

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

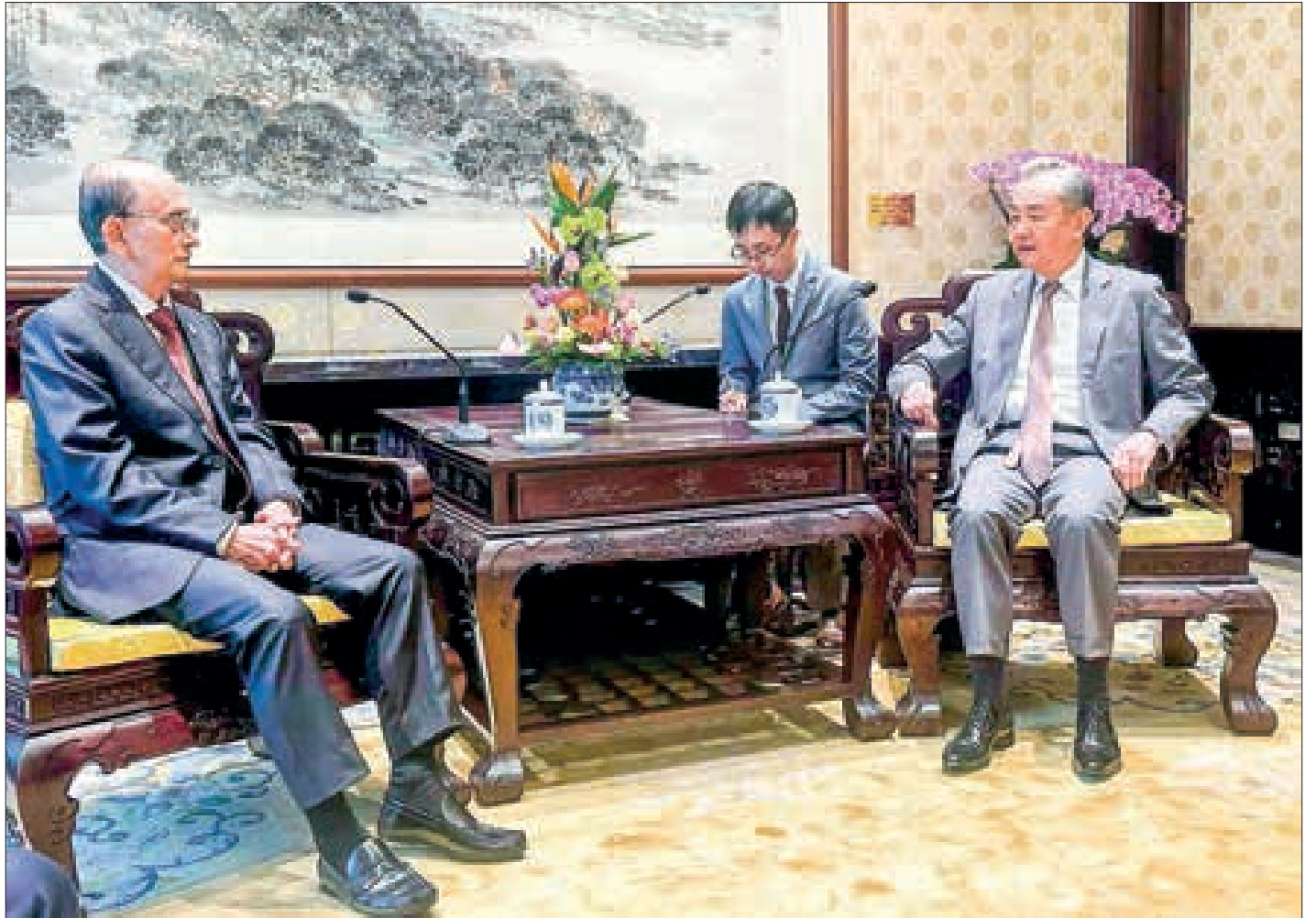
Former Myanmar President holds talks with Member of Political Bureau of CPC Central Committee, Director of Office of Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, Minister of Foreign Affairs of China

ON the morning of 29 June 2024, former President U Thein Sein who is temporarily staying in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, visited Lingguang Temple in Beijing to pay homage to the Buddha tooth relic and met Venerable Chang Zang, Chief Monk of Lingguang Temple to pay his respect. During the meeting, the former President donated a small replica statue of Maravijaya Buddha Image which was conveyed from Nay Pyi Taw.

In the afternoon, former President U Thein Sein received Mr Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China at the Diao Yutai State Guest House in Beijing. During the meeting, they exchanged views on the existing friendly relations and cooperation between Myanmar and China, and recent development of Myanmar.

The Myanmar delegation led by former President arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw from Beijing, the People's Republic of China by special flight in the yesterday afternoon.

The Myanmar delegation was welcomed back at the Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Admiral Tin Aung San, member of the State Administration Council, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Defence, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Member of the State Administration Council,



Former President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives Mr Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of China at Diao Yutai State Guest House in Beijing on 29 June.

U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister of the Ministry 2 at Office of Chairman of the State Administration Council, U Lwin Oo,

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms Cao Jing, Deputy Head of Mission (Minister Counsellor) of the Embassy of the

People's Republic of China to Myanmar and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA



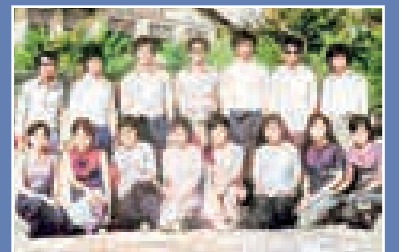
Thai suspension of aquatic product imports from Myanmar indefinitely postponed

PAGE 5

Article

Memories which were 50 Years ago

By Min Zan



PAGE 8-9

NATIONAL

PAGE 6

Taungpyone Festival to run for 8 days in August



NATIONAL

Myanmar Ambassador invites investments at Bodhi Yatra event in India



U Moe Kyaw Aung speaking at Bodhi Yatra event with invitation to potential investment.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung attended the Bodhi Yatra event, aimed at boosting Buddhist pilgrimage tourism, on 24 June in New Delhi, India. He invited investments in Myanmar's tourism sector.

The event was organized by the Tourism Department of Uttar Pradesh State, attended by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Honourable Union Minister for Tourism & Culture of the Government of India, the Honourable Minister for Tourism & Culture of Uttar Pradesh State, and over 150 representatives.

These included ambassadors from Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, and Mongolia, as well as chargés d'affaires, diplomats from 28 countries, government officials, invitees, venerable monks and nuns, entrepreneurs, businessmen, and several distinguished guests. Ambassadors discussed ongoing collaborative efforts and future prospects.

U Moe Kyaw Aung also expressed interest in fostering cooperation to enhance Buddhist pilgrimage tourism between the two nations and invited potential investments in Myanmar's tourism sector. — ASH/TMT

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 19:00 hrs MST on 30-6-2024)

Flood condition of Ayeyawady River

According to the 18:00 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Myitkyina has exceeded by about three inches (seven centimetres) above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about three feet during the next 1 day

and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Myitkyina Township, to take precaution measure.

Flood Warning

(Issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 30-6-2024)

Chindwin River

According to the 12:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Hkamti is observed as about 7½ feet (224 centimetres) below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next 2 days.

According to the 12:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Homalin is observed as about 7½ feet (223 centimetres) below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next 2 days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Hkamti and Homalin townships, to take precaution measure.

Ayeyawady River

According to the 10:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Myitkyina is observed by more than 31/2 feet (111 cm) below its danger level. It may

reach its danger level during the next 2 days.

According to the 10:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Bhamo is observed as about 9 feet (271 cm) below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next 3 days.

According to the (10:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Shwegu is observed by more than 61/2 feet (204 cm) below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next 2 days. According to the 10:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Katha is observed by more than 71/2 (234 cm) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next 3 days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Myitkyina, Bhamo, Shwegu and Katha townships, to take precaution measure. — DMH

Invitation for candidates to join new term of Myanmar Press Council

- The Myanmar Press Council was established by the State Administration Council on 31 October 2021, in accordance with Section 13 of the News Media Law under Order 344/2021. Therefore, the council's three-year term will expire on 30 October 2024.
- The Myanmar Press Council Election Committee is inviting proposals for candidates to serve as members of the Myanmar Press Council. This invitation is made in accordance with Section 18 (b) of the News Media Law, which mandates that the committee shall elect the new council, as per the provisions prescribed in this bylaw, at least three months before the expiration of the council's three-year term.
- The names of journalists, candidates from news agencies, printing and publishing, writers, poets, cartoonists, candidates from news media organizations, candidates from civil society organizations and think tanks in sectors such as social, economic, literature, culture, legal, science, and technology, independent candidates from other arenas, and independent candidates from the news media industry shall be submitted in accordance with Section 10.
- Criteria of the eligible candidates are as follows: –
 - Media organizations**
 - Can submit numbers of candidates as per respective organizations.
 - Must have a memorandum of association and articles of association.
 - Must be active for media development.
 - Must not be the foreign subsidiary organizations.
 - Independent candidates from media industry**
 - Must have esteemed and experienced levels of 10 years or more in the media industry.
 - Must have good record of prominent activities in media industry.
- Must be the person who has the responsibility as Publisher/ Chief Executive Officer/ Chief Editor of daily newspapers or journals published regularly (or) Executive Producer of the broadcasting newsrooms; or above of those aforesaid levels.
- Must not be the person who serves for any foreign organizations.
- Must be the person who abides by Section 9 (i) of the Media Law.
 - Independent candidates from other arenas**
 - Must have esteemed and experienced level in the relevant industry.
 - Must have a good record of prominent activities in the relevant industry.
 - A person who is covered by any of the following points as described in Rule 7 of the Chapter 3 (Electing Council Member) of the bylaw of the News Media Law shall not be submitted as the candidates –
 - Being a civil servant.
 - Inability to perform the duties of the Council due to poor health.
 - A person who has been convicted of moral turpitude.
 - A person who serve as an executive personnel at any political party.
- The proposal and application forms will be available between 9:00 am and 4:30 pm starting from 1 July 2024, at the Copyright and Registration Division of the Information and Public Relations Department, located at No 4, Wingabar Road, Bahan Township, Yangon Region. They must be submitted not later than 4:30 pm on 30 July 2024.
- For more detailed information, please contact 01-544582, 01-544583 and 01-8604750 during the office hours.
- The date of the election will be announced separately.

Myanmar Press Council Member Election Committee
No 4, Wingabar Road, Bahan Township, Yangon Region

NATIONAL

Union Minister for Energy inspects Southeast Asia Oil and Gas Pipeline Main Control Station (MDY)

UNION Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin conducted inspection at the Upper Myanmar Oil and Gas Pipeline Control Station and the Southeast Asia Oil and Gas Pipeline Main Control Station in Mandalay on 30 June.

The visit began with discussions on oil exploration activities and future projects in Upper Myanmar. Topics included planned upcoming work, the delivery of natural gas to Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise by the CNG general manager for vehicles, and the annual inspection status of compressed natural gas vessels conducted by the Mandalay Retest Factory. The managing director concluded the session with an additional

presentation, followed by remarks and discussions added by the Union Minister.

Additionally, the Union minister inspected the Southeast Asia Oil and Gas Pipeline Main Control Station in Mandalay, responsible for overseeing the distribution of oil and natural gas for the Shwe CNG project and the Madekyun oil storage station. The station's chairperson and officials provided explanations about the facility's operations and processes.

In his comments, the Union minister underscored the mutual benefits of the Southeast Asia Oil and Natural Gas Pipeline project for both Myanmar



Union Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin meets officials at Upper Myanmar Oil and Gas Pipeline Control Station and the Southeast Asia Oil and Gas Pipeline Main Control Station in Mandalay.

and China. He highlighted that the current pipelines are operating at approximately 50 per

cent capacity and stressed the advantages of increasing their utilization for both nations. The

Union minister called for enhanced cooperation to achieve this objective. — MNA/ TRKM

Union Minister leads discussion on industry and industrial zone development

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than attended a meeting on industrial development and industrial zones on 29 June 2024 at Ayeyawady Region government office. Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win, regional ministers, departmental officials, and other responsible persons were also present at the meeting.

The Union minister underscored the crucial role of collaboration between government bodies to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in establishing factories. He highlighted Section 28 of the SME Law, which assigns the Small and Medium Enterprises Agency to the task of leasing land or business space at subsidized rates to SME entrepreneurs. The Union minister further stressed the importance of coordinating efforts with various ministries and collaborating with bodies responsi-



Union Industry Minister Dr Charlie Than speaking at the meeting on industry and industrial zone development on 29 June 2024.

ble for chemical safety and environmental regulations.

In a separate visit on the afternoon of 28 June, the Union minister met with staff at the conference hall of No 32 Heavy Industry in Kyangin Township. During the meeting, the Union minister emphasized production of workshops at full capacity. He highlighted the need for individual responsibility in maintaining the industry's in-

stalled equipment to prevent damage and loss. The Union minister also stressed the importance of proper upkeep for the buildings, land, and fixed assets of the industry.

Furthermore, the managing director and manager of the industry presented detailed information about the facility and discussed potential measures to improve operations. — MNA/ TRKM

Myanmar workers migrate illegally to Malaysia after calling visa suspension, leading them to lose property

AFTER Malaysia suspended calling visa, there are Myanmar nationals who were trying to come illegally and some were cheated, making them lost property, according to an official from Lovely Heart Philanthropic Myanmar Youth Blood Donor group (Kuala Lumpur-Malaysia).

"All calling visas were suspended, making workers unable to come officially so some Myanmar nationals are trying to come here illegally. We have seen many scams on illegal migration to Malaysia, because we have received calls for help. Brokers asked K7-8 million giving guarantee of job in Malaysia, so Myanmar workers paid them lump sum in Myanmar. But they are asked money again by some brokers here and

brokers in Myanmar turned off phone or irresponsibly responded when they contacted. They don't have money to pay, eventually they had to request their family to help, making them to pawn house and farm land. There are a lot of brokers who make our people getting into troubles," he said.

Those come to Malaysia from Myanmar are being cheated, he said.

Right now, jobs are scarce everywhere in Malaysia and workers are getting into troubles, he said.

Those who already arrived in Malaysia will need to be alert and also need to be cautious about brokers who are cheating job seekers, he warned. — MT/ZS



Illegal migrants are under arrest in Malaysia.

NATIONAL

Deputy H&T Minister calls for tackling climate change and environmental damage in tourism sector at 36th CAP-CSA meeting

DEPUTY Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Phyo Zaw Soe urged the Asia-Pacific community at the 36th CAP-CSA meeting in the Philippines on 28 June to prioritize investment in new technologies addressing climate change in tourism, emphasizing the need for measures to prevent environmental damage during tourist attraction development and the establishment of comprehensive policies and strengthened institutions.

A Myanmar delegation led by the deputy minister attended the 36th Joint Commission Meeting of the UN World Tourism Organization Commission for East Asia and the Commission for South Asia (CAP-CSA), as well as the First UN Tourism Regional Forum on Gastronomy Tourism for Asia and the Pacific, held on 26-28 June 2024 in Cebu,



Attendees including Myanmar delegates from the 36th CAP-CSA joint commission meeting pose for documentary group photo in the Philippines on 28 June 2024.

the Philippines.

On 26 June, the deputy minister attended the opening ceremony of the First UN Tourism Regional Forum on Gastronomy

Tourism for Asia and the Pacific, as well as a round-table discussion held at the Shangri-La Mactan Hotel in Cebu City, the Philippines. During the discussion,

representatives from the Philippines, Indonesia, Japan and Thailand discussed promoting destinations, developing tourism attractions, and establishing

important policies for gastronomy tourism, emphasizing the importance of local community participation in maximizing the industry's benefits.

The delegates also discussed reducing food waste and using more local products, achievements in gastronomy tourism in Asia and the Pacific, as well as Cebu City's efforts to develop gastronomy tourism. Similarly, representatives of the UN World Tourism Organization spoke about the FAO Mountain Partnership project, market intelligence, policies and measures for enhancing competitiveness.

On 27 June, the Myanmar delegation led by the deputy minister visited the villages that won the UN Tourism award for best tourism destination. — MNA/TH

Crackdown on illegal trade yields significant seizures in various states and regions

TO combat illegal trade, an inspection team led by the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force, under the directive of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, conducted inspection on 27 June. The target location was Warehouse No 231/B in Industrial Zone 2 of Hlinethaya (Eastern) township, situated on Myataung Wungyee U Hmo Road. Authorities seized 600 kilogrammes of Ultra Mild Cream Natural Moisturizer, valued at approximately K4 million, due to a lack of proper documentation. Legal action is being taken according to cus-

toms procedures.

A combined inspection team under the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force also conducted an inspection on 27 June. At Nyaungkhashay X-ray machine checkpoint, they discovered a vehicle travelling from Myeik to Yangon transporting five types of illegal products, including 12,000 bottles of Lactasoy soy milk without necessary official documentation and 135 bags of charcoal with a total estimated value of over K40 million. The Hyundai County Bus, valued at K25 million, was also seized. Legal proceedings are under-

way in accordance with customs procedures.

Similarly, a combined inspection team under the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force inspected 782 gallons of illegal diesel fuel, valued at over K9 million, being transported in a Nissan Diesel Truck at the Yadanabon Bridge (Mandalay) checkpoint on 28 June. The truck, estimated at K40 million, was also seized. The total estimated value of the confiscated items is nearly K50 million. Legal action is being taken in accordance with petroleum and petroleum products law.

Additionally, on 28 June, under the management of the Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force, an inspection was conducted on the Hlaingbwe-Hpa-an Road. Authorities seized 500 visses of rohu fish from Thailand, 59 fifty-kilogramme bags of various synthetic meat (estimated value of K6.5 million), one Nissan Condor, and one Nissan Caravan (estimated value of K45 million). The total estimated value of the seized items is K51 million. Action is being taken in accordance with customs procedures.

Furthermore, an inspection team under the Sagaing Region

Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force confiscated 65 products, including 430 cartons of ceramic plates, 110 boxes of bowl patches, 122 long nails, and 390 vacuum cleaners, without any official documentation, near the Kaungmudaw junction on 28 June. The estimated value of these items is K177 million. Action is being taken in accordance with export and import law.

In total, 15 cases of illegal trade were apprehended on 27 and 28 June and the estimated value of the seized goods amounted to K322.9 million, according to the steering committee. — MNA/ TRKM

Global NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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

NATIONAL

Thai suspension of aquatic product imports from Myanmar indefinitely postponed

DUE to discussions between the Thai Ambassador to Myanmar and the Regional Fisheries Federation, the Thai side has indefinitely postponed the ban on the importation of 10 types of aquatic products from the Taninthayi Region of Myanmar.

It was reported that Thailand had initially planned to suspend the import of these aquatic products from Myanmar from 1 July to 31 December. Following this announcement, the Thai Ambassador to Myanmar visited Myeik on 28 June and held discussions with the Chairman and Secretary of the Taninthayi Region Fisheries Federation, along with other relevant departments.

“Fish buyers in Ranong, Thailand, are dissatisfied that seafood products from the Myeik area are being imported through the Mawtaung-Singkhon border gate. These products can be directly exported from the Singk-

hon border gate to markets in China and Vietnam, where the prices are higher. As a result, fisheries in Ranong, Thailand, have reduced the prices of all kinds of fish imported from Myanmar. For instance, the price difference for one kilo of cuttlefish can be up to 100 baht when sold in Ranong compared to Singkhon. Consequently, Ranong has put pressure on the Pragnut Province officer to stop importing aquatic products from Myanmar. With the reopening, it will be more convenient for water entrepreneurs, fishermen, and workers. Without this, the situation could lead to a crisis,” said an aquatic products importer via the Mawtaung-Singkhon route.

The Deputy Province Officer reiterated that the aquatic products market in the Taninthayi Region has been controlled by Thailand’s Ranong for about four decades. The fishing business



The file photo shows that trading activities of the fish market in Myeik. PHOTO: MYINT OO (MYEIK)

owners in Thailand submitted a request, which led to the suspension not being based on the opinion of the Pragnut Province Governor.

“Permission to import 10 types of aquatic products, including fish such as kingfish, from the Mawtaung-Singkhon border gate was temporarily suspended by the decision of the Deputy Province Officer of Pragnut. This suspension could decrease trade through Mawtaung, affecting water companies in Myeik District, local fishermen, cold storage facilities, and associated workers, potentially leading to job losses. When I discussed this with the

Thai Ambassador to Myanmar, he also consulted relevant Thai departments. Consequently, the Deputy Province Officer of Pragnut announced that the suspension has been postponed indefinitely,” said a discussion attendee.

The Thai Ambassador highlighted that Thailand’s decision to temporarily suspend the import of 10 types of aquatic products could reduce bilateral trade between Myanmar and Thailand. Emphasis should be placed on maintaining the friendship between Myeik and Pragnut.

Following the meeting held on 7 June 2024, it was initially

announced that the suspension of the import permit would take effect. However, this announcement has now been postponed indefinitely. Therefore, aquatic products from the Taninthayi Region and Myeik District can continue to be exported through the Mawtaung-Singkhon border gate as usual.

Most buyers in Thailand are aware of the challenges faced by Myanmar businessmen due to low fish prices at the beginning of the season. Since fish prices in Myanmar are not high, the fish caught in Myanmar’s waters are primarily sold in the Thai market. — Myint Oo (Myeik)/ TKO

Textbooks and stationery provided to 29 Myanmar migrant primary schools along Myanmar-Thai border



Students from migrant primary school under BMWEC.

ACCORDING to the information from the Kayin State government, school textbooks and stationery were presented to 29 Myanmar migrant basic education schools being operated along the Myanmar-Thai border at the Kayin State government office on 27 June.

As per the information, a total of 5,534 students from

KG to Grade 12 are studying in 29 Myanmar migrant basic education schools along the Myanmar-Thai border. These schools are managed by the Burmese Migrant Workers Education Committee (BMWEC).

It is also reported that the Kayin State Government has donated 5,543 sets of school textbooks, 4,457 dozens of note-

books, 1,630 dozens of pencils, and 222 dozens of ball-pens to these schools. The donated items were accepted by chair of committee Naw Sar Sae Pho.

The Kayin State Government provides school textbooks and stationery to 29 Myanmar Migrant Basic Education Schools yearly. — ASH/TKO

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 30 June 2024)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and strong elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. **FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 1 July 2024:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region and Kayah State, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Magway regions and Northern Shan State, fairly widespread in Southern Shan State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing and Ayeawady regions and Kachin and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is 100%.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Shan, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35-40 mph. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 5-7 feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Northern Shan, Chin and Rakhine states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 July 2024: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

NATIONAL

Taungpyone Festival to run for 8 days in August

BUDDHA Pujaniya festival will be held in Taungpyone Village of Madaya Township, Mandalay Region, for eight days in August, as stated by the

Sutaungpyae and Sutaungya pagoda board of trustees.

Taungpyone's offering to the spirits will also be included in the festival

from 12 to 19 August.

"Right now, we are still planning. About one-third of the people come. The event was also interrupted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, we are planning to sell space to those who want to open shops. We are still negotiating at the meeting," said Chairperson U Htay Aung of the pagoda board of trustees.

Sutaungpyae Pagoda was built by King Anawrahta, and Sutaungya Pagoda was built by the people.

The Taungpyone festival is very crowded, with people coming from all over the country. Each tradition of the festival is celebrated day by day. During the festival day, the spirit dance is the main feature and is very popular among visitors.

Hundreds of thousands of people come to the festival every year, and it is a festival that includes many offerings to the gods and spirits. — ASH/KZL



Photo depicts a scene of dancing for spirits at Taungpyone festival.

Myanmar Writers' Association announces winners of second manuscript competition



The winners of the first edition of the manuscript competition.

THE Myanmar Writers' Association has announced the winners of the second manuscript competition.

In the poetry manuscript genre, the first prize went to Nay Chi Maung (Myaungmya). The second prize was awarded to Phone Ye Naing (Gangaw), and the third prize to Sittway Nyo Thant. The consolation prize (1) was awarded to Zagyaw Ywa Kyaung Othar; consolation prize (2) went to Han Nyunt (Yin Kyaw Hmu), and consolation prize (3) to Khet Zaw (Kabyar).

In the short story manuscript genre, Saw Nge Nge (Mohnyin) won the first prize. The second prize was awarded to Yoon Hnin Si Khaing, and the third prize went to Wai Lwin Myint Maung. The consolation prize (1) was awarded to San Win Aung (Myanaung), consolation prize (2) to Nann Hinn Pyinn, and consolation prize (3) to Zaw (Myeik). In the article genre, Shwe Htone Khin Thida Hlaing won the first prize. The second prize was awarded to Lin Aryon Oo (Bago), and the third prize to Thitsa Wadi U Myint Aung. The consolation prize (1) was awarded to Tekkatho Nann Phyu Phyu Tun, consolation prize (2) to Ma Shwe Chit (Lekaing), and consolation prize (3) to Maung Yi Kyaw (Yupa).

The winners of the manuscript competition must contact the Myanmar Writers' Association in Kyauktada Township. The time, place, and date of the award ceremony will be announced soon. — TWA/KZL

Unauthorized vendors near Mandalay Moat fined

OFFICIALS are taking action against vendors selling goods without permission around the Mandalay City Moat attracting local and foreign travellers, according to the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC).

According to the committee, vendors selling goods on the southern moat along 26th Street, the northern moat along 12th Street, and the western moat along 80th Street have been fined since the third week of June.

The measure is taken to ensure that the areas where the majority of tourists visit are not littered or messy.

In addition, vendors selling food and other items around the moat without permission from the Mandalay City Development Committee are being investigated by a combined team. Twenty vendors found selling without permission have been fined between K10,000 and K50,000. — TWA/TKO



A glimpse of the platform of eastern Mandalay Moat.

64th Aungbarlay Lottery ticket sales reach nearly K5,600 million

THE State Lottery Directorate of the Internal Revenue Department announced that the sale of tickets for the 64th Aungbarlay Lottery totalled nearly K5,600 million.

A significant portion of the lottery proceeds will be returned to players as prize money. This includes 70 per cent of ticket sales, which amounts to K3,865.932

million, and an additional K250 million from the treasury. The top prize for the 64th Aungbarlay Lottery will be K500 million. Other prizes include one prize of K200 million, one prize of K100 million, four prizes of K50 million, five prizes of K20 million, nine prizes of K10 million, twelve prizes of K5 million, sixteen prizes of K2 million, fourteen prizes of K1 million, and

various smaller prizes.

Additionally, the treasury revenue will award four prizes of K1 million, twenty prizes of K300,000, two hundred prizes of K200,000, and two thousand prizes of K100,000. — TWA/ TRKM

Photo shows the office of State Lottery Directorate of Internal Revenue Department.



Chinese apples sold better than Thailand apples in Mandalay fruits market due to price gap

APPLES imported from China also known as panlonethee have been sold well in Mandalay fruits market, compared to Thailand-imported apples due to price gap.

Only those who can afford can eat Thailand apples and the trading of Chinese apples was also healthy last year.

“Thailand apples are expensive so most of fruit sellers are unable to trade it. But Chinese apples also known as panlonethee which are imported from China in baskets have high consumption and affordable for all classes. Chinese apples were sold well last year too,” said an owner of Pyae Sone Aung fruits retail and wholesale trading in Mandalay.

Due to being expensive, just a few traders can trade Thailand-imported fruits in Mandalay and the fruits market has relied mainly on China-imported fruits and native species of fruits.

“In Myanmar, all classes, middle class in particular, enjoy apples, so the trading is doing well. Apple is one of the most consumed fruit in Myanmar,” said U Kyaw Tun, a retail fruit seller in Yangon. — Thit Taw/ZS

Chinese apples also known as panlonethee are on sale among other fruits.



Bago Region to grow 1,000 acres of Robusta coffee

THE Bago Region is scheduled to grow 1,000 acres of Robusta coffee, according to the Bago Region Government.

The Light House Co Ltd, based in Yedashe Township, Toungoo District, Bago Region, purchases local coffee beans and exports value-added coffee products. Additionally, businesses in the forest entrepreneur cluster will increase earnings by cultivating Robusta coffee.

Myanmar’s coffee has already secured a good reputation in the global coffee market, and efforts are being made to expand cultivation and export as an essential value-added crop.

Foreign earnings can be increased through coffee plantations by maintaining good quality and germination, utilizing soil fertility, moisture, and



Robusta coffee plants thrive in Pathein Township, Ayeyawady Region.

sunlight, ensuring weather and pest resistance, harvesting at optimal ripeness, and achieving a yield of 2.82 tonnes per acre.

Robusta lowland coffee varieties, valued in the global market, are suitable for cultivation at altitudes of less than 2,500 feet above sea level and

require rainfall between 60 and 100 inches.

Myanmar produces approximately 7,000 tonnes of coffee annually, with half of it exported to countries such as the United States, Europe, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, and China. — TWA/TMT

Edible oil crops to expand over 8 million acres this FY

THE Agriculture Department is ramping up edible oil crop production this year by cultivating over eight million acres of oil crops during the monsoon and winter seasons, focusing on crops such as peanuts, sesame, sunflower, mustard oil, and flower sesame.

The department also plans to cultivate over three million acres of peanuts, 3.8 million acres of sesame, more than one million acres of sunflower, 93,000 acres of canola, and approximately 300,000 acres of

niger, totalling over 8.2 million acres. Additionally, 360,000 acres of sesame are slated to be grown for the summer crop season.

Last year saw over three million acres of peanuts, over four million acres of sesame, over one million acres of sunflower, over 92,000 acres of canola, and over 290,000 acres of niger, totalling over 8.3 million acres of oil crops.

Oil crops are primarily planted in Magway, Sagaing, Mandalay, and Bago regions. — TWA/TRKM



Sesame plants thriving in the farm.

Advertise
with us/ Hot Line :

 **09 251022355,**
09 255597511

OPINION

Boost cooperative strengths for cooperative societies

COOPERATIVE is a form of organization that serves the interests of its members as well as its environs. A cooperative society can be defined by numerous meanings. Actually, the cooperative society is a centre of its members to make concerted efforts to do relevant businesses meeting the missions.

Depending on the different workplaces and regions, in addition to the nature of national races, cooperative societies have been formed in all parts of the nation. Most of them have been in operation without loss and benefiting their members. As Myanmar is an agro-based country, a larger number of cooperative societies are engaging in agriculture and livestock breeding farms which can directly contribute to food supply for the people.

Everybody can observe that the Rochdale cooperative society, which operated businesses with 28 members in England in 1844, has been booming across the world to this day. The concept of cooperation spread worldwide and stimulated the educated and active youths to initiate their own business ways for mother lands and themselves. In fact, those who uphold the concept of doing everything through cooperative efforts to overcome any challenges in operating their businesses will surely secure victory on set days.

accomplish their missions. Currently, cooperative societies concerning agriculture and livestock, fishing, general trading, manufacturing, industries, garment manufacturing, microfinance, credit cooperatives, small-scale industries, public cooperative societies and so on are being operated across the nation. Some of them were defunct, but more and more cooperative societies in different forms have emerged day by day. It shows the success of cooperative businesses for the people without derailing from their missions.

Everybody can observe that the Rochdale cooperative society, which operated businesses with 28 members in England in 1844, has been booming across the world to this day. The concept of cooperation spread worldwide and stimulated the educated and active youths to initiate their own business ways for mother lands and themselves. In fact, those who uphold the concept of doing everything through cooperative efforts to overcome any challenges in operating their businesses will surely secure victory on set days.

In successive eras, governments have been striving for the development of cooperative societies at different levels to support the State economy. As such, the State economy could be strengthened. In retrospect, a total of 14 district cooperative societies were formed on 14 February 1952 to establish the Union Wholesale Cooperative Union. Consequently, township and district cooperative syndicates were formed one after another in 1957.

In fact, cooperative societies collect the capacity of their members to implement all projects and businesses to have greater achievements. In this regard, all members must be honest and have the capacity to operate the societies under the rules and regulations without violation of disciplines. Moreover, they have to systematically keep accounts of the societies to check losses and profits. Only when they all are free from corruption and bribery cases will the societies surely

THE photograph captures a moment from 1974 at Pathein College, featuring a group of dedicated Zoology students and their beloved demonstrator. This image represents not just a collection of individuals but a close-knit community bound by shared academic pursuits and personal connections. Pathein College, at the time, offered a four-year academic programme, and the students in the photo were at different stages in their Zoology studies. Second-year female Zoology majors occupy the front row, while the back row includes first-year male students, except for the middle man, the demonstrator.

A Respected Mentor

The demonstrator in the photo was more than just a teacher to these students; he was a mentor, a friend, and an inspiration. Although only five or six years older than the students, he commanded great respect and admiration. Coming from a remote village in one of Myanmar's States, he shared a humble background similar to many of his students, which only served to strengthen their bond. His sensitivity to unfair situations often led to confrontations, but it also underscored his bravery and commitment to justice. That made him a figure not just of authority but of moral guidance as well.

Academic Excellence and Personal Dedication

The demonstrator's dedication to his studies and his teaching was evident. He was in the process of obtaining his MSc degree, a challenging endeavour that he pursued with tenacity and hard work. His lectures in Zoology were renowned for their dynamism and engagement. Students, both majors and minors, flocked to his classes to experience his unique teaching style. His ability to make complex topics accessible and interesting made him a popular figure among the student body. This pedagogical excellence contributed significantly to his popularity and the high regard in which he was held.

A Unique Bond with Students

The demonstrator's relationship with his students was special. He had a particularly strong attachment to the group in the photograph, having spent three years with them at Pathein College before being transferred to Yangon University in 1976. This period was marked by a collab-

Memories which were 50 Years ago



Photo Credit: Saw Lwin (Fuji) Pathein 1974.

orative spirit, with students and their teacher working together on various departmental activities. The mutual respect and affection were palpable, fostering an environment where academic and personal growth went hand in hand. **Transition to Yangon University**

The transfer to Yangon University marked a new chapter in the demonstrator's life, but it did not sever the bonds he had formed with his students. After graduating in 1977, many of the students, including me, continued to cross paths with their former teacher at Yangon University. The demonstrator continued his pursuit of a Master's degree while the students embarked on their professional journeys. I, for instance, took up a position in the Cooperative Department, which gradually led to a fading of direct contact with the demonstrator.

Reflections on Friendship and Growth

Looking back, I fondly recall the camaraderie and shared experiences at Pathein College. The friendships forged during this time were invaluable, providing support and encouragement in both academic and personal spheres.

Unforgettable Memories with Our Beloved Mentor

I want to continue sharing the many unforgettable memories we have of our mentor, whom we deeply admired and respected both as an elder brother and as a teacher. Although he had a very

A Lasting Impact

The impact of the demonstrator's teaching and mentorship extended beyond the classroom. His approach to education, characterized by passion and engagement, left a lasting impression on his students. Many of them carried these lessons into their professional lives, embodying the principles of hard work, fairness, and dedication that he exemplified.

The photograph from 1974 is more than just a snapshot in time; it is a testament to the enduring relationships and formative experiences that defined the Zoology Department at Pathein College. The demonstrator, with his remarkable teaching skills and personal integrity, played a central role in this story. His influence, coupled with the close bonds among the students, created a vibrant academic community that left a lasting legacy. As I reflect on these years, the memories of friendship, learning, and personal growth continue to resonate, underscoring the profound impact of their time at Pathein College.

The Resolution
Our mentor overheard their disrespectful comments and became extremely upset. He could not tolerate hearing such vulgarities directed at the college la-

strong and unyielding personality, he always prioritized his students. In fact, the students were not much younger than him.

A Memorable Incident

Among the many memorable incidents, one stands out in particular: Our mentor had a habit of playing football, but it was purely for health reasons rather than professional play. One evening, after playing football, he went swimming in Kan Thone Sint (Three Lakes), a beautiful and iconic lake of Pathein College that holds significant cultural and historical value for the town. The lake was also a popular setting for poetry and writing. A narrow bridge spanned the lake, connecting both shores.

In the evenings, the area around Kan Thone Sint would be bustling with swimmers, football players, and college ladies taking a walk. On that particular evening, a group of young men from the town came to play football and swim at the lake. Meanwhile, our mentor was swimming nearby. As the young men swam under the bridge, a group of female students from the college walked across it. The young men started making inappropriate remarks at the girls from beneath the bridge.

The next day at 4 pm was the deadline for the young men to apologize. By then, the incident had

attracted the attention of high-level officials who were working to prevent any further escalation. The students, still angered by the disrespect shown to their female peers, were ready to march into town if the apology did not take place.

Courageous Confrontation

Our mentor, showing no fear, confronted the young men, knowing exactly where they lived. News of the incident spread quickly throughout the college campus. That evening, our mentor returned to his dormitory, changed his clothes, and took a bus to the town alone, determined to resolve the issue. Students who were close to him learned about his departure and followed him into town using various means of transportation.

In the town, our mentor went directly to the neighbourhood where the young men lived and challenged them to come out and face him. Just as the situation was about to escalate, the students who had followed him arrived, creating a tense atmosphere. The neighbourhood authorities intervened to mediate the conflict, but our mentor insisted that the young men come to the college to apologize for their behaviour. He made it clear that if they did not come, he would hold them accountable for any consequences.

The Resolution
The next day at 4 pm was the deadline for the young men to apologize. By then, the incident had

By Min Zan

attracted the attention of high-level officials who were working to prevent any further escalation. The students, still angered by the disrespect shown to their female peers, were ready to march into town if the apology did not take place.

From 3 pm onwards, the students occupied all the buses heading into town, waiting in readiness. By nearly 4 pm, with no sign of the young men, tensions were running high. It seemed inevitable that a confrontation would occur. Fortunately, just two minutes before 4 pm, the young men arrived in vehicles accompanied by local authorities.

In front of the entire college, the young men apologized to the mentor and the teachers, bowing their heads in shame. This public apology not only resolved the immediate conflict but also restored the dignity of the college and the students.

A Heroic Figure

This incident highlights the indomitable spirit of our mentor: His actions not only protect the honour of those who were insulted but also uphold the reputation of Pathein College. His courage and integrity left a lasting impression on all who witnessed the events of that day. The photograph, with our mentor standing proudly in the centre of the back row, serves as a testament to his remarkable character and the deep respect we all had for him.

All in all, reflecting on our time at Pathein College, the memories of camaraderie, learning, and personal growth are vivid and cherished. Our mentor, with his unwavering dedication and integrity, profoundly shaped our academic and personal lives. The bonds we formed and the lessons we learned have endured, influencing our paths long after we left the college. This period, marked by shared challenges and triumphs, remains a cornerstone of our identity. As we look back, we are reminded of the enduring impact of a true mentor and the lasting value of a close-knit academic community.

(With heartfelt reverence, I honour our beloved Saya U Tin Than)



Study finds how depictions of depression are misleading

Misinformation and Understanding: The study identifies a significant problem where in many people receive inaccurate information about depression. This misinformation makes it challenging for individuals to grasp why they might be experiencing distress.

ACCORDING to a recent study conducted in Finland, people frequently receive inaccurate information on depression. The researchers claim that people find it more difficult to comprehend the reasons for their discomfort as a result of the false information.

The majority of mental health diagnoses are only descriptive. For instance, a diagnosis of depression does not identify the underlying reason; rather, it describes the range of psychiatric symptoms. However, depression is frequently discussed as a condition characterised by poor mood and other symptoms.

Researchers describe this as a form of circular reasoning, which means that psychiatric diagnoses are frequently talked



The study calls for improved public education to dispel misinformation. ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/FIZKES/ADOBE STOCK

about circularly, as if they described the causes of symptoms. This makes it difficult for people to understand their distress.

"Depression should be considered a diagnosis similar to a headache. Both are medical diagnoses, but neither explains what causes the symptoms. Like a headache, depression is a description of a problem that can have many different causes. A diagnosis of depression does not explain the cause of depressed mood any more than a diagnosis of headaches explains the cause of pain in the head," said Jani Kajanoja, a postdoctoral researcher and a medical doctor specialising in psychiatry at the University of Turku in Finland.

This misconception is also perpetuated by mental health professionals, shows a recent study by the University of Turku and the University of the Arts Helsinki.

In the study, the researchers analysed publicly available information on depression provided by leading international health organisations. The researchers selected the websites of English-language organisations whose information on depression was the most influential, according to search engine results. — ANI

INTERVIEW

For overseas employment, visiting the agency's office is better than online contact

Interview with U Myat Thu, secretary of the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF)

THESE days, many Myanmar nationals have gone abroad for overseas employment, and some workers have been cheated. Regarding this, GNLM spoke to U Myat Thu, secretary of the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF), about do's and don'ts and opportunities.



Some Myanmar workers are pictured working in Japan. (FILE PHOTO)

Q. May I know about sending workers to Thailand under MOU?

Every day, there are MOU workers sent to Thailand. There are 200 to 400 people on two daily flights. The government sets the age limit. When Myawady was open, more than 800 workers were sent every day. Now, it has been reduced. There are opportunities in factories and construction sites in Thailand.

Q. What about overseas recruitment of Myanmar workers in China?

The first batch of 90 people was sent by agencies to China by air. It was a pilot test. Some agencies wrote demand letters to send more. There are many industrial zones near the Myanmar border. Since they need foreign workers, they recruit from the nearest country, Myanmar.

Q. Which countries are major destinations for overseas employment agencies?

Agencies send workers mainly to Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Japan. At present, Malaysia has stopped recruitment. The government also sent workers to Korea, and some agencies have been given permission, mainly for shipyards. Seasonal workers are not allowed yet. Even agencies are not permitted yet, so other groups which recruit workers will be cheaters.

Q. What should overseas goers be aware of to avoid being scammed?

The most important thing is to go directly to the agency's office. Safe migration has published the list and names of licensed agencies. After checking the list, they should go directly to the offices, whether they are genuine or not. If the company exists, they should also verify phone numbers. Sometimes, the name of a licensed company found online is correct, but there are some fake sites. Agencies face this problem because the official ones provide their information. But, there are many cases where those of



The picture shows Myanmar workers being sent to Thailand by overseas employment agencies. (FILE PHOTO)



U Myat Thu, Secretary of MOEAF.

famous agencies are copied and faked in order to deceive young people. The best way is to check the list of agencies on Safe Migration and MOEAF and then physically go to the office as per the address.

Q. What are the differences between going abroad legally and illegally?

Going abroad to work legally is more convenient and safer. If anything happens, the licensed agencies will handle the issue in their own way. If necessary,

the MOEAF will help with the settlement. As it requires routine submission of documents between two countries, it may take a certain time in some cases. Some young people don't want to wait and cross the border with the help of brokers. They go to Thailand through this illegal route and get into trouble there.

To leave illegally, they have to give money, pay more in Thailand, and continue to pay for CI and work permits. The cost for an illegal worker is almost three



152 new EPS Myanmar manufacturing workers arrived in Incheon Airport from Yangon, through Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA). (FILE PHOTO)

times that of a legal worker. Sometimes, undocumented workers are arrested and put in danger. They suffer more.

Q. What should overseas job seekers learn about language?

Overseas job seekers should know a bit of foreign language – Thai for those going to Thailand, Korean for those going to Korea, Japanese for those going to Japan and Malay for Malaysia. That is the best. But, nowadays, except for Japan and Korea, people go abroad without any knowledge of the respective language and learn it after they arrive.

Thank you very much for sharing your time for this interview.

Interviewer: MT/Translation: ZN

Nail art scratching surface of new future for folk lacquer technique

Nail art scratching surface of new future for folk lacquer technique

IN central Japan, Naoko Sato, a nail technician and salon owner in Takayama, has embarked on a unique endeavor merging traditional craftsmanship with modern beauty trends. Inspired by the centuries-old Hida-shunkei lacquerware technique native to the Hida mountains, Sato has introduced nail art that showcases this exquisite art form to a broader audience.

Hida-shunkei lacquerware, renowned for its glossy caramel-brown finish and intricate wood grain patterns, faces an uncertain future due to a dwindling number of artisans. Among them is Toshihiko Kawahara, a 63-year-old lacquerware painter and one of the few remaining practitioners. Collaborating with Sato, Kawahara has lent his exper-

tise to transform ordinary nail extensions into stunning pieces of lacquered artistry.

Sato, who typically uses synthetic resins in her work, dedicated months to mastering the technique, sculpting each nail extension meticulously by hand.

The process involves shaping local cypress wood into elegant, elongated nails adorned with the lustrous Hida-shunkei lacquer. Her creations, reaching up to 9 centimetres in length and 3 to 5 millimetres in thickness, debuted in a fashion show in Takayama, where models flaunted their distinctive nails alongside traditional kimono attire.

For Sato, this initiative is more than just a creative pursuit—it's a mission to preserve and promote the beauty of Hida's cultural heritage. With only eight



A model wears Hida-shunkei nail art during a show held in Takayama, Gifu Prefecture, in April. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Hida-shunkei lacquerware painters left, the collaboration not only celebrates their artistry but also raises awareness about the craft's endangered status. Ayumi Ishigaki, an enthusiast of Hida-shunkei, echoed this sentiment, expressing a desire for global recognition of its unique

charms.

As Sato continues to innovate and collaborate with artisans like Kawahara, her work not only highlights the intersection of tradition and modernity but also serves as a testament to the enduring allure of Japan's rich cultural legacy. — Kyodo

Why Finns are deadly serious about hobby horsing



Giddy up: A rider takes part in a dressage event at the Finnish Hobbyhorse Championships. **PHOTO: AFP**

A buzz of excitement crackled through the hushed arena as the rider gripped the reins of her stuffed steed. Welcome to the strangely exacting world of hobby horsing, the Finnish sport guaranteed to put a smile on your face. Immaculately-coiffed equestrians leap athletically over fences just like in horse jumping, going as fast as they can against the clock straddling their stick steeds.

Things are more stately in the dressage, with riders trotting their stick horses with intricately decorated stuffed heads before

the discerning eyes of the judges.

Some 260 riders from 22 countries — most women and girls aged between 10 and 20 — turned up to compete at the 11th annual Finnish championship held in the town of Seinajoki. But despite its vast international reach, from the Arctic to Argentina, hobby horsing is a sport that dares not speak its name.

'Insane' athleticism

Despite its soaring popularity, it is not officially recognised as a proper sport in its birthplace. — AFP

Iconic sites hosting Paris Olympics events

THE Paris Olympics are primed to illuminate the City of Light, utilizing some of its most iconic locales to captivate attendees and a global TV audience of billions over the 17-day spectacle starting 26 July.

At the Eiffel Tower, a beacon of Parisian identity, beach volleyball will draw crowds to a temporary venue near its base, while the Champs de Mars park hosts judo and wrestling. Originally controversial, the tower now symbolizes Paris, welcoming millions annually

and even contributing iron for Olympic medals.

The Grand Palais, renowned for its glass-and-steel splendor from the 1900 World Fair, will showcase fencing and taekwondo amidst its vast exhibition space and historic contributions during World War I.

Place de la Concorde, infamous for its role in the French Revolution, will transform into an urban sports hub for skateboarding, basketball, BMX, and breakdancing, framed by its towering obelisk gifted by

Egypt.

Versailles Palace, a 17th-century royal marvel turned UNESCO World Heritage site, will host equestrian events and the marathon, recalling its grandiose past as the center of French royalty and extravagant gardens.

Beyond Paris, Marseille will feature sailing competitions along its scenic Mediterranean coast, adding a dynamic touch with its new marina and hosting football matches as well. — AFP



The glass-roofed Grand Palais, built in 1900 for the Universal Exhibition, will host fencing and taekwondo. **PHOTO: AFP**

ECONOMY WORLD



Vietnam, a global manufacturing hub, is targeting growth of between six and 6.5 per cent this year. **PHOTO: AFP**

Vietnam economy expands 6.4 per cent in first half of year

Foreign investment saw a notable rise of 8.2% compared to the same period in the previous year.

VIETNAM'S economy grew by more than six percent in the first half of 2024, government figures showed Saturday, as analysts said more reforms are needed to further boost the economy.

The global manufacturing hub saw an expansion of 6.4 per cent in January-June, compared to 3.7 per cent over the same period of 2023, the General Statistics Office (GSO) said in a statement.

The upswing was the result of "several measures" taken to improve supply chains, the foreign exchange market and public investment, the GSO said. Industrial production was up 7.5 per cent, while foreign investment increased by 8.2 per cent compared to the same period last year, the new figures showed.

To maintain and promote growth, the government needs to focus on the key sectors of

manufacturing and processing, logistics and hospitality, VPBank Securities analyst Duong Thien Chi said. Policymakers should also take into account "unmeasurable variables" such as the US Federal Reserve's moves on interest rate reduction, Duong told AFP.

The United States was Vietnam's largest export market in the first six months of 2024.

The Southeast Asian nation earned \$190 billion from exports over that period, up by 14.5 per cent year on year. — AFP

TOP HEADLINES: ECON

Only 17% of SDGs on track, new UN report reveals

WITH just six years remaining to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), global progress is alarmingly insufficient with only 17 per cent of the targets are currently on track, according to a new UN report released on Friday.

The 2024 Sustainable Development Goals Report revealed that nearly half of the 17 goals are showing "minimal or moderate progress," while over a third are either "stalled or regressing."

These goals, adopted by UN member states in 2015, aim to bring peace and prosperity to people and the planet.

"This report, known as the annual SDG report card, shows the world is getting a failing grade," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at the press conference launching the comprehensive stocktake.

"The takeaway is simple – our failure to secure peace, confront climate change, and boost international finance is undermining development.—Xinhua

Yen hits fresh 37-year low at 161 vs. dollar

THE yen tumbled to hit a fresh 37-year low in the lower 161 range against the US dollar Friday in Tokyo, with warnings from Japanese officials over a possible yen-buying intervention having limited impact on the market.

The Japanese currency's weakness comes ahead of key US inflation data to be released later in the day amid speculation that the Federal Reserve may keep interest rates elevated for longer than expected on the back of recent solid economic data.

The yen also sank in the 172 range against the euro, its lowest level since the European currency was introduced in 1999.

At 5 pm, the dollar fetched 160.92-94 yen compared with 160.72-82 yen in New York and 160.54-56 yen in Tokyo at 5 p.m. Thursday.

The euro was quoted at \$1.0696-0698 and 172.13-17 yen against \$1.0699-0709 and 172.03-13 yen in New York and \$1.0689-0691 and 171.61-65 yen in Tokyo late Thursday afternoon. — Kyodo

Biden, Trump battle for blue-collar voters as steel merger looms

WORKING class voters in Rust Belt cities like Pittsburgh used to favor Democrats overwhelmingly, but years of economic hardship and the rise of social issues favoring Republicans have made them a swing constituency again in 2024.

President Joe Biden has cleared one key hurdle, winning endorsements from union presidents, including the United Steelworkers (USW), a key player in the US Steel takeover battle that has loomed over the

2024 campaign in Pennsylvania.

But just how many rank-and-file workers ignore union chiefs and vote for Donald Trump could have a decisive impact in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, where the margin could be 100,000 votes or fewer.

Biden backers point to the incumbent's reliable support of organized labour, links to working-class Scranton, Pennsylvania and legislative accomplishments like the 2021 infrastructure law.

"We listened to four years

of Donald Trump talking about infrastructure, because there was a lot of lip service," said steelworker JoJo Burgess in a Biden ad. "Joe Biden delivered on it."

"Right now, we have the most pro American worker president in office that we've ever had," said Burgess, who is also mayor of Washington, Pennsylvania.

But Rudy Sanetta, a maintenance worker at US Steel, prefers Trump on the economy



Both candidates are trying to win over steelworkers concerned about the proposed takeover of United States Steel by Nippon Steel of Japan. **PHOTO: AFP**

and because of his stance on gun rights.

"I like him for his resistance

to the politicians," Sanetta said of Trump. "The other guy, I have no confidence." — AFP

Japan to launch new banknotes, 1st design change in 20 yrs

The new banknotes will feature cutting-edge holography technology that creates a 3D effect, making portraits of historic figures appear as if they are rotating. This innovation is aimed at enhancing security against counterfeiting.

JAPAN will start issuing new banknotes on Wednesday, showcasing what it touts is the world's first use of cutting-edge holography that makes the portraits of historic figures look like they are rotating in 3D on the bills, one of their anti-counterfeit measures. In the first design change in 20 years, the 10,000 yen, 5,000 yen, and 1,000 yen bills will have bigger face value

numbers printed on them than the current versions, so all people, regardless of age and nationality, can recognize them easily. Tactile marks will allow visually impaired people to touch and tell which banknote they are holding. Eiichi Shibusawa (1840-1931), known as "the father of Japanese capitalism" who helped establish around 500 com-

panies, will be featured on the 10,000 yen note, with the red-brick building of Tokyo Station depicted on the back. The 5,000 yen note will feature educator Umeko Tsuda (1864-1929), who during her lifetime strove to raise the status of women in society. Wisteria flowers, cherished in Japan since ancient times, will appear on the reverse side. The 1,000 yen note will use the portrait of microbiologist Shibasaburo Kitasato (1853-1931), dubbed "the father of modern Japanese medicine" for his contributions to the treatment of tetanus. On the flipside is "The Great Wave off Kanagawa," a work by ukiyo-e artist Katsushika Hokusai depicting big waves and Mt. Fuji. — Kyodo



File photo taken April 2023 at the Bank of Japan's headquarters in Tokyo shows samples of new banknotes scheduled to be issued from 3 July 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

PHINMA EDUCATION MYANMAR LIMITED Notice for Members' Voluntary Winding Up Under Section 147 of Insolvency Law and Insolvency Rules-9 and 15-B (Company Registration No. 108984473)

Notice is hereby given that

- (1) the members of PHINMA EDUCATION MYANMAR LIMITED (the "Company") had passed a special resolution on 1 March 2024 that the Company be wound up by way of members' voluntary winding up under the Insolvency Law 2020 with effect from 26 June 2024.
- (2) Daw Myat Myat Chit (holder of Myanmar NRC No. 1/MaNyaNa (N) 081592), has been appointed as liquidator to conduct the members' voluntary winding up of the Company by a resolution of the members passed on 26 June 2024. A copy of the notice of appointment is set out below.

Notice of Appointment of Liquidator

- (3) the creditors of the Company are requested to submit their proof of debts or claims together with the detailed particulars and evidence of the debts or claims to the undersigned liquidator, within one month from the date of this advertisement, at No-15/17, Seventh Floor, Bo Saw Oo Street, Kyimyindaing Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar 11101 and electronically to any of the email addresses of the undersigned as indicated below, using the prescribed form, set out below.

The creditors of the company who fail to submit the claims within one month from the date of this advertisement will be excluded from:
(i) the benefit of a distribution made before your claim is submitted; and
(ii) objecting to that distribution.

Daw Myat Myat Chit
NRC No. 1/MaNyaNa (N) 081592
Liquidator
Contact Number: +95 9450022074
Email Address: myat@myatandassociates.com/ myatandassociates@gmail.com
PHINMA EDUCATION MYANMAR LIMITED (In Liquidation)

MS. MAE ESTUCHE
Passport No. P5104789A
Director
Contact Number: +63 966-886-9995 Email Address: meolpoc@phinmaed.com
PHINMA EDUCATION MYANMAR LIMITED (In Liquidation)

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD



Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati (C) arrives at the crisis management operations room in the southern Lebanese port city of Tyre where he met on 29 June 2024 emergency and paramedic teams dealing with people displaced from villages further south near the border with Israel. **PHOTO: AFP**

Lebanese prime minister says his country in state of war due to threats from Israel

Najib Mikati, Lebanon's caretaker prime minister, has characterized the situation as a form of psychological warfare.

LEBANON is in a state of war due to threats and aggression from Israel, Lebanon's caretaker prime minister, Najib Mikati, said.

"The threats we see are a kind of psychological warfare. The question that is on everyone's lips 'Is it a war?' Yes, we are in a state of war. Due to Israeli aggression, there are a large number of civilian and

non-civilian casualties and destroyed villages," Mikati said in a statement on Saturday.

On 18 June the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) announced that it had approved operational plans for an offensive in Lebanon. Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz later said that Israel was "very close" to a decision to "change the rules" against Hezbollah and Leba-

non, threatening to destroy the movement "in an all-out war" and to "severely hit" Lebanon. Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah said that the movement could invade northern Israel if the confrontation intensifies further.

The situation on the Israeli-Lebanese border worsened after the start of Israel's military operations in the Gaza Strip in October 2023. The IDF and Lebanese Hezbollah fighters fire at each other's positions in areas along the border on a daily basis. — SPUTNIK

SUMMARIES: WORLD

Biden claims he can handle job of US President with confidence

US President Joe Biden has expressed confidence in his ability to fulfill duties at a fundraiser in North Carolina following a poor performance in the first presidential debate.

"Folks, I give you my word as a Biden. I would not be running again if I didn't believe with all my heart and soul I can do this job. Because, quite frankly, the stakes are too high... [Former President] Donald Trump is a genuine threat to this nation," Biden said on Friday night, as quoted by the White House.

The New York Times Editorial in an op-ed wrote on Friday that Biden should suspend his presidential campaign after a poor showing at the first presidential debate and let a fresh new Democratic candidate take his place. — SPUTNIK

Davos Forum founder Schwab reportedly facing sexual harassment allegations

FORMER senior forum executive Cheryl Martin admitted that the most disappointing thing was to see the distance between what the organization "aspires to and what happens behind the scenes."

Under Klaus Schwab's decades-long oversight, the World Economic Forum "has allowed to fester an atmosphere" of sexual harassment and discrimination against women and Black people, the World Street Journal has cited numerous sources, including current and former forum employees, as saying. An array of female staffers described sexual harassment they experienced at the hands of senior managers, some of whom remain at the forum, "a tone that was set at the very top of the organization," according to the WSJ. — SPUTNIK

Legal weed limps into next phase in Germany

SO-CALLED cannabis clubs will be allowed to sell the drug legally in Germany starting Monday, but in practice it will be some time before the associations get up and running.

Germany legalised cannabis in April, allowing adults to possess 25 grammes (0.9 ounce) and cultivate up to three marijuana plants at home. As the next step in the reform, from 1 July it will be possible to legally obtain weed through regulated "cannabis clubs" in the country. — AFP

Experts press Swiss foundation over Nazi-era art collection

A Swiss foundation must do more to trace the provenance of works in a vast art collection acquired in questionable circumstances during World War II, a team of experts said Friday.

There has long been suspicion around the Nazi-era origins of one of Europe's most prestigious private art collections, acquired by arms dealer Emil Buhrlé, who made his fortune during the war.

The German-born industri-

alist became a naturalised Swiss citizen in 1937.

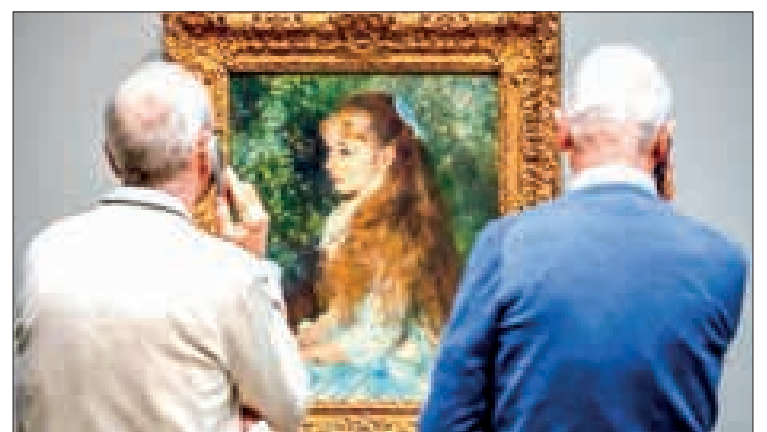
By the time he died in 1956, he had amassed around 600 artworks, including masterpieces by Cézanne, Degas, Manet, Monet, Renoir, Rembrandt, Picasso and Van Gogh.

Some had previously been looted from their Jewish owners, or sold cheaply and in haste as their owners fled the Nazis.

The Buhrlé Foundation, which owns the collection, has

been working to clarify the provenance of the works for years.

Its efforts came into particular focus when Kunsthau Zurich, one of Switzerland's most prestigious art museums, agreed to permanently house the collection. Until then, it had been displayed at a private museum on the outskirts of Zurich. The Kunsthau has faced especially keen scrutiny since it opened a new building to house a large part of the collection in 2021.



The controversial collection includes works by Renoir and other French Impressionists. **PHOTO: AFP**

A team of experts mandated by the Zurich authorities and the museum to evaluate the foundation's research on provenance on Friday concluded that it had been "insufficient". — AFP

SPORTS



New generation fighters show their talents during the Lethwei Championship held in Yangon on 30 June 2024.

Lethwei Championship for new generation held in Yangon

WITH the aim of creating new Myanmar traditional boxers (Lethwei fighters), Myanmar Lethwei Federation launched the Lethwei Championship for new generation marking 2024 Olympic Day in Theinbyu Boxing Gymnasium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township of Yangon yesterday.

The Lethwei championship includes 37 fights featuring men's two-round bouts, men's special three-round bouts and women's three bouts.

"This competition is for the emergence of new comers. Young

people are learning in various martial arts clubs. Because of this, young people have the desire to fight, so we are holding it in collaboration with the federation and former open class champion Lone Chaw to commemorate the Olympics," said U Kyaw Zin Oo, Chief Executive Officer of the Myanmar Lethwei Federation.

During the tourney, Dr Tin Aung Lwin, President of the Myanmar Lethwei Federation donated K500,000 to Lone Chaw Lethwei (LCL) Group, supervisor of the tourney. — Arkar Linn/KZL

Altai Regatta Dragon Festival: Myanmar stands 1st with two golds

MYANMAR rowers secured further gold medal at the men's 10-oar 500 metre rowing event of Altai Regatta Dragon Festival held on 30 June in Barnaul, Russia.

The Myanmar team won the gold medal again and won the first place among partici-

pating countries.

During the men's 10-oar 500 metre rowing event, Indonesia followed Myanmar, grabbing the silver medal and Cambodia garnering the bronze medal. Meanwhile, Team Philippines garnered the fourth place, Uzbekistan the fifth and Russia

the sixth.

After the competitions, the Myanmar team won the two gold medals in the 200 metre and 500 metre events, but in the 2000 metre race, the Myanmar team tried their best, but they were satisfied with the 6th place as a result. — Arkar Linn/KZL



Team Myanmar (front) competes with Team Indonesia during the men's 10-oar 500 metre rowing event of Altai Regatta Dragon Festival on 30 June in Barnaul, Russia.

Euro 2024: Germany sees off Denmark to reach quarterfinals

GERMANY'S qualification for the quarterfinals marks a significant achievement, as it's their first time reaching this stage in the European Championship in eight years.

For the first time in eight

years Germany booked the quarterfinals in the Euro 2024 after goals from Kai Havertz and Jamal Musiala secured the host a 2-0 win over Denmark in last 16 at Dortmund's Signal Iduna Park on Saturday.

Germany took the reins from the starting whistle and thought they had opened the scoring with just four minutes played but Nico Schlotterbeck's opener was ruled out due to a foregone foul play. — Xinhua

National Stadium expansion planned for Japan to host FIFA World Cup

This expansion is primarily driven by Japan's goal to host another FIFA World Cup, with FIFA's requirement that the main venue for the 2034 World Cup hold 80,000 spectators for the opening game and final.

JAPAN'S goal of hosting another FIFA World Cup has spurred plans to increase the seating at Tokyo's National Stadium to 80,000, a source with knowledge of the matter said Saturday.

The country's largest mobile carrier, NTT Docomo Inc., set to lead the venue's operation once it is privatized next April, revealed its plan to add pitch-side seating at the stadium, which currently seats around 68,000.

The Tokyo Olympics' and Paralympics' main venue was designed to be renovated following the games as an 80,000-

seat stadium specifically for football and rugby, but a policy change has left its athletics track and original capacity intact. "We have a plan to set up the number of seats, including some temporary ones, required for the World Cup," NTT Docomo said.

The Japan Football Association has a long-term plan to stage the World Cup as a solo host by 2050 after co-hosting the 2002 tournament with South Korea. Currently, FIFA requires the main venue at the 2034 World Cup to hold 80,000 for the opening game and final.

It also mandates 60,000-seat semifinal venues.

NTT Docomo is also considering installing a giant screen, which is expected to be one of Japan's biggest. Three groups proposed privatization plans for the venue, and on 3 June the Japan Sport Council named the one that includes NTT Docomo, football's J-League, constructor Maeda Corp. and real estate firm SMFL Mirai Partners Co., Ltd, as its preferred bidder, after examining the different bidders' respective operating plans and costs. — Kyodo



File photo taken on 15 December 2019, shows Tokyo's National Stadium. PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

Lebanese prime minister says his country in state of war due to threats from Israel

PAGE-14



WORLD

Hong Kong launches series of activities to mark 27th anniversary of return to motherland

The event, hosted in Victoria Park, highlighted the achievements and ongoing success of the "one country, two systems" framework.

A launching ceremony marking the 27th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland was held in Victoria Park of Hong Kong on Saturday, kicking off a series of celebration activities.

John Lee, chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), said at the ceremony that this year is of great significance as it marks not only the 27th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland, but also the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Since Hong Kong's return to the motherland, with the firm support of the country, the efforts of the HKSAR government, the concerted efforts of all sectors of society and the hard work of residents, Hong Kong has been riding the waves and constantly breaking new ground, creating success for the practice of "one

country, two systems," Lee said. Zheng Yanxiang, director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, said that with the country's strong backing, Hong Kong can achieve better development by integrating into the over-

all national development. Hong Kong will continue

to enhance its international competitiveness, consolidate and enhance its position in eight key areas, maintain a free, open and standardized business environment, expand smooth and convenient international connections, and further consolidate and give full play to its unique status and advantages, Zheng said.

As part of the celebration activities, a series of exhibitions and performances showcasing China's traditional culture

innovative development will be held in Victoria Park from 29 June to 2 July, with the provincial-level regions of Sichuan, Liaoning, Jiangxi, Shandong, Shaanxi and Ningxia setting up booths to introduce local culture and tourism.

— Xinhua



People pose for photos at a celebration activity marking the 27th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland in Victoria Park in Hong Kong, south China, 29 June 2024. PHOTO: ZHU WEI/XINHUA

North Korea accuses US, Japan, South Korea of creating 'Asian version of NATO'

Planned annually since a summit at Camp David last August, the drills signal a strategic alignment among the three countries, prompting strong reactions from North Korea.



South Korean protesters wearing masks perform with cardboard cutouts depicting padlocks reading "War Alliance" during a protest against a trilateral military exercise on 27 June 2024. PHOTO: JUNG YEON-JE/AFP

THE North Korean Foreign Ministry has accused Japan, the United States and South Korea (ROK) of creating a "Asian version of NATO" over holding trilateral military drills earlier in the month, North Korean state-run news agency KCNA reported on Sunday.

On Saturday, Freedom Edge, a three-day military exercise involving Japan, the US and South Korea concluded in the East China Sea. The drills, which will be conducted annually, were designed at the three-way summit at Camp David last August to boost military cooperation amid tensions on the Korean peninsula amid North Korea's increased tests of ballistic missiles.

"The US is now claiming that the US-Japan-ROK relations are just cooperative ones for strengthening regional stability and security and do not mean NATO of Asian version, but it is nothing but rhetoric to evade international criticism of the formation of an aggressive bloc," the ministry said. The North Korean Foreign Ministry has accused Japan, the United States and South Korea (ROK) of creating a "Asian version of NATO" over holding trilateral military drills earlier in the month, North Korean state-run news agency KCNA reported on Sunday. — SPUTNIK

PROMOTION OF CULTURAL IDENTITY

Laos to build new museum to boost tourism

LAOS is building the largest museum in the country, which will bring together 10,000 rare wood products, artworks, and ancient artifacts, which is expected to become an interesting tourist attraction for both domestic and foreign tourists.

The construction of the Vientiane Museum of Contemporary Arts is expected to be finished in 2024, with the hope that it will become a new and important tourist spot in the Lao capital, Lao National Radio reported on Sunday.

The Vientiane Museum of Contemporary Arts is located in Xaythany district in Vientiane. The construction started in 2021 and the project has a budget of more than 50 million US dollars. —Xinhua