

## Despite different duties, all Tatmadaw members are serving duties at all units of Tatmadaw



Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets Tatmadaw members and families from Meiktila Station at the hall of local airbase headquarters of Central Command yesterday.

Solidarity inside and outside the military units must be applied in serving the interests of relevant regions.

**S**enior General Min Aung Hlaing underlined that no matter what Tatmadaw members are serving at infantry or light infantry regiments in frontlines or at other military corps, they must have capabilities of serving State defence and security duties successfully.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gave guidance as mentioned above to Tatmadaw members and families from Meiktila Station at the hall of local airbase headquarters of Central Command yesterday afternoon.

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### Salient points of the speech of the Senior General at the meeting with Tatmadaw members and families of Meiktila Station

1. No matter what Tatmadaw members are serving at infantry or light infantry regiments in frontlines or at other military corps, they must have capabilities of serving State defence and security duties successfully.
2. Individual Tatmadaw members and relevant units must have capacity to serve State defence duties.
3. All Tatmadaw members have to wipe off those harmful to sovereignty of the State and protect life and property of the people.
4. Leaders of units have to create good environment for subordinates and families and realize the fair administrative system.

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Up to 360 Japanese companies to recruit more than 1,500 Myanmar workers



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JICA loan for machinery to aid farmers in FY2024-2025

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# NATIONAL

## Construction of Great Poet Shin Maha Ratthasara's mausoleum almost complete, entrance road to be built



Mausoleum of scholar Shin Maha Ratthasara under construction.

THE construction of the Shin Maha Ratthasara's mausoleum, a renowned classical poet of Inwa era, at Kyat Thaye Kone in Pyay, is 90 per cent complete and the entrance road to the mausoleum is also under arrangement to construct.

It will cost over K15 million to construct the road which will be 300 feet long and eight feet wide, Dr Than Min Htut, also known as Pindaya Mee Eain Shin, who is an organizer of the mausoleum and the road, wrote about it on his Facebook page.

"During the rainy season,

the access road to the mausoleum is muddy and slippery, so it is not convenient for visitors. We plan to continue building the entrance road. When we invited donations for the road, we have received K 1.85 million as the first batch," he said.

The public donation of K23.6 million was spent to restore and renovate the very rare mausoleum of the classical Inwa poet to commemorate his 555<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The scholar Shin Maha Ratthasara died at the age of 62 in Pyay in 892 Myanmar era.

— MT/ZN



A pangolin found near the Mandalay Railway Station.

### Rescued pangolin released to nature

AN endangered species pangolin, which was found near Mandalay Railway Station, was released to nature, according to the Aphyu Yaung Social Rescue Association.

The pangolin was found at midnight on 12 June, and a man rescued it as dogs attacked it.

"It was attacked by dogs there, so we rescued it. We have no idea what we can feed it the next morning. It is a tame one, so we asked the Shwe Myitta association to come to catch it. And

they are keen to release it back, so we did it," said Daw Ei Theint Theint Swe, Chair of the Aphyu Yaung Social Rescue Association.

In order to help it live in its natural habitat, they released it on 13 June, and it is still unknown where it came from, she said.

"Pangolin is on the list of endangered species. We released it into the forest near a monastery in PyinOoLwin. Its length is over 1.5 feet," she said. — Thit Taw/ZS

## Up to 360 Japanese companies to recruit more than 1,500 Myanmar workers

UP to 360 Japanese companies have offered jobs for over 1,500 Myanmar workers, Myanmar Embassy to Japan said in a statement.

It is the statement about 369 demand letters which were re-submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after verification until 7 May 2024.

According to it, more than 360 Japanese companies will recruit more than 500 Myanmar male workers and more than 1,000 Myanmar female workers and it added that the embassy has carried out verification of demand letters received from the Ministry of Labour through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It verifies whether labour supervisory company and



Some Myanmar workers left for Japan in 2023.

factories or companies which offered jobs in Japan are officially established or not, and re-submits its findings and remarks to the Ministry of Labour through the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs.

In a statement released on 31 May about up to 400 demand letters, up to 1,300 Myanmar workers would be recruited. — MT/ZS

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### Bogyoke Aung San Museum (Yangon) to be closed temporarily

THE Department of Archaeology and National Museum requested that as preparations will be made to host the special show in commemo-

ration of the 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Martyrs' Day, the Bogyoke Aung San Museum (Yangon) will be closed from 17 June to 18 July. The

museum will be reopened on 19 July. Visitors will be admitted to observe there free of charge like previous years. — GNLM

# NATIONAL

## Despite different duties, all Tatmadaw members are serving duties at all units of Tatmadaw

### FROM PAGE 1

The Senior General noted that as Tatmadaw is responsible for serving State defence duties, individual Tatmadaw members and relevant units must have capacity to serve the aforesaid duties.

He noted that applying the military techniques and maneuvers, all Tatmadaw members have to wipe off those undermining sovereignty of the State, and protect life and property of the people.

The Senior General stressed the need for individuals and units of military corps must have security knowledge and awareness with readiness to fight enemies.

The Senior General disclosed that Tatmadaw is encouraging Tatmadaw members and families to have results of the education promotion plan.

He continued that individuals need to read for accumulating general knowledge, while encouraging their offspring to learn education and read literature.

The Senior General instructed all Tatmadaw members and families to avoid the activities of declining their individual capability and harming their families and the organization due to drinking and indulgence.

He underscored that successful operating manageable-scale agriculture and livestock farming must primarily contribute to welfare of Tatmadaw members and families.

Leaders of units have to create good environment for subor-

dinates and families and realize the fair administrative system through commanderly spirit and fatherly spirit he added.

The Senior General asked about requirements of Tatmadaw members and families and attended to their needs.

Also present at the ceremony were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Zwe Win Myint and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and officials.

The Senior General presented foodstuffs to Tatmadaw members and families of Meiktila Station through the station commander, and the wife of the Senior General gave cash assistance for the station maternal and child welfare association through the wife of the station commander.

After the ceremony, the Senior General, his wife and party viewed round regiments and units in Meiktila Station in a motorcade. — MNA/TTA

## MoI UM departs for 5<sup>th</sup> Lancang-Mekong Audiovisual Week in China



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn is pictured before departing for Kunming, Yunnan Province yesterday.

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn left Yangon for Kunming of Yunnan Province in China yesterday to attend the 5<sup>th</sup> Lancang-Mekong Audiovisual Week (LMAW), which will take place from 17 to 20 June in Kunming, Yuxi city, Yunnan Province, the People's Republic of China. The ministerial officials saw him off at Yangon International Airport.

The Union minister was accompanied by Ministry of Information's Permanent Secretary U Win Kyaw Aung, Director-General of Myanma Radio and Television U Ye Naing and officials from the Information Ministry.

Arriving at the Kunming airport, the Union minister and party were welcomed by officials from Yunnan Media Group.

The 5<sup>th</sup> LMAW is jointly hosted by the National Radio and Television Administration of China, the Ministry of Information and Communications of Vietnam, and the People's Government of Yunnan Province with the aim of achieving Lancang-Mekong audiovisual cooperation and further promoting audiovisual exchanges and cooperation in six countries of Lancang-Mekong region, contributing to the accelerated construction of an Asian community with a shared future to enhance mutual understanding and trust among the peoples of China and South and Southeast Asian countries by showcasing their unique intangible cultural heritages. It also seeks to preserve, innovate, and develop the civilizations of these countries through cooperation. — MNA/KZL

## Union Sports Minister back from 33<sup>rd</sup> SEA Games Federation meetings

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan who is also chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee arrived back in Yangon at 11:30 am yesterday after attending the 1<sup>st</sup> Southeast Asian Games Federation (SEAGF) Meetings for the XXXIII SEA Games in Bangkok, Thailand on 14 and 15 June.

Officials welcomed back the Union Minister and party

at the Yangon International Airport. The Union Minister was accompanied by Sports and Physical Education Department Director General U Tun Myint Oo and MOC members. The Myanmar delegation attended the signing ceremony of the Host City Contract for the 33<sup>rd</sup> SEA Games Thailand 2025 and 1<sup>st</sup> SEAGF Council Meeting (Part-1) on 14 June.

They also joined the SEAGF Anti-Doping Commit-



Union Minister U Min Thein Zan seen together with participants of SEA Games meetings in Thailand.

tee Meeting, SEAGF Medical Committee Meeting, SEAGF Sports and Rules Committee

Meeting, SEAGF Women and Sports Committee Meeting, SEAGF Executive Commit-

tee Meeting and 1<sup>st</sup> SEAGF Council Meeting (Part-2) on 15 June. — MNA/KZL

# NATIONAL

## Food and Beverage Myanmar 2024 to showcase wide range of products

THE Food and Beverage Myanmar 2024 is scheduled to take place at the Yangon Convention Centre (YCC) at the Inya Lake Hotel compound from 28 to 30 June.

The exhibition will feature instant food products, beverages, bakery supplies, restaurant and hotel cookware, as well as packaging machines for food products. Additionally, machines for hotels and restaurants, bedroom accessories, and software will be displayed and available for purchase.

The event will host a forum with presentations by domestic and international specialists covering topics such as milk and dairy product production, organic fruit production and marketing, food safety procedures, and international certification applications. Renowned chefs from Myanmar will also

conduct practical cooking demonstrations.

Moreover, the 1<sup>st</sup> Myanmar Bed Making Competition, featuring trainees from the hotel service industry, will be a highlight of the event, making it a must-see for those interested in the hotel and tourism industry, especially as it marks the first such competition in Myanmar.

The Food and Beverage Myanmar / HORECA Myanmar 2024 is provided by the Myanmar Tourism Federation, Myanmar Hoteliers Association, and Myanmar Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association.

For more information about the event, interested parties can contact Silver Sea International Ltd at 09409400055 or 09409400077. — Myo Min Thura/ TRKM



Already-renovated staff housings aim to accommodate staff in Hsihseng.

## Staff housing renovated in Hsihseng to accommodate employees

REPAIR work has been carried out on two staff housing buildings that were damaged by terrorist attacks in Hsihseng, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, Shan State (North). Thus, the resettlement of departmental staff was done at the site on 15 June.

Members of the Sangha were invited to recite Buddha's Paritta during the housing accomplishing ceremony. Well-wishers donated offerings to members of the Sangha. After that, the Urban and Housing Development Department official shared the

terms and conditions of the resettlement work to ensure the comfort of living for the departmental staff working in Hsihseng. Officials and employees collectively planted shade trees to make the staff housing green. — Nay Min (Hsihseng)/KZL

### Counter-argument to false information

## False claims: Security forces set fire to about 40 houses at Phattawayay village of Natmawk Township

THE subversive news media are spreading the false news claiming that the security forces burnt the Phattawayay village of Natmawk Township of Magway Region and destroyed 40 houses of the village on 13 June.



Concerning about the news, a security official reported that the true occurrence was that the PDF terrorists extorted money and recruited new members. Therefore, the local people were running away and the security forces were conducting the security operations, according to the report of a responsible citizen. The temporary tents of the terrorists were found 500 metres from the Phattawayay village and they attacked the security forces with the small arms. So, both sides exchanged fire. Later, the terrorists ran away with a lot of injuries.

Subsequently, the handmade mines and explosive materials from the terrorists' temporary tents were destroyed systematically by the security forces not to be harmful to the public. Hence, the spreading news, the security forces burnt and destroyed the Phattawayay village, is just a fake one. — MNA/ TRKM

## Circulating untruths: 3 youths of Shwebo Township arrested

IT is seen that the false news is spreading on the social media claiming that Tatmadaw made a list of people and arrested three young males at Ward 10 of Shwebo Township in Sagaing Region on 14 June.



When it is contacted the person in charge of security in the relevant area to inquire whether the incident is correct or not, it is reported that on 14 June, Tatmadaw was usually taking the normal security measures during the town and the news was just a fake one. In the Shwebo Township, the security forces are operating the security in accordance with the rules and regulations and there were no lawless actions of arresting the citizens. The security forces are only focusing on serving for the peace and tranquility and law enforcement of the country. — MNA/ TRKM

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# NATIONAL

## Myanmar Comedians' Association to hold fundraising event for senior comedians

THE Myanmar Comedians' Association (Yangon) will hold a fundraising event for the 14<sup>th</sup> time to donate cash assistance to senior comedians, according to comedian San Lin, a member of the association's fundraising team.

The fundraising event is scheduled for 22 and 23 June at the Thiri Mingalar Monastery in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

"We always pay respect to our seniors every year and

we're supporting them with kindness, especially for food and medical expenses. When some reach 60 years old, it's like receiving a pension. So, we'll donate cash and kind to them by organizing an event, as no one offers them Job," said comedian Ko San Lin.

It is known that stunt actor Ko John, comedians San Lin, and Kyel Thee, Kyi Thar (Pwe Kyeik Khin), and dancer Wah Wah Khine will participate in the performances, which will

be broadcast live from 9 am to 6 pm to raise funds.

In 2023, the Myanmar Comedians' Association (Yangon) provided cash assistance to more than 70 senior comedians aged 65 and over. This year, over 150 senior comedians will receive cash assistance. It is reported that the 14<sup>th</sup> respect-paying ceremony will be held by the association at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw on 7 July 2024. — ASH/ TRKM



Photo shows respect-paying ceremony to senior comedians last year.



Chinese tourists visiting in May 2024 on a familiarization trip to promote Myanmar-China tourism joining the commemorative tree planting festival.

## One Tourist-One Tree programme to start in coming July

ACCORDING to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, the One Tourist-One Tree programme will be launched in coming July, allowing international tourists to plant commemorative trees in Nay Pyi Taw, Bagan, Mandalay, Yangon, Chaungtha, and Ngwehsaung.

The One Tourist-One Tree programme aims to promote responsible tourism service among international visitors to Myanmar and to increase biodiversity, making the environment lush and green.

"In order for tourists visiting Myanmar to plant trees, the One Tourist-One Tree programme will be implemented

in six destinations: Nay Pyi Taw, Bagan, Yangon, Mandalay, Ngwehsaung, and Chaungtha, from July to November this year. Foreign tourists in individuals or in groups visit Myanmar, and some come under the arrangements of travel companies. We coordinate with travel companies to plant trees wherever international tourists visit," said an official from the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

From January to May 2024, more than 100,000 international travellers have entered the country by air, with most of the tourists coming from China and Thailand. — ASH/TKO

## Three tropical regions to grow over 1.6 M saplings this rainy season

A total of over 1.6 million saplings are scheduled to be planted during this rainy season in the tropical zones of Myanmar, including the Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway regions, according to the Director of the Dry Zone Greening Department, U Myint Soe.

So far, more than 1.2 million out of more than 1.6 million saplings have been planted in the designated areas.

"A total of 2,575 acres of forest plantations were developed in the 2023-24 financial year. Over 139,000 seedlings were grown for special green plantations; over 10,000 seedlings were planted in Yenangyoung Township for a special green project; and over

30,000 seedlings were planted. With two acres allocated per village, over 180,000 trees and saplings were grown for the following projects: three trees for firewood and 20 hardwood plants per household have been planted. In the 2024-25 financial year, we plan to develop more forest planta-

tions, special plantations, and two acres of plants per village. Neem trees will also be grown under the special project. More than 1.6 million seedlings and plants are projected to be grown along both sides of the Bagan-NyaungU-Chauk road, Kyaukpadaung-NyaungU road, and Meiktila-Kyaukpadaung road this rainy season," said U Myint Soe.

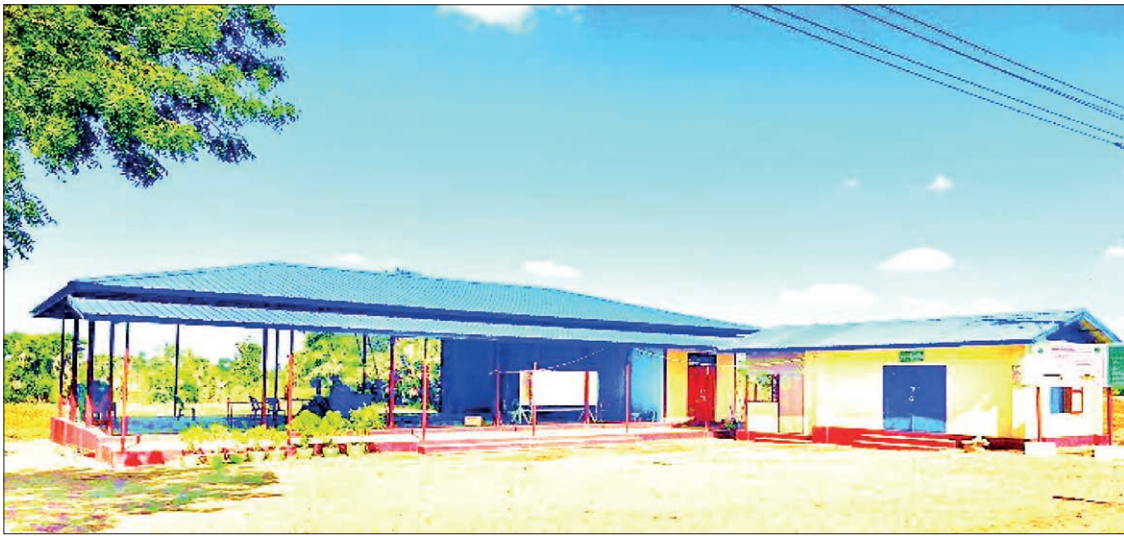
The Dry Zone Greening Department has been preserving natural forests, developing new forests and plantations, substituting alternative fuels for firewood, and implementing programmes to provide water access in the dry zone. — ASH/TMT



Trees and saplings that are prepared to be grown in the dry zone.

# NATIONAL

## Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development implements smart villages



A scene bears development of new Bawnin Village in Kalaw Township facilitated with water meters and electric meters.

THE Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development plans to implement 40 smart villages under the Smart Village Project this financial year.

The Smart Village Project aims to narrow the development gap between urban and rural areas, improve living standards for rural residents, and strengthen the local economy. It began as a five-year initiative starting from the financial year 2022-2023, with 43 villages already implemented in its inaugural year.

In the subsequent financial year of 2023-2024, officials expanded the project to 45 villages,

and an additional 40 villages are slated for implementation in the current 2024-2025 financial year. To ensure ongoing success, the relevant committee and local communities are closely monitoring operational management in these villages.

Collaboration among the Department of Cooperative, the Department of Rural Development, the Department of Small-Scale Industries, and other related departments is critical. They work in concert in field supervision, provide necessary technologies, and address project challenges as they arise. — TWA/KZL

## Myanmar Seafarers Federation to host Day of the Seafarer 2024

THE Myanmar Seafarers Federation (MSF) has announced that the Day of the Seafarer 2024 will be organized at the federation's headquarters from 12 noon to 4 pm on 25 June.

The event aims to foster friendships among seafarers and their families and to initiate the sharing of knowledge and experiences. The federation has invited seafarers who served in 2012, 2013, 2015, 2017, and 2020, along with their families, to attend the event.

Additionally, the MSF plans to hold a blood donation ceremony on Monday, 24 June



QR code for scanning to donate blood.

2024, in honour of DotS. Those interested in donating blood can find detailed information on the MSF website. — TWA/TMT

## 679,000 tonnes of fertilizers, 10,922 tonnes of pesticides allowed to import in 3 months

THE Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development has announced that a total of 679,000 tonnes of fertilizers and 10,922 tonnes of pesticides were allowed for import from abroad within the first three months of this year.

It is reported that a total of 1.6 million tonnes of fertilizer will be imported to meet domestic needs this financial year. The supplies of fertilizer and pesticides have been imported sufficiently for the monsoon paddy season. The Urea Fertilizer Purchasing and Distribution Steering Committee is currently distributing

essential agricultural inputs to farmers at affordable prices before the planting season

begins, aiming to boost crop yields. — TWA/TRKM



Photo bears bags of imported fertilizers last year.



The photo shows the Lokanat Theatre.

## Lokanat Theatre in Mandalay to be upgraded to condo

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Mandalay Region), the Lokanat Theatre will be upgraded to become a Mandalay Theatrical Condominium.

The theatre is located in Shwephoneshein Ward, Mahaaungmyay Township, on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street,

between 82<sup>nd</sup> Street and 84<sup>th</sup> Street, and a condominium will be built under the guidance of the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central).

The new building, 'Mandalay Theatrical Condominium', will be available for various artistes to use for their activities. — TWA/MKKS

## Improved trade routes at Mawtaung-Singkhorn border checkpoint attracts more traders

THE trade volumes at the Mawtaung-Singkhorn border checkpoint, a Myanmar-Thailand crossing in Taninthayi Region, have been increasing due to improved trade routes, attracting more Myanmar bor-

der-trade businesses to enhance trading through the checkpoint, according to local traders. “Aquatic products are the main exports, along with agricultural produce such as chilli peppers, bananas, and onions. Fruits, consumer goods, and food are imported from Thailand. Due to good trade routes,



People leading to Mawtaung-Singkhorn border gate.

der-trade businesses to enhance trading through the checkpoint, according to local traders.

the area is conveniently positioned for entrepreneurs and local residents,” said a mer-



Trucks seen in a queue heading to Mawtaung-Singkhorn border checkpoint.

chant from Myeik Township on 14 June.

From 5 to 8 June, the export value at the Mawtaung border was US\$0.8377 million, comprising \$0.8220 million in exports and \$0.0157 million in imports, according to statistics released by the Department of Trade under the Ministry of Commerce.

“The trade activity is increasing significantly. Thailand is planning to establish the Singkhorn border gate as a permanent entry point for use as a western trade corridor. Entrepreneurs and civil soci-

ety organizations in Thailand are urging their government to upgrade the border gate to permanent status. Located on the shortest route to Bangkok, the Mawtaung-Singkhorn border gate is expected to bolster trade in the near future,” said a merchant involved in Myanmar-Thai border trade.

For more than a decade, the Mawtaung border gate has been permanently opened by Myanmar, whereas the Singkhorn border gate in Thailand remains designated as a special temporary border gate.

The distance from Myeik to Mawtaung is over 120 miles, and the cost of transporting a truck is about K700,000, reportedly exceeding that amount due to additional expenses incurred along the way.

Aquatic products, agricultural produce, and various foods are primarily traded between the Mawtaung gate in Taninthayi Township, Taninthayi Region and the Singkhorn border gate located in Dansing Khon village, Prachuap Khiri Khan Province, Thailand. — Myint Oo (Myeik)/TH

## JICA loan for machinery to aid farmers in FY2024-2025

FOR farmers who wish to purchase agricultural types of machinery in the 2024-2025 fiscal year, more than K30 billion have been allocated under the JICA Two-Step Loan to be disbursed as loans, according to the Myanmar Agricultural De-

velopment Bank (MADB). Cooperation between the MADB and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the JICA Two-Step Loan will be extended to farmers who want to buy machinery for agricultural and rural development, and

under the programme, an individual farmer can receive a maximum loan amount of K70 million and a group of farmers can receive up to K500 million.

Those who want to buy agricultural machinery under the JICA Two-Step Loan must have the ownership of farmland Form 7 in their name, while they need to pledge immovable property along with the endorsement of two financially sound businesspersons.

Farmers who meet these requirements can contact the respective district and township branches of the MADB to apply for the JICA Two-Step Loan, the bank said.

— ASH/ZN



Photo shows agricultural machinery that farmers can buy on credit.



A hotel in Magway Region.

## Magway Region greenlights new investment in May

ACCORDING to the Magway Region Investment Committee, regional authorities granted a new Myanmar citizen investment totalling K1,280 million in May, which is expected to create 33 job opportunities.

A member of the Magway Region Investment Committee said, “One new local investment was approved at the 5/2024 meeting of the Magway Region Investment Committee, which took place

on 30 May. The approved business operates in the hotels and tourism sector”.

In the meeting, the committee also granted permission for certain businesses to increase their total fixed capital. The region saw an increase in the labour force during the month. The Magway Region Investment Committee has been approving new investments, both local and foreign, monthly to create employment opportunities. — ASH/TMT

# OPINION

## Combat desertification and drought: A collective responsibility

**T**HE world has been grappling with natural disasters and climate change for years. Despite the increasing intensity of these disasters, Earth has been striving to adapt and survive the changing climate. This adaptation is crucial not only for the planet but also for the 3.2 billion people affected by environmental degradation, particularly in rural communities.

Desertification and drought are two of the most severe consequences of environmental degradation, causing extensive damage to life and property. These phenomena are largely driven by human activities such as deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices, and unregulated use of water resources. Additionally, carbon dioxide emissions contribute to air pollution, further exacerbating the problem.

The UN General Assembly adopted three objectives related to mitigating the desertification and drought: to promote public awareness about desertification and drought as the first objective, to let people know that desertification and drought can be effectively tackled, that solutions are possible and that key tools to this aim lay in strengthened community participation and cooperation at all levels as the second objective and to enhance implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in countries experiencing severe drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa as the third and last objective.

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To mitigate the impacts of desertification and drought, it is essential for everyone to take responsibility for preventing environmental degradation. Sustainable practices, responsible use of natural resources, and reducing carbon emissions are critical steps toward this goal. By doing so, everybody can ensure a greener, more resilient environment for future generations.

Addressing desertification and drought requires a unified global effort. By raising awareness, promoting practical solutions, and strengthening international cooperation, everybody can combat these pressing issues, create a sustainable legacy for the planet and its inhabitants, and enjoy good results free from desertification and droughts.

In response to these challenges, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on 30 January 1995 to draft the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The day of 17 June was designated as a significant day to raise awareness about desertification and drought, promoting methods to prevent and recover from these issues.

This year's theme for Desertification and Drought Day is "United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future," aligning with the objectives of the UNCCD. The statistics are alarming: between 1990 and 2019, droughts affected 2.7 billion people and caused 11.7 million deaths. Projections suggest that by 2050, droughts may impact over three-quarters of the global population.

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**G**ROWING up in India, I would spend summer breaks visiting my grandparents in Kolkata. Each afternoon, my grandmother settled down on a floor mat, facing the family's worship room, where stone idols of Hindu deities sat on little wooden thrones. For half an hour, she would sit still, her eyes closed, fingers rolling her prayer beads, chanting Krishna's name in a barely audible whisper. As a little boy, I found this an opportune moment to tiptoe around her and help myself to the jar of delicious sweetened tamarind paste she kept on a shelf behind where she sat. But I never thought much about what she might be getting out of this daily ritual.

It's impossible to know, objectively, whether those afternoon meditation sessions helped my grandmother achieve some sort of communion with a higher power, but a growing body of scientific evidence suggests she benefited from it in multiple ways. The practice was likely an effective approach for her to manage her stress. It may have also helped slow down ageing-related cognitive decline — a possible explanation for why she remained mentally sharp until the very end. It also probably enhanced her ability to cope with pain.

Defined most broadly as the exercise of focusing one's attention on the current moment, meditation in some form has been practised for millennia within religious traditions around the world. Many contemplative practices are rooted in a quest for spiritual enlightenment, yet meditators have long believed their practice has health benefits. Over the past three decades, research has begun to confirm those health claims. One recent study determined that a daily practice of mindfulness meditation — which was defined as attending keenly to one's thoughts and emotions for 45 minutes — relieved anxiety and acted as an antidepressant. Another found that mindfulness-based cognitive therapy — in which individuals learn to break negative thought patterns using breathing exercises and meditation — lessened the severity of treatment-resistant depression among adults who were still taking medication during the study.

In fact, as meditation's popularity has grown along with awareness about the importance of mental health and stress relief, many are learning there are health benefits from doing breathing exercises for just a few minutes a day. Many US schools now have programmes that teach meditation to students, with the percentage of children ages four to 17 taking part in meditative practices such as mindfulness increasing ninefold from 2012 to 2017. Finding opportunities to learn and practice meditation has never been easier: Dozens of meditation apps such as Headspace and Calm offer people the option of using their smartphones — otherwise a source of distraction — to immerse themselves in sessions guided by instructors, with calming music playing in the background, at their own convenience.

"Twenty years ago, when I used to tell people I meditated, they would think I was in a cult or something," notes neuroscientist Kathryn Devaney, executive director of the Berkeley, California, Alembic body-mind centre. "They would ask, what is that? And then something changed around six years or so ago. Now, when I talk to people about meditation, the response I get often is, 'Oh, I know I should be doing that.' And that's so different." Now, research aims

# An Antidote To Stress

By Yin Nwe Ko

to understand why meditating confers the benefits it does. Sara Lazar, a Massachusetts General Hospital neuroscientist, and her colleagues have done studies illuminating how meditation reduces anxiety, which has similar symptoms to stress. One compared two stress-reduction programs: one mindfulness-based, in which 42 volunteers learned awareness meditation and yoga practices for eight weeks, and the other exercise-based, where 25 volunteers did light aerobic exercises. Both groups performed a fear-conditioning task similar to exposure therapy, in which an anxiety-inducing stimulus is repeatedly presented in a safer environment until it no longer triggers anxiety. Volunteers were shown an image of a lamp that glowed blue, green, or yellow, receiving a mild electric shock with two of the colours. Later, the same image was presented to them without the shock to extinguish the "fear memory" and create a new "safety memory" associated with the lights.

Lazar and her colleagues found those who received the mindfulness-based stress-reduction training were better able to shed their fearful response to the shock-associated lamp colours. From brain scans, the researchers concluded that the volunteers' training had changed how their brains processed the "safety memory". They increased their ability to recall that the stimulus was no longer threatening.

Meditation's benefits may extend beyond stress and anxiety



PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

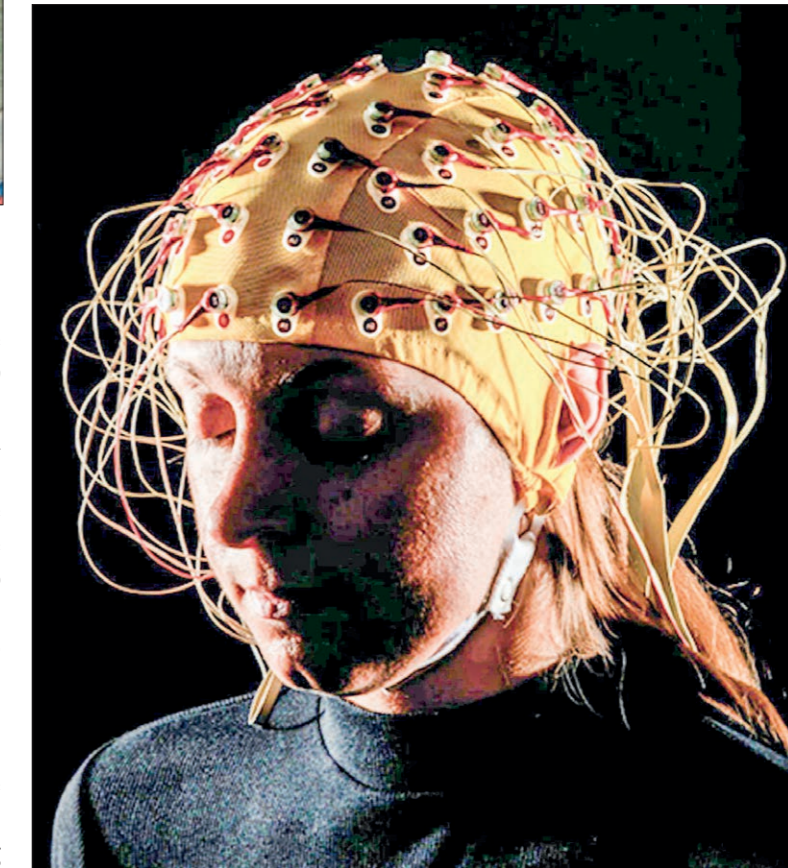
reduction. Fadel Zeidan, a neuroscientist at the University of California, San Diego, studies how mindfulness can help reduce pain. In a recent study, Zeidan and colleagues used functional MRI scans of volunteers' brains during meditation and pain to understand how meditation works to alleviate discomfort. Volunteers were assigned to two groups — one went through mindfulness meditation training, and a control group listened to a pretty tame book (The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne, a classic of 18<sup>th</sup>-century nature writing).

First, the volunteers rated their pain after a hot probe pressed to their calf produced 100 seconds of intermittent heat pain across five minutes (they could move their leg away at any time). Then, they went through the same process again, but this time, the mindfulness group was asked to meditate during the painful heat, while those in the control group were asked to rest with their eyes closed.

Volunteers who meditated reported feeling less pain. "We see a 33 per cent drop in pain intensity and unpleasantness during

meditation, while the pain levels in the control group actually go up," Zeidan says.

Why does meditation provide relief? Zeidan says analysis of the meditators' scans showed pain relief induced by meditation was associated with reduced activation in neural networks involved in self-awareness. The greatest decrease in activation is seen in the medial prefrontal cortex — a neural hub that plays a prominent role in self-reflection and valuing oneself. "During the meditation, the self-value is deactivating," Zeidan says. "And the more it goes down, the greater the analgesia, the greater the pain relief." The



brain is still receiving pain signals, but "they are not going into the brain networks that are saying, this is my pain," he explains. In essence, mindfulness appears to help detach the self from the suffering.

Last November, I travelled to a prison — a place presumably rife with stress. Yet I was at the Howard R Young Correctional Institution in Wilmington, Delaware, to watch meditation teachers from the International Association for Human Values lead a session for about 20 incarcerated men. IAHV was founded by spiritual leader Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, who has popularized Sudarshan Kriya Yoga (SKY), a technique using rhythmic breathing to focus the mind. Like other forms of meditation, SKY promises to give practitioners the ability to stay calm and be less reactive in stressful situations. More than 800,000 imprisoned people and correctional

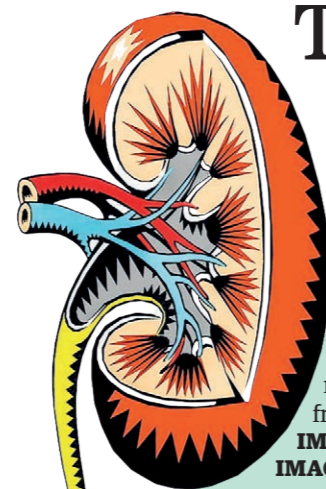
officers in 60 countries have gone through the IAHV programme.

Some at the session I attended had already received training in the technique and were striving to apply it to their daily lives. (Prison authorities allowed me to interview them on condition I did not use last names.) I spoke to Jorge, a short man in his late 20s with a wispy beard and bright eyes, who was sent to the Wilmington prison for first-degree assault in 2016. He told me he was born in Puerto Rico and moved to mainland America at age five. Because he wasn't fluent in English, his peers laughed at him in school. "I didn't know how to respond," he told me. So, he got into fights.

Jorge had heard about meditation years earlier while in a wrestling club. Somebody he knew there would meditate before matches and didn't seem to get agitated, even when losing. "I used to wonder, how come I'm so mad and he's always calm?" Jorge said. The question had been partly answered, he said, by what he had been learning in the prison meditation programme. And he'd begun applying that to his life. "When I feel like I'm getting flustered or angry, I just breathe," he told me.

On a recent trip to my family home in Kolkata, I stood quietly outside the worship room, right where my grandmother used to meditate. It had been 20 years since she died. There was no jar of tamarind paste for me to steal from. At 51, I was far more weighed down by life's stresses than I had been as a boy sneaking past my grandmother. Perhaps the time had come, I felt, to make it a daily habit to meditate.

Reference: National Geographic Magazine June 2024



The kidneys play a crucial role in maintaining overall health by filtering waste from the bloodstream. **ILLUSTRATION: IMAGE FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES / IMAGE CREDIT: PEXELS**

## Tooth loss and chronic renal disease may be related in postmenopausal women: Study

*These findings underscore the interconnectedness of various health factors and the importance of monitoring kidney function especially in post-menopausal women, who may be at higher risk due to hormonal shifts and associated health changes.*

THE kidneys are essential for maintaining general health because they filter waste from the circulation. A number of grave, sometimes fatal medical disorders

may arise if they are unable to effectively filter out foreign substances. According to a recent study, tooth loss and chronic renal disease may be related.

The findings of the survey are published online in Menopause, the journal of The Menopause Society.

The glomerular filtration rate of a female indicates the state

of her kidneys. Following menopause, kidney function declines over time and is correlated with lower levels of reproductive hormones. These hormone shifts that occur during menopause also frequently result in abdominal obesity, which is associated with an increased risk of tooth loss and is a separate risk factor for the development of chronic kidney

disease. The consequences of kidney disease are numerous, including an increased probability of experiencing problems with bone and cardiovascular health. Tooth loss, which reflects oral health status, is also associated with systemic diseases, such as diabetes, thyroid disease, and osteoporosis, and is independently associated with an increased risk

of stroke. Excessive tooth loss can also impair chewing and speech.

Previous studies have identified an association between kidney function and tooth count. This newest study involving nearly 65,000 participants, however, is the first known to evaluate the association between chronic kidney disease and tooth loss in postmenopausal women across the

ages. It concluded that the glomerular filtration rate, a measure of kidney function, is significantly associated with having at least 20 (of a total of 28) adult teeth, suggesting that chronic kidney disease and tooth loss are significantly associated, especially in postmenopausal women aged 66 to 79 years.

SOURCE: ANI





The photo shows Dhammarazika Pagoda struck by lightning in September 2023. PHOTO: DANM

the monastery. They are ancient water channels made of bricks. When we study Bagan's water management system, we find big lakes like Emerald Lake and Alan Pagan, as well as large canals which run to the Ayeyawady River. From these canals, water was transported via Poe Thudaw Lake and Shwe Nanyintaw Lake to buildings like the Sangha University using terracotta pipes.

**Q: May I know the situation of dredging 91 ancient lakes in Bagan?**

**A:** We have completed 24 out of 91 lakes. But it doesn't mean we must dredge all 91 lakes. We go by first, second and third stages. We just collected data. Some lakes shouldn't be dredged as they are very close to ancient buildings. Some small lakes need only small-scale reclamation. Some are natural, such as being far from humans and animals. We will not dredge such lakes

# Why did thunderbolts hit Bagan's pagodas from an archaeological point of view?

**BAGAN** is an ancient cultural zone, a world heritage site, and an attractive tourist destination. The following are excerpts from the interview with U Kyaw Myo Win, director of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch), on the current situation of preservation and sustainability by MT (The Global New Light of Myanmar).



Director U Kyaw Myo Win of Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch).

**Q: May I know the warnings given by your department in purchasing land plots in Bagan's cultural zone?**

**A:** We announced that locals should avoid making the wrong purchases of land. We explained about zones and land management. Locals should especially know the types of land. For example, a land plot you bought to build a house can be a land type on which construction is banned. Some didn't know it and built houses without seeking approval from us. We had to restrict them, and sometimes, we had to file a lawsuit, which led to unnecessary problems. So, we announced that we would verify the land plots at our department or land records department, whether it is village land, town land, farmland, or non-other-use land. If they buy through

brokers, they can face such issues. Some have been facing prosecution.

**Q: As it is now rainy season, may I know the installation of lightning conducts at Bagan's pagodas?**

**A:** We don't install lightning conductors, but the Ministry of Construction. When we observe why thunderbolts hit Bagan pagodas from an archaeological point of view, we found that in the renovations after the 2016 earthquake, reinforced concrete (RC) was used in pagodas' structures. Ancient pagodas didn't have such RC, and they only used stone umbrellas. Later, iron umbrellas were installed. I mean, the material has changed. As the original architecture has no RC, it cannot be hit by a thunderbolt.

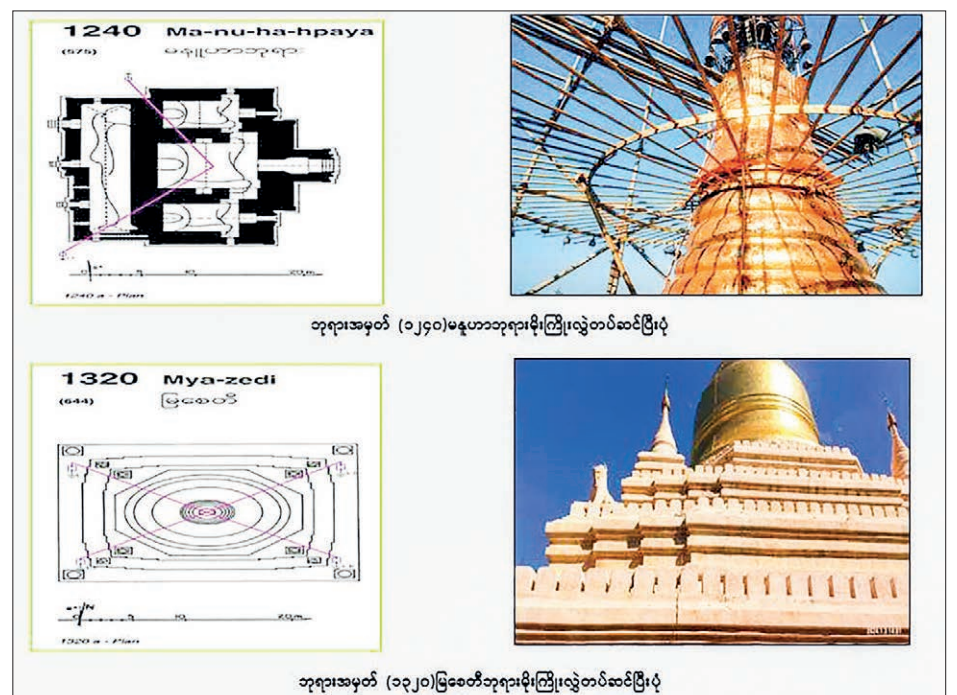
After the 2016 renovation with RC, more areas were affected by thunder. The Bupaya was hit by thunder for the first time last year. RC in pagoda's structures attracts electric current, so they were hit by thunderbolts.

Therefore, we planned to install lightning conductors at the RC-renovated pagoda. We don't know how to install them, but we were just advised to avoid such and such areas to prevent damage to the heritage. We carried out HIA (Heritage Impact Assessment). The Ministry of Construction did the actual installation. Installation was completed in 14 pagodas, and we will continue in nine pagodas.

as it is not beneficial.

**Q: We saw many travellers coming to Bagan this year. What are your department's plans to continue attracting tourists?**

**A:** Our department is now doing cleaning activities. As there are plenty of desert



Photos show Manuha Temple and Myazedi Pagoda after being installed lightning conductors.

**Q: What are the plans for your Bagan Branch, Sir?**

**A:** Our Bagan branch is doing research on water management. We found a water piping system for monasteries using terracotta pipes made of baked earth. Such pipes are found in Mesopotamia during early BC. It is also found in India for water pipes used in palaces and monasteries.

The terracotta pipe water system is also found in Bagan, near the bank of Nyaung Lettaphet between Culamuni and

thorns, we are clearing them as a project. We divided the cultural zone into 11 areas and cleared banyan trees inside and around the temples and stupas. We have never seen such a large-scale clearing campaign. There remain only two areas to clear. We have almost completed it. Such clearing activities cannot be stopped for a while. If stopped for a while, we will have to restart a new project from the beginning.

Thank you for your answers, Sir.

Translated by ZN

## 'Melodi' moment again: Italian PM Meloni clicks selfie with PM Modi on sidelines of G7 Summit

*Their friendly interaction, also seen previously at other summits like the G20 in Delhi and COP 28 in Dubai, has sparked numerous memes online. The hashtag "Melodi" has gained traction alongside shared photos of their meetings.*

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart, Giorgia Meloni, clicked a selfie on the sidelines of the G7 summit that concluded in Italy on Friday.

The two leaders were seen smiling as Meloni clicked a selfie with Prime Minister Modi on the sidelines of the G7 Outreach Summit in Apulia.

The camaraderie between the two leaders who met previously at the G20 Summit in Delhi last year and then at the COP 28 in Dubai have spawned several online memes.

In December last year, the two leaders had clicked a selfie on the sidelines of the 28<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP28) in Dubai. While sharing the picture with PM Modi on

X, Meloni had stated, "Good friends at COP28, #Melodi."

Photographs of the two leaders together have been shared widely on online platforms with the hashtags "Melodi" becoming a trending topic.

Meanwhile, PM Modi held a bilateral meeting with his Italian counterpart during the G7 Summit in Italy and discussed defence and security cooperation between the two countries.

"The two sides discussed bilateral defence and security cooperation and hoped for further enhancing the defence industrial collaboration. They welcomed the forthcoming visit of the Italian aircraft carrier ITS Cavour and training ship ITS Vespucci to India



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni took a selfie together during the G7 summit in Italy. **PHOTO: ANI**

later this year," the Ministry of External Affairs said in an official release. — ANI

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Education takes centre stage at annual Day of African Child commemorative event

EXPERTS and decision-makers attending a special event ahead of the annual Day of the African Child has underscored the crucial imperative of ensuring the right to education for children in Africa.

The Day of the African Child is commemorated annually on 16 June as a significant occasion to reaffirm the continent's collective commitment to the well-being and educational rights of children across Africa.

On Friday, a special event was held at the African Union (AU) headquarters in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, to mark this year's edition of the annual commemorative event under the theme "Education for All Children in Africa: The Time is Now."

Addressing the commemorative event, Mohamed Belhocine, the AU commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, stressed that the theme underscores the critical role of education financing in ensuring that every child in Africa has access to inclusive, accessible, and relevant learning opportunities. — Xinhua

## Over 50% in Japan uneasy about seeking satisfaction in shortest time

*A recent survey by Seiko Group Corp. reveals that over half of people in Japan are uncomfortable with the growing emphasis on "time performance" in leisure and daily activities, such as watching sped-up movies.*



Conducted online with 1,200 respondents aged 15 to 69 in April, the survey found 52.9% reject the trend of seeking satisfaction in the shortest time possible, while 40% feel pressured to adhere to it. **PHOTO: KYODO**

MORE than half of people in Japan are not comfortable with the recent trend of emphasizing "time performance" in leisure and other daily activities, such as watching movies at double speed, a recent survey by watchmaker Seiko Group Corp.

showed.

In the online survey of 1,200 people aged 15 to 69, conducted in April, 52.9 per cent gave the thumbs down to the idea of seeking satisfaction in the shortest time possible, while 40 per cent felt they

were being forced to do so themselves, Seiko said.

Sixty per cent, meanwhile, felt the trend has already taken root in society.

"Taipa," a contraction of the English words "time" and "performance," became a buzzword in Japan in 2022.

While 71.5 per cent said they want to avoid wasting time as far as possible, 73.8 per cent said they sometimes preferred to take time to focus on a particular thing.

In answering a multiple response question on situations in which they like to seek satisfaction in the shortest possible time, 37.8 per cent cited household cleaning, 36.6 per cent cooking and 36.5 per cent doing the laundry.

Asked when taking time is more important, 41.8 per cent cited sleep and 39.5 per cent communicating with their families.

Seiko said people are becoming more selective in their pursuit of the trend as it becomes more prevalent in society, a major change from the previous year's survey that showed people placing emphasis on it when engaging in a wide range of activities. — Kyodo

#### Moschino unveils first men's collection by Appiolaza in Milan

LUXURY Italian fashion house Moschino kicked off the men's catwalk shows at Milan Fashion Week Friday with its first menswear collection under new artistic director Adrian Appiolaza.

Appiolaza, an Argentine designer with a whimsical touch, was appointed creative director of the irreverent, pop-inspired brand in January.

His accession came after the sudden death of his predecessor Davide Renne just 10 days after taking up the post.

Renne had been called to the helm after the departure of Jeremy Scott, who left his decade-long mark on Moschino with his offbeat collections and extravagance.

After a two-year absence from the men's catwalks, the house founded in 1983 by Franco Moschino will also unveil its 2025 women's pre-collection.

A former collaborator of Jonathan Anderson at Spanish luxury brand Loewe, Appiolaza presented his first women's collection for Moschino in Milan in February. — AFP

# ECONOMY WORLD



The G7 summit is being held at a luxury resort in Puglia. PHOTO: PIERO CRUCIATTI / AFP

## G-7 nations pledge support to specific infrastructure projects like India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor

Key initiatives include coordinating and financing efforts for corridors such as Lobito, Luzon, the Middle Corridor, and IMEC. Additionally, they plan to bolster existing programs like the EU Global Gateway, the Great Green Wall, and Italy's Mattei Plan for Africa.

THE Group of Seven (G7) nations have pledged support to specific infrastructure projects like the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) in their joint statement released after the end of their three-day summit in Italy.

The G7 aims to enhance economic corridors for better infrastructure and investments. Key projects include coordinating and financing efforts for corridors like the Lobito, Luzon, Middle, and India-Mid-

dle East-Europe.

They also plan to build upon existing initiatives like the EU Global Gateway, the Great Green Wall, and Italy's Mattei Plan for Africa.

"We will further promote concrete G7 PGII initiatives, flagship projects, and complementary initiatives to develop transformative economic corridors for quality infrastructure and investment, such as the deepening of our coordination and financing for the Lobito

Corridor, the Luzon Corridor, the Middle Corridor, and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, also building on the EU Global Gateway, the Great Green Wall Initiative, and the Mattei Plan for Africa launched by Italy," White House said in a official statement.

The G7 Summit leaders on Friday reaffirmed their dedication to a free and open Indo-Pacific governed by international law. — ANI

## Thailand targets 21.7 million foreign tourists in June-December

THAILAND is aiming to attract 21.7 million foreign tourists during June to December after receiving over 15 million in the first five months of this year, Tourism and Sports Minister Sermsak Pongpanich said on Friday, in an ambitious move to further spur the economy.

The Thai government earlier this week raised its 2024 inbound tourist target to 36.7 million, 1 million higher than the previous expectation, to help boost the Southeast Asian country's gross domestic prod-

uct (GDP) growth to 3 per cent, along with an acceleration in government spending and public investment.

With urgent policies to enhance the potential of secondary tourism provinces and promote year-round destinations, the kingdom is striving to achieve a tourism receipt target of 3.5 trillion baht (about US\$95.42 billion) this year, even during the low season from June to September, when visitor numbers typically decline, Sermsak told a news conference. — Xinhua

## UAE's banking sector liquid assets stand at AED786.6 billion in Q1-24

THE liquid assets in the UAE banking sector stood at AED786.6 billion at the end of Q1-24, marking a year-on-year increase of 28.2 per cent, or AED172.8 billion, compared to approximately AED613.8 billion at the end of Q12023.

In its report on key financial stability indicators for Q1-24, released today, the Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) stated that the value of these liquid assets increased on a quarterly (q-o-q) basis by 5.7 per cent, or AED42.7 billion, compared to approxi-

mately AED743.95 billion at the end of the Q4-23.

The value of these assets constituted 18.8 per cent of the total banking sector assets, which amounted to AED4.185 trillion at the end of Q1-24, up from 18.6 per cent at the end of Q4-23.

CBUAE pointed out that the UAE banking system is well-capitalised, with the overall capital adequacy ratio reaching 18 per cent by end of Q1-24, compared to 17.9 per cent at the end of Q4-23. — ANI

## Türkiye increases passage fee for int'l ships through straits

The calculation of fees is based on ships' net tonnage, indexed to the "gold franc" unit tied to the price of gold.

TÜRKIYE has raised the fees levied on international ships navigating through the strategic Turkish Straits connecting the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea, local media reported Thursday.

Citing a statement of the Transport and Infrastructure Minister, Abdulkadir Uraloglu, the Dünya daily noted that the toll has surged to 5.07 US dollars per tonne, up from 4.42 dollars, with the new rate taking

effect from 1 July.

"With the fees we collect, we are constantly improving the necessary infrastructure and traffic monitoring systems to enhance maritime safety and security as well as environmental safety in the Turkish Straits," Uraloglu said.

The minister also noted that the calculation of fees is determined by the net tonnage of the ships, with the unit based on the "gold franc" indexed to

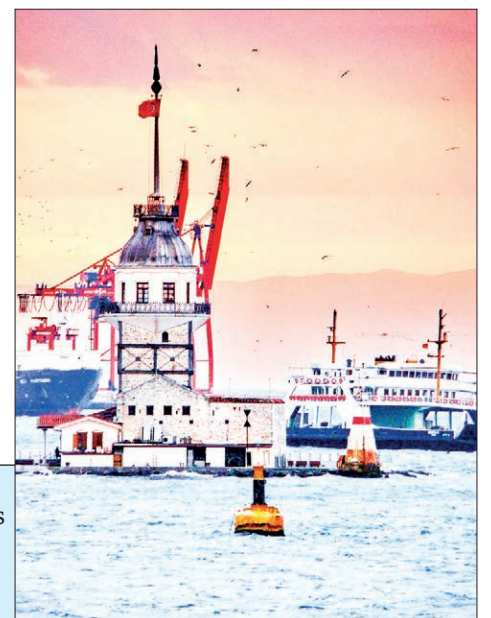
the ounce price of gold.

The Turkish Straits, consisting of the Dardanelles Strait and the Bosphorus Strait, are considered one of the most strategically significant waterways of the world.

Crossing through Türkiye's largest city, Istanbul, the Bosphorus Strait spans almost 30 kilometres with a width of approximately 700 metres at its narrowest points, serving as a crucial link connecting the

Black Sea with the Marmara Sea. The Dardanelles Strait in the northwestern Canakkale province is another significant waterway, connecting the Marmara Sea with the Aegean and Mediterranean seas over a length of 61 km. — Xinhua

The Turkish Straits, encompassing the Dardanelles and Bosphorus, are globally significant waterways.  
PHOTO: PIXABAY





Passengers leave a train after arriving at the Dar Es Salaam station of Tanzania-Zambia Railway in Dar Es Salaam, capital of Tanzania, 14 February 2019. PHOTO: LYU SHUAI/XINHUA

## TAZARA suspends passenger train operations

*Operations had previously halted on 1 April 2024, following landslides that severely impacted the Mlimba-Makambako railway tracks in Tanzania.*

THE Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) on Thursday announced that passenger train operations will be suspended from 18 June 2024, until further notice.

"This suspension has been necessitated by various operational challenges that the authority is facing," TAZARA said in a statement signed by Conrad Simuchile, TAZARA's head of public relations. On 21 May TAZARA announced the resumption of train operations following the renovation of the main line, damaged by heavy rains in March.

Train operations were suspended on 1 April after

landslides caused by heavy rains damaged the Mlimba-Makambako railway tracks in Tanzania. Photo taken on 14 February 2019, shows the Dar Es Salaam station of Tanzania-Zambia Railway in Dar Es Salaam, capital of Tanzania. (Xinhua/Lyu Shuai) The TAZARA railway, known as the "Uhuru Railway" or "Independent Railway," was constructed as a turn-key project between 1970 and 1975 through an interest-free loan from China, with commercial operations starting in July 1976, covering 1,860 km from Dar es Salaam in Tanzania to New Kapiri Mposhi in Zambia. — Xinhua

## Durian festival held in southern Thailand to boost trade with China

A durian festival celebration was held on Saturday in Chumphon province, an important durian producing area in southern Thailand, aiming to promote Thailand durian and help more fruit enter the Chinese market.

Chinese Consul General in Songkhla Wu Dongmei, some Chinese logistics companies and fruit dealers such as SF Express were invited to the event. During the event, Governor of Chumphon province Wisah Poolsirirat cut a durian with a knife, marking the start of the 2024 Chumphon durian harvest season. As the largest durian planting area in southern Thailand, Chumphon province accounts for more than half of the region's durian production, with fruit season lasting from June to December. —Xinhua

## Japan's Nikka whisky maker ramps up investment to increase exports

*The investment will primarily focus on expanding barrel storage at its Tochigi plant, located north of Tokyo, aiming to increase storage capacity by approximately 10% compared to 2021 levels.*

JAPAN'S Nikka Whisky Distilling Co. has said it will invest 6 billion yen (\$38 million) this year on storage facilities in a bid to boost its production capacity and tap into surging demand overseas.

The Asahi Breweries Ltd unit, known for its Taketsuru, Yoichi and Miyagikyo brands, said the investment including on ramping up the barrels at its Tochigi plant north of Tokyo will increase the company's storage capacity by around 10 per cent compared with 2021.

The company, which this year is marking the 90th anniversary of the establishment of its predecessor, Dai Nippon Kaju Co, already invested 6 billion yen between 2015 and 2017,



Photo taken in November 2020 shows a Nikka Whisky Distilling Co. billboard in the Susukino entertainment district of Sapporo, Hokkaido. PHOTO: KYODO

and 6.5 billion yen between 2019 and 2021 in boosting its whisky production. "The more we can make, the more we can sell," Asahi Breweries Presi-

dent Kazuo Matsuyama told a press conference on 5 June as he underscored the company's strategy to accelerate exports of its high-priced products. Experts

say Japan's wide variety of climates help the country to produce smooth and elaborate whisky brands that attract overseas drinkers. — Kyodo

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (2413S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (2413S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-6-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S BLPL SIPPING LINE**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (121N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (121N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-6-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

### Notice for Change of Pesticides Trade Name

The foreign manufacture **Optimus Agri-Tech Pte., Ltd** will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board Changing trading name.

| No. | Old Trade Name | New Trade Name   | A.I                        | Reg: Type   | Reg: No.   |
|-----|----------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1   | Be Nice 200SL  | Shwe Panga 200SL | Diquat dibromide 200g/l SL | Provisional | P2020-5145 |

It is therefore announced to come and reject within 14 days to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of herbicide.

Address- **Myanmar Kaung Thu Kha Co., Ltd.**, No.(95-A), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8<sup>th</sup> mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon Region, The Republic of Union of Myanmar.

# ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

## Ukraine Conference draft communique mentions control over Zaporozhye nuclear power plant



The Zaporozhzhia Nuclear Power Station in southeastern Ukraine is the largest nuclear power plant in Europe and among the 10 largest in the world. **PHOTO: VIA SPUTNIK**

THE draft communique on the Ukraine summit in Switzerland contains theses on Kyiv's control over the Zaporozhye nu-

clear power plant, the critical importance of free commercial shipping in the Azov and Black Seas, as well as a call for the re-

lease of prisoners of war; Reuters reported on Sunday, citing the document.

"Firstly, any use of nucle-

*The document emphasizes that Ukrainian nuclear power plants, including the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant, must operate safely and securely under full sovereign control of Ukraine. It specifies adherence to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) principles and supervision.*

ar energy and nuclear installations must be safe, secured, safe-guarded and environmentally sound. Ukrainian nuclear power plants and installations, including Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant, must operate safely and securely under full sovereign control of Ukraine and in line with IAEA principles and under its supervision," the communique, seen by Reuters, read.

The document also stressed the critical importance of "free, full and safe" commercial shipping and access to seaports in the Black and Azov Seas.

"Thirdly, all prisoners of war must be released by complete exchange. All deported and unlawfully displaced Ukrainian children, and all other Ukrainian civilians who were unlawfully detained, must be returned to Ukraine," the document added.

In addition, the countries participating in the summit believe that achieving peace in Ukraine requires the involvement and dialogue between all parties to the conflict.

The final version of the communique will be published on Sunday. — SPUTNIK

### NEWS ROUNDUP: WORLD

#### Cuba rejects US naval presence in its territory

CUBA has strongly condemned the presence of a US nuclear submarine at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, located in the southeastern part of the island, which Cuba considers illegally occupied territory.

Cuban Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Carlos Fernandez de Cossio Dominguez told local media that, although his country was informed of the presence of the US ship in accordance with procedures established some years ago between Havana and Washington, Cuba does not approve the naval presence in its territory without invitation.

"We do not like the presence in our territory of this nature," he said, stressing that visits by foreign naval ships to a country are usually the result of an invitation and "this is not the case." — Xinhua

#### Saipan marks 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of fierce WWII Japan-US battle

THE Pacific island of Saipan on Saturday marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a fierce World War II battle between Japanese and US troops that claimed tens of thousands of lives, with officials underscoring the importance of the current Japan-US alliance in maintaining regional peace.

The US Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, with Saipan as its capital, held a ceremony commemorating the Battle of Saipan, attended by US and Japanese officials. Due to their advanced age, no surviving former soldiers were able to attend the ceremony. — Kyodo

## Princess of Wales makes first appearance since cancer diagnosis

*Known also as Kate, she observed the parade alongside her family and later joined fellow royals on the balcony, signifying a significant milestone in her recovery journey.*

CATHERINE, Princess of Wales, attended the King's official birthday parade at Buckingham Palace following her recent update on her cancer treatment progress, marking her first public appearance since Christmas Day, just weeks before her diagnosis, CNN reported.

Accompanied by her husband, Prince William, the Princess arrived at the palace as Trooping the Colour commenced. Spectators of all ages lined the mall, some donning Union Jack bucket hats and fascinators, while others waved flags and sang the national anthem patriotically.

Kate, as she is also known, watched the parade with her family nearby and later joined fellow royals on the balcony, sig-



Catherine, Princess of Wales, made a noteworthy return to public life at Buckingham Palace during the King's official birthday parade. **PHOTO: ANI**

nalling a significant moment in her recovery journey.

In a health update shared on Friday, Kate expressed optimism about her recovery, noting "good progress"

but acknowledging that her treatment would continue for several more months. "I'm not out of the woods yet," she candidly stated, according to CNN. — ANI

# SPORTS

## Team Myanmar set up strong line-up to face India in friendly

YUKI, a Japanese national who is the head coach of the Myanmar national women's football team, has selected 30 preliminary players to play friendly matches against the Indian national women's team.

The Myanmar national women's team, which has been under training since 16 June, is showcasing a mix of superb senior players as well as young stars who are showing their skills and talent in the current Myanmar Women's League.

Team Myanmar sees goal keeper May Zin Nwe, defenders Zun Yu Ya Oo, midfielder Khin Malar Tun who is currently playing for Thai football club: College of Asian Scholars, strikers Win Theingi Tun and San Thaw Thaw and young and talented football stars. Myanmar will take on India on 10 and 13 July at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Silver medalist Pyae Phyo Tun(L) and gold medalist May Zin Htet(R)

## Myanmar bag one gold, one silver at Malaysia Open Athletics Championships

Two Myanmar athletes won one gold and one silver medals at the Malaysia Open Athletics Championships, held from 14 to 16 June.

Myanmar's May Zin Htet earned a gold medal in the women's 20,000-metre walking race with a time of 1 hour, 55 minutes, and 05.13 seconds, while Pyae Phyo Tun won a silver medal in the men's 20,000-metre walking race with a time of 1 hour, 47 minutes, and 31 seconds. Coach U Tun Tin from the Myanmar Athletics Federation led the two athletes during the championship.

Meanwhile, Myanmar athletes, guided by coaches U Kyaw Swa Moe and Daw Khin Ohn, are also competing in the Thailand Open Athletics Championships, held from 14 to 17 June. Team Myanmar includes Kyaw Min Aung for the 5,000-m and 10,000-m races, Kyaw Thinn San for the 5,000-m and 10,000-m races, Ye Yint Aung for the 1,500-m race, Hein Htet Aung for the 800-m and 1,500-m races, Htet Shine Aung for the 100-m and 200-m races, Htet Wai Yan for Pétanque, Nang Htet Maung for the javelin, Paing Htet Paing for long jump, Thwe Thwe Moe for string shotput, and Ei Ei Wyne for the 5,000-m and 10,000-m races. — TWA/KZL

## France stars talk up Austria ability ahead of Euro 2024 group opener

FRANCE striker Olivier Giroud called their group opener against Austria at UEFA Euro 2024 this Monday his side's most important game.

"It's like a final," the 37-year-old 2018 World Cup winner said before the encounter in Dusseldorf. The former AC Milan striker isn't the only one in the France squad who admires Austria's development over the past two years.

The country, always a force in winter sports, garnered attention after only losing one of their past 14 games, including victories over Germany (2-0), Turkey (6-1) and Serbia (2-1).

Austria has turned into one of Euro 2024's dark horses since former Manchester United coach Ralf Rangnick took over.

"Defending, in his sense, is attacking with high pressing football," France's Bayern Mu-

nich defender Dayot Upamecano said, while Paris Saint-Germain striker Ousmane Dembele called Austria "one of the toughest sides in our group."

For most, Austria might keep to the role of outsiders, with the Netherlands and Poland completing Group D.

But their head coach has undoubtedly triggered unprecedented euphoria in the Alpine state. Rejecting an offer from Bayern ahead of the tournament's start lifted spirits to new heights.

65-year-old Rangnick spoke about "a love case" and a "family-like atmosphere" as he claims not to follow the dream of coaching one of Europe's best club sides such as Bayern.

"To accept the offer would have meant to endanger all we set up in Austria over the past two years," the 2011 German Cup

winner with Schalke added.

12 players in the Austria squad play in Germany's Bundesliga, with several other in Italy's Serie A and the English Premier League.

The Austria coach admits his side is in one of the tournament's most challenging groups, "but if we survive, there won't be much more difficult opponents waiting."

Tactical variability, a robust team spirit and determination seem to be Austria's advantages, prompting the coach to say, "It will be a surprise if we win the tournament, but it's not impossible."

Rangnick claims to "have arrived as a coach" in Austria with "all of my heart", and seems optimistic about improving the country's poor tournament record over the past years. — Xinhua



Players celebrate with Nicolò Barella after he scored what proved to be his side's winner against Albania. PHOTO: AFP

## Italy begin Euro 2024 title defence with win as Spain start in style

*Italy begin Euro 2024 title defence with win as Spain start in style*

ITALY recovered from conceding the fastest goal in European Championship history to begin their title defence with a 2-1 win over Albania on Saturday, after Spain made a dream start to their campaign by beating Croatia 3-0. Albania went ahead after just 23 seconds against Italy in the Group B opener in Dortmund as Nedim Bajrami scored to the delight of their huge support. Bajrami's strike destroyed the previous record for the quickest goal at the Euros, of 67 seconds by Dmitri Kirichenko for Russia against Greece in 2004. However, Italy kept their calm and equalised when Alessandro Bastoni headed in at the back post on 11 minutes, before Nicolò Barella's glorious effort put them ahead just past the quarter-hour mark. — AFP



# WORLD

## G7 summit ends in quarrels and problems

THE Group of Seven (G7) Summit concluded on Saturday with member countries each having their own strategic considerations, which makes the next steps uncertain.

During the drafting process, the joint communique issued on Friday afternoon sparked intense debates and disagreements among the G7 members. Leaders from over 10 other countries were invited to attend the summit, including emerging economies such as India, South Africa and Brazil. According to Alberto Bradanini, chairman of the Contemporary China Study Center in Italy, G7, especially the United States, perceives itself in decline.

“A minority of nations (G7) represents no more than 10 per cent of the world population, with stagnant economies and lower growth rates than emerging countries. Their pathological claims are more evident than ever,” said Bradanini.

Days ago was the 2024 European Parliament Election, during which German and French governing parties suffered a heavy setback: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz’s Social Democratic Party saw its record low in votes during the election. French President Emmanuel Macron had

to take the risk of calling new legislative elections after suffering losses to the far-right opposition.

The communique mentioned that the group will promote “safe, secure, and trustworthy AI,” vowing to step up efforts to

enhance interoperability among AI governance approaches.

Stressing the impact of AI on the military domain, the group said military use of AI should be ensured to be responsible.

*Leaders from more than 10 other countries were invited to participate in the summit, with representation from emerging economies like India, South Africa, and Brazil.*



Leaders of the G7 watch skydiving flag performance at Borgo Egnazia, near the town of Fasano in Apulia Region, Italy, on 13 June 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA/LI JING

Abortion emerged as one of the key contentious issues among member states, with France and Canada taking a progressive stance, while Italy’s rightwing Meloni advocated for a more conservative approach. — Xinhua

## China-Australia cooperation can cross the Pacific, transcend differences — Premier Li

*Premier Li’s visit focused on China-Australia collaboration in giant panda protection and research, with Adelaide Zoo being the exclusive Australian facility housing these pandas.*

CHINESE Premier Li Qiang said here Sunday that so long as both sides cherish it, the cooperation between China and Australia can cross the vast Pacific Ocean, transcend differences, and achieve mutual achievements and win-win results.

He made the remarks when visiting the Adelaide Zoo for China-Australia cooperation on panda protection and research, accompanied by Governor of South Australia Frances Adamson, Premier of South Australia Peter Malinauskas, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong and Minister for Trade and Tourism Don Farrell. Adelaide Zoo is the only Australian zoo that keeps giant



Giant panda Wang Wang enjoys the winter sunshine at Adelaide Zoo in Adelaide, Australia, 1 June 2024. Male giant panda Wang Wang and female giant panda Fu Ni have been on loan from China since 2009, and are among the Adelaide Zoo’s top attractions. PHOTO: ZHANG JIANHUA/XINHUA

pandas.

At the Panda Pavilion in Adelaide Zoo, Li heard the reports by both Chinese and Australian experts on the co-

operative research on giant panda conservation between the two countries as well as the breeding and care of giant pandas in Australia. — Xinhua

### INTEGRATION INTO THE GLOBAL VALUE CHAIN

India to become 3<sup>rd</sup> largest economy within next few years: CII President

AS Prime Minister Narendra Modi takes charge for the third consecutive term, industry chambers believe that India is poised to become the world’s third-largest economy in the next few years.

Newly elected President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Managing Director of ITC, Sanjiv Puri, stated that within a few years, India will undoubtedly be among the world’s top three economies.

In an exclusive interview with ANI, Sanjiv Puri said, “CII has projected the country’s GDP growth at 8 per cent for this year. Several positive factors are contributing to this outlook. Firstly, a better-than-expected monsoon could lead to improved agricultural output, which would help moderate food inflation, currently a bit tricky. Additionally, global trade, which was in negative territory last year, is expected to grow by more than 2 per cent this year. These near-term positive factors could propel the economy to an 8 per cent growth rate instead of the anticipated 7 per cent.”

There are numerous opportunities for integration into the global value chain. Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) will facilitate this integration. The manufacturing systems, especially in electronics, are progressing positively.

A February report by global brokerage house Jefferies predicts that over the next four years, India’s GDP will reach US\$ 5 trillion, making it the third-largest economy by 2027, overtaking Japan and Germany. — ANI