EHRs) as a source for phenomic and genomic research, (6) greater variety, higher resolution phenomics and environmental exposure data for both clinical and research use, and (7) privacy, participant trust, and returning value.

Decades of developments in science and medicine, along with vast and rapid technological advancements, have helped in the bioinformatics era, and there have never been so many biomarkers, each capable of informing diagnoses and directing

therapies. In breast cancer, measuring circulating levels of Estrogen receptors in the blood is now the standard of care so that anti-hormone therapies (or other treatments) can be given.

In addition, precision medicine is deeply entwined with the complexity of biology and illness, requiring large-scale data analytics, bioinformatics, computational biology, machine learning, and artificial intelligence. Furthermore, we must examine the role of precision medicine in healthcare development.

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## China's 3<sup>rd</sup>-gen superconducting quantum computer goes into operation

The quantum computer features a 72-qubit indigenous superconducting quantum chip named Wukong, making it China's latest and most advanced programmable and deployable superconducting quantum computer.



Third-generation superconducting quantum computer "Origin Wukong". PHOTO: CCTV/FILE

**ORIGIN** Wukong, China's independently developed third-generation superconducting quantum computer, went into operation on Saturday at Origin Quantum Computing Technology (Hefei) Co Ltd in East China's Anhui province.

The quantum computer is powered by Wukong, a 72-qubit indigenous superconducting quantum chip. It is China's

latest and most advanced programmable and deliverable superconducting quantum computer, according to researchers.

Kong Weicheng, deputy director of the Anhui Quantum Computing Engineering Research Center, noted that the computer is integrated with the third-generation quantum computing control system,

which enhances the overall operational efficiency of the quantum computer by many times. Jia Zhilong, deputy director of the Anhui Quantum Computing Engineering Research Center's Quantum Computing Chip Provincial Key Laboratory, said the Wukong chip has 198 qubits, comprising 72 computational qubits and 126 coupler qubits. — Xinhua

## LG and Samsung making TVs disappear - in a way

LG and Samsung, South Korean consumer electronics giants, have showcased see-through TV models that could blend into home decor.

AFTER years spent dominating living rooms, big flat-screen televisions could start getting out of the way of the decor.

That is if new see-through TV models showed off by South Korean consumer electronics giants LG and Samsung catch on.

"How about a screen that gives you back your space?" an LG executive asked on stage Monday while introducing a transparent Signature OLED T planned for release later this

year.

Shaped like a glass box, one can see through the screen to what is behind it, but then switch to a high-definition television for viewing.

Or you can enjoy a digital fish tank, burning fire or any digital image that will blend-in well with your interior design.

Transparent TV technology is not new, but companies have been at pains to convince customers, especially with high sticker prices. — AFP



The new LG Signature OLED T TV, a transparent television, is presented at CES in Las Vegas this week. PHOTO: AFP

# ECONOMY WORLD

## India poised to be most resilient economy, grow at 7.4-7.5% in 2023-24

The analysis considered key macroeconomic indicators such as GDP growth, export growth, gross national savings, total investments, and the debt-to-GDP ratio.



With a consistent GDP growth rate exceeding 7% in the past two years and a projected continuation of this trend, India's economy is expected to surpass USD 4 trillion in 2024 and further elevate in 2025. **PHOTO: ANI**

INDIA is poised to be the most resilient economy among the top 10 leading economies in 2024 and 2025, said the industry body PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in a report after it conducted an analysis.

The industry body's analysis was based on key macroeconomic indicators, including GDP growth, export growth,

gross national savings, total investments, and the debt-to-GDP ratio.

With a consistent GDP growth rate exceeding seven per cent over the past two years and a projected continuation of this trend in the current year too, the economy is expected to surpass USD 4 trillion in 2024 and thereafter move to next or-

bit in 2025, said Sanjeev Agrawal, President, PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry, in a press statement.

India as a country is making significant strides for its futuristic growth trajectory, said Agrawal, pegging GDP growth for the current financial year ending March 2024 at 7.4-7.5 per cent. — ANI

## Argentina, IMF announced \$4.7 bln disbursement

The deal was reached under the leadership of new president Javier Milei, who inherited a deep social, economic, and financial crisis when he assumed office in December.

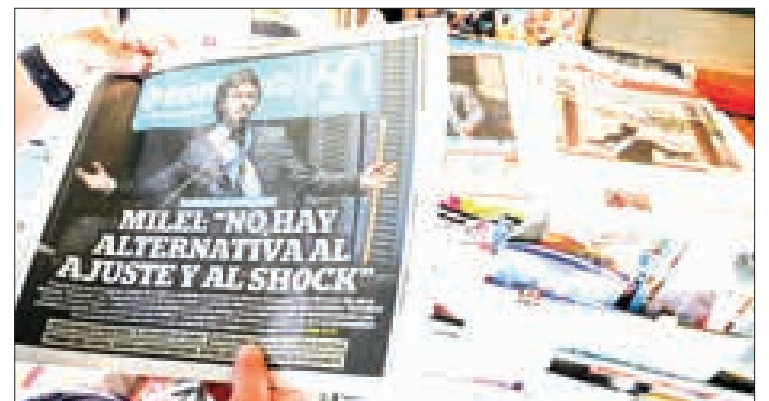
ARGENTINA and the International Monetary Fund announced an agreement Wednesday to release \$4.7 billion dollars as part of a debt restructuring plan for the troubled South American giant.

Latin America's third-biggest economy is on its knees after decades of debt and financial mismanagement, with inflation surpassing 160 per cent year-on-year and 40 per cent of Argentines living in poverty.

The package is still subject to approval by the IMF board of directors.

With this accord new president Javier Milei, who took power in December and inherited a deep social, economic and financial crisis, puts back on track a \$44 billion dollar bailout package with the IMF that dates back to 2018.

The outgoing administration of Alberto Fernandez renegotiated the loan, but the recession that accompanied the Covid-19 pandemic and a severe drought this year made it difficult for Argentina to meet the targets agreed with the IMF. — AFP



A vendor sells newspapers showing the inauguration of Argentine President Javier Milei on the covers in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 11 December 2023. **PHOTO: LUIS ROBAYO/AFP**

## Uber, Kia sign electric vehicle partnership

US ride-hailing platform Uber and South Korean automaker Kia announced Wednesday the signing of an agreement on producing electric vehicles, during the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

In a joint press release, the two companies said they are committed to "collaborate on Kia's planned development and deployment" of its new series of electric vehicles.

On Monday, Kia introduced the new automobiles — which consist of one standard base model with interchangeable components and upper bodies that can be swapped out to create a variety of vehicle types.

It's calling the concept "Platform Beyond Vehicle" (PBV).

"While all variants will be based on the same modular versatility of the base model, each will offer a unique set of characteristics, with further Uber-specific optimizations tailored for the ride hailing market," the companies said in a joint statement.

The partnership is aimed at "enhancing electric vehicle offerings available on Uber's mobility platform", they said.

The companies said they intend to work together to "moderate total cost of vehicle ownership". — AFP

## Israel, Germany continue cooperation on new energy development

GERMANY'S Vice Chancellor and Minister of Economy and Climate Protection Robert Habeck

and Israel's Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Eli Cohen met on Thursday at the Ministry of

Energy and Infrastructure in Jerusalem. During the meeting, the two agreed on the continuation of the joint work plan between the two countries on developing new sources of energy, which, among other things, emphasizes Israel's needs that arose during the war, such as protection of energy infrastructures, energy efficiency, expansion of existing infrastructures, and more. In addition, they agreed on joint projects in the field of hydrogen and the promotion of renewable energy projects in Israel in cooperation with German companies. This is a continuation of the agreement signed last year. — ANI



Wind turbines and solar panels at Lisberg Castle in Germany. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIPEDIA**

# CES 2024 concludes in US Las Vegas

The four-day show drew more than 130,000 attendees and over 4,000 exhibitors from more than 150 countries and regions, including over 1,200 startups.

THE 2024 Consumer Electronics Show (CES), the world's premier tech show, concluded in the US city of Las Vegas on Friday, featuring latest innovations in consumer technology.

The four-day show drew more than 130,000

attendees and over 4,000 exhibitors from more than 150 countries and regions, including over 1,200 startups.

Exhibitors showcased a blend of cutting-edge technologies, new launches and quirky gadgets at the show, revealing the

latest trends and innovation in the consumer electronics industry.

Top themes of this year's show included Artificial Intelligence, mobility, sustainability and innovations to solve some of the world's biggest challenges. — Xinhua



People visit the Hisense booth during the 2024 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, the United States, 11 January 2024. PHOTO: XIAOLING/XINHUA

# Hertz to shrink EV rental fleet over sluggish US demand

Hertz announced its plan to sell one-third of its electric vehicle (EV) automobiles to adjust its fleet size due to a slowdown in demand for emission-free transport.

HERTZ said Thursday it will sell one-third of its electric vehicle (EV) automobiles to resize its fleet in line with slowing demand growth for emission-free transport.

The rental car giant will sell 20,000 EVs in the United States, steering a portion of the funds to purchase "internal combustion engine vehicles to meet customer demand", Hertz said in a securities filing. "The Company expects this action to better balance supply against ex-



Hertz aims to better balance the supply of EVs with the expected demand through this strategic action. PHOTO: AFP

pected demand of EVs," said the filing.

The action is the latest auto industry move to slow

or retreat from earlier targets amid expectations for slower EV growth in the next year or two. — AFP

# Car imports to Israel decline due to war

THE ISRAEL TAX Authority reported a sharp decline in the Import of private vehicles to Israel in 2023 that it attributed to the ongoing war in Gaza. In 2023, 283,835 private vehicles were imported into Israel, compared to 306,087 in 2022, a decrease of 7.3 per cent. The import of vehicles in the first three quarters of 2023 increased compared to the corresponding period last year and decreased in the last quarter with the outbreak of the Iron Swords War due to a decrease in demand, delays and increased transportation costs and the security threat asso-

ciated with the transfer of goods through the Red Sea.

In December 2023, the importation of 51,729 (private) vehicles was recorded. This is a higher amount than the average in a normal month, which is explained by the advance of electric vehicle imports before the purchase tax increase. How-

ever, this is a decrease of 18.1 per cent compared to 63,137 vehicles that were imported in December 2022. Also in December 2022, the import of electric vehicles was brought forward on the eve of the green taxation formula update and the purchase tax increase on electric vehicles from 10 per cent to 20 per cent. — ANI



<p><b>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</b> M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (351W)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on <b>M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (351W)</b> are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on <b>14-1-2024</b> and cargo will be discharged into the premises of <b>MITT/MIP</b> where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: <b>2301185</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Shipping Agency Department</b> <b>Myanma Port Authority</b></p> <p>Agent For: <b>M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD</b></p>	<p><b>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</b> M.V MSC FORTUNE VOY.NO. (SB352A)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on <b>M.V MSC FORTUNE VOY.NO. (SB352A)</b> are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on <b>14-1-2024</b> and cargo will be discharged into the premises of <b>AWPT</b> where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: <b>2301185</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Shipping Agency Department</b> <b>Myanma Port Authority</b></p> <p>Agent For: <b>M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A</b></p>	<p><b>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</b> M.V SITC CHENMING VOY.NO. (2318S)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on <b>M.V SITC CHENMING VOY.NO. (2318S)</b> are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on <b>14-1-2024</b> and cargo will be discharged into the premises of <b>AWPT</b> where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: <b>2301185</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Shipping Agency Department</b> <b>Myanma Port Authority</b></p> <p>Agent For: <b>M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO.,LTD</b></p>
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# ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

## China's carmaker Great Wall Motors sees first EV roll off line in Thailand

GWM, which initiated car production at the Rayong factory in Thailand in November 2020, introduced its EV model ORA Good Cat, which gained popularity among Thai consumers.

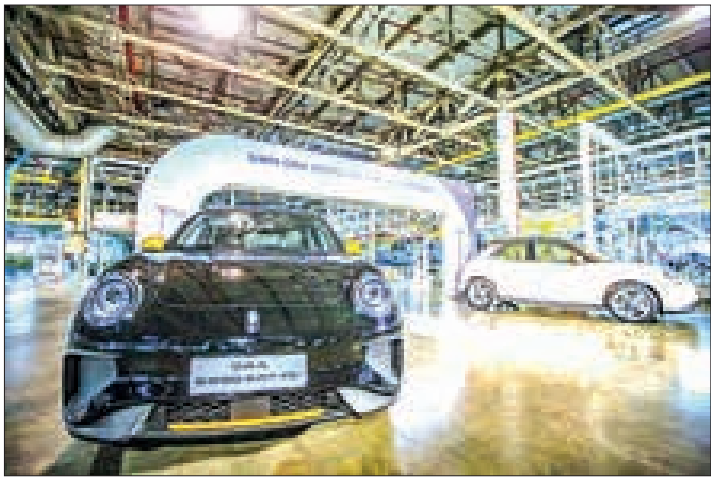


Photo taken on 12 January 2024, shows the ORA Good Cat EV Cars at the Great Wall Motors (GWM) manufacturing plant in Rayong, Thailand. **PHOTO: WANG TENG/XINHUA**

CHINA'S carmaker Great Wall Motors (GWM) sees the first electric vehicle (EV) roll off the production line in Thailand on Friday, making a significant breakthrough as the first lo-

cally produced pure electric vehicle.

GWM, China's largest SUV and pickup maker, owning multiple brands including HAVAL, ORA, TANK and WEY, initiated

its car production at the Rayong factory in Thailand in November 2020.

Its EV model ORA Good Cat soon became popular among Thai consumers, and the cumulative sales have exceeded 11,000 units since it was launched in Thailand in October 2021. Pimphattra Wichai-kul, Minister of Industry, said at the ceremony that GWM was one of the first two companies to sign an agreement to support the government's policy to promote the use of EVs. He added that the Ministry of Industry is ready to continuously support the EV industry, promoting Thailand as a base for EV and component production in the ASEAN region, and fostering sustainable development on a global scale. — Xinhua

## Egypt denies reports of suspending navigation in Suez Canal

Chairman of Egypt's Suez Canal Authority, Osama Rabie, stated that navigation traffic in the Suez Canal is regular in both directions, dismissing reports of temporary suspension due to tension in the Bab-el-Mandeb area.

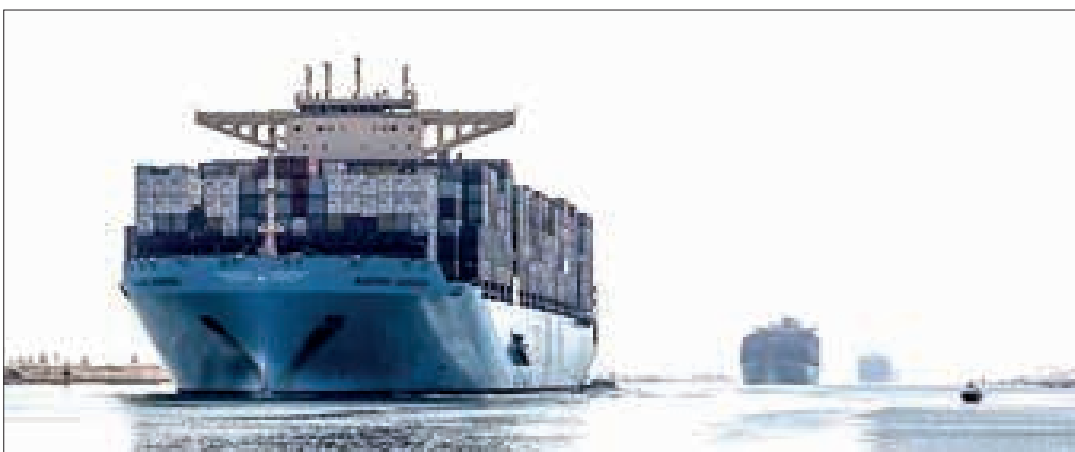
CHAIRMAN of Egypt's Suez Canal Authority (SCA) Osama Rabie said on Friday that navigation traffic in the canal is regular in both directions.

In a statement, Rabie denied reports about the temporary suspension of navigation in the Suez Canal as a result

of the tension in the Red Sea's strategic Bab-el-Mandeb area.

He noted that the Suez Canal provides its navigational services normally, revealing that 44 ships with a combined net tonnage of 2.3 million will cross from both directions on Saturday.

Rabie stressed the SCA's keenness to open direct channels of communication and coordinate with companies and shipping lines to better serve the shipping community and ensure the sustainability of global supply chains. — Xinhua



A container ship sails through the new section of the Suez Canal in the Egyptian port city of Ismailia, 135 kilometres northeast of the capital Cairo. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

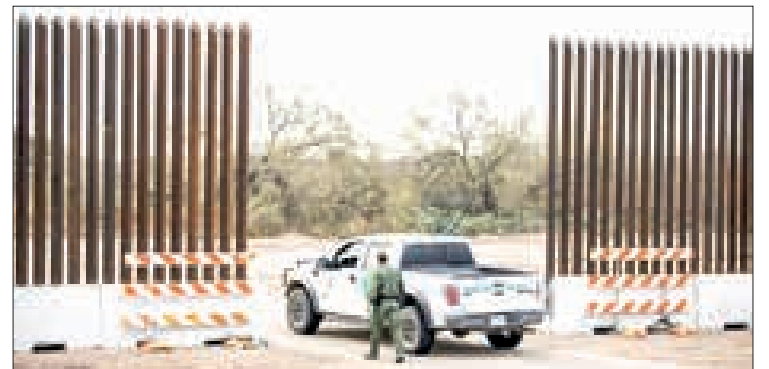
## Texas blocks US border patrol, Biden gov't asks Supreme Court to intervene

TEXAS has blocked US Border Patrol agents from a section of the US-Mexico border, according to a court filing released on Friday by the US Department of Justice (DOJ), which is seeking the US Supreme Court to intervene.

In the filing to the Supreme Court, the DOJ said that Texas, which borders Mexico, denied Border Patrol agents entry to a

park which includes a 2.5-mile stretch of the Rio Grande border river and a boat ramp in Eagle Pass, western Texas.

The federal agents routinely use a boat ramp and a staging area at the park to launch their boats to patrol the Rio Grande and inspect migrants entering this part of the border respectively, according to the document. — Xinhua



A US Border Patrol agent walks to his vehicle while patrolling near a newly-built section of the border wall between Mexico and the United States near Eagle Pass, Texas, the United States, 7 January 2022. **PHOTO: NICK WAGNER/XINHUA/FILE**

### TOP NEWS

#### Buffalo supermarket mass shooter to face death penalty

THE 20-year-old man who killed 10 Black people in a live-streamed supermarket rampage in New York State, will face the death penalty from federal prosecutors in the United States, Al Jazeera reported.

Payton Gendron entered a guilty plea to state charges of murder and hate-motivated domestic terrorism in the 2022 attack in Buffalo, and he is currently serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole.

Trini Ross, the US attorney for western New York, stated in a notice announcing the decision to pursue the death penalty that Gendron had chosen the grocery "in order to maximise the number of Black victims." — ANI

#### 10 killed, 6 missing in central China coal mine accident

TEN people have been confirmed dead and six others remain missing after an accident occurred Friday afternoon in a coal mine in the city of Pingdingshan, central China's Henan Province, local authorities said Saturday.

The accident happened at 2:55 pm Friday in a coal mine of the Pingdingshan Tianan Coal Mining Co, Ltd. Preliminary investigation showed that it was caused by a coal and gas outburst.

A total of 425 people were working underground when the accident took place, and 380 of them have been lifted out of the mine. The rest of them are all safe. — Xinhua

# SPORTS



Officials discuss at the press conference for the Cross combat competitions featuring styles of Myanmar and international mixed martial arts. PHOTO: BALA SOE

## Cross combat competitions to be held for first time

CROSS combat competitions featuring styles of Myanmar and international mixed martial arts will be held in Myanmar.

The press conference for the competition was held at the Warriors Lethwei Gym on the first floor of Tawwin Centre on Pyay Road, Yangon yesterday morning.

“We will work to improve Myanmar traditional sports and

penetrate internationally. The first competition this year will be cross combat competitions. For example, karate fighter will fight against traditional lethwei fighter while Martial artists will take on Taekwondo players. That’s why we will hold qualifiers for the tourney in Myanmar. The winners of the qualifiers will compete with foreign players. This invention will be true

to mine and an invention that the country will be proud of,” said Max Win Myanmar Company Limited Chief Executive Officer U Tin Oo.

Officials discussed about holding of the Duo and Cross combat sports competitions, Myanmar traditional boxing and Sepak Takraw sports at both local and international levels this year. — Bala Soe/KZL

## National Judo Championship 2024 concludes

THE National Judo Championship 2024 was held yesterday morning at Wunna Theikdhi Gymnasium A, Nay Pyi Taw, to strengthen the friendship between judo athletes, bring out many new generation judo athletes, and improve the level of judo sports. The men’s and women’s Kata Competitions for various weight classes were held

during the tourney.

An award ceremony continued after the competitions, joined by Deputy Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Myo Hlaing and officials.

The winning teams and outstanding players then grabbed the trophy and medals during the awarding ceremony. — MNA/KZL



Fighters compete during the National Judo Championship 2024 in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 January 2024.

## Gangwon 2024 unveils opening ceremony programme

The Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Gangwon 2024 in South Korea will feature a vibrant opening ceremony with K-pop stars and cultural performers, as announced by the International Olympic Committee on Saturday.

Themed “The Universe”, the opening ceremony will showcase a cosmic concept representing infinite possibilities for youth, from an imaginative ‘ice planet’ playground to the gravity-defying freedom of outer space, according to the IOC statement. PHOTO: XINHUA



THE line-up for the opening ceremony promises an array of K-pop stars and cultural performers from the host nation, setting the stage for the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Gangwon 2024 in South Korea, International Olympic Committee announced on Saturday.

According to the announcement, the programme was unveiled by the organizing committee for Gangwon 2024 and opening ceremony director Yan Jung-ung.

The opening ceremony of

Gangwon 2024, set to take place simultaneously in the Gangneung Oval and PyeongChang Dome, will revolve around the theme of “The Universe”. “The cosmos theme symbolizes the infinite possibilities for youth, from the imaginative ‘ice planet’ playground to the gravity-defying freedom of outer space,” the IOC said in the statement.

The main stage at the Gangneung Oval will feature newly formed boy band LUN8 and girl band Triple S. South Korean rappers and hip-

hop award winners Ash Island and Changmo, traditional South Korean band Lennalchi, and dance crew Ambiguous Dance Company, known for merging hip-hop and classical dance, will also take the main stage.

Meanwhile, at the PyeongChang Dome, performances by South Korean singer Taeyeon, rappers Hwasa and BewhY, 1 Million Dance Studio, and South Korean-based Filipino boy band Hori7on will also captivate the audience. — Xinhua

## China aiming for opening victory at AFC Asian Cup

CHINA goalkeeper Yan Junling said on Friday that the team will spare no effort to win the first game at the AFC Asian Cup.

The quadrennial tournament kicked off on Friday and runs through 10 February. China, who is in Group A alongside Tajikistan, Lebanon and host nation Qatar, will take on Tajikistan on Saturday.

“Standing on this stage again is very important for the team and fans. Now all the players, the coaching staff and the entire team are ready for the game,” said Yan in the pre-match press conference on Friday.

“Hopefully we will have all the players ready to win this game and do everything we can to get off to a good start.”

Yan has been China’s first-choice goalkeeper in recent years, and the 32-year-old is taking part in his third Asian Cup.

“I intend to leverage my experience to support the team. I believe that these young talents will shoulder greater responsibilities in the future. I am delighted to be part of this team and hope they integrate quickly.”

China head coach Aleksandar Jankovic said that stability is key in the group stages in both Asian Cup and World Cup qualifying matches. — Xinhua

## At CES, beauty products pamper with AI

*The beauty industry is leveraging technology to bring salon-quality manicures and expert skin-care advice to consumers at home.*

**S**alon-worthy manicures at home and expert skin care advice from artificial intelligence: the beauty industry is counting on tech to get consumers pampered like the rich and famous.

The Nimble manicure salon calls itself the world's first device to combine AI and complex robotics to paint nails flawlessly—without the hassle of making an appointment.

Resembling a heavyset printer, Nimble can varnish all ten fingernails and dry them in just twenty-five minutes.

The device, an eight-kilo white box with a special door for the hand, is on display this week at the Las Vegas Consumer Electronics Show (CES), the tech industry's annual hub. According to its creators, the device uses high-resolution micro-cameras and 3-D imaging to determine nail shape, size and curvature.

Then a small robotic arm, guided by AI algorithms, applies the requisite three coats, with a blow dry after each applied layer. When it goes on sale in March, more than thirty colours will be available in capsules costing \$10 each.

The unit costs \$599. In a study published in May, consulting firm McKinsey put the global beauty industry—which includes skin- and hair care, perfume and make-up—at \$430 billion in 2022 and forecast it to reach \$580 billion by 2027. — ANI



A customer buys fried cannabis leaves at the "Ganja & Thai Traditional Medicine in the City" fair in Bangkok. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Thailand to ban cannabis for recreational use; permits only for medical purposes

**T**hailand's new government is pushing to ban cannabis for recreational use; however, it has allowed the use of weed for medical purposes.

They have moved to pass new legislation banning cannabis for recreational use in a major reversal 18 months after the country became the first in Asia to decriminalize the plant, as reported by CNN.

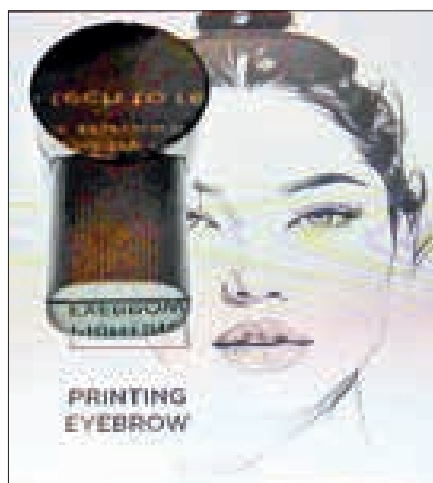
The newly appointed coalition government that came to power last year aimed to tighten the rules and only allow cannabis for medical use.

The relaxed laws saw a lucrative cannabis industry catering to locals and foreigners alike boom across the Southeast Asian nation, according to CNN.

Thailand's health ministry released a draft bill on Tuesday, stating hefty fines or prison sentences for up to one year for offenders, or both. It further welcomed feedback from the public.

Cannabis and cannabis-related products will be limited to medical and health purposes only, the bill states, echoing Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin's pledge in September that his new government will "rectify" laws on cannabis within the next six months.

Even with the relaxed laws, smoking Marijuana in public was illegal, but the proposed new laws will ban advertising and marketing campaigns for cannabis bus extracts, and other cannabis products, as reported by CNN. — ANI



The 3D shu:brow, from She uemura, part of L'Oreal, which enables users to craft custom 3D brows at home in mere seconds, on display at L'Oreal on 7 January at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Nevada. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Bullfighting to return to Mexico City after legal battle

**BULLFIGHTING** will make a comeback in Mexico City this month after a legal tussle led to a more than one-year suspension at the world's largest bullring, organizers announced Thursday.

Mexico, and in particular the 50,000-capacity Plaza de Toros in the capital, has long been a bastion of bullfights.

But in June 2022, a judge ordered the indefinite suspension of the centuries-old practice in Mexico City, agreeing with animal rights activists who had filed suit.

Last month the Supreme Court revoked the decision, although according to Mexican media the judges only ruled on technical aspects and have yet to



Mexico City is home to the world's largest bullring, the 50,000-capacity Plaza de Toros. **PHOTO: AGV PLAZA DE ARMAS / AFP/FILE**

decide on the case's merits.

On 28 January, matadors in Mexico City will resume the tradition brought by Spanish conquistadors five centuries ago, Plaza de Toros director Mario Zulaica announced at a news conference.

During the suspension, "thousands of people could not freely exercise their profession, a fundamental right enshrined in our constitution. Thousands of people were unable to enjoy their right to culture," he said.

Following the Supreme Court decision, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador proposed a referendum on the future of bullfighting in Mexico City. — AFP