

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

IDPs in northern Rakhine State verified under Myanmar-Bangladesh agreements

Myanmar and the United Arab Emirates enhanced cooperation in tourism, trade, and other sectors between Myanmar and the UAE.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepts the Credentials of Ambassador-designate Mr Mutaz Abdullah Abduljaleel Mohamed Al Faheem of the United Arab Emirates to Myanmar yesterday.

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing explained the endeavours of the State Administration Council in realizing the firm multiparty democratic system the entire people aspire to.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepted the Credentials of Ambassador-designate Mr Mutaz Abdullah Abduljaleel Mohamed Al Faheem of the United Arab Emirates to Myanmar at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the State Administration Council in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They also discussed diplomatic relations between the two countries, plans to establish a direct aviation route, recent developments in Myanmar's political landscape, preparations for a free and fair multiparty democratic general election, and the verification of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in northern Rakhine State in accordance with agreements between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Also present at the ceremony were Council Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister U Than Swe and Director-General U Wunna Han of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA/TTA

Manufacturing exports hit over US\$1.1B in 2 months

THE exports from the manufacturing sector totalled over US\$1.146 billion in the past two months of the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April 2024, indicating a sharp drop of \$150.68 million compared with that of the FY 2023-2024, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

The finished industrial goods export swelled to \$1.297 billion in the corresponding period last FY 2023-2024.

Myanmar transports manufacturing goods to foreign markets through two modes of transport (sea and land border).

Myanmar exports agricultural products, livestock products, fisheries, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods and other goods. At the same time, it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, raw materials for CMP garment factories and consumer goods.

Myanmar has been implementing the National Export Strategy (NES) 2020-2025 in order to bolster exports. The priority sectors of the NES comprise agricultural production, garment and apparel, industrial and electronic device, fishery business, forest product, digital manufacturing and service, logistic service, quality management, trade information service, innovation and entrepreneurship sectors. — NN/EM

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BUSINESS PAGE 11



DICA report: 2,000 companies fail to file AR in May 2024

NATIONAL

Russia National Day celebrated with grand gala in Yangon



THE grand gala for Russia National Day took place at Lotte Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening, with State Administration Council Member and Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy, Air) General Maung Maung Aye and his wife in attendance.

Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar, Mr Iskander Azizov, along with other officials, warmly welcomed the guests.

The event commenced with the playing of the nation-

General Maung Maung Aye and Russian Ambassador Mr Iskander Azizov shake hands at the Russia National Day celebrated with grand gala in Yangon yesterday.

al anthems of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Russian Federation. Ambassador Iskander Azizov delivered a speech, followed by performances of traditional cultural songs and dances by the cultural troupe of the Russian Federation.

Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy, Air) General Maung Maung Aye and Ambassador Iskander Azizov then cut a commemorative cake to celebrate Russia National Day.

Among the attendees were Union ministers, the Yangon Region chief minister, Tatmadaw officers, ambassadors from foreign embassies, chargés d'affaires, military attaches, and other invitees. — MNA/TMT

Myanmar takes part in Hue International Arts Festival Week 2024 in Vietnam

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reported that Myanmar Chargé d'Affaires U Soe Ko Ko participated in the Hue International Arts Festival Week 2024 in Vietnam.

The event took place on 7 June at Kien Trung Palace in Hue City. It was organized by the People's Committee of Thua Thien Hue Province and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam. Ambassadors and diplomats from foreign embassies in Hanoi attended the opening ceremony. — ASH/TMT



The opening ceremony of the Hue International Arts Festival Week 2024.

Abhidhamma exam graduates in Indonesia receive certificates



The photo depicts the ceremony where certificates were awarded to those who passed the 2023 Buddhist Abhidhamma examination held in Indonesia.

THE Permanent Representative of Myanmar to ASEAN, Ambassador U Aung Myo Myint, attended a ceremony held at the Dhammavihari Buddhist Studies monastery in Jakarta, Indonesia, to confer certificates upon those who passed the 2023 Buddhist Abhidhamma examination on 9

June, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador U Aung Myo Myint conferred first, second, and third-level completion certificates to a total of 46 graduates before delivering a speech of honour.

Also present at the ceremony were Ashin Kheminda,

the head lecturer of the Dhammavihari Buddhist Studies monastery, Dr Supriyadi MPd, the Director-General of the Indonesian Ministry of Religious Affairs, officials from the Myanmar Embassy, graduates, and nearly 300 Indonesians who are studying Buddhism. — ASH/TH

Izana Art Gallery to host 'Breathing Space' Art Exhibition on 15-19 June

THE Izana Art Gallery has announced that the art exhibition 'Breathing Space' will be showcased from 15 to 19 June. The Izana Art Gallery is located in Pazundaung Township, Yangon.

The gallery has invited artists and young artists to participate in the exhibition, where the works of 35 artists will be displayed.

"A variety of paintings by

different artists from around the country will be showcased at the upcoming exhibition. The chosen paintings were selected through a detailed process to ensure suitability. These select-

ed works will be displayed at our monthly exhibition," said a representative of the Izana Art Gallery.

Additionally, due to the numerous digital and photogra-

phy artworks submitted for the 'Breathing Space' exhibition, the Izana Art Gallery plans to organize a special Digital and Photography Art Exhibition. — ASH/TRKM

NATIONAL

Myanmar, Sri Lanka forge friendly ties and diplomatic relations

CHAIRMAN of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepts the Credentials of the Ambassador-designate of Sri Lanka.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and the Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar focused on the enhancement of cooperation in defence and development of tourism sectors between the two countries.

Ambassador-designate of Sri Lanka to Myanmar Mrs Ponnampere Arachige Prabashini Ponnampere presented her Credentials to State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the parlour of the Credentials Hall of the Office of the Chairman of the State Administration Council in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They discussed, in a cordial manner, the education of members of the Sangha and nuns from Myanmar in



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives the Ambassador-designate of Sri Lanka yesterday.

Sri Lanka, the conferring of religious titles to venerable members of the Sangha from Sri Lanka, the enhancement

of bilateral trade, and cooperation in agriculture and pharmaceutical production.

Also present at the cere-

mony were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U

Than Swe, and Director-General of the Protocol Department U Wunna Han. — MNA/TTA

SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and family donate 3,000 copies of Public Science Treatises Volume IV & V

A ceremony to donate books and publications to libraries, military headquarters, regiments, and

units across the nation, along with a campaign to promote reading habits, took place in Yangon

yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Information U



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn speaks on the donation event in Yangon yesterday.

Maung Maung Ohn, in his capacity as Chairman of the Myanmar Libraries Development Cooperation Committee, stated that the books and publications donated by the Prime Minister, his wife, and his family were intended to encourage reading under the Prime Minister's guidance. With the rise of AI technology, the Prime Minister has personally financed the donation of science-related books and publications. The Union minister also urged the students attending the event to read various kinds of books daily, encouraging them to become reliable citizens of the country by reading the donated Public Science Treatises.

Following this, the Union minister handed over 3,000 copies of Public Science Treatises Volumes IV and V to the relevant

officials on behalf of the Prime Minister and his wife: 250 copies for libraries in Yangon, 1,000 copies for military headquarters, regiments, and units, and 1,750 copies for the Myanmar Libraries Foundation.

Patron of Myanmar Libraries Foundation U Kyaw San then presented 250 copies of Public Science Treatises Volumes IV and V to Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Htay Aung, who also chairs the Yangon Region Libraries Supervisory Committee.

After the donation ceremony, U Kyi Soe Tun (writer Maung Kyauk Khe) from the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization discussed measures to promote reading habits. Students then performed, and the Union minister awarded K1 million to them. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Myanmar participates in 27th St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF-2024)

MYANMAR delegation led by State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo attended the 27th St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF-2024) in the Russian Federation from 5 to 8 June, and arrived back on 10 June.

On 5 June, the Myanmar delegation met Mr Sergei Yurievich Glazyev, Minister in Charge for Integration and Macroeconomics, Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), and discussed the enhancement of trading and investment between Myanmar and EAEU members, study on regional economic integration of EAEU and cooperation work through Memorandum of Cooperation between Myanmar and EEC.

At noon, the delegation also met Mr Anton Kobaykov, adviser to the Russian president and president of the Roscongress Foundation, and a representative of the Roscongress Foundation separately. They openly discussed progress in cooperation work with the Roscongress Foundation.

On 6 June, the General met with Russian Economic Development Minister Mr. Maksim Reshetnikov and exchanged views



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo (2L) is pictured on the arrival back in Myanmar after the participation of the 27th St Petersburg International Economic Forum 2024.

on work plans to be carried out based on meeting minutes of the fourth meeting of the Inter-Governmental Russian-Myanmar Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation held in January 2024 in Russia, progresses in Myanmar-Russia Economic Cooperation and implementation of the roadmap for cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting with Mr Igor Levitin, Adviser to the Russian President for transport and infrastructure, the two sides discussed the promising cooperation

on transport and other sectors of Myanmar.

The Myanmar delegation joined the dinner party hosted by Russia-ASEAN Business Council Chairman Mr Ivan Viktorovich Polyakov to discuss economic cooperation between Russia and ASEAN, as well as the enhancement of trading, investment, and economic cooperation between Myanmar and Russia.

On 7 June, the Myanmar delegation met Russian Transport Minister Mr Roman Vladimirovich Starovoyt, and

their discussion focused on cooperation in the transport sector between Myanmar and Russia, flight services between the two countries, and collaboration in rail transport.

During the forum days, the Union ministers attended as panellists, and Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw participated under the EAEU-ASEAN Business Dialogue theme on 6 June, while Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win under The Economic of Health: Ef-

fectively Managing Health and Improving Quality of Life on 7 June.

Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win met Russian Health Minister Dr Mikhail Murashko and discussed bilateral cooperation in health sectors, drafting of the framework on cooperation, joint healthcare service for cancer at Taunggyi Sao San Tun Hospital, Russian-made cancer medicines distribution and production in Myanmar.

Similarly, the Myanmar delegation attended the Main Forum-Plenary Session of the 27th St Petersburg International Economic Forum on 7 June.

At the meeting, Russian President Mr Vladimir Putin delivered a speech and led the forum. Bolivian President Mr Luis Arce and Zimbabwean President Mr Emmerson Mnangagwa participated in the discussion.

On 6 and 7 June, the Myanmar delegation also met officials of Russian PJSC Gazprom Company, FESCO Transport & Logistics Company, Business Russia, and Aquarius Technology Company to discuss investment in Myanmar's energy sector, cooperation work in the transport and logistics sector, digitalization, digital economic, cybersecurity and information. — MNA/KTZH

SAC Member MoHA Union Minister receives Sri Lankan Deputy Foreign Minister

STATE Administration Council Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae received Mr Tharaka Balasuriya, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, at the Ministry of Home Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call, they cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the strengthening of bilateral relations between Myanmar and Sri Lanka and assistance for Sri Lankan nationals in Myanmar. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae holds talks with the Sri Lankan delegation led by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Tharaka Balasuriya yesterday.

NATIONAL

SAC Member, DPM, Union Defence Minister encourages militia trainees

ADMIRAL Tin Aung San, Member of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence, recently visited military training schools at Inndaing and Taikkyi stations in Yangon Region to meet militia trainees and provide encouragement.

During the visit, attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, the deputy commander of Yangon Command, regional government ministers, senior military officials, and departmental officials, commandants of Military Training Schools briefed Admiral Tin Aung San on the opening of military service courses and discussed training progress.

Admiral Tin Aung San addressed the trainees, emphasizing the significance of their militia service, offering guidance on overcoming training challenges, and providing words of en-



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoD Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San inspects the training session of the people military services yesterday.

couragement. He underscored the importance of the Military Service Law enacted in November 2010 and the recent notices issued in February 2024 to implement it.

Highlighting the voluntary

nature of militia service, Admiral Tin Aung San welcomed the trainees and emphasized their crucial role in national defence. He stressed the need for physical and mental preparedness, citing Tatmadaw's commitment to pro-

tect the State and its citizens.

Following his speech, Admiral Tin Aung San presented sports equipment to the commandant on behalf of the Union Government, while Chief Minister U Soe Thein provided food

supplies to the trainees. Officials then had lunch with the trainees at the school canteen.

Afterwards, Admiral Tin Aung San and officials inspected the training facilities, including small arms and tactical training areas, offering necessary instructions to enhance training effectiveness.

In conclusion, Admiral Tin Aung San reiterated the importance of mastering military skills and maintaining mental resilience, emphasizing the trainees' role as dependable soldiers.

The enactment of the Military Service Law in November 2010 and its recent implementation signify the government's commitment to national defence. Military service training courses have been successfully initiated across various regions and states, further bolstering the nation's defence capabilities. — MNA/TS

DPM MoFA Union Minister receives Sri Lankan Deputy Foreign Minister

U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received the Sri Lankan delegation led by Mr Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call, they

cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further enhancement of the existing friendly bilateral relations, expansion of the mutually beneficial cooperation, including trade and investment, agriculture and education sectors between the two countries, as well as continued cooperation in rendering consular assistance for Sri Lankan nationals in Myanmar. — MNA



Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe receives the Sri Lankan delegation yesterday.

MPT launches pilot 5G network in select locations this June

A 5G network will be available for trial in some locations in June, a telecom operator MPT announced on its website.

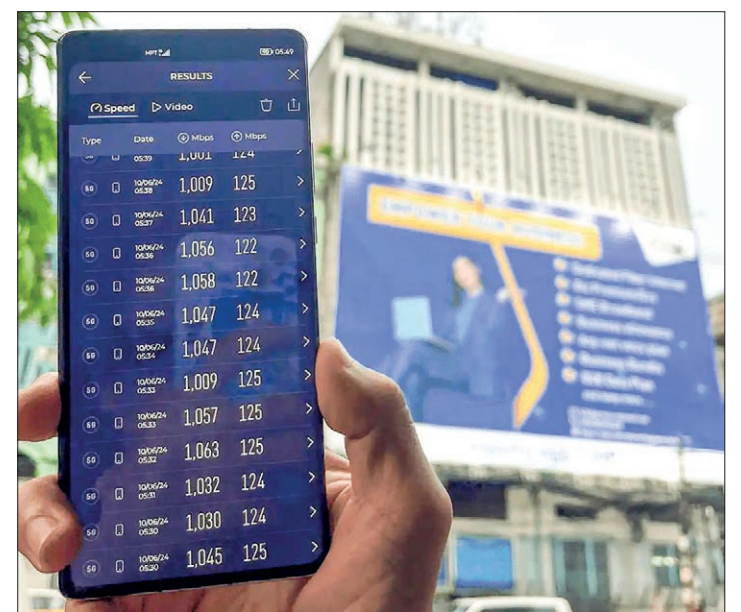
MPT, a leading operator in Myanmar, has been upgrading and expanding its high-speed LTE (4G) network across the nation and 5G pilot areas are another effort by MPT.

With 5G, speed will be fast with little waiting time, and it will bring special experiences to users and firms.

MPT conducted LTE upgrades in Yangon and Mandalay last year.

According to the GSMA website, 261 operators in 101 countries started to deploy a 5G network by January 2024, while MPT will be included as a 5G service provider in Myanmar.

"We are trying our best to bring world-class communication technology to the Myanmar users. With the latest 5G technology, users can



An informative image for the MPT 5G network.

download fast and watch live streaming smoothly. Besides, gamers will have a better experience. The 5G technology will enable more innovation to create new economic models and improve productivity in all sectors, including the economy. So, we would like to

welcome MPT users to join our new journey," said Mr Yoshihisa Ouchi, Deputy CEO, in a statement.

Those interested can visit MPT's 5G demonstration in June, and details of the event will be announced on the MPT website. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN

NATIONAL

Sri Lankan Ambassador calls on MoIP Union Minister



Union Minister U Myint Kyaing receives the Sri Lankan Ambassador yesterday.

UNION Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing met Mrs Ponnampere Arachige Prabashini Ponnampere, Ambassador of

Sri Lanka to Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They frankly discussed the facilitation of entry visas for people wishing to visit fa-

mous pagodas in both countries and effective collaboration between the two countries in immigration matters. — MNA/TRKM

China donates 6 patrol vessels to Myanmar maritime police



The transfer ceremony of China-donated patrol vessels underway yesterday in Yangon.

THE ceremony for the transfer of six patrol vessels from the People's Republic of China to the Myanmar Maritime Police Force took place at the No 3 Maritime Command office (Wahdan) yesterday morning.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Police Force

Lt-Gen Ni Linn Aung, Ambassador Mr Chen Hai of the People's Republic of China, along with senior police officers and officials from the Chinese Embassy, attended the ceremony.

Initially, the deputy minister and chief of the Police Force, the Chinese ambassa-

dor, and attendees inspected two patrol vessels docked at Kyanmayay jetty, where responsible personnel provided explanations about the ship.

The ceremony proceeded, and Deputy Minister Chief of Police Force Lt-Gen Ni Linn Aung expressed gratitude and appreciation, followed by a speech from the ambassador of the People's Republic of China.

Subsequently, the letters of transfer and acceptance were signed and exchanged during the ceremony.

Two 28-metre patrol vessels and four 48-metre patrol vessels were reportedly provided as an aid to strengthen mutual relations between the two countries and assist the Myanmar maritime police force in their law enforcement duties. — MNA/TRKM

Opening ceremony of 8th ASEAN Health Cluster-1 Healthy Lifestyle Promotion Meeting held

AN opening ceremony of the Eighth ASEAN Health Cluster-1 Healthy Lifestyle Promotion Meeting was held at Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw with a hybrid system yesterday morning.

During the event, Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win said that since non-communicable diseases are recognized as a significant public health priority, they are considered essential processes in the health sector.

He said that non-communicable disease treatment clinics are being opened in rural areas to prevent and treat non-communicable diseases, and he highlighted the importance of mental health as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In terms of tobacco and tobacco control, he stressed that Myanmar is the third country among ASEAN countries to apply packaging patterns in accordance with the guidelines of the World Health Organization. In order to implement the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Process 2021-2025 and the work plans of the ASEAN Health Clus-

ters, it is necessary to speed up efforts using health resources in order to catch up with the time and speed lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

He acknowledged and recorded that the ASEAN health sector is truly valuing and changing the way of life of the people of ASEAN and responding to the rapidly changing needs and challenges of the region.

Furthermore, the Union minister said that after reviewing the completed activities for ASEAN Health Sector development, Myanmar will strengthen the activities to promote healthy lifestyles.

Representatives from ASEAN countries then discussed the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, tobacco use, drinking control, occupational safety, healthcare for workers, mental health, elderly health, nutrition development and healthy food choices.

The meeting, chaired by the director-general of the Public Health Department, the Ministry of Health of Myanmar, will continue till 13 June. — MNA/KZL



The Eighth ASEAN Health Cluster-1 Healthy Lifestyle Promotion Meeting in progress yesterday.

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

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

NATIONAL

Nay Pyi Taw: 4,786 students pass 2024 matric exam, achieving 56.79% pass rate

THE matriculation exam was held from 11 to 19 March 2024, and the results of the exam were announced on the websites of the Examination Department and relevant schools. Of the 8,428 candidates who took the exam in the Nay Pyi Taw council area, 4,786 were successful, and the pass rate was 56.79 per cent.

Results were also posted yesterday in the exam centres opened by the examination department in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, and students came and checked the results with enthusiasm.

“As our examination department, there are 280 students who took the matriculation exam, and 140 of them passed, so the pass rate is 50 per cent. The national university entrance examination result list is released on the website of the Myanmar Examinations Department starting at 4 am. The examination department releases the results at 6 am in schools. One student



Students crowding around matric exam results in Nay Pyi Taw.

got four distinctions (4D), two garnered 3D, three secured 2D and 10 gained 1D. I'm very grateful and congratulate their parents on their success”, said headmistress Daw Khin Myint Yi of the No 7 Basic Education High School.

In the 2024 matriculation exam, there were a total of 1,088 candidates in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, and the pass percentage was 53.28 per cent.

“I am thrilled that I passed the matriculation exam today as expected. I am proud that my

parents are happy with the results of my efforts. I would like to thank all the parents and teachers who have supported me in achieving this success. I am also proud and happy for my friends who passed the exam. I want to continue studying the subjects

that I am interested in, but I have to decide based on the marks”, a young person who passed the exam said.

Two out of three candidates who sat for the exam as a special programme at the No 14 Basic Education High School in Zabethiri Township, Pyinmana District, Nay Pyi Taw, also achieved two distinctions.

Starting at 4 am yesterday, the matriculation examination result lists were released on the Myanmar National Examinations Department's website, www.myanmarexam.org, by respective regions and states, and many people visited the website.

In addition, the Voice of Myanmar Radio programme announced the results of examination centres in regions and states with difficult road communication. If there is anything unclear about the results, people can contact the Myanmar Examination Department. — MNA/KZL

Mandalay Region records 63.85% pass rate in 2024 matriculation exam

THE 2024 Matriculation Exam results for Mandalay Region were released yesterday, revealing a pass rate of 63.85 per cent, with 12,414 individuals out of 19,442 candidates passing the exam.

The results were made public at 6 am yesterday at the respective exam centres and schools in Mandalay. Many students eagerly awaited their results, with teachers assisting students and parents in accessing them conveniently and systematically.

U Soe Myint Cho, Deputy Director from the Mandalay Region Education Office, stated, “This year, our region (Mandalay) achieved the third-highest pass rate nationwide. Three students from Mandalay Region made it into the top 10 list. This year saw the implementation of a new curriculum aligned with international education standards. Thus,

passing this curriculum indicates that students meet international educational standards. The efforts of all educational staff and administrative bodies contributed to Mandalay Region securing the third-place pass rate”.

Ma Thet Myat San, who achieved six distinctions in this year's matriculation exam and secured fifth place in the nationwide top ten list, commented, “I worked very hard to achieve this success. I consistently studied throughout the academic year. I am truly delighted with my results. While I expected to achieve only six distinctions, I am thrilled to have secured fifth place nationwide. I am delighted with my outstanding performance in the first year of the new curriculum”.

Ma Aye Phway Phway, who obtained five distinctions, shared, “I studied diligently every day since the beginning of the school year alongside my friends. I

couldn't sleep the night before the results were announced due to excitement. I plan to apply to medical university. With determination, students can achieve their goals”.

The Matriculation Exam results can be accessed at the respective exam centres, schools,

and the Myanmar Examination Department website. Additionally, the Myanmar Radio ethnic programme broadcasted the results of examination centres located in remote areas with challenging transportation.

Daw Mya Mya Than, Principal of the CAE private school,

stated, “Our school achieved a pass rate of 99.2 per cent. Furthermore, we produced a student who obtained all distinctions with a total of 552 marks, ranking third in the nationwide top ten list. Such outstanding results are the outcome of collaborative efforts between students and teachers”.

Maung Aung Htut Win, who attained four distinctions, expressed, “I am pleased with my colourful results. I feel a sense of duty towards my parents. Seeing their satisfaction doubles my happiness. I aspire to become an engineer to serve my country as a dutiful citizen”.

Furthermore, a total of 17 inmates – 15 males and two females – from the Mandalay Central Prison exam centre took the exam this year. Among them, 14 male and two female inmate students passed, with three of them achieving one distinction each. — Maung Aye Chan/ TMT



Mandalay students checking 2024 matriculation exam results.

OPINION

Help child labour escape nightmare lives

ALL countries, including Myanmar, must prioritize ending child labour as part of the 2024 mission: "Let's act on our commitments: End Child Labour!" This initiative calls for global empathy and action to alleviate the suffering of children trapped in exploitative labour conditions.

World Day against Child Labour, observed on 12 June, marks the 25th anniversary of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (1999, No 182). This day serves as a reminder for all stakeholders to enhance the enforcement of Convention No 182 and Convention No 138, which set minimum age requirements for employment and work.

Despite progress in reducing child labour, recent global trends have reversed, highlighting the urgent need to accelerate efforts to eliminate child labour in all forms. The international community, aligned with Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7, is committed to eradicating child labour by 2025, aiming to improve the lives of millions of children.

Currently, many children are coerced into work or bear workloads inappropriate for their age. Various factors, such as parental livelihood challenges and family hardships, contribute to the prevalence of child labour. Society must protect these children from forced labour. Law enforcement bodies are crucial in ensuring these children enjoy their rights and are shielded from exploitation.

Regions like Africa, Asia and the Pacific are home to nearly 90 per cent of the world's child labourers. The remaining children in labour are found in the Americas (11 million), Europe and Central Asia (6 million), and the Arab States (1 million). In terms of incidence, five per cent of children are in labour in the Americas, 4 per cent in Europe and Central Asia, and 3 per cent in the Arab States.

The international community must renew its commitment to ending child labour. Governments, NGOs, and other stakeholders must collaborate to enforce laws, provide education, and support families to ensure children are free from the burdens of labour and can enjoy their childhoods. Efforts should focus on addressing the root causes of child labour, such as poverty and lack of education, while also enforcing strict regulations against exploitation.

Hence, now is the time to save children from the life of child labour. Relevant governments and authorities have to create proper environments and opportunities for children while addressing various difficulties the families of children face. Actually, only when society nurtures children will they escape from child labour.

FOR ease of reference, let's continue to refer to these self-absorbed people in the Ivory Towers in Geneva and New York as SAPs.

Alert to ASEAN countries, Russia, China, and developing third-world countries.

Hypocrites running amok!

A high-level SAP from Geneva is making rounds in some ASEAN countries preaching "human rights" and "democracy". As usual, they descend from the sky and preach Eastern countries endlessly. Goodness gracious!

Where were these people when a certain island nation in the South Pacific (New Caledonia) was in flames recently? These SAPs preach the rights of small island states. They preach nonstop about the rights of Indigenous People. Oh yes, there is also a long-established office dealing with decolonization. When that particular island nation in the South Pacific erupted in flames, there was even a conference organized by the SAPs on Small Islands Developing States. Did anyone hear any expression of concern from these SAPs? What happens to defending the rights of Indigenous People? What about the rights of these Islanders? The island nation in question happens to be

Human Wrongs

By Kyaw Myint Tun (Paris)



The United Nations building in New York.

under the control of one of their "uncles". They dare not say a word!

If there was a small group of 15 people marching in protest, say, in a Russian or Chinese city, these SAPs would jump immediately, calling for investigations. They would appoint so-called "special envoys", "rapporteurs", etc. When people of a certain island nation in the South Pacific protested because a colonial power tried to be smarter by half, these SAPs remained silent.

That island nation happens to have twice the size of population as Kiribati. How about making that island nation the 194th member of the United Nations? Give these indigenous islanders all the rights of a sovereign nation?

The situation in Sudan does not look good. Civil war has raged on for more than a year. There is a looming famine. The fact is, these SAPs have been in Sudan for years, decades! What have they been doing?

The Middle East is on fire. SAPs shout from afar. They lob "demands" from halfway around the world. None of their "uncles" listen. So, let's make a trip to Asia and preach to these Asian countries.

These are hypocrites of the highest levels. Human Wrongs!

THERE has been an increasing number of modern-day language learners as polyglots in the world year after year. The simple reason is that languages play a 'must' role in taking up their study, business, and many others. Apart from English, some language learners have mastered Chinese and Japanese since they were of school age. Then, whether it is easy or difficult to learn a language automatically becomes an interesting question. For instance, many of its learners find Japanese difficult, but after that, why on earth have most of them been able to know this language? Quite indeed, there are usually more or less difficulties for a student learning a language. Despite this, language learning difficulties are seen as several reasons why students cannot afford it well.

Of course, learning concepts of a language is quite straightforward. As for language acquisition, a native speaker will first improve his listening skills. Only after having an ear for the language can he speak it very well, then read and write. As for language learning, an international student likes to begin any skill that they want to. Foreign

learners may start speaking and writing skills before acquiring a good command of listening and reading skills. Simply and clearly, speaking skills will certainly develop after enough study of listening skills, and reading and writing skills will also develop. If not, learning a language should take more time than is needed. Likewise, a foreign learner likes depending on the translation method more than the direct method in the study of a language. However, this does not mean that the translation method is of no use to language learners. Hence, the more a foreign language learner relies on the direct method, the better the linguistic achievement will be.

Next, many language learners unerringly tend to meet the mother tongue barrier, especially grammatical patterns of writing. That is, when language learners write something in a second language, they are given to mix it up with their first language. For

example, the sentence structure 'I am the youngest son in my family' would be proper about the use of the preposition 'in' instead of 'of' for Myanmar Grammar, but this structure is grammatically wrong for English because the phrase 'my family' is not a place in the structure. In fact, the grammatical forms of languages may be similar to each other but rarely identical. Psychologically speaking, in education, this is just nothing but a proactive inhibition of the learning process; the first language barrier exerts an immense effect on learning the second language. That can also be called an un-language expression, which means a careless mistake over the second language confused with the first language. Thus, vocabulary richness, lexical demands, loanwords, spelling errors, dictation, word choice and usages are potentially challenging problems of second language learning.

When learning a language,

most language students must deal with pronunciation inaccuracies of the language. As a foreign learner, it is not surprising that he cannot reasonably pronounce the words of a second language accurately or correctly. Phonetic symbols are used in almost all languages, and if language learners have well-developed proficiency in these phonetic symbols, they will be able to pronounce language words correctly. In the English language, the prefix 'non-' must be seen as pronounced with difficulty by many learners from different corners of the globe. Strangely, some foreign learners are under the illusion that their pronunciation is just the same as that of a native speaker. Indeed, there is no way a foreign learner can afford the pronunciation of all words in a second language like the natives. In spite of this, any learner has to enunciate the words of a second language slowly and carefully, especially those of the language

with final consonant sounds.

Languages vary considerably in idiomatic expressions. What is more, idioms cannot be translated literally, word by word, as usual. The main problem re-

one sentence. Actually, a careful study of idioms in the language is needed for foreign learners, and they should not endeavour to speak or write several idioms in one sentence. It is generally ac-

ten go hand in hand, meaning that if language is studied, its respective culture always should. Some language expressions are not always suitable for different nations' cultures. In English culture, the expression 'How old are you?' should not be used between two people who are not well acquainted with each other, whereas that is not amazing in Myanmar culture. However, the questions 'Are you married?' and 'Do you have a life partner?' are spoken frankly in English culture, though these are not frequently asked questions in Myanmar culture. The expression 'I'm afraid' does not place emphasis on offering an apology in English culture, although it is used in Myanmar culture. Noticeably enough, the salutation 'How are you?' greeted by the American people is mostly the same as the expression 'How do you do?' and 'Hello' sometimes. Second language learners can manage to overcome culture

shock or culture bumps and even taboo words while studying the language.

All in all, a second language learner will most likely run into learning difficulties to some extent. It would be better if the second language learner stays in a language-speaking country for two years or so. If it is not okay, he can always choose and study audio files or books by native speakers in every sense of the word. Almost all second language learners ought to require a minimum time of six months for language proficiency on a one-hour-per-day basis, at the very least, without fail. After all, any foreign learner is able to overcome the great difficulties of conducting a second language study with all attention and effort. In some cases, language can be a major obstacle to winning a scholarship or finding a job. Having studied as many second languages as possible is never in vain for sure.

Great Difficulties of Learning a Second Language

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

“Almost all second language learners ought to require a minimum time of six months for language proficiency on a one-hour-per-day basis, at the very least, without fail. After all, any foreign learner is able to overcome the great difficulties of conducting a second language study with all attention and effort”

lated to idiomatic expressions is that foreign language learners do not look up idioms in the dictionary at all, which means they do not know their meanings before. They will be more inclined to memorize idioms that are not in clusters. On the other hand, some language learners wish to use more than one idiom, even in only

cepted that some subject matter will be more deeply meaningful only with the use of idioms, and language learners cannot utter a word without idioms in some contexts. However, it would be best if a few idioms were used only for the theme that wanted to be made distinct.

Language and culture of-



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 11 June 2024)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 12 June 2024: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing and Magway regions and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing Region and Northern Shan State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region and Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is 100%.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah and Kayin states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasionally squalls with rough seas will be experienced in off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 mph. Wave height will be about 9-12 feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Kachin and Rakhine States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 June 2024: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 June 2024: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 June 2024: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

NATIONAL

Union Health Minister joins 27th International Economic Forum in Russia

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win attended the 27th International Economic Forum held in St Petersburg, Russia, on the morning of 7 June.

The Union minister discussed the importance of health economics and resource allocation to the health sector, as well as the ability to analyze the cost-benefit analysis of health policies and healthcare activities. He presented excellent and effective practices for investing in healthcare activities with the changing business sector and issues of improving health and social quality of life using technology.

He also discussed issues such as vaccination to improve public health, providing health education and achieving a healthy lifestyle.

Minister of Health Dr Mikhail Murashko of the Russian Federation attended the meeting, and nine international experts also participated as speakers.

In the afternoon, the Union minister met Minister of Health Dr Mikhail Murashko and the delegation at Conference Hall



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win seen participating in the 27th International Economic Forum in the Russian Federation.

G 1.24 and discussed the issues of developing a cooperation framework and developing the Myanmar-Russia bilateral health sector.

They discussed the issue of cooperation in medical education between the two countries, including maternal and child healthcare and emergency health care, as well as the import and production of modern drugs and medical equipment for the treatment of cancer and

other diseases produced in the Russian Federation.

They also discussed issues related to the upgrading of Sao San Tun General Hospital and cooperation in cancer treatment, the exchange of medical professionals' experiences, and the ability to invite experts to medical conferences, training, and meetings, and they exchanged souvenirs.

Next, the Union minister and his delegation arrived at the

Napalkov Cancer Centre in St Petersburg on the morning of 8 June. They discussed the cooperation between the two countries in the treatment of cancer with officials of the Napalkov Cancer Centre.

As part of the friendship and medical cooperation between the two countries, the Union minister visited the cancer patient Maung Soe Min Thant, who is from Myanmar, and gave words of encouragement, providing

cash and foodstuffs to him.

In the afternoon, the Union minister visited the Federal State Budgetary Institute Granov Russian Scientific Centre of Radiology and Surgical Technologies and the Federal State Budgetary Institute Nikiforov Russian Centre for Emergency and Radiation Medicine.

Officials explained the progress of modern cancer treatment with atomic radiation, the use of radiation equipment, the production of nuclear radiation medicine, and the emergency medical treatment and rehabilitation of radiation-affected patients.

In the evening, the Union minister visited the Polysan and Pharmasyntez pharmaceutical manufacturing plants of the Russian Federation and discussed the issue of cooperation with the state-owned and private pharmaceutical manufacturing industries, as well as the ability to import and manufacture cancer treatment drugs and other modern quality drugs produced in the Russian Federation. — MNA/KZL

Ayeyawady navigation sign installation temporarily halted in rainy season

THE Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems of Mandalay Region has announced that the placement of navigation signs in the Ayeyawady River will be

temporarily suspended from June to November.

The suspension applies to the Bhamo-Mandalay-Singu route, as the current high water levels in the river have created

favourable waterway conditions. However, emergency navigation signs will be installed as needed. The placement of regular navigation signs will resume in November. — TWA/TRKM



The photo shows the vessel for the Mandalay-Bhamo route in the Ayeyawady River.

Yangon railway upgrade to add two stations, high-speed trains

AS part of the Yangon circular railway upgrading project, Yangon is set to witness the construction of two new stations — Hanthawady Station and Tadakalay Station, according to Myanma Railways.

Myanma Railways has issued an open tender for the construction of the new stations on the circular railway, and tender forms are available for interested parties at the Myanma Railways head office in Yangon during office hours starting from 10 June. The deadline for submitting tender forms is 10 July.

Upon completion of the Yangon Circular Railway upgrade, it will be capable of transport-

ing approximately 240,000 passengers daily using high-speed trains. Previously, there were 30 shifts on the circular railway. However, during and after the COVID period, Myanmar Railways operates 26 shifts using six trains. There are 38 stations on the circular railway.

Additionally, DEMU diesel-electric trains have been purchased from Construcciones Auxiliars de Ferrocarriles (CAF), a Spanish train manufacturing company. These trains arrived in Yangon last February and will be used after the completion of the circular railway upgrading project. — TWA/MKKS

Basic Sewing Machine Operator Training Course set on 24 June-12 July

MYANMAR Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) will open a Basic Sewing Machine Operator Training Course (Batch 239) from 24 June to 12 July 2024 at the Myanmar Garment Human Resources Development Training Centre (MGHRDC). The course will provide practical and technical approaches to sewing machines, different sewing methods, labour

laws and practices. This training will also help job seekers from regions outside Yangon connect with the garment factories with a view to creating job opportunities. Those who wish to attend the training can enrol through phone numbers 09 940858350, 09 450723262, 09 9403912570, 09 784085794 and 09 952802635. — NN/EM



Female workers seen at the production line at the garment factory.

DICA report: 2,000 companies fail to file AR in May 2024



TWO thousand companies were struck off the register in May 2024 as they failed to submit annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). The DICA notified any registered company that fails to file its AR on the MyCO that it is to be struck off the register from the date of the directive, under 430 (F) of the Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA's notification. The DICA's statistics showed that 750 companies in January 2024, 600 in February, 1,650 in March and 2,000 in April did not file the AR. A total of 6,400 companies also failed to submit the AR in 2023. The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018 under the Myanmar Com-

panies Law 2017. All registered companies need to submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law. Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017. As per DICA's report, thousands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns. The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the Register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/EM

Attractive book covers boost stationery sales this year

IN this school season, notebooks with attractive cover designs are selling well, and this year's stationery sales are better than last year's. "Notebooks made by private manufacturers have beautiful cover designs, and the sheets inside are also good. All these book covers are made of cartoon characters, mobile game characters, K-pop stars, and soldier photos, all of which are attractive. These notebooks are thick with full pages. Children prefer notebooks with attractive cover designs in cartoon characters," said a salesperson from a stationery shop in Dagon Myothit (North) Township. This academic year, student enrolment is larger than last year, which has helped stationery sales improve this year. "This year, student enrolment has increased. Many students are back to school this year. All other school supplies sell well this year. Middle school students enjoy notebooks with cover designs in landscapes, K-pop groups and game characters. School textbooks also sell well," he said. School enrolment week for this 2023-2024 academic year was from 23 to 31 May. — Thit Taw/ZS

NATIONAL

IBEC student tops matriculation exam in Sagaing Region

IN this year's matriculation examination, a male student from the International Buddhist Education Centre (IBEC), which has managed to continue opening the school despite various difficulties, stood first prize in the Sagaing Region.

In addition to the regular examination in March, special examinations were held in April and May, and the results were announced at the respective centres in townships at 6 am on 11 June simultaneously.

A total of 134 IBEC students sat for the examination, and 36 of them passed, with a pass rate of 27 per cent. Maung Zwe Zarni Aung, Roll No-SaSaKa 625, from IBEC, passed with five distinctions, scoring a total of 493 marks.

As there was a precedent in 2018-2019, this is the second

time the school stood first.

"I am glad that one of our students stood first in the matriculation examination

in Sagaing Region. Another point we are glad of is that we managed to continue opening our school despite many chal-

lenges since we realized that education can never stop. I had to talk boldly against some people who were threatening

my life after visiting foreign countries. As these children became successful after continuous schooling, I am gladder and more delighted than others on behalf of them. For those who know the value, it is of great value. For those who don't, it is of no value," Venerable Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Dr Ashin Sobhita, the Stockholm World Peace Prize Laureate, known as IBEC Sayadaw, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

In the 2024-2025 academic year, the IBEC has introduced a Grade 12 Special Class with lectures given by professors and lecturers from relevant universities under close supervision of IBEC Sayadaw and a retired pro-rector of Sagaing University. — Thuta Kyaw/ZN



IBEC in Sagaing Hills, Sagaing City of Sagaing Region, seen together with its students.

Counter-argument to false information

Misinformation: Villagers in Singu shot by security forces, causing some casualties

MALICIOUS news media are spreading false news that the joint security forces and PDF terrorists attacked yesterday morning in Singu Township, Mandalay Region, and the security forces opened fire with heavy weapons. As a result of the shooting, one person from the village of Htonegyi was killed, and two others were injured.

According to a resident, there is no truth about the incident and security forces are conducting security operations in the area, but there was no gunfire yesterday morning.

Subversive media outlets are intentionally inciting and circulating false stories about the security forces in and around the areas where the security forces arrive, in order to create illusions and fear among the public. — MNA/KZL



The screenshot validates misinformation.

Illegal goods seized in various states/regions



Confiscated illegal goods and a vehicle in Mandalay Region.

SUPERVISED by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, law enforcement actions are underway nationwide to combat illicit trading.

On 8 June, combined teams managed by the Customs Department seized 19 unregistered vehicles at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. These vehicles included seven Nissan AD station wagons, six Daihatsu Hijet cars, three Honda Fits, two Nissan Vans, and a Mazda Bongo, with an estimated value of approximately K129 million. This action was conducted under the Export and Import Law.

On 9 June, another com-

combined team overseen by the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force intercepted four vehicles heading to Mandalay from Namhkam. These vehicles, with an estimated total value of K116 million, were carrying 21 types of goods valued at K67.707 million. Among the seized items were 357 kilogrammes of floral foam and 125 kilogrammes of plastic spray heads from China, lacking official documents. At various checkpoints, a Mitsubishi Fuso truck, valued at K35 million, was found transporting eight types of goods worth K48.236 million, including 2,208 sets of hot plates

from China without official documentation, while a Hino Profia tractor head with a fuel oil tank trailer, valued at approximately K120 million, was discovered carrying 7,840 gallons of illegal premium diesel at the Shwegyin checkpoint. The action was carried out under Customs procedures and the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

As a result, 31 individuals were arrested on 8 and 9 June, with the total estimated value of seized goods amounting to K602.183 million, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Malaysia's natural rubber production down 20.9% on month in April

MALAYSIA'S natural rubber production decreased by 20.9 per cent in April to 21,325 tons as compared to 26,966 tonnes in March, official data showed Tuesday.

Year-on-year comparison showed that the production of natural rubber fell 9.1 per cent from 23,460 tonnes a year ago, the Department of Statistics Malaysia said in a statement.

Total stocks of natural rubber in April declined 5.1 per cent to 211,119 tonnes as compared to 222,455 tonnes in March.

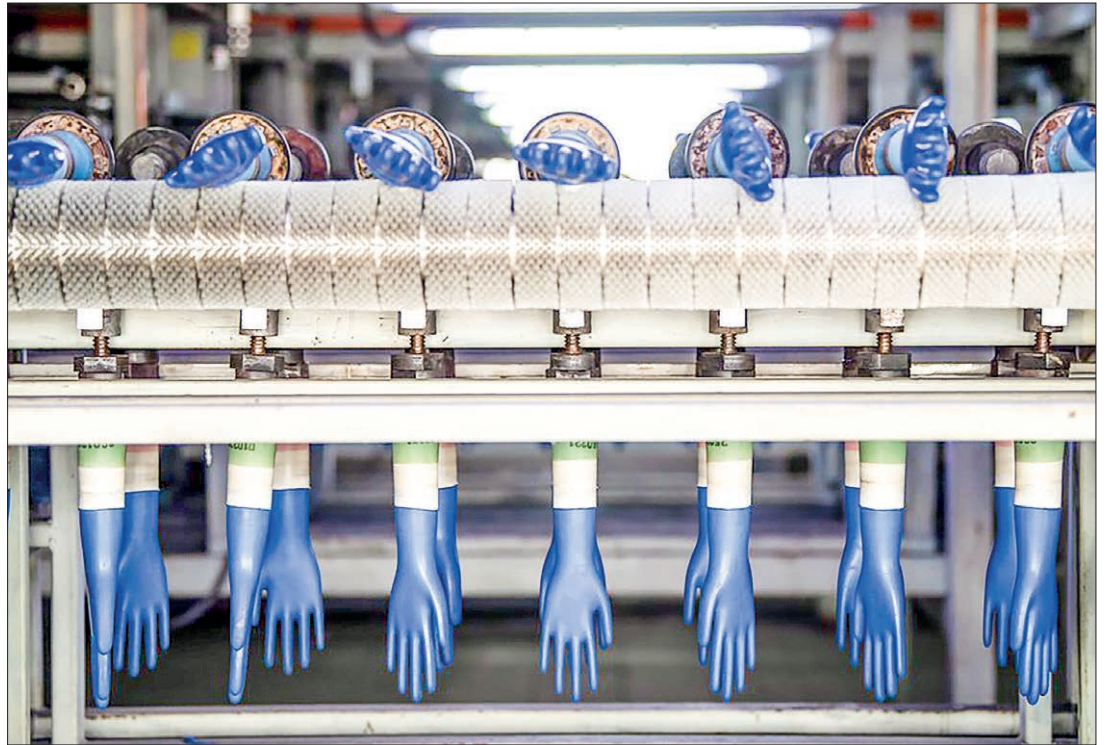
Exports of Malaysia's natural

rubber amounted to 47,796 tonnes in April 2024, down 18.9 per cent as against 58,965 tonnes in March.

China remained the main destination for natural rubber exports, which accounted for 44.8 per cent of total exports in April. This was followed by India (11.4 per cent), Germany (eight per cent), the United Arab Emirates (4.3 per cent), and Pakistan (3.9 per cent).

The export performance was contributed by natural rubber-based products such as gloves, tires, tubes, and rubber thread.

— Xinhua



File picture shows the production line at a rubber factory in Malaysia. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Russian grain exporters to focus on markets in Middle East, N Africa

RUSSIA'S Ministry of Agriculture said Tuesday that the country's grain exporters will shift their focus to key markets in the Middle East and North Africa, and strengthen relationships with India and China.

During a meeting led by Russian Agriculture Minister Oksana Lut with grain exporters, it was unanimously agreed that Türkiye's import refusal would not affect Russia's export capabilities, the ministry said. The consensus was that for the upcoming season, starting on 1 July, Russia plans to reduce its grain supply to the global market to 60 million tonnes.

"In the current conditions,

domestic exporters will focus on the key markets of the Middle East and North Africa, as well as on the development of relations with India and China, where there is progress in the supply of grain legumes and broad prospects for grain crops are opening up," the ministry said.

The ministry also said that considering last year's high yield, Russia aims to deliver up to 70 million tonnes of grains to the global markets, including 53 million tonnes of wheat, in the ongoing season, which concludes on 30 June. Currently, one in every four wheat shipments on the global market originates from Russia. — Xinhua



A combine harvests wheat in a field owned by the "Intikulscoe" farming company during sunset in Novosyolovo district of Krasnoyarsk region, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

Brazil's market upgrades 2024 economic growth forecast to 2.09%

BRAZIL'S financial market raised its gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for this year from 2.05 per cent to 2.09 per cent and maintained it at two per cent for 2025, Brazil's Central Bank announced Monday.

According to the bank's Focus survey of the country's main financial institutions, the market has regained a more optimistic view of economic activity following five weeks of downward projections.

Market analysts slightly

raised the inflation forecast, from 3.88 per cent to 3.90 per cent in 2024 and from 3.77 per cent to 3.78 per cent for 2025, in both cases falling within the official target rate of three per cent with a margin of tolerance of 1.5 percentage points up or down.

Economists kept their forecast for the Selic benchmark interest rate at 10.25 per cent for end of 2024 but raised it from 9.18 per cent to 9.25 per cent for end of 2025, with the rate currently at 10.50 per cent

annually.

Regarding the exchange market for Brazil's currency, currently trading at 5.37 reals to the US dollar, the forecast expects 5.05 to the dollar at end of 2024 and 5.09 to the dollar at end of 2025.

A trade surplus of 82.51 billion dollars is expected for this year and 78 billion dollars for next year. Foreign direct investment in Brazil is expected to reach 70 billion dollars in 2024 and 72.5 billion dollars in 2025. — Xinhua

Production starts at Senegal's first offshore oil field

SENEGAL joined the club of oil-producing countries on Tuesday as Australian group Woodside Energy announced that production had started in the west African country's first offshore project.

While Senegal's fossil fuel output is not expected to be as high as that of bigger producers such as Nigeria, there are hopes the oil and gas industry will bring billions of dollars in revenue to the country and contribute to transforming its

economy.

"This is a historic day for Senegal and for Woodside," said the company's chief executive, Meg O'Neill, calling the extraction of "first oil" from the Sangomar field "a key milestone".

The floating facility is moored about 100 kilometres (60 miles) offshore. The vessel has a storage capacity of 1.3 million barrels, Woodside said.

The deepwater project aims to produce 100,000 bar-

rels of oil per day. The field also contains natural gas.

Woodside has an 82-per cent stake in the deepwater project with the remainder held by Senegal's state-owned energy company Petrosen.

The discovery of oil and gas fields in 2014 raised great hopes for the developing country, with state-owned energy firm Petrosen expecting the sector to generate more than \$1 billion per year over the next three decades. — AFP

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Russia, Belarus embark on second stage of non-strategic nuclear drills — Defence Ministry

THE drills have the objective of safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Union State. Previously, troops underwent training to operate Iskander missiles and to equip Kinzhal hypersonic missiles with specialized warheads.

The second stage of drills focusing on the use of non-strategic nuclear weapons by Russian and Belarusian forces has commenced, the Russian Defence Ministry said on Tuesday. During the exercise, the joint training of units from the armed forces of Russia and Belarus will be carried out. The second stage of the non-strategic nuclear forces drills is aimed at maintaining readiness to use nuclear weapons to ensure the sovereignty of the Union State of Russia and Belarus, the Russian Ministry of Defence added.

As part of the first stage,



In this handout photo released by the Russian Defence Ministry, Iskander short-range ballistic missile system is used during the Russian military operation in Ukraine. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

the Ministry elaborated on the process of acquiring specialized ammunition for the Iskander tactical

missile system. Additionally, the aviation forces engaged in training exercises involving the

equipping of special warheads for the Kinzhal hypersonic missiles.— SPUTNIK

Cambodia to restore centuries-old temple's causeway



This undated photo shows a ruined Naga balustrade at the eastern causeway of the Beng Mealea temple in Siem Reap province, Cambodia. **PHOTO: ANA/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

CAMBODIA has prepared to restore the structure of the eastern causeway of Beng Mealea temple in the famed Angkor Archaeological Park, under the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Special Fund, the APSARA National Authority (ANA) said in a news release on Tuesday.

Puth Soth, a technical officer of the ANA's Department of Conservation of Monuments and Preventive Archaeology, said a technical team is conducting an archaeological excavation on the structure of the temple's eastern causeway for a restoration project.

"After excavating the topsoil layer, we found that the floor of the causeway had collapsed, with the weakened foundations tearing apart, causing some components of the structure such as pillars, a Naga balustrade, a Naga's body, a Naga's head, and many fragments falling into the moat and some buried in the ground due to age and natural factors," said Soth, who led the excavation work.

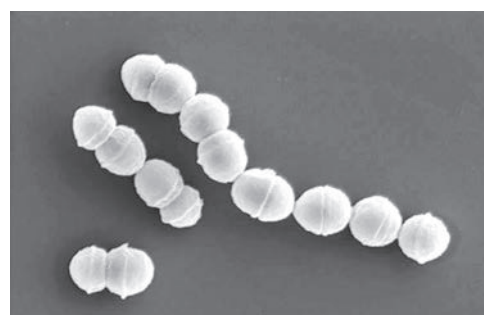
He added that when the excavation is completed, a restoration project on the causeway will be launched under the LMC Special Fund. — Xinhua

"Flesh-eating" bacterium cases hit record high in Japan

STREPTOCOCCAL toxic shock syndrome, a potentially deadly disease caused by a "flesh-eating" bacterium, is spreading rapidly in Japan, with cases in the first half of this year already surpassing last year's record, a national infectious disease institute said Tuesday.

There have been 977 cases of the disease

caused by the bacterium called streptococcus pyogenes which is often associated with strep throat but occasionally leads to limb necrosis and multiple organ failure. The number of people infected has already topped last year's 941, the highest annual number of cases tallied since mandatory reporting began in 1999, according to the institute. — Kyodo



File image shows a chain of group A streptococcus. (Courtesy of National Institute of Infectious Diseases) **PHOTO: KYODO**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indian PM Modi releases instalment of farmers income support

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday released the 17th instalment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, or PM Farmers Tribute Fund, worth 200 billion Indian rupees (US\$2.39 billion).

This was the first file signed by Modi on his first day in office in his third consecutive term as the prime minister of the South Asian country.

The fund would be distributed among nearly 93 million Indian farmers.

"This will benefit 9.3 crore farmers and distribute around INR 20,000 crores. After signing the file, PM Modi said ours is a government fully committed to Kisan Kalyan (farmers' welfare). It is therefore fitting that the first file signed on taking charge is related to farmer welfare. We want to keep working even more for the farmers and the agriculture sector in the times to come," said a press release issued by the Prime Minister's Office. — Xinhua

Singapore Airlines offers compensation to turbulence-hit victims

SINGAPORE Airlines (SIA) has offered 10,000 US dollars to passengers who suffered minor injuries on board of the turbulence-hit flight SQ321 in May, the company said Tuesday.

SIA would invite passengers who sustained serious injuries to discuss a compensation offer to meet their specific circumstances.

The airline would also provide a full refund of the airfare to all passengers and offer delayed compensation according to relevant regulations.

Flight SQ321 carried 211 passengers and 18 crew from London to Singapore on 20 May and diverted to Thailand after encountering severe turbulence. The incident killed one passenger and injured dozens. — Xinhua

SPORTS



Fighter of Year Inoue wants to fight in US again

Undisputed world super bantamweight boxing champion Naoya Inoue shows off his Sugar Ray Robinson Award at Tokyo's Haneda airport on 10 June 2024, upon his return from New York. **PHOTO: KYODO**

UNDISPUTED world super bantamweight boxing champion Naoya Inoue said Monday he wants to fight in the United States again.

"I feel like my name recognition has increased, and I want to have a match in the United States again," Inoue, nicknamed "Monster", said at Tokyo's Haneda airport upon his return from New York. The 31-year-old attended an awards ceremony in New York after winning the Sugar Ray Robinson Award as the Boxing Writers Association of America's Fighter of the Year for 2023.

Inoue last fought in the United States in June 2021, when he

stopped top-ranked Filipino contender Michael Dasmarinas in the third round in Las Vegas.

On his future fight plans, Inoue hinted at staying in the current weight division for a little while.

"I imagine myself having four or five more matches, so I think I can fight (at super bantam) until the end of next year," Inoue said. Inoue has knocked out all three of his opponents — Stephen Fulton of the United States, Marlon Tapales of the Philippines and Mexico's Luis Nery — since he moved up to the super bantamweight category in January 2023. — Kyodo

Myanmar's Moe Htet Aung to join ONE Friday Fights 67



ONE Friday Fights 67 will be held on 14 June in Bangkok, Thailand, and will feature Myanmar fighter Moe Htet Aung's bout. Moe Htet Aung will fight against Japan's Kazuki Yamagishi in bout 5 of the 12 fights.

Kazuki Yamagishi is a kickboxer and Muay Thai fighter, but this is his first fight at ONE Friday Fights. The ONE Friday Fights 67 will be Moe Htet Aung's second fight in his ONE history after working with the

MMA organization. Moe Htet Aung's first fight was at ONE Friday Fights 57, which was held at the end of March against Japanese fighter Maruyama, who won by knockout in the third round. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Poland striker worries worsen as Lewandowski limps off before Euro 2024

POLAND'S talismanic striker Robert Lewandowski came off injured on Monday after 32 minutes as they won their last Euro 2024 warm-up 2-1 against Türkiye in Warsaw.

His strike partner in Hellas Verona's Karol Swiderski had already left the field after hurting his right ankle celebrating scoring the goal that

gave Poland a 12th-minute lead.

Baris Yilmaz levelled for Türkiye after 77 minutes but Nicola Zalewski scored a winner in added time. Poland, who kick off their Euro campaign against the Netherlands on 16 June, have already lost Juventus striker Arkadiusz Milik, who was injured against Ukraine on Friday. He "under-

went selective arthroscopic meniscectomy surgery on the medial meniscus of his left knee this morning," Juve said on Monday without giving a recovery timeline.

"The player will begin his rehabilitation tomorrow with the aim of resuming competitive activity as soon as possible," they added. — AFP



Major blow for the Netherlands as Frenkie de Jong misses out on Euro 2024

FC Barcelona midfielder Frenkie de Jong withdrew from the Netherlands' Euro 2024 squad on Tuesday due to an ankle injury that won't heal in time for the tournament.

The absence of the 27-year-old De Jong is a major blow for the Dutch squad. Despite his ankle injury since April, the third of the season, Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman had hoped his key player would be fit for at least the final group phase match.

However, examinations on Sunday and Monday revealed

that De Jong's ankle is not ready for group training yet, requiring at least another three weeks of recovery. Consequently, both the player and staff decided it would be better for him to leave the squad.

Koeman will call up a replacement shortly. Additionally, on Monday, the "Oranje" suffered another setback when Atalanta midfielder Teun Koopmeiners got injured during the warm-up for the friendly match against Iceland in Rotterdam. For Koopmeiners, it might also mark the end of his Euro 2024

dreams.

Despite missing De Jong and Koopmeiners, the Netherlands put on a good performance in De Kuip stadium, beating Iceland 4-0. Xavi Simons opened the scoring with his first goal for his country, and in the second half, Virgil van Dijk, Donyell Malen, and Wout Weghorst added goals.

Last Thursday, the Dutch also beat Canada 4-0 in Rotterdam. Memphis Depay, Jeremie Frimpong, Weghorst, and Van Dijk scored against the Canadians. — Xinhua

Netherlands' forward (18) Donyell Malen (L) shoots to score his team's third goal during the International friendly football match between Netherlands and Iceland at the Feyenoord Stadium, in Rotterdam, on 10 June 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

Russia, Belarus embark on second stage of non-strategic nuclear drills — Defence Ministry
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WORLD

Plant breeding skills shortage dire threat to food security: study

A shortage of scientists specialized in plant breeding could threaten global food security, an international research led by Australia's national science agency has warned.

According to a joint study published on Tuesday by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), Canada's McGill University and Lincoln University in New Zealand, a lack of skilled plant breeders could have dire implications for food security around the world.

Plant breeding is the science of changing the traits of plants to improve their genetic potential. It is used to improve the quality of nutrition in produce and underpins the global production of food for animals and humans as well as fuel and fiber.

The new research found that skills shortages in plant breeding have been growing for some time and must urgently be addressed to maintain current levels of agricultural, fibre and feed production. "What we're seeing is a whole generation of highly-skilled plant breeding specialists who are now reaching retirement age, with a gap left as university graduates opt to focus on other areas of plant science including molecular biology," Lucy Egan, lead author of the study from the CSIRO, said in a media release. — Xinhua



Representatives vote on a draft resolution during a UN Security Council meeting at the UN headquarters in New York, on 10 June 2024.
PHOTO: ESKINDER DEBEBE/UN PHOTO/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA

UN Security Council adopts resolution calling for immediate ceasefire in Gaza

THE UN Security Council on Monday adopted a resolution aimed at reaching a comprehensive ceasefire deal in three phases to end the war in Gaza.

Adopted by a large majority with 14 votes in favour and Russia abstaining, Resolution 2735 also urges both parties to the conflict to fully implement the terms of the proposal "without delay and without condition". According to the resolution, phase one includes an "immediate, full,

and complete ceasefire with the release of hostages including women, the elderly and the wounded, the return of the remains of some hostages who have been killed, and the exchange of Palestinian prisoners".

It calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from "populated areas" of Gaza, the return of Palestinians to their homes and neighbourhoods throughout the enclave, including in the north, as well as the safe and effective distribution of humanitarian assistance at scale. Phase two would see a

permanent end to hostilities "in exchange for the release of all other hostages still in Gaza, and a full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza". In phase three, "a major multi-year reconstruction plan for Gaza" would begin and the remains of any deceased hostages still in Gaza would be returned to Israel. The council also underlined the proposal's provision that if negotiations take longer than six weeks for phase one, the ceasefire will continue as long as negotiations continue. — Xinhua

BRICS expert forum held on the sidelines of SPIEF



SPIEF-2024. BRICS Expert Forum. Panellists pose for a family photo. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

THE 27th St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) 2024 attracted over 21,000 people from 139 nations. The seminal event tackled an array of hot global topics and hosted poignant discussions reflecting the shifts in international development.

The BRICS Expert Forum, BRICS Goals in the Context of a New World Order, took place on the sidelines of the St Petersburg International Economic Forum, organized by the Rossiya Segodnya media group and Xinhua News Agency.

The expert panel included First Deputy State Duma Speaker Alexander Zhukov, philosopher and public figure

Alexander Dugin, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Brazilian Centre for International Relations Jose Pio Borges, Director-General of the Russian International Affairs Council Ivan Timofeyev, Vice-Rector of the National Research University - Higher School of Economics and Head of the BRICS Expert Council—Russia Viktoria Panova, Director of the BRICS Institute in New Delhi Binod Singh Ajatshatru, President of the BRICS International Forum Purnima Anand (India), Director of the Centre for BRICS Studies at Fudan University Shen Yi (China), Vice-President of Xinhua Institute Cui Feng (China), Executive Director of the Institute for

Global Dialogue Philani Mthembu (South Africa), Director of the Centre for Africa-China Studies (CACCS) at the University of Johannesburg Merthold (David) Monyae (South Africa), as well as experts from leading think tanks and educational centres in Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the UAE, Russia and Saudi Arabia.

The moderator, Director-General of the Rossiya Segodnya International Media Group Dmitry Kiselev, opened the discussion pointing out that a new international system, a new architecture of society is being forged today, the BRICS association being a key element of this new global system. — SPUTNIK