

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Vice-Senior General Soe Win views modern technological equipment for firefighting at 78th Anniversary of MFB Day at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

All activities of fire brigade are public interests as well as a national cause

Firefighters have to study modern fire extinguishing and rescue technologies and form the urban search and rescue teams in relevant regions

Everybody needs to understand that all activities of fire brigade members are public interests as well as a national cause, said Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win delivered an address at the ceremony to mark the 78th

Anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade Day at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Myanmar Fire Brigade must be formed in line with Men, Equipment and Technological Powers to overcome challenges of natural disasters, keep abreast of international fire brigades and reform form and essence of the brigade in the

future, said Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

In his speech, the Vice-Senior General stressed the Fire Brigade needs to implement four objectives: fire prevention, disaster prevention, search and rescue and public welfare measures under the proper management, implementation and reviewing strategies.

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Mandalay Region to initiate SME courses, pilot projects for economic growth

Myanmar participates in 26th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting in New Delhi

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced that a delegation led by Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung participated in the 26th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting held in New Delhi, India on 3 May.

During the meeting, Laos, the ASEAN alternate

chair for 2024, outlined the ASEAN's priority plans for 2024. Senior officials discussed enhancing the strategic partnership relations between ASEAN and India across multiple sectors, boosting collaboration in trade, economics, investment, agriculture, energy, education, technology, and tourism for sustainable development

and prosperity, and developing improved strategies.

ASEAN senior officials also urged India to cooperate with ASEAN in digitalization, digital economics, and digital communication, given India's leading position in technology advancement.

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NATIONAL



Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses 78th Anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

and cash awards to outstanding service personnel of Myanmar Fire Brigade.

The Vice-Senior General and party viewed modern fire extinguishers and search and rescue equipment displayed at the hall and fire engines outside the hall.

In the evening, the Vice-Senior General attended the dinner in hour of the 78th Anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade Day.

At the dinner, Union ministers and the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman presented K5 million, the Union Minister for Information 20 sets of MRTV DTH receivers and 100 sets of DVB T2 set top boxes and the Union Minister for Border Affairs 100 sets of solar watt 50 generators.

The ceremony was also at-

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He continued that fire-fighters have to study modern fire extinguishing and rescue technologies and form the urban search and rescue teams in relevant regions for conducting the advanced search and rescue technologies in relevant regions.

He urged people to cooperate with fire brigade members in preventing danger of fire with awareness and knowledge as the Department of Fire Services performs live broadcasting of its activities on the departmental website and update news.

The Vice-Senior General explained that fire broke out in Myanmar some 18,000 times from 2014 to 2023, losing more than K187 billion worth of property, adding some 1,800 times of fire break out in the country on a yearly basis with more than K18 billion worth of property.

He outlined that outbreaks of fire are based on climate change, increasing number of population and development of industrial development. As such, he continued that it is necessary to raise public awareness for prevention of fire to reduce loss of property and damage yearly.

The Vice-Senior General recounted that in the terrible incident of cyclonic storm Mocha which hit the country on 14 May 2023, Tatmadaw led Tatmadaw members, police members, de-

All activities of fire brigade are public interests as well as a national cause

Salient points in speech of the Vice-Senior General in 78th anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade Day ceremony

- Myanmar Fire Brigade must be formed in line with Men, Equipment and Technological Powers to overcome challenges of natural disasters, keep abreast of international fire brigades and reform form and essence of the brigade in the future.
- People are urged to cooperate with fire brigade members in preventing danger of fire with awareness and knowledge.
- Outbreaks of fire are based on climate change, increasing number of population and development of industrial development.
- Firefighters are urged to constantly study modern firefighting technologies to enhance their qualification and capacity and perform fire prevention and rescue and relief measures for the people with sacrifice of life and limbs.

partmental personnel and volunteers to evacuate storm victims in time to reduce loss and waste of property.

He recounted that a total of 549 search and rescue members from Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Mon, Yangon, Shan and Ayeyawady regions and states were immediately sent to storm-hit areas for performing rescue, relief and rehabilitation tasks.

In conclusion, the Vice-Senior General urged firefighters to constantly study modern firefighting technologies to enhance

their qualification and capacity and perform fire prevention and rescue and relief measures for the people with sacrifice of life and limbs.

The Vice-Senior General pressed the button to launch the 78th Anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade Day ceremony.

The Vice-Senior General presented cash awards and trophies to veteran singer U Tun Shwe, deputy commanding officer over 90 years old U Chit Hlaing of Dagon Myothit (South) Township auxiliary fire brigade and Fire Sergeant (Retd) U Tun Kyi and



Vice-Senior General Soe Win presents award to singer U Tun Shwe.

officials from three auxiliary fire brigade camps.

SAC member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae presented a gift to the Vice-Senior General and prizes

tended by SAC member General Mya Tun Oo, Admiral Tin Aung San, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and other SAC members, Union ministers, the union-level dignitaries and officials. — MNA/TTA

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

SAC member meets venerable Sayadaw, fire victims in Hopong of Shan State

STATE Administration Council Member Khun San Lwin paid homage to abbot U Candobhasa of Panlyan Monastery at the monastery in Panlyan Village, Sangaw Village-tract, Hopong Township, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone in Shan State (South) yesterday morning.

The State Administration Council Member and officials then donated offertories to members of the Sangha.

The State Administration Council Member donated K5 million each for re-construction of relevant monasteries to abbots of Panlyan and Poneh monasteries in Panlyan and Poneh villages

destroyed by fire of terrorists.

Next, they met with fire victims from Panlyan and Namhu villages and inspected progress of rebuilding the houses.

At Pa-O Self-Administered Zone Administration Body Office, the SAC member heard reports on rehabilitation of Hsihseng and fulfilled the needs. — MNA/KZL

State Administration Council Member Khun San Lwin pays homage to U Candobhasa of Panlyan Monastery in Hopong Township in Shan State (South) yesterday.



MoHT Union Minister provides insights on women's empowerment in tourism at UN Tourism Conference in Indonesia

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine shared Myanmar's experience regarding the capabilities of women working in the tourism sector, along with the successes and difficulties encountered, at the 2nd UN Tourism Conference on the Empowerment of Women in Tourism in Asia and the Pacific on 2 May in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia.

The UN Tourism and the

Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy of Indonesia co-hosted the conference from 2 to 4 May at the Bali International Convention Centre (BICC), with the theme "Woman-Led Initiatives Shaping the Future of Inclusive and Sustainable Tourism", aiming to identify opportunities and programmes that women can lead in the tourism sector.

At the conference, officials from UN Tourism discussed the

involvement of women in the tourism sectors of countries in the region, and the roles of women therein. Officials from the Macao Tourism Department and private tourism organizations from Indonesia, Singapore, and India discussed the promotion of women's role in developing sustainable and inclusive tourism industries.

Additionally, officials from Australia, Japan, Korea, Viet

Nam, as well as from universities, colleges, and educational institutions in Malaysia and Indonesia, discussed the impact of education and training on women's participation in tourism sector.

On the second day of the conference on 3 May, officials from private tourism companies from Australia, India, Indonesia, and Korea, along with the Asia-Pacific regional director of UN Tourism, emphasized safe participation of women in tourism. On the evening of the second day of the conference, the Union Minister and party attended a mangrove planting programme aimed at reducing carbon emission, where they planted mangrove saplings.

On 4 May, the Union Minister visited the ARMA Museum in the Ubud area of Bali, Indonesia. There, they witnessed traditional Balinese cultural dances, crafts, sculptures, as well as works by ancient masters of painting, including practical demonstrations of oil and watercolour techniques. The Union minister arrived back in Yangon yesterday morning. — MNA/TH

Four major faiths unite for rain invocation

AN interfaith ceremony aimed at invoking rain took place at the Kyaikpa Vishnu Temple in Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region, yesterday.

Buddhist monks recited the *Ngayintmin* (king of snakeheaded fish) Paritta, a traditional chant believed to bring rain. Vocalist Hnin Hnin Htoo and harpist May Aung Lin recited the virtues of Buddha, Dhamma, and Sangha.

Additionally, clergies from Hindu, Christianity, and Muslim communities also offered prayers and chants for rain. Organizer Hein Latt, a writer, stated, "This ceremony brings together religious leaders from four major faiths — Buddhism, Islam, Hindu, and Christianity — to invoke rain according to their respective beliefs. Our aim is to propose this tradition as an intangible cultural heritage to UNESCO next year."

A similar ceremony was conducted five years ago during a period of intense heat waves in the country. — ASH/NT



Attendees including Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine pose for group documentary photo during the 2nd UN Tourism Conference on the Empowerment of Women in Tourism in Asia and the Pacific in Bali, Indonesia.

NATIONAL

197 pearl lots sold on third day of 59th Myanmar Gems Emporium

THE third day of the 59th Myanmar Gems Emporium took place yesterday at the Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, attracting a large number of gems merchants.

Throughout the morning, both local and foreign gems merchants were able to freely inspect the showcased pearl lots, jade, and other gem lots at designated locations.

Merchants were permitted to inspect pearl lots from No 201 to 400, as well as the remaining

lots from the previous day, and they submitted their proposed prices into the respective tender boxes.

Officials from the emporium then checked the proposed prices of the pearl lots and announced that 197 lots had been sold.

It has been announced that gems lots from No 1 to 160 will continue to be showcased and sold to local and foreign traders using the open tender system on the fourth day of the emporium.



Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi views round the emporium on the third day of the 59th Myanmar Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi was also present to show his sup-

port on the third day of the event. The 59th Myanmar Gems Emporium is scheduled to run from 3 to 12 May, offering 400

pearl lots, 160 lots of jewellery, and 4,550 jade lots to local and foreign merchants through open tender. — MNA/TRKM

Counter-argument to false information

Misinformation fabricated that Tatmadaw torches Chaungta-wa Village in Madaya

THE malicious media outlet Khit Thit intentionally fabricated misinformation, alleging that Tatmadaw security forces set ablaze and destroyed Chaungta-wa Village in Madaya Township, Mandalay Region, claiming that more than 20 houses were destroyed.

According to a security official, terrorists taking cover in the village school launched gunfire at security forces conducting security measures on 4 May near Chaungta-wa Village. An exchange of fire occurred between the two sides. In retreating from the scene, terrorists set houses within the village ablaze, resulting in their destruction. Additionally, a security officer elaborated that hand-made mines were seized within the school compound.

The subversive media are spreading false news on social media to tarnish the reputation of the Tatmadaw security forces, despite the fact that PDF terrorists are disrupting regional stability and administrative mechanisms in towns and villages. — MNA/ TMT



The screenshot validates false claims.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 5 May 2024)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the South Andaman Sea, South Bay and Westcentral Bay and a few cloud over the North Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 6 May 2024: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Sagaing Region and Kachin and Chin states, scattered in Mandalay and Magway regions and Shan State and isolated in the remaining regions and states. Degree of certainty is 80%.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Eastern Shan and Chin states. The area along the Cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 5-7 feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.



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NATIONAL

YESC Chairperson inspects power distribution, transformer expansion plans amidst water shortages

CHAIRPERSON U Aung Kyaw Oo of the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation conducted an inspection of water distribution in four Dagon Myothit townships, as well as the electricity distribution and installation of more transformers on 4 May.

Currently, the country can only generate a half of the total power demand due to insufficient water in dams during the hot season. As a result, several townships in Yangon have been experiencing power cuts during scheduled electricity hours, leading to water shortages in April and May.

To address this issue, the corporation has planned to construct a 33/11 KV transformer at the 33 KV Chantha Shwepyithar

Sub-power station. During the inspection, the chairperson assessed the designated land plot for new transformers in Dagon Myothit (East) Township.

Subsequently, he examined the 66/11 KV, 20 MVA Sub-station-1 in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, as well as water and power distribution at the Yuzana Garden City, and evaluated the prospects of the construction of more transformers.

At the electricity supply manager's office in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, the chairperson instructed officials to ensure accurate meter readings and minimize wastage.

Finally, he visited the 66 KV Konpadetha Sub-Power station in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, where he assessed power



Chairperson U Aung Kyaw Oo of Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation inspects electricity distribution of four Dagon Myothit townships in Yangon on 4 May 2024. PHOTO: YESC

distribution, examined feeders' capacity, identified potential fire hazards, and directed measures to minimize waste while ensuring uninterrupted power supply. — Thitsa (MNA)/NT

Confiscations of illegal items: Timbers, food products, business equipment, consumer goods and vehicles

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, illegal trade is effectively prevented in accordance with the law. On 2 May, during an inspection by combined teams managed by the Customs Department, five products with an estimated value of more than K6 million were found in a container at Asia World port. Among these were 585 kilogrammes of threaded iron rods, which were not declared in the import declaration form. The items were seized, and action is being taken in accordance with customs procedures.

On the same day, the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted an inspection at the Dry Port of Ywathagyi. During the inspection, they discovered products with an estimated value of K75.50 million. Among these were 25,000 kilogrammes of Prestige soybean powder from India and 6,000 bottles of Sun Cream from Korea which were not declared in the im-

port documentation. The goods were found in two vehicles travelling from Hpa-an to Yangon, as well as in one Mitsubishi Fuso Bus, one Hino Profia Tractor Head, and one trailer, with a combined estimated value of K110 million, bringing the total estimated value to K185.50 million. Action is taken in accordance with customs procedures.

On 3 May, the task force in Kachin State seized 5.614 tonnes of illegal timber in Mohnyin Township, worth K763,504. Action is taken in accordance with the Forest Law.

The same day, the Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted an inspection on Shwenyaung-Yaksawk Road, near Yaypu Village. During the inspection, they discovered 756 packages of China-made noodles, 19,800 packages of artificial spicy meat, and 9,610 packages of chicken sausages on a vehicle travelling from Lashio to Taunggyi. These items could not be presented with official



Confiscated illegal Prestige soybean powder and Sun Cream in Yangon Region and foodstuffs in Shan State.



documents. A total of 11 types of food products, with an estimated value of K37.64 million, were seized, along with one Mitsubishi Canter carrying these products, estimated to be worth K15 million. The total estimated value of the seized items is K52.64 million.

Furthermore, on 3 May, combined teams conducted inspections in Lewe District and Ottara District. During

the inspections, one Toyota Alphard, one Toyota Hybrid and one Honda Fit worth K52 million, were seized and processed for prosecution, totalling an estimated value of K54,074,229 including seizures of timbers.

On 3 May, near the Shwethanlwin toll gate in Phayagyi, Bago Region, combined teams seized three products with an estimated value of K10.81 million. These products included 1,020 bottles of palm oil made in Thailand, found on a vehicle travelling from Thaton to Bago. Additionally, a Toyota Light Truck worth K30 million

was confiscated according to customs procedures. Furthermore, 0.739 tonne of illegal teak timber and 1.628 tonnes of hardwood were seized, with an estimated value of K1.75 million. These items, totalling an estimated value of K42.56 million, were seized in Bago and Pyay districts on 4 May, and action is taken in accordance with the Forest Law.

Therefore, from 2 to 4 May, a total of 23 cases, with an estimated value of K341,555,489, were seized, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/TKO

NATIONAL

Bago's Shwemawdaw Pagoda to host rice offering, watering banyan tree on Vesak Day

ACCORDING to U Tin Aung Myint, a member of Shwemawdaw Pagoda's Board of Trustees, a ceremony to offer rice to members of the Sangha will take place at Shwemawdaw Pagoda in conjunction with watering banyan trees on Vesak Day which falls on 22 May.

On the Vesak Day called Buddha Day, a total of 1,000 members of the Sangha participated in consecration of the

Shwemadaw Pagoda. Moreover, well-wishers will offer rice and alms to 1,000 members of the Sangha and 100 nuns. In the afternoon, a ceremony to pour water on banyan trees will take place there.

"The pagoda will be consecrated by 1,000 members of the Sangha from monasteries in Bago at 5 am on full moon of Kason, 22 May. At 5:30 am, meals will be offered to 1,000

members of the Sangha and 100 nuns. Rice-offering ceremony will take place on the platform of the pagoda. Starting from 4 pm, banyan trees in the precinct of the pagoda will be watered. At about 6 pm, a venerable Sayadaw will deliver a sermon at Buddha Beikman," said U Tin Aung Myint.

At Shwemawdaw Pagoda, the water pouring banyan Tree is held every year on full moon of



Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago.

Kason. This year, consecration, rice-offering and sermon-administration ceremony will

take place there. In the evening, guests to the ceremonies will be served with meals.—ASH/TKO

Myanmar participates in 26th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting in New Delhi

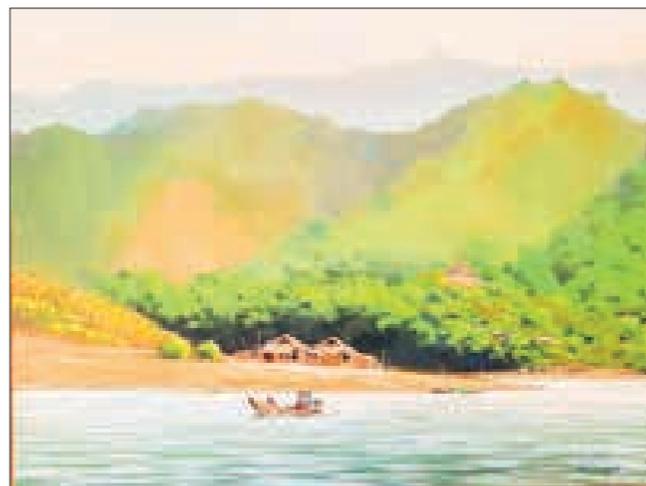


The 26th ASEAN-India Senior Officials Meeting in progress in New Delhi, India.

FROM PAGE-1

AMBASSADOR U Moe Kyaw Aung expressed appreciation for India's efforts in implementing the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and Narrowing Development Gaps (NDG) for the CLMV countries. He expressed hope for continued collaboration with India for mutual benefit and provided updates on Myanmar's implementation of the ASEAN consensus five points.

The event was co-chaired by Shri Jaideep Mazumdar, Secretary (East) of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, and Mr Albert Chua, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore. Senior officers, delegations from ASEAN countries, and representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat office attended the event. —ASH/TMT



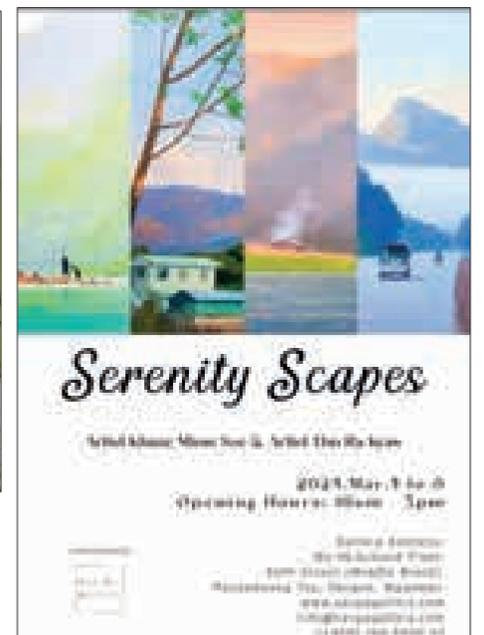
Some paintings from "Serenity Scapes" displayed at Sa Ga Gallery.

"Serenity Scapes" shows at Sar Ga Gallery

THE "Serenity Scapes" group exhibition is currently on display at Sar Ga Gallery in Pazundaung township of Yangon from 4 to 8 May, as confirmed by one of the participating artists, Thura Kyaw.

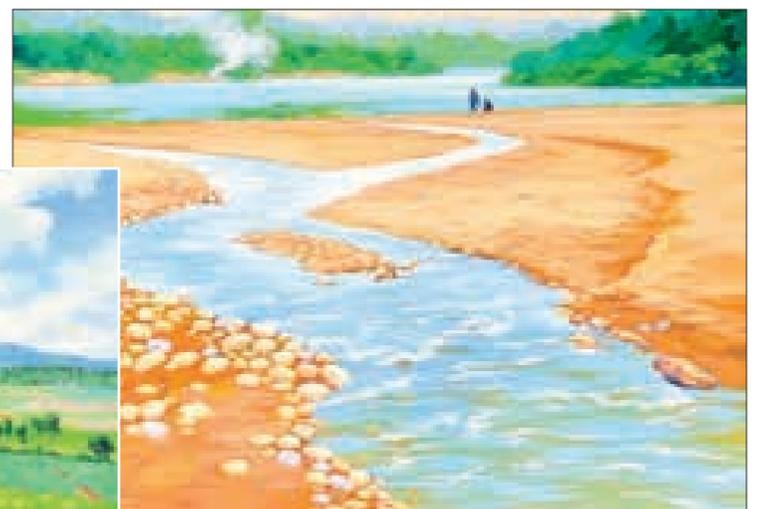
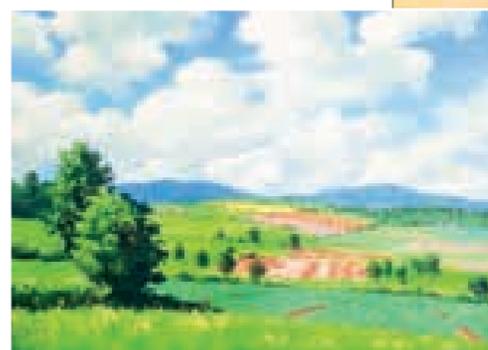
The exhibition will feature over 50 paintings in various styles, including watercolours,

oil colour paintings, and acrylics, created by artists Khine Min Soe and Thura Kyaw. These artworks will be available for viewing and purchase during



the exhibition.

Thura Kyaw extended an invitation, stating, "We warmly welcome you to experience the serenity and tranquility portrayed in our paintings at the Serenity Scapes exhibition at Sar Ga Gallery during the summer. The exhibition runs from 4 to 8 May."—ASH/TRKM



NATIONAL

Coordination meeting highlights development schemes for export and agricultural productions

A coordination meeting on collaboration for the development of export and agricultural productions was held at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Yangon on 4 May 2024.

The meeting was attended by U Ye Min Aung, President of the Myanmar Rice Federation, members of the management committee, directors from the Paddy Branch of the Agriculture Department, companies involved in transporting large quantities for export, companies slated to produce monsoon rice in 2024 with State economic promotion fund in the Yangon Region, and representatives from various associations.

MRF President U Ye Min Aung delivered a speech, fol-



A coordination meeting on collaboration for the development of export and agricultural productions in progress at the UMFCCI in Yangon on 4 May 2024.

lowed by a presentation from U Ko Ko Gyi, Director of Agricultural Education Branch at the Agriculture Department, on projects to be formulated with the State economic pro-

motion fund in 2024 monsoon. Additionally, U Lu Maw Myint Maung, General Secretary of the MRF, outlined collaborative plans for the development of rice production among compa-

nies and MSMEs.

Subsequently, export companies, MSMEs, and companies involved in implementing the State economic promotion fund, to which relevant personnel

provided feedback.

The report indicates that working plans for the participation of rice and broken rice exporting companies in rice production development schemes will be formulated according to the directive of the Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation. It is anticipated that for every tonne of rice or broken rice exported, an exporter has to collaborate in rice production development schemes equivalent to one acre.

Consequently, exporters will collaborate and participate in rice production processes, contract farming initiatives alongside farmers and MSMEs, and other aspects such as providing necessary support for fertilizers, seeds, and financial matters. — MNA/TMT



Photo depicts weaving training to improve socio-economic life and development of MSME at Weaving and Vocational Training School (Mudon).

Mandalay Region to initiate SME courses, pilot projects for economic growth

THE Mandalay Region Small Scale Industries Department recently announced that courses for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) will be conducted seven times across five districts of the Mandalay region during this financial year.

Pilot projects aims to establish small enterprises and boost income. These projects will receive government funding, and efforts will be made to connect participants with technologies,

resources, and markets.

The districts selected for the small enterprise projects include PyinOoLwin, Kyaukse, NyaungU, Myingyan, and Yamethin. In the previous financial year, similar projects were carried out in four districts, and currently, nine courses were conducted.

The objectives of these courses are to enhance rural development and foster entrepreneurship. — TWA/ TRKM

Local chilli prices decline, bell pepper prices rise in Delta Region

ACCORDING to the daily price rates issued by the Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre, local chilli prices have been trending downwards, while prices of bell peppers from the delta region have been on the rise. Meanwhile, the price of long chillies remains low.

Currently, there is a large influx of monsoon long chillies and new bell peppers from areas such as Wakema, Maubin, Pantanaw, and Einme.

A local chilli trader from Yangon, U Aung Tun, informed the Global New Light of Myanmar that around 300 bags of long chillies from Danubyu have been traded in the Yangon market recently. He noted that the price of low-quality chillies in March was higher than the current price of long chillies.

Comparing with previous years, the data indicates that chilli prices in May 2024 are lower than those of the same period in 2022 and 2023, although they still remain high-



Chilli bags arriving in the Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre in Yangon.

er than in 2021.

In the past, Indian chillies were imported into the domestic market, known for their quality and higher prices. However, in recent years, similar quality chilli species have been domestically cul-

tivated, leading to a decrease in Indian chilli imports.

Chilli trader Ko Hla Han also reported to the GNLM that chillies from the delta area are arriving in the Yangon market under various names. — TWA/TMT

OPINION

Defy severe temperature of summer through collaborative efforts

THE scorching heat of summer, exacerbated by the effects of El Niño, has brought severe water shortages to many parts of the world, including Myanmar. Central Myanmar, in particular, has long grappled with water scarcity during the summer months due to its geographical and climatic conditions. Despite the construction of dams, reservoirs, and various water supply facilities by successive governments, many villages continue to face water shortages.

In response to this pressing issue, the Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, has undertaken a significant initiative in the 2024-25 financial year. Their aim is to provide water to over 500 villages across the nation, addressing the persistent water scarcity problem. A total of 644 projects will be implemented in 581 villages that are most affected by water shortages. Access to water is vital for the daily lives and socio-economic well-being of these communities.

It is imperative for all citizens to collaborate with the government in implementing these water supply projects to alleviate the suffering caused by water shortages. Efforts must be expedited to provide safe water to people across the nation, mostly in rural areas, enabling them to withstand the severe summer temperatures.

161 water pipeline taps, 60 water treatment facilities, 17 water tanks, and laying 11 water pipelines, along with 70 other related projects.

In the following fiscal year, 2023-24, plans were put in place to implement 699 projects in 699 villages across various regions and states, including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. This year, 102 villages are expected to face drinking water shortages, and the department is committed to meeting the needs of these communities.

It is imperative for all citizens to collaborate with the government in implementing these water supply projects to alleviate the suffering caused by water shortages. Efforts must be expedited to provide safe water to people across the nation, mostly in rural areas, enabling them to withstand the severe summer temperatures.

Diamond Markets on the Verge of Collapse?

By U AC

FACEBOOK, a couple of months ago, was washed with the news and accusations of a jewellery shop selling lab-grown diamonds (also known as Chemical Vapour Deposition CVD diamonds) as GIA-certified mined counterparts. The buyer actually went to and checked with another jeweller on the authenticity of it, hence the hoo-huh on social media.

The lab-grown diamonds have been in existence for a long time. Even Modi, on a recent trip to the US, gave Biden such a bundle as a gift, produced by the world-famous Patel Industries in India. One gemologist told me, 'Lab-grown versus mined diamond comparison is like comparing a child conceived through

IVF versus the one impregnated through the traditional way'. Even the GIA certification can be imprinted on them. These diamonds are being produced in enormous quantities in China and India's labs. Just think about Patel Industries as an example; within a short time span of four years, the number of their employees has grown from a hundred to over two thousand, all in the diamond-making business.

A lot of these have been flooded into Myanmar, too. Due to the scarcity and branded aspects of natural diamonds, they are still priced at a significant premium compared to the lab-ground ones. As it becomes impossible to distinguish the two diamonds, jewellery shops are increasingly

tempted to pass the cheaper ones as the real thing. Mind you, as with the IVF child example, these two have the same DNA, and they are essentially the same. Hence, the alleged fraud story on social media.

One of the vice-chairpersons of the Gold Entrepreneur Association, who also dealt with diamond jewellery, was not that pessimistic. She said, 'The scarcity of natural diamonds will ensure that there will always be people who want the real thing. Just like handbags, regardless of how your knockoff bag came from the same LV factory, the feeling of wearing the real thing will consistently allure you to aim towards getting the natural diamonds. She expects two different segments

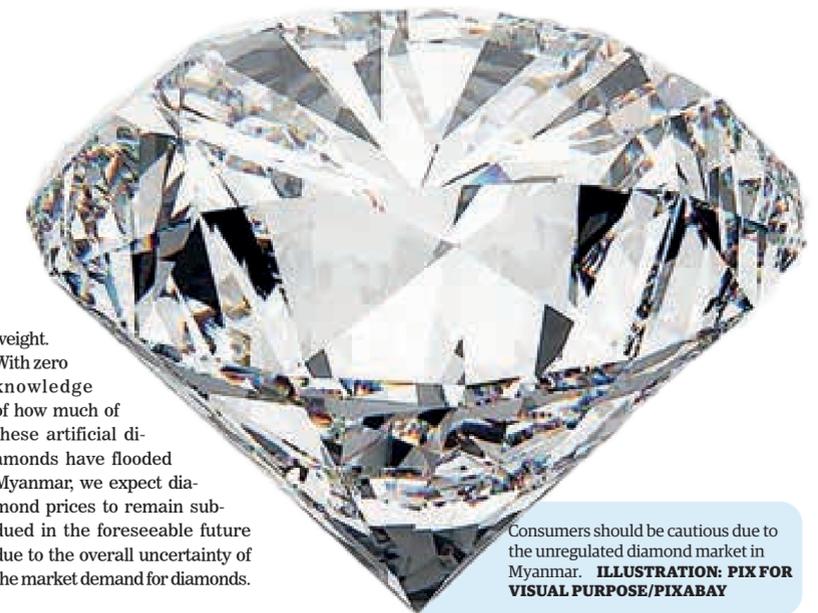
to grow separately in the future, one for natural and the other for the less expensive lab-grown diamonds. At the same time, with a considerable segment of demand in the diamond market now being satisfied by created diamonds, I would expect the supply glut even within the yearly quota released by Debeers.

Another well-known jeweller who served mainly the diplomatic community in Myanmar, Ms L Mon, said she is confident that the market will still be there, despite unscrupulous players trying to pass off created diamonds as natural, as there are machines available to test the authenticity. 'At the same time, after the Facebook saga, fewer shops are willing to do a testing service for dia-

monds from outside, as they avoid publicity and creating antagonism and negative vibes among fellow jewellers', she added.

Another old timer who owned a jewellery shop in the Scott (Bogyoke) market, Ms Phyu, however, said she would be able to tell the two apart without the use of machines. She said, 'I have many years of experience in the diamond jewellery business to have developed a discerning eye.'

Whatever the case might be, consumers should err on the side of caution and stay away from diamond buying for the time being. The diamond market is a totally unregulated industry in Myanmar, and as such, there is little recourse if you get conned into buying something not worth its



weight. With zero knowledge of how much of these artificial diamonds have flooded Myanmar, we expect diamond prices to remain subdued in the foreseeable future due to the overall uncertainty of the market demand for diamonds.

Consumers should be cautious due to the unregulated diamond market in Myanmar. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY**

Researchers give more insight into hip osteoarthritis among older adults with spinal deformity

Adult spinal deformity refers to various abnormalities of spinal curvature and alignment. As some of these deformities arise from wear and tear over time, they are likely to become more frequent in an aging population. For patients with ASD who do not improve with nonoperative treatment, spinal realignment surgery may be indicated.

A study found that one-third of patients receiving surgery for adult spinal deformity (ASD) also have severe hip osteoarthritis (OA), which can lead to poor spinal alignment and physical functionality.

Findings of the study published in *The Journal of Bone & Joint Surgery*.

These differences persist even following operative treatment of ASD, according to the new research by Alan H. Daniels, MD and Bassel Diebo, MD of Brown University and colleagues from 20 North American spinal surgery centers. "Concomitant hip and spine disease are common, yet they remain challenging for joint arthroplasty and spine surgeons," the researchers write.

Adult spinal deformity
Adult spinal deformity refers

to various abnormalities of spinal curvature and alignment. As some of these deformities arise from wear and tear over time, they are likely to become more frequent in an aging population. For patients with ASD who do not improve with nonoperative treatment, spinal realignment surgery may be indicated.

Previous studies have reported high rates of hip OA accompanying ASD. However, little is known about how OA affects patient characteristics and the outcomes of surgery for ASD – in terms of both spinal alignment and patient-reported outcomes such as physical functioning and disability.

Drs. Daniels and Diebo and colleagues analyzed rates and outcomes of hip OA in 520 older adults who underwent surgery for ASD at one of 13 US and Canadian centers. About two-thirds of patients were



The findings underscore the importance of considering hip OA in the treatment paradigm for ASD, as it can significantly influence patient outcomes, including spinal alignment and physical functioning. **ILLUSTRATION: UNSPLASH**

women, and the average age was 59 years. Consistent with previous studies, 34 per cent of patients were classified as having severe OA involving both hips.

The researchers compared the characteristics of ASD patients with and without severe hip OA, including key patient-reported outcome measures. Characteristics and outcomes were also compared at postoperative follow-up in 165 patients: 68 with severe bilateral hip OA, 32 with severe OA of one hip only, and 65 without severe OA in either hip.

Severe hip OA

On preoperative analysis, patients with severe bilateral hip OA were older (average age, 68 years) than those with unilateral (66 years) and or non-severe hip OA (60 years). Patients with severe hip OA also scored higher on

a standard assessment of frailty.

At one-year follow-up, all three groups had similar correction of lordosis. However, patients with severe hip OA had worse spinal alignment, based on a radiographic measure called the sagittal vertebral axis (SVA). The difference in SVA was significant both preoperatively and at follow-up.

Several patient-reported outcomes were also found to be worse in patients with severe bilateral hip OA, who had lower scores for physical functioning both preoperatively and at follow-up. Although overall disability scores were not significantly different between groups, severe hip OA was associated with persistent reductions in activities such as walking, traveling, and climbing stairs. Frailty contributed to the differences in functional outcomes.

Functional outcomes

The study is among the first "to investigate the alignment and functional outcomes of patients with concomitant hip OA at the time of surgery for severe ASD," the researchers write. The findings suggest that ASD patients with severe OA of both hips are older and frailer and have worse physical functioning and disability scores, even after accounting for correction of their spinal deformity. "[G]iven the complexity of concomitant hip and spine disease and the relatively frail condition of these patients, they warrant careful evaluation and optimization perioperatively," Dr. Daniels and coauthors conclude. They add: "Further research is required to elucidate how to optimize outcomes in this complex patient population."

SOURCE: ANI

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Int'l guests call for more cooperation on space exploration

Chang'e-6 aims to gather samples from the far side of the moon, marking a historic first in human exploration.

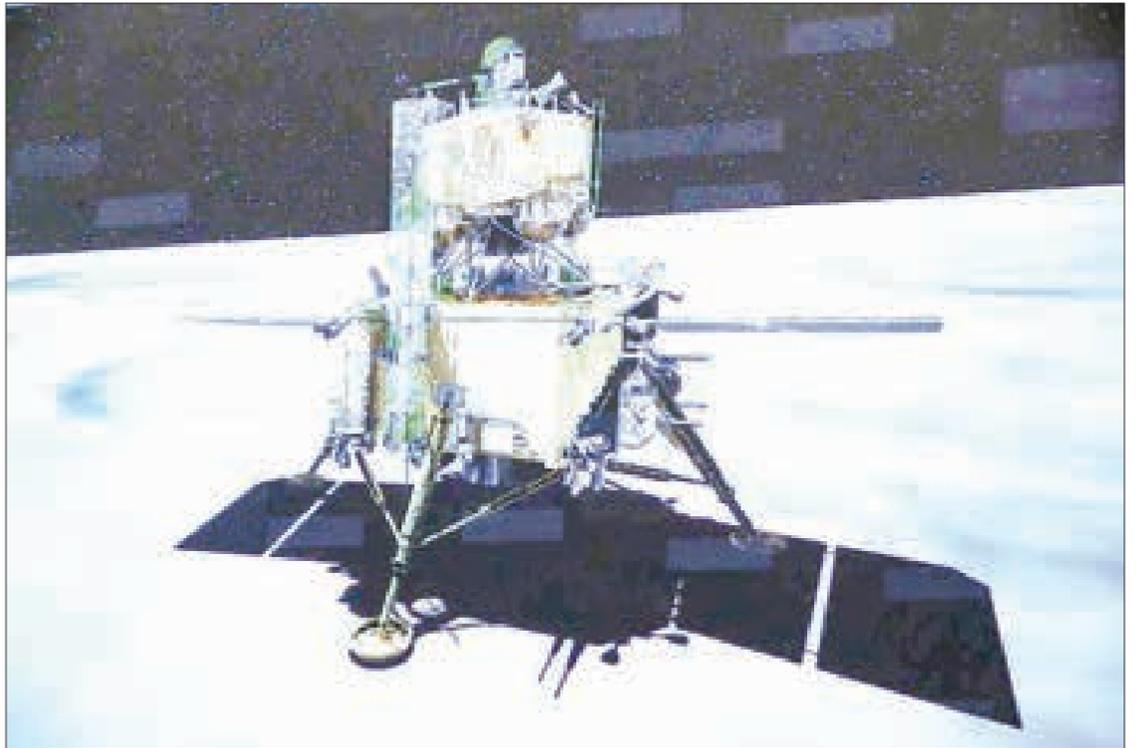
INTERNATIONAL guests on Friday spoke highly of the extensive international cooperation on China's Chang'e-6 mission and agreed to continue to seek new cooperation on lunar and deep space exploration.

About 50 guests from 12 countries and international organizations were invited by the China National Space Administration (CNSA) to attend a workshop focusing on the international payloads carried by Chang'e-6 and witness the launch at the Wenchang Space Launch Site in south China's Hainan Province.

The Chang'e-6 mission is expected to collect samples from the far side of the moon, making this mission the first of its kind in human history. The mission is carrying four payloads developed through international cooperation, providing more opportu-

nities for the world's scientists and merging human expertise in space exploration. Scientific instruments from France, Italy and the European Space Agency (ESA) are aboard the Chang'e-6 lander, and a small satellite from Pakistan is aboard the orbiter.

"We are very proud to be part of this historic mission," said Pierre-Yves Meslin, Detection of Outgassing RadoN (DORN) Principal Investigator from France, adding that he is looking forward to further space cooperation between the two countries. Qamarul Islam, a professor at the Institute of Space Technology of Pakistan, expressed great appreciation for the collaboration experience with China. He said the relatively small countries who are not able to go into space on their own should be given the opportunity to do some space research. — Xinhua



This image taken from video animation at Beijing Aerospace Control Center (BACC) shows Chang'e-5 spacecraft landing on the moon. **PHOTO: JIN LIWANG/XINHUA**

Sun-powered synergy: Samarkand solar plant bolsters China-Uzbekistan green ties



This photo taken on 29 April 2024 shows the solar PV plant built by China's Dongfang Electric Corporation in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. **PHOTO: DONGFANG ELECTRIC CORPORATION/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

IN Kattakurgan, some 50 km northwest of Samarkand, Uzbekistan's bustling gem and second-largest city, lies an ocean of solar panels, casting waves of dazzling radiance beneath the Central Asian sun.

The 220 MWac Samarkand solar PV plant, constructed by Chengdu-based Dongfang Electric Corporation (DEC), greeted

the public for the first time on Monday after its installation in April.

At the doors-open event, Deputy Minister of Energy of Uzbekistan Umid Mamadaminov said the project is "one of the first large-scale renewable energy projects in Uzbekistan." He added that it is significant for strengthening Uzbek-Chinese

ties, expanding bilateral cooperation and showcasing China's commitment to and experience in green development.

DEC adheres to its mission to "Shape the Future with Green Power" and works with all stakeholders to share development results and create a better future, said Yuan Minggang, from the top management of DEC.

Sherzod Mukhammadiyev, a 26-year-old engineer who has been working on the project since August 2023, is responsible for the technical support of construction on site.

"I think our Chinese colleagues are enthusiastic and energetic, and I have acquired a lot of skills working with them. I appreciate the youth employment opportunities the project brings. I am proud to participate in it and contribute to the construction of my hometown," he said. — Xinhua

NEWS IN SHORTS

WhatsApp introduces event notifications for group chats

IN a bid to streamline communication and enhance group interactions, WhatsApp has introduced a new feature aimed at simplifying event organization within its platform.

As per GSM Arena, the messaging giant announced the rollout of a novel tool designed to facilitate the planning of gatherings directly within WhatsApp groups, eliminating the need for external applications.

With this latest update, users now have the convenience of creating events seamlessly, whether it's a virtual meeting, a birthday celebration, or any other gathering. This feature allows anyone within a group chat to initiate an event, enabling group members to RSVP, and providing clarity on attendance. — ANI

Tropical storm Hidaya weakens as it makes landfall in Tanzania

TROPICAL storm Hidaya has weakened after it made landfall on Mafia Island, Tanzania on Saturday, according to the latest update by weather authorities.

The Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) said clouds associated with Hidaya spread over most of the southern part of the country, including Lindi, Mtwara, Coast regions and nearby areas, resulting in heavy rains in some areas. — Xinhua

Ryan Gosling wants to redo iconic 'La La Land' dance sequence

IN a recent revelation, Hollywood star Ryan Gosling confessed to a moment from the acclaimed 2016 musical romance, 'La La Land,' that continues to "haunt" him to this day.

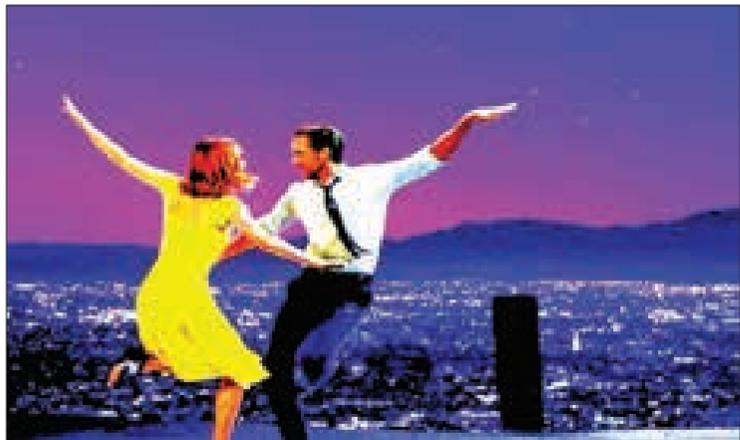
The actor, who starred opposite Emma Stone in the Oscar-winning film, expressed his desire for a redo of a particular scene, citing his infamous "La La Hand" as the reason.

Gosling recently appeared for an interview obtained by The Hollywood Reporter where he candidly admitted his regret over a scene featured on the movie's promotional poster.

Reflecting on a dance sequence with co-star Emma Stone, Gosling lamented his decision to position his hand differently, resulting in what he described as his "La La Hand."

Recalling the moment, Gosling expressed, "There's a moment that haunts me where we're dancing, Emma and I. I didn't know this would become the poster for the movie." He explained his deviation from the intended hand position, which he believed would be cooler, despite contrary opinions.

Despite receiving an Oscar nomination for his role as Sebastian in 'La La Land,' Gosling humorously acknowledged that his dance background did not prevent the "hamburger-hands" mishap. The actor's "La La Hand" blunder, as he described it, inadvertently affected the energy of the scene, leaving him with a lingering sense of remorse, as per the interview statement obtained by The Hollywood Reporter. — ANI



In a candid interview with The Hollywood Reporter, Gosling reflects on a dance sequence with Emma Stone, lamenting his hand placement on the movie's promotional poster. PHOTO: ANI



Chandigarh University Chancellor, Satnam Singh Sandhu, signed an MoU with Kristen Maynard of Harvard Business School Online to foster academic collaboration for an online MBA programme. Chandigarh University block 1 building. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Chandigarh University first in India to offer Harvard business programme

Chandigarh University pioneers India's first collaborative business management programme with Harvard University, offering international exposure to aspiring students.

CHANDIGARH University has become the first Indian university to start a Harvard University collaborative business management programme by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United States-based prestigious university to provide aspiring business students international exposure and perspective.

Chandigarh University Chancellor, Satnam Singh Sandhu signed the MoU with Kristen Maynard, Managing Director of Business Operations and Strategic Alliances, Harvard Business School (HBS) Online at Harvard

University in the presence of Chandigarh University Pro Chancellor Prof Himani Sood and others to foster academic collaboration between the two top universities for online Master of Business Administration (MBA) programme.

Under the collaboration, Chandigarh University students will be taught by the faculty of Harvard University's Business School for a semester under this online MBA programme. Harvard University faculty will also provide their course material and other educational materials during the semester to the Chandigarh University students.

Chandigarh University's business management students are set to benefit from the MoU as they will be graded with Harvard University students and get placements at top global firms as a result of this collaboration.

Chandigarh University students to also get global exposure with Harvard University's real business case studies which will help them understand the intricacies of international business management. This collaborative programme will provide Chandigarh University students same learning experience as Harvard University campus students. — ANI

Study finds how birdwatching helps students reduce distress, improve mental health

BIRDWATCHING could be an option for college students looking to enhance their mental health.

According to a recent study, persons who have nature-based experiences report higher levels of well-being and lower levels of psychological discomfort than those who do not. Birdwatching, in particular, produced encouraging effects, with bigger gains in subjective well-being and more distress reduction than more general nature exposure, such as walks. Because birdwatching is a simple sport, the findings are

positive for college students, who are among those most likely to have mental health issues.

"There has been a lot of research about well-being coming out through the pandemic

Birdwatching, in particular, emerged as a beneficial activity, leading to greater increases in subjective well-being and more significant reductions in distress compared to general nature exposure activities like walks. PHOTO: PIXABAY



that suggests adolescents and college-aged kids are struggling the most," said Nils Peterson,

corresponding author of the study and a professor of forestry and environmental resources at North Carolina State University. "Especially when you think about students and grad students, it seems like those are groups that are struggling in terms of access to nature and getting those benefits.

"Bird watching is among the most ubiquitous ways that human beings interact with wildlife globally, and college campuses provide a pocket where there's access to that activity even in

more urban settings."

To quantitatively measure subjective well-being, researchers used a five-question survey known as the World Health Organization-Five Well-Being Index (WHO-5). This tool asks participants to assign a rating of zero through five to statements about well-being, depending on how often they have felt that way in the last two weeks. For example, given the prompt "I have felt calm and relaxed," a participant would mark a zero for "at no time" or a five for "all of the time." — ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

Startup funding in India declined by 17 per cent in FY24

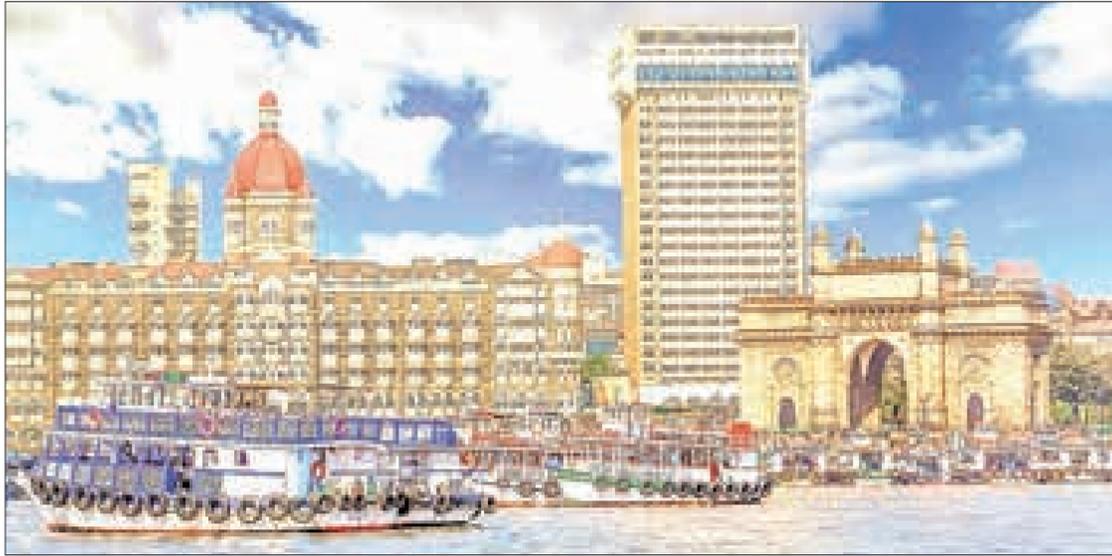
The report titled 'India Invests' by Wealth 360 One highlights the downturn in private equity investment across different value ranges.

THE startup funding in India registered a decline of 17 per cent in FY 24 as compared to the previous year.

In 2021 the investment professionals were getting on average six deals daily but in 2024, it has declined to three.

According to a report titled 'India Invests' by Wealth 360 One, the private equity of value US\$ 100-250 million range, is down by 60 per cent. While those investing US\$ 500 million or more too have gone down drastically by over 80 per cent. The funds investing less than US\$ 100 million have also registered a decline of 30 per cent. But funding under US\$ 5 million is still happening at a steady rate.

The report highlights that the bigger deals, over US\$ 25



Mumbai has surpassed India's silicon city Bengaluru in attracting PE funds as Startups funding has substantially lowered in FY24. The Gateway of India and boats as seen from the Mumbai Harbour in Mumbai, India. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

million, which usually happen when a startup is growing, have also decreased. This means

there's less money going into startups overall, especially in the medium to large-sized deals.

Late-stage venture capital investments have been hit hard too.

Startups raised nearly USD 8 billion from investors this year, marking a 50 per cent decrease from FY 22-23.

As per the Ministry of Commerce and Industry data, India is home to 111 unicorns with a total valuation of US\$ 349.67 billion. Out of the total number of unicorns, 45 unicorns with a total valuation of US\$ 102.30 billion were born in 2021 and 22 unicorns with a total valuation of US\$ 29.20 billion born in 2022. In 2023 only one unicorn emerged.

India houses 1.7 lakh registered Startups, collectively generating over 1.2 million jobs. Maharashtra leads with 5801 Startups, followed by Delhi NCR with 3150, Karnataka with 3032, and Tamil Nadu with 2810 Startups. — ANI

ADB's development fund gets US\$ 5 bln replenishment

DONORS and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have agreed to a replenishment of 5 billion US dollars for the ADB's Asian Development Fund (ADF) 14 and Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF) 8, the ADB announced Friday.

The commitment was made during the ADB's 57th annual meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia.

The ADF is ADB's largest source of grants for operations in its poorest and most vulnerable

developing member countries and is replenished every four years.

The ADF 14, marking the 13th replenishment since the fund's establishment, will support grant operations from 2025 to 2028. The ADF 14 replenishment is about 22 per cent higher than the 4.1 billion dollars available in the ADF 13 and will provide eligible ADB members with the largest-ever volume of ADF grants. — Xinhua

Pak wheat scam probe: Evasive response of govt raises concerns

THE Pakistani government's response to the wheat scam investigation appears to be evasive, despite Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's assurance to safeguard farmers' interests, Dawn reported.

While he has pledged unwavering support for farmers, the federal government's reluctance to thoroughly probe the alleged

scam and hold accountable those responsible is palpable.

Heading the fact-finding committee tasked with unravelling irregularities in the wheat import is Cabinet Secretary Kamran Ali Afzal. However, there seems to be an element of hesitancy within the government to engage fully in the investigation, the report noted. — ANI

Afghan women venture into business for economic independence



Despite the widespread belief that Afghan women are primarily relegated to domestic duties, a brave minority is defying norms by stepping into the realm of entrepreneurship, striving for their financial autonomy. **PHOTO: IMAGE USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE/PIXABAY**

AMID a quite prevalent conception that Afghan women are confined to household roles, a courageous few are breaking barriers to boldly venture into business for their economic independence.

One such trailblazer is Sona Mirzada, seen at the ongoing annual fair of agricultural products held in Afghanistan's capital of Kabul, showcasing her products in hopes of expanding her business and sales.

The Afghan caretaker gov-

ernment's Ministry for Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock organized the four-day event starting Wednesday, aiming to push agricultural production and trade.

Local businesspersons and farmers put on display their products and commodity items in 263 stalls, including 56 by women.

"We have been involved in agriculture and animal husbandry, and in the agriculture sector we plant pepper and

similar plants," Mirzada told Xinhua at her stall.

With evident pride in her accomplishments, Mirzada revealed that her company has employed 60 women workers, with 40 of them engaged in cultivation in Dihdadi district of the northern Balkh province.

A resident in Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital of Balkh, Mirzada launched her income-generating project a year ago with an initial capital of 100,000 afghanis (about 1,400 US dollars). Mirzada said her capital has grown to 1.1 million afghanis over the past year, allowing each of her woman workers to earn up to 5,000 afghanis per month.

"Any woman working with us can earn between 3,000 to 5,000 afghanis monthly. They work within their gardens and don't need to go out of their houses. They can manage their household affairs without affecting the work in gardens," the middle-aged businesswoman said enthusiastically from her stall. — Xinhua

Ratnagiri cashew industry struggles despite global acclaim

NESTLED within the tranquil vistas of a coastal Maharashtra city, Ratnagiri, where the scent of Alphonso mangoes dances on the breeze, lies yet another gem waiting to be unearthed: Ratnagiri cashew, renowned as the world's finest.

Renowned for its rich flavour and superior nutritional profile, Ratnagiri cashew stands as a beacon of agricultural excellence. Yet, behind

this acclaim lies a tale of turmoil, as the cashew industry in the Konkan region battles against global competition.

Despite Ratnagiri's status as a cashew powerhouse, its farmers and processors find themselves in dire straits.

The allure of cheaper imports from African countries has cast a shadow over local produce, plunging the industry into distress. — ANI



Its rich flavor and superior nutrition highlight agricultural excellence. **PHOTO: ANI**

“India has unexplored and unattended to opportunities”: Warren Buffet

Buffett suggests Berkshire might pursue opportunities in India soon.



Warren Buffett, Berkshire Hathaway's Chairman, sees abundant opportunities in India. While not specifying, he notes unexplored areas there. **PHOTO: ANI**

LEGENDARY investor and Berkshire Hathaway Chairman and CEO Warren Buffett is

bullish on India. Presiding over the company's annual meeting on Sunday, the nonagenar-

ian investor said there are loads of opportunities in India.

To a question on whether his company Berkshire was actively looking for opportunities in India, Buffett, without getting into specifics, said there are unexplored or unattended to opportunities and areas in India.

“Berkshire Hathaway's business and investment model is focused on acquiring and managing businesses across multiple industries” In India, I am sure that there are loads of opportunities in a place like India, and the question is do we have any advantage, in either insights into those businesses or contacts that will make possible for some transactions that participants in India would particularly want us to participate,”

the nonagenarian investor said.

“I would say that's something that more energetic management at Berkshire could pursue because we do have a reputation now and is known around the world and our Japanese experience has been fascinating. In that respect, so there may be an unexplored or unattended to opportunities and area (in India),” he added.

Hinting at a foray in India, he said it would not take much time before it pursues opportunities in the country. He added Berkshire's new management will decide on investments in India.

“We will see how the next management plays the game out at Berkshire and fortunately you don't have too long to wait on that generally,” he said. — ANI

BRIEFS : BIZ

Elon Musk's Tesla sues Indian company for infringement of trademark

ELON Musk's carmaker Tesla Inc. has filed a suit against an Indian battery maker for alleged infringement of trademark and unfair trade competition by using the brand name “Tesla Power” to promote its products. The suit seeks an injunction and damages against the company. Elon Musk's Tesla Inc suit stated that it is a multinational company that has been operating and recognized by the name 'TESLA', registered under the laws of Delaware, United States of America.

The suit further claimed that the plaintiff Tesla Inc. has obtained registrations for its trademarks in various jurisdictions around the world. Plaintiff also claims to be in the business of innovative advanced battery technologies. The total revenue for the year 2023 by the company is claimed to be US\$ 98.6 billion. —ANI

US unemployment rate ticks up to 3.9% in April as job growth slows

U.S. employers added fewer-than-expected 175,000 jobs in April, with the unemployment rate again ticking up to 3.9 per cent, the US Labour Department reported Friday.

Job gains occurred in health care, social assistance, and transportation and warehousing, according to the department's Bureau of Labour Statistics (BLS). Total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 175,000 in April, lower than the average monthly gain of 242,000 over the prior 12 months, the report noted. In February, the unemployment rate increased to 3.9 per cent, the highest level in two years, before slightly dropping to 3.8 per cent in March. — Xinhua

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IN THE MATTER OF EDOTCO URBAN INFRASHARE LTD (IN MEMBER'S VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP)

[Under Section 147 of Insolvency Law & Rules 9 & 15 (b) of Insolvency Rules]

Pursuant to Section 156 (b) of the Myanmar Companies Law the following resolutions were passed as Special Resolutions, on 30 April, 2024 by the sole Member of Edotco Urban Infrashare Ltd.

- (1) Resolved that the Company be and is hereby wound up voluntarily as Member's Voluntary Winding-up under the Insolvency Law.
- (2) Resolved that Daw Hnin Su Mon (B.Com, C.P.A, D.B.L, ACCA, Member of Myanmar Association of Insolvency Practitioners Inc.), holder of Citizenship Scrutiny Card No. 12/Ma Ya Ka (Naing) 114749, Senior Manager of WIN Consulting Limited of Room No. 2D, 1st Floor, Rose Condominium, No. 182/194, Botahtaung Pagoda Road, Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar, be and is hereby appointed as Liquidator of the Company for the purpose of such winding-up and be authorized to carry on the business of the Company to such extent and for such period as may be necessary for the beneficial winding up thereof and be granted such other powers as may be deemed fit or proper.

S/d Liquidator of Edotco Urban Infrashare Ltd (In Member's Voluntary Winding-up)

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

Japan PM Kishida vows to tackle global challenges with South America

Kishida announced Japan's commitment to fund a programme to conserve Brazil's Amazon rainforest, vital for global oxygen production.



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (back, L) and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (back, R) attend a joint press conference following their talks in Brasilia on 3 May 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida pledged Saturday to work together with South American countries to tackle global challenges including climate change, economic disparity and poverty.

Kishida made the remarks in a speech in Sao Paulo on Japan's policies toward Latin America and the Caribbean as Tokyo seeks to deepen relations with emerging and developing nations, collectively referred to as the Global South.

With Brazil holding the presidency of the Group of 20 economies and Peru serving as the chair of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, the Global South is "under the world spotlight" this year, Kishida said in the speech.

On Friday, Kishida held bilateral talks with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Paraguayan President Santiago Pena as part of his six-day tour

that also took him to France. It was his first visit to South America since he took office in October 2021.

Kishida said Japan has decided to provide funds to a program aimed at preserving Brazil's Amazon rainforest, seen as the "lungs of the Earth," while helping Caribbean islands vulnerable to global warming to prepare for natural disasters.

Japan will continue to promote high-quality infrastructure and other sustainable economic cooperation projects, Kishida said. He noted that Japanese companies have set up more than 1,000 new offices in the Latin American region over the past 10 years.

As around 3.1 million people of Japanese descent live in the region, his government will also introduce a people-to-people exchange program involving 1,000 individuals for the next three-year period, Kishida added. — Kyodo

NEWS ROUNDUP: WORLD

Iran plans to begin construction of Darkhovin nuclear reactor this fall

IRAN is planning to start the construction of the "nuclear island" of the Darkhovin (Karun) nuclear power plant in the fall, Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), said on Sunday. A nuclear island is a complex of buildings and structures that ensure the functioning of a nuclear reactor of an NPP.

"God willing, the first concrete pouring of the nuclear island will be carried out this year at the Karun nuclear power plant ... I hope [it will happen] in the fall," Eslami was quoted as saying by the Iranian government on Telegram.

Pouring concrete into the foundation of the nuclear island means a full-fledged start of construction not only of the reactor building, but also of the entire NPP power unit. — SPUTNIK

At least 56 killed due to torrential rains in Brazil

AT least 56 people were killed due to torrential rains, followed by floods and mudslides in Brazil, forcing thousands of people out of their homes, reported Al Jazeera citing the government.

Rescue operations are underway as emergency responders race against time to locate survivors trapped amidst the debris of collapsed homes, bridges, and roads.

The surge in water levels in the state of Rio Grande do Sul is straining dams and threatening the metropolis of Porto Alegre, the country's civil defence agency said, according to Al Jazeera. — ANI

Arabs pushing for roadmap leading to Palestinian state within 3 yrs

Sixty foreign dignitaries from moderate Arab nations gathered at a conference in Saudi Arabia, urging the United States to outline a clear plan for establishing a Palestinian state within three years.



Palestinian people attend a demonstration marking the 74th anniversary of Nakba Day in Gaza City, on 15 May 2022. **PHOTO: RIZEK ABDELJAWAD/XINHUA/FILE**

SIXTY foreign dignitaries from moderate Arab countries, convening at a conference in Saudi Arabia, jointly called upon the United States to chart a clear path towards the establishment of a Palestinian

state within three years. This demand comes amidst growing frustrations over the protracted Israeli-Palestinian conflict and a desire for tangible progress toward a lasting solution.

The call for action was

underscored by the absence of Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas, who was scheduled to meet with US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken in Riyadh on Friday. Sources close to the Palestinian leadership revealed that his refusal to engage with Blinken was in protest against the Biden administration's veto of the Palestinian bid for full membership in the UN Security Council.

On 19 April the US vetoed a Security Resolution unilaterally recognizing Palestinian statehood. State Department deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel said at the time that the Palestinians do not meet the criteria for statehood and that the Palestinian Authority needed to undergo significant reform. — ANI



Brooks Koepka won LIV Singapore on Sunday, two weeks before defending his PGA Championship title. **PHOTO: AFP**

Koepka warms up for PGA defence with LIV Singapore victory

BROOKS Koepka fired a warning ahead of his PGA Championship defence in two weeks' time by carding a three-under par 68 Sunday to win LIV Singapore by two strokes from Australian pair Cam Smith and Marc Leishman.

The 34-year-old American, a five-time major winner, finished at 15-under par to become the first player to win four individual titles on the Saudi-backed breakaway circuit which is in its second full season. "I feel good. It's a lot better than I did last week," said Koepka, who has hit form at just the right time as he heads to Valhalla to defend the major he won a year ago at Oak Hill. "It's all starting to come around. I've put in a lot of work and I like the way things are trending," added Koepka.

"I just need to go back next week and make sure everything continues, do the right stuff and go from there". — AFP

Myanmar National League Cup matches to continue on 7 May

THE Myanmar National League Cup 2024 matches will continue on 7, 8 and 9 May with crucial matches, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation.

All the teams will compete in this week matches except Yangon United from Group A, Shan United from Group B, Hanthawady United from Group C and ISPE FC from Group C. As the Week-8 match, GFA will take on Maha United at YTC in Thuwunna on 7 May while University FC will face Shwepyitha FC at University Sports Complex on the same day. Next, Kachin United will play against Rakhine United at Yangon United Sports Complex on 8 May, and Glory Goal FC will meet Rainbow FC on the same day.

Likewise, Ayeyawady United will take on Dagon Star United at Padonma Stadium on 9 May and Dagon Port FC will face Silver Stars FC at University Sports Complex on the same day. Similarly, Yadanabon FC will play Myawady FC at YTC in Thuwunna and Thitsar Arman FC will face Rekkhapura United at Yangon United Sports Complex on 9 May.



The players of the Yangon United celebrating their victory at the previous domestic match. **PHOTO: MNL**

After the Week-7 matches Yangon United is standing atop with 18 points from six games while Maha United sees second place with 12 points in

five matches. Unluckily, Rekkhapura United just claimed one point from six games and the team is standing at the bottom. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Undisputed champion 'Canelo' Alvarez hands Munguia first defeat



Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez lands a left against Jaime Munguia on the way to a unanimous decision victory in their super-middleweight world title fight in Las Vegas. **PHOTO: AFP**

SAUL "Canelo" Alvarez retained his undisputed super-middleweight world title with a convincing unanimous decision over fellow Mexican Jaime Munguia on Saturday.

Alvarez handed Munguia the first defeat in 44 professional bouts, dropping

the 27-year-old challenger in the fourth round and inexorably taking control to improve to 61-2-2 in his storied career.

The judges scored it 117-110, 116-111 and 115-112 for Alvarez, who retained his IBF, WBA, WBC and WBO belts.

Munguia, whose 34 knockouts in-

cluded victories inside the distance in four of his previous five fights, came out on the attack. He pushed back the vastly experienced Alvarez with his jab and rattled the champion in the third round with a right to the jaw.

But Alvarez responded in the fourth. After Munguia connected with a pair of solid rights Alvarez followed a left hook with a massive uppercut that sent Munguia to the canvas.

"You know, I take my time," Alvarez said of his measured start.

"I have a lot of experience. Jaime Munguia is a great fighter. He's strong. He's smart, but I take my time".

The fifth round opened to chants of "Canelo!" ringing in the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, where support was evenly divided between the Mexican combatants in a fight coinciding with Mexico's Cinco de Mayo festivities.

An Alvarez jab popped Munguia's head back and, in the sixth, an Alvarez left hook had Munguia's knees buckling briefly. — AFP

La Liga: Real Madrid assure title, Girona reach Champions League

REAL Madrid were confirmed as La Liga champions with four games left to play after they won 3-0 at home to Cadiz, while FC Barcelona lost 4-2 away to Girona.

Cadiz had slightly the better of a dull first half in the Santiago Bernabeu, but everything changed after the break.

Thibaut Courtois kept the score 0-0 after he denied Chris Ramos when the Cadiz striker was clean through on goal early in the second half, and almost immediately afterwards, Brahim Diaz put Madrid ahead. The attacking midfielder looked to be well-marked, but found space to control Luka Modric's pass and score in the bottom corner. Diaz turned provider to set Jude Bellingham up for Real Madrid's second in the 68th minute and Joselu added a third with a tap-in in injury time.

That result left FC Barcelona needing to win away to third place Girona to delay Madrid's title celebrations, but Girona won 4-2 with a stunning second half display. — Xinhua

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Japan PM Kishida vows to tackle global challenges with South America

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Xi leaves for state visits to France, Serbia, Hungary

Chinese President Xi Jinping embarked on a series of state visits to France, Serbia, and Hungary, following invitations from President Emmanuel Macron, President Aleksandar Vučić, and President Tamás Sulyok and Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, respectively.



The Eiffel Tower in Paris, France, 5 March 2024. PHOTO: CFP/CGTN

CHINESE President Xi Jinping left Beijing on Sunday morning for state visits to France, Serbia and Hungary at the invitation of President Emmanuel Macron of the Republic of France,

President Aleksandar Vučić of the Republic of Serbia, and President Tamás Sulyok and Prime Minister Viktor Orbán of Hungary.

Xi's entourage includes his wife

Peng Liyuan, Cai Qi, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and director of the General Office of the

CPC Central Committee, and Wang Yi, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and foreign minister. —Xinhua

Japan town begins blocking Mt Fuji view from 'bad-mannered' tourists

Local officials and residents express a welcoming attitude towards visitors but stress the need to address issues such as continuous street crossing, disregard for traffic signals, littering, trespassing, illegal parking, and smoking outside designated areas.



Local officials and residents say while the town welcomes visitors, they need to stop tourists from continuously crossing the street, ignoring red lights and littering. PHOTO: AFP

WORK has begun in a small Japanese town to erect a barrier blocking views of the country's most famous sight, Mount Fuji, after locals complained

of bad behaviour by photo-hungry tourists.

Fujikawaguchiko town began building panels of mesh netting at a

spot where unending flows of mostly foreign tourists visit daily to take photos of the majestic mountain sitting behind a Lawson convenience store.

Photos taken from a narrow stretch of pavement across a busy road from the Lawson store — which are ubiquitous in Japan — are widely shared online.

Local officials and residents say while the town welcomes visitors, they need to stop tourists from continuously crossing the street, ignoring red lights, littering, trespassing, illegally parking and smoking outside of designated areas.

"It became not uncommon for people to yell at us when we asked them to move their cars, and for them to throw their lit cigarettes (on the ground)," a dentist's office located across the street from the Lawson shop said in a statement. — AFP

Türkiye inaugurates new high-speed train line

TÜRKIYE celebrated the inauguration of a new high-speed train line on Saturday, linking Istanbul to the central Anatolian city of Sivas, according to the state-run Anadolu agency.

The Istanbul-Sivas line will take seven hours and 18 minutes, serviced by trains accommodating up to 483 passengers, added the report.

Speaking at the ceremony in Istanbul, Osman Boyraz, deputy minister of transport and infrastructure, emphasized Türkiye's strategic importance in international freight and passenger transportation.

According to Boyraz, Türkiye invested 57 billion US dollars in building and renewing its railways over the last 22 years, increased the line length from 10,948 km to 13,919 km, and built 2,251 km of high-speed train lines. —Xinhua