

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Article

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By Augustin

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A bird's-eye view of the Yangon International Gateway Terminal on the Yangon River. PHOTO: MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

8 vessels dock at port terminals for rice export

Myanmar will ship over 135,000 tonnes of rice to international markets.

Eight ships designated for bagged rice cargo are docking at the international port terminals, and more than 135,000 tonnes of bagged rice are planned to be loaded onto them, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The Ministry of Commerce has been cooperating with departments and institutions concerned to achieve export targets and beyond depending on the supply volume of rice, broken rice, pulses, maize, rubber and fisheries from the respective companies.

The Ministry of Commerce is working together with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association,

Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association to meet export targets and facilitate exports. The federation aims to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice exports in the 2024-2025 financial year (April-March).

Myanmar is projected to export 12,500 tonnes of rice each through Ahlon International Port Terminal and Yangon International Gateway Terminal, 10,000 tonnes through The Myanmar Terminal, 9,800 tonnes through Wilmar International Port Terminal, and 91,120 tonnes through Sule Pagoda Wharves, totalling 135,920 tonnes.

Furthermore, four more ships will be called to Yangon Port to export 74,000

tonnes of rice.

The federation aimed to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice export in the FY 2023-2024, generating earnings of US\$1 billion. However, rice exports fell short of the target with 1.6 million tonnes worth \$845 million.

The chairperson of the Myanmar Rice Federation affirmed that the Central Bank of Myanmar's monetary policy to control export earnings impeded rice exports, hurting exporters financially. The El Nino weather conditions also hampered rice export.

Myanmar exported 2,261,203 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners in the past 2022-2023 FY (April-March), with an estimated value of \$853.472 million. — NN/EM

Maize exports exceed target in May

IN order to meet and exceed the national export targets, the Ministry of Commerce has set targets for each item of export by month in the financial year.

Maize export target for the first quarter of this financial year, April, May and June, is 380,000 tonnes. According to the statistics, up to the end of May 2024, 478,000 tonnes of corn were actually exported, exceeding the target.

Also, emphasis is being placed on meeting and exceeding the June target. According to the 5 June 2024 list, 14 ships to export corn are docked at international ports.

A total of 221,330 tonnes of maize, including 32,058 tonnes of maize from Ahlon International Port terminal, 9,500 tonnes from Yangon International Gateway Terminal, 36,500 tonnes from Myanmar Industrial Port, 20,672 tonnes from Sule Pagoda Wharves, 25,000 tonnes from The Myanmar Terminal, 27,500 tonnes from Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa. 26,000 tonnes from Myanmar Integrated Port Limited, 11,000 tonnes of corn from Wilmar International Port Terminal, 25,000 tonnes from Thilawa Multipurpose International Terminal, 2,700 tonnes from Shwemee, and 5,400 tonnes of corn from Min Htet Min Terminal Port will be exported.

In addition, as the export of corn from February to the end of August is allowed to be duty-free from the neighbouring country of Thailand, the Myanmar Maize Entrepreneurs Association is pushing for the timely export of corn seed products until the end of August this year. — MNA/KZL



NATIONAL

Notice

THE Central Bank of Myanmar grants banking licences to the banks and supervises whether they follow the law, rules, regulations and directives. Banks offer various banking services such as savings, loans to vital sectors for the State economy, digital financial services, financial assistance for the trading sector and MSMEs and payment with international banks following the directives of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Currently, malicious media outlets and unscrupulous people who do not want State economic growth intentionally spread fake news on Facebook pages, including Yan Paing Soe, Dean Kyne and YouTube channels such as Yebaw Shan Lay, Big Boss, Rc David and Khit Thit Media, to affect the State's economy and financial status.

The Central Bank of Myanmar urges the people not to believe and not to worry about the news spreading on social networks that intend to affect the government and the interests of the people.

Therefore, the public does not need to be concerned about the instigation of insurgents. People can get banking services as expected, and the Central Bank of Myanmar reaffirms complete protection of people's savings.

Central Bank of Myanmar

Myanmar participates in Brazil's Food & Cultural Bazaar

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that the Myanmar Embassy in Brasilia participated in a Food and Cultural Bazaar organized by the GCCM (Group of Heads of Mission Spouses). The event was held on 1 June in Brasilia, Brazil.

Seven ASEAN embassies, including Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, and Vietnam, participated in the bazaar alongside 50 other embassies

and missions.

The Myanmar ambassador, his wife, and embassy staff showcased Myanmar handicrafts and distributed pamphlets in Portuguese about tourist destinations in Myanmar to guests.

The report states that the GCCM will donate the proceeds from the bazaar to orphanages, homes for older people, and charities supporting disabled people, people experiencing poverty, and those in need. — ASH/TMT



Myanmar ambassador, his spouse and embassy staff at the Myanmar booth.

Strong objection and condemnation statement

5 June 2024

TERRORISTS launched a bomb attack on the basic education primary school in Einshaebayin Ward of Dawei in Taninthayi Region at lunchtime, 12:30 pm on 4 June 2024. In the incident, one child was killed, and 24 other children were injured. Hence, the Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) strongly condemns terrorist groups and their inhumane terror acts on schoolchildren studying peacefully.

*Central Executive Committee
Young Men's Buddhist Association-YMBA (Central)*



The passenger vessel departs from Mandalay Port in the Ayeyawady River.

Pilots to aid Mingun and Bagan Waterway

U Ye Tun Lin Aung, Assistant Director of Transport Division 5 (Navigation) of the Department of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems in Mandalay Region, announced a scheme to provide navigation specialists to assist passenger ships operating along the Mandalay-Mingun-Bagan route on the Ayeyawady River.

During the monsoon season, high water levels can pose challenges for navigating the river. Passenger vessels can

now contact the Transport Division (Navigation) to hire qualified navigators for K3,000 per mile, ensuring a safer journey.

"We've seen a recent surge in passenger traffic between Mandalay Port and Mingun," explained U Ye Tun Lin Aung. "The high water levels during the rainy season can be unfamiliar to boat captains who don't typically have experience operating during this time. Our scheme will help them by providing professional pilots to guide their vessels. The fee

is based on the distance travelled, with a rate of K3,000 per mile".

The service is not limited to the Mandalay-Mingun-Bagan route. Navigators can also be hired for passenger and cargo vessels travelling from Mandalay to Bhamo. The Transport Division (Navigation) has already installed navigational signs along the Ayeyawady River for this route, and boat operators are advised to follow these markers for safe passage. — ASH/MKKS

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

NATIONAL

Myanmar marks 2024 World Environment Day

STATE Administration Council Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe addressed the 2024 World Environment Day held at MICC II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, he highlighted the emergence of World Environment Day, the theme of this year, “Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience”, impacts of extreme weather conditions such as high temperatures, drought, heavy rainfall and desertification occurring in the country as well as in the world countries.

He also mentioned Chauk Township of Magway Region was hit by the highest temperature at 48.2 degrees Celsius that, past the old highest temperature of 47.4 degrees Celsius, which occurred 56 years ago, vast impacts of increasing temperatures, potential conditions due to climate change, activities to implement the commitments on combatting desertification of Convention objectives by the government after being a member of UN Convention to



State Administration Council Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe delivers a speech at the 2024 World Environment Day at MICC II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Combat Desertification in 1997.

He added that over 400,000 acres of forest plantation were conducted between the 1997-1998 financial year and 2023-2024 financial year in 53 townships of 13 districts of Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay regions, whereas 2.25 million acres of natural forest were conserved and plans were

carried out to ensure the widespread use of firewood substitute fuel and access to water.

He said that according to the directive of the Head of the State to make preparation for plantation of two-year and above samplings in two acres per village, over two million plants, including firewood plantation under

two acres per village plan, will be grown benefiting 809 villages, and 22 million of plants including forest plantation will be planted across the nation.

Moreover, the country has 1,304 reserved forests covering 25.88 per cent of the country’s area and 59 protected areas covering 6.42 per cent of the coun-

try’s area until April 2024, while the government targets reserved forest for 30 per cent of the total area and protected area for 10 per cent of the total area in 2030.

He then urged them to work hard in unity to meet the target within the six-year plan.

He also stressed the need to combat desertification and drought resilience and to follow the 3R system to reduce plastic pollution.

He then presented the Good Environmental Management Town Award to Kalaw of Shan State, the Good Environmental Management Village Award to Thanbo Ywathit village of Magway Township in Magway Region and the Good Environmental Management Factory Award to Shwe Taung Cement Co Ltd (Apache Cement) in Thazi Township of Mandalay Region.

Then, SAC members Porel Aung Thein and Dr Ba Shwe awarded prizes to the winners of article and essay competitions of different levels. — MNA/KTZH

Deputy Information Minister discusses systematic printing services



The Government Printing House Management Committee’s coordination meeting 1/2024 in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint, in his capacity as Chairman of the Government Printing House Management Committee, addressed the 1/2024 coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his speech, the deputy minister said the State Administration Council instructed

the governmental ministries to offer printing services of books and publications at the Myawady Book Store of the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare, Printing and Publishing Department and News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information and Kaba Aye printing house of the

Religious Affairs Department, and to offer the services to the private printing houses only when the workload is heavy. Therefore, the SAC organized the committee.

The first committee meeting was held on 30 April, and the printing capacity from the printing departments was sought. The printing services at the government printing houses aim to increase income and promote the production rate.

He continued that the departments could submit their potential capacity, and the printing houses would receive more job offers, as well as the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare and Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

Then, the attendees coordinated the discussion, and the deputy minister concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

COVID-19 loan repayment deadline set for 1 July 2024

THE Committee on Remedial Actions on Potential Economic Impacts of COVID-19 provided one-year loans to businesses affected by the pandemic, starting in April 2020, at an interest rate of one per cent.

After the initial one-year loan period, extensions were granted: first for six months, then for another six months, and finally for one year, totalling a three-year term.

Now that the three-year term has ended, companies and businesses in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and various states and regions obligated to repay loans from the COVID-19 fund must repay the loan principal and interest by 1 July 2024.

Committee on Remedial Actions on Potential Economic Impacts of COVID-19

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Clarification by Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, Leader of the Information Committee of the State Administration Council, on the Fabricated News about the incident in Byaingphyu Village in Sittway Township Released by AA Terrorists

IT is found that AA terrorists have released a concocted news report about the incident at Byaingphyu Village, Sittway Township. Kanpyin Old Village/Kanpyin New Village is located to the north of Byaingphyu Village. Byaingphyu Village is also located to the north of Sittway Township.

AA terrorists have taken refuge in these villages and have been attacking Sittway, dropping bombs from drones and shooting randomly over it with heavy weapons since before. Acting on a tip-off by the residents that AA terrorists were taking refuge in Byaingphyu Village and Kanpyin Old Village/Kanpyin New Village, Tatmadaw carried out regional security in Byaingphyu Village on 29 May. When Tatmadaw security forces entered the village, the situation was calm.

In the village, security forces interrogated suspicious-looking persons, non-villagers. It is certain that they were not the residents of the village. Three of the interrogated persons attempted to grab the rifle of a security force member and attack him. A security force member had to shoot three persons to death. About 20 persons were detained and interrogated.

It is mentioned in the AA's cunning and propagandistic news report that about 40 persons died and women were raped. Such incidents did not take place. There is a reason behind the AA's release of the fabricated news. AA committed the murder of Bengalis in



Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, Leader of the Information Committee of the State Administration Council.

Buthidaung Township and set fire to their houses. Regarding this, some social media and international organizations put pressure on it. Meanwhile, AA made this accusation, fabricating the news.

The worst incidents occurred in Buthidaung on 17 and 18 May. We received the information that AA terrorists entered Buthidaung at about 9:30 pm on 17 May. They torched the houses of Bengalis and ordered them to leave their places. They set fire to all Bengali villages – the villages near Buthidaung, such as Othi Village, and then all the villages to the east of Buthidaung. We also got a piece of information that they had committed massacres. We have sound evidence regarding this. They were trying to cover up their activities.

I have also mentioned it once before. AA is practising racial discrimination and doing extremist racial instigations. If I put it straight, the AA organization is creating hatred of Myanmars, and hatred of Bengalis. Moreover, it is creating hatred of small national races such as Mro, Khami, Thet, and Dainet, among others. AA is an organization relying on narcotic drugs. In the past, we exposed some AA members and organizations supporting AA in connection with the trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs.

I would like to mention an exposure as recent as 21 March. A duty-conscious person informed us that Thant Zin Oo, an absconder, an AA member in charge of supply, was transporting narcotic drugs from Yangon to Sittway and Buthidaung, link-

ing with May Yu Tun, also an absconder, another AA member in charge of supply, who was living in Buthidaung. Then, we raided a place in Tamway Township, Yangon, and arrested culprit Tun Thein Aung and his wife.

Based on their testimonials, we conducted a surprise check on a cargo vessel, MV Sein Pyae Min, that plied between Yangon and Sittway. The ship was moored at No 2 wharf at Bayintnaung Port in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region. We seized one million stimulant tablets, bearing the letters 'WY', kept in cardboard boxes, worth K1 billion at a prevailing value. The three arrested persons said they accepted an offer by absconder Thant Zin Oo, who was in Bauktheesu Ward in Sittway, to transport the stimulant tablets from Yangon to Sittway


for a fee.

So they put the drugs on MV Sein Pyae Min. We made nine seizures of narcotic drugs in a period from 2016 to March this year that were connected with the AA insurgent organization. The seized drugs were valued at K294.82 billion.

On 29 May, we inspected a motorcar on its way from Yangon to Pyay, which was carrying bricks mixed with narcotic drugs, supposed to be sent to the AA group. Two people in the car were Tun Tun Win and Teza. We seized ten sacks, each containing 20 packages of WY tablets packed in brick-shaped bags, and nine sacks, each containing ten packages in brick-shaped bags — totaling 2,900,000 tablets, valued at K2,000 million.

As I have mentioned, it is found that AA terrorists are committing extremist racial instigations, massacres, and arsons in Rakhine State, and trafficking and distributing narcotic drugs that will cause the extinction of the entire nation. The national brethren and the people must be conscious of AA terrorists who are perpetrating extremist racial instigation and engaged in drug trafficking that will cause the extinction of the Rakhine nationals. I would like to remind all the people of their activities that will harm the benefits of the Rakhine people in Rakhine State and the nationals of Myanmar and urge all to oppose them collectively.

Thank you, all.



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NATIONAL

High waters spark dolphin-watching boom in Mandalay Region



The photo shows artisan net fishing being assisted by Irrawaddy dolphins.

THE Mandalay Region's Irrawaddy Dolphin Conservation Area is experiencing a surge in domestic visitors, according to U Maung Maung Lay, Chairman of the Department of Fisheries' Irrawaddy Dolphin Conservation Group. Tourists are flocking to witness the unique collaboration between local fishermen and dolphins during the Ayeyarwaddy River's high water season.

This period offers two key advantages: abundant food sources for the dolphins due to high water levels and easier viewing of the traditional net-fishing practices where dolphins assist fishermen. As U Maung Maung Lay explains, "The high water brings

plentiful food for the Irrawaddy dolphins, making it the prime time to see the largest gatherings in the Mandalay-Kyaukmyaung region. This attracts travellers to Indaung village, where dolphin sightings are commonplace. In May alone, we estimated around 300 visitors daily".

The appeal extends beyond Indaung. Travellers are also drawn to Ayekyun village in Mandalay Region's Madaya Township, where community-based tourism (CBT) initiatives are flourishing. Here, visitors can observe the daily spectacle of Irrawaddy dolphins grazing in the Ayeyawady River. — ASH/MKKS

Miss Universe Myanmar 2024: Public vote determines top six finalists

THE organizers of Miss Universe Myanmar 2024 have announced that the public will play a crucial role in selecting the competition's finalists. Through a voting system on the Bigo Live Myanmar application, the official voting partner, viewers will decide the top six contestants.

Voting commenced on 25 May, and ten contestants have already emerged as frontrunners based on the current results. These contestants represent the following regions

and townships: Yangon (East), Myawady, Thanbyuzayat, Bago, Mandalay, Tachilek, Aungban, Taungoo, Yangon (South), and Hlaingbwe.

The grand finale of Miss Universe Myanmar 2024 will be held on the evening of 7 June at the Yangon Convention Centre (YCC), located on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Yankin Township, Yangon. All 52 representatives from Myanmar's states and regions will compete for the coveted crown. — ASH/TRKM



Electricity restored to 295 buildings in Hsihseng Township

RESTORATION work and electricity distribution work to restore electricity to local people who have returned to their homes are underway in Hsihseng Township, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, Shan State (South).

Hsihseng Township Electricity Distribution Committee, township officials and employees have completed the repair work of one 33/11 kV (5) AV main transformer, 113 rooms of 11 kV power lines, 359 rooms of 400-volt power lines and eight damaged 11/0.4 kV (200) kV transformers. Currently, electricity has been restored to six departmental offices and 295



One of the monasteries in Hsehseng, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, Shan State, restores electricity after repair and restoration work by officials from the Hsehseng Township Electricity Supply Enterprise.

residents' homes in the township.

Now, necessary electrical installations are being made for departmental offices and lo-

cal people's homes that still do not have electricity. After these works are completed, electricity will continue to be distributed. — Nay Min (Hsihseng)/KZL

Myanmar Music Day to be celebrated grandly at National Theatre

THE Myanmar Music Association (Central) announced a grand celebration for Myanmar Music Day. This event will serve as a precursor to the launch of a Music Academy at the National Theatre in Dagon Township, Yangon.

The Myanmar Music Day ceremony will feature a programme of music supported

by the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. The day is held annually, with festivities broadcast on Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV).

"The event will be open to the public and will be held with state support," said a representative from the Myanmar Music Association (Central). "It

serves as a prelude to the Music Academy event to be held in Nay Pyi Taw this October".

Plans are also underway for the inaugural Music Academy event in Nay Pyi Taw this October. Awards are planned in nine categories, including Myanmar traditional, studio, modern, and international music. — ASH/TRKM

NATIONAL

Census to add 17 sections on disaster risk information

The file photo shows debris and damage in Rakhine State in the aftermath of Mocha.



A total of 17 sections will be included in the collection of damage lists due to natural disasters.

U Em Hla Thaug, deputy director of the management department of the Yangon City Development Committee, spoke at the training held on 4 June aiming to ensure that there are no discrepancies in the accounts in order to make it systematic and uniform in the collection of damage and loss accounts by relevant sectors at the time of natural disasters.

According to the information to be collected, there are

17 sections, and section three is related to all departments. The remaining sections must be collected separately according to the relevant ministry.

The Yangon City Development Committee and Yangon Region Development Committee are involved in four or five sectors out of the 17 list of damage, so the State Central Statistics Team is coming to give a separate lecture and explanation, the deputy head of the Planning Department added.

Officials of the Yangon Region Central Statistics Office must list the sectors embodied

in the enumeration form for natural disaster risk information, such as residential buildings, including the affected households and population, damage to the government sector, damage to the private sector, and damage to the education sector thanks to the effort of the relevant ministries.

Damage to the health sector, damage to the religious sector, damage to property, damage to land and crops, damage to animals, and damage to roads and bridges must also be collected with the help of the respective ministries. — TWA/KZL

YR High Court launches capacity-building training programme

THE opening ceremony for the training course 1/2024 to enhance the capacity of Yangon Region High Court staff was conducted on 3 June at the meeting hall of the court.

Yangon Region Chief Justice Daw Sandar Thwel, judges, advocates, legal officers, and 20 trainees attended the event. The training programme is sched-

uled to last for four weeks.

This course aims to implement the lessons learned effectively, enhancing the efficiency of staff members at the Yangon Region High Court and various court departments. It also seeks to improve office management skills and ensure adherence to staff rules and ethical standards. — TWA/TMT



The opening ceremony of the capacity-building training programme 1/2024 for Yangon Region High Court staff.

MoL to act against overseas employment agencies for tax evasion

AS per the Ministry of Labour, decisive measures will be taken against overseas employment agencies found to have deceitfully submitted entries and accounts to evade tax payments.

These agencies are obligated to pay taxes based on the taxable income rates determined by the Department of Labour, in accordance with the number of workers dispatched overseas.

Verification of accounts for the 2023-2024 financial year is underway, and firms yet to settle their taxes will face suspension from sending migrant workers abroad until their outstanding taxes are paid.

Furthermore, notices have been issued to 12 companies with outstanding tax payments from the 2022-2023 financial year. — TWA/TKO

MoALI to grant permits for coffee growers in PyinOoLwin

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will allot land to coffee growers in PyinOoLwin.

A plan is underway to create PyinOoLwin in Mandalay Region as a coffee land. Interested coffee growers, individual Myanmar nationals, and companies can apply for land permits at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw starting on 6 June. Those who acquire land must cultivate coffee beans in line with the rules and regulations of the ministry. The deadline for applying is 7 July.

The micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) based on coffee and local products are being prioritized in the PyinOoLwin area. Efforts are being exerted to enhance coffee cultivation in PyinOoLwin to contribute to the socioeconomic development of the region. There are around 40,000 acres of coffee across the country, with an estimated production of 8,000-10,000 tonnes. Coffee zones are designated in northern Shan State, Nawnghkio, Ywangan and PyinOoLwin, Mandalay areas. The coffee plantation is also found in



Female workers are seen harvesting coffee beans in PyinOoLwin.

Chin State, Thandaunggyi, and Pa-O. Myanmar's Arabica coffee

from the PyinOoLwin and Ywangan areas is recognized as

speciality coffee.

About half of Myanmar's coffee output is sent to the US, European countries, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, China and Chinese Taipei. Myanmar Coffee Association aims to export about 2,000 tonnes of coffee this year.

Myanmar delivered about 1,000-1,500 tonnes of coffee to China and Thailand in the April-June period last year through border posts and conveyed 500-800 tonnes to European countries, Japan, South Korea and Asian countries. — TWA/KK

Myanmar exports over 410,000 tonnes of pulses worth US\$357M in 2 months

MYANMAR bagged US\$357 million from over 410,000 tonnes of pulses as of 24 May in the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Myanmar's seaborne trade recorded over 402,210 tonnes of pulses exports worth \$345.121 million, whereas over 13,600 tonnes of pulses worth \$11.89 million were sent to the neighbouring countries between 1 April and 24 May this FY.

The value of Myanmar's pulses exports hit over \$1.484 billion from over 1.76 million tonnes in the previous FY 2023-2024 (April-March), the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar mainly exports black grams, green grams and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black grams and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India, while green grams are exported to China and Europe.

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

Myanmar's black gram output is estimated at 400,000 tonnes per year, whereas pigeon pea production crosses 50,000 tonnes.

The Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association stated that black grams, which India primarily purchases, are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green gram and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia. — NN/EM



The photo shows pulses and beans seen in a market.

Over 260 gem trading licences to expire in July



Gem merchants are seen evaluating jade at the previous Gems Emporium.

A total of 268 gem trading licences are due to expire in July 2024, Myanma Gems Enterprise notified.

Under the approval of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, those holding available licences (gems and jewellery trading licence, manufacturing licence for finished gems and carvings and rough gemstone and finished products trading licence) issued by the Myanma Gems Enterprises need to proceed to the renewal process three months before the expiry date. They must renew them at least one month before the expiry.

Additionally, they can notify the Myanma Gems Enterprise of winding down a business with one month's notice prior to ceasing the operation.

Those who want to resume business

can proceed to the renewal procedure at the departments concerned with the Myanma Gems Enterprise during office hours.

Nonetheless, only those holding licences with a two-year expiry were allowed to reinstate them with the set penalty starting from 1 April 2024. Those licences that expired more than two years ago would get cancelled, as per the notification.

Licence renewal applications can be processed at the Myanma Gems Enterprise (Nay Pyi Taw), Gems and Jewellery Museum in Yangon, Mandalay's Branch Office, mining departments in Mogok, Lonkhin/Hpakant, Mongshu and Myitkyina areas, in line with the rules and regulations.

More than 600 gem trading licences

have been cancelled, according to the notification released by the Myanma Gems Enterprise (MGE). Those licences expired on 31 December 2021, and traders failed to renew them, resulting in revocation.

The revoked licences are 409 gem and jewellery trading licences, 77 rough gemstone and finished products trading licences and 121 licences for finished gems and carvings, totalling 607 licences.

For further detail of those licences, traders can contact the phone numbers (067 3414342, 067 3414382) (Nay Pyi Taw headquarters), 01 665092 (Yangon), 09 43087569 (Mandalay), 086 2221115 (Mogok), 09 425404928 (Mongshu), (09 455339741) of Lonkhin/Hpakant, Monghsu and 074 2522431, 074 2520499 (Myitkyina). — NN/EM

Ayeyawady produces 172,815 tonnes of salt this season

A total of 172,815 tonnes of salt were yielded in Ayeyawady Region during this salt season, which ended on 17 May, said a salt farmer from the region.

In this year's salt season, a total of 514 salt farms with 21,166.41 acres of salt manufacturing generated 172,815 tonnes of salt from January until 17 May, when salt farms were closed in the region. This year's production exceeded what was expected due to the El Nio effect, and that was a surplus of more than last year's production.

"Salt farms were suspended on 17 May. The expected production was 165,000 tonnes, but the actual produc-

tion was 172,815 tonnes. This year's yield was even more than expected because of the El Nino effect. Last year's production was 142,000 tonnes," he said.

Salt season begins in October, but production starts in January. The production reaches its peak in April and May, and if the weather is fine, April's production alone is more excellent than three months of production from January to March.

At present, salt generated from Ayeyawady cannot be exported to overseas markets; it is just transported to domestic markets. In the domestic market, the price per viss of salt is just

K105, he said.

"When salt farms are halted, farmers need money to pay labour charges, so many people sell their salt, leading to lowering price. But those who have enough money stock their salt at warehouses if they don't want to sell their salt at a low price, and in July and August, when the price gets stable and only stocked salts are left in the market, they sell their salt," he said.

Ngaputaw, Labutta, and Pyapon townships have mainly operated salt farming in the region. Ngaputaw is the largest salt producer, and Labutta is the second largest salt producer. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

Myanmar to hold first ceremony honouring elderly Deva experts



Spirit images used in Nat Festivals.



FOR the first time in Myanmar, a ceremony to pay obeisance to elderly Deva experts will be held in Yangon, and plans are underway to continue this tradition in the coming years, according to the organizers of this ceremony.

Deva experts are spirit medium persons who commu-

nicate with spirits (Nat). Since they used to work with a Myanmar orchestra, they were classified under the dramatic art category. Elderly spirit experts received obeisance together with other persons from various dramatic arts.

The first separate puja for elderly Deva experts will be

held at the Seinyaungchi monastery between Thamaing Myothit station and Gyogon station in Insein Township, Yangon, at 9 am on 12 June.

“In our Deva communication genre, we haven’t had an obeisance ceremony for the elderly Deva experts. Other sectors made separate cere-

monies. When we think about it, we understand that we cannot hold it as a national-level event. Such a big event will take time. What we want to do is to pay respect to Deva experts from across the nation. So, as a trial, we decided to celebrate it by cooperating among Deva experts in Yangon”, said a spirit medium

among the organizers.

A total of more than K19 million in donations were received, and this amount can increase further at the event. Eighty elderly Deva experts are entitled to receive obeisance according to collected data from each township.

“We will offer K150,000 to each of them, totalling K11 million. A single donor contributed to the location, event decorations, and entertainment. Myanmar orchestra will be included. We expect that it will cost K13 million. The remaining balance will be deposited in the bank. As the amount is large, we will form a committee after this event. After forming a committee, each member will take care of his assigned duties,” he said. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN

Expert advises against humidity in monsoon racehorse breeding

MAKING sure there is no humidity during monsoon season can help racehorses become healthier and more robust, an official from the Myanmar Equestrian Federation suggested.

The horses dislike humidity, so stables should be kept dry, and hoof care should also be provided, according to the organization.

“Horses don’t like being wet and damp. So, in monsoon season, they need to be kept dry, and we have to care for their hooves. If their hooves are muddy, we need to clean them. Cleaning should be done on a regular basis. Their hooves always get stained because they go on the ground. If they are caught in the rain, we need to dry them back so that they will



A healthy racehorse.

be healthier during monsoon season,” he said.

Under the theme Prevention and Control of Heatstroke and Equine Colic, a seminar

took place at 1 pm on 2 June at the Myanmar Equestrian Federation located at Dagon Myothit (North) Township in Yangon Region. — Thit Taw/ZS

Gold shops ordered to open daily, sell at set rates for market stability, YGEA announces

THE Monitoring and Steering Committee on Gold and Currency Market and other relevant departments have been supervising the market, and gold shops are informed to open daily and to sell at the prescribed rate for gold market stability, the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) announced on 5 June.

YGEA announces gold prices three times a day, and the shops are notified to sell at these prescribed rates, YGEA said. In addition, gold shops will be required to open daily, according to the statement.

If any shop is found to be failing to comply with these instructions when the relevant authority comes and inspects, severe action will be taken, announced as a prior warning.

Following the interrogations of some gold entrepreneurs by the concerned authorities on the gold market situation, 21 illegal gold traders were arrested on 2 June, and it has been carrying out to take legal action against ten manipulators who were on the loose, including officials from Weint Sein Gold Shop, Zwe Htet Gold Shop and Aung Thamadi Gold Shop. — MT/ZN

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise



NATIONAL

Myanmar Embassy in Singapore to provide passport extension for about 200 Myanmar nationals on weekend

AS a special programme, Myanmar Embassy in Singapore will provide passport extension service for about 200 Myanmar nationals on 23 June, Sunday, on the weekend holiday, from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm, said the embassy.

The embassy has provided passport extension service on regular basis for about 75 persons by online appointment system and about 45 persons by WhatsApp appointment system. There are a lot of Myanmar nationals who are waiting to extend their passports in Singapore due to difficulty of seeking online appointment on the embassy

website and unavailability of the schedule.

In order to ease their difficulties, the embassy will work on its closed day, Sunday on 23 June 2024 for about 200 Myanmar nationals whose passport validity will end on 31 August 2025, as a special programme.

Those who want to do passport extension on 23 June can register along with passport page and front and back copy of unexpired Identity Card (IC) which are required to submit to WhatsApp number +6581748993, from 1 June to 14 June and the list of eligible names will be an-



Myanmar Embassy in Singapore. PHOTO: GOOGLE STREET VIEW

nounced on 19 June on the embassy website.

List of issued passports will be announced again on 25-27 June from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, it said.

For WhatsApp registration, the embassy warns of not making fake documents or submitting through brokers, and no private service company or person will be allowed for this special plan.

It also requested Myanmar nationals to help each other if there is any difficulty for submission of documents through WhatsApp. — MT/ZS

Public hospitals in major cities offer diverse cancer treatments and tests



The National Cancer Treatment Centre in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Yangon Region.

THE Ministry of Health has reported that various cancer treatments and tests, including cancer drug injections, radiation treatment, and radioiodine administration, were provided at the General Hospitals located in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, and Taunggyi in 2023.

At Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1,000-bed), cancer patients received a total of 10,769 cancer drug injections and 21,226 radiation treatments. Additionally, 96 patients underwent radioactive iodine uptake tests, and 195 patients underwent SPECT/CT tests. Radiation therapy is available 24/7, including Saturdays and Sundays.

Similarly, at Yangon General Hospital, a total of 26,459 cancer drug injections and 2,494 radiation treatments were administered. Acupuncture was provided 50,275 times to 423 patients, and radioactive iodine uptake tests were conducted for 400 patients. Additionally, SPECT/CT scanning tests were performed for 2,168 patients, and 770 PET/CT scanning tests were carried out in 2023.

At Mandalay General Hospital, 25,455 cancer drug injections and 29,112 radiation treatments were administered. Radioactive iodine uptake tests were conducted for 235 patients, and 241 SPECT/CT tests were

carried out.

Taunggyi Sao San Tun Hospital provided 5,801 cancer drug injections and 9,754 radiation treatments in 2023. Additionally, 7,943 cancer drug injections, 114 radioactive iodine uptake tests, and 547 SPECT/CT tests were conducted. Furthermore, at North Okkalapa General Hospital in 2024, 55 radioactive iodine uptake tests and 222 SPECT/CT tests were provided.

Cancer remains the leading cause of mortality in Myanmar, with prevalent types including oral cancer, head and neck cancer, lung cancer, uterine and cervical cancer, breast cancer, and colon cancer. — TWA/TMT

Nationwide crackdown on illegal trade nets significant seizures and arrests

UNDER the oversight of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, legal actions are being pursued nationwide against illicit trade.

On 3 June, during inspections, the Customs team confiscated goods valued at K42.7 million, including 110 kilogrammes of ornate jewellery, from nine containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port. This enforcement was conducted according to Customs procedures.

On 4 June, inspection teams managed by the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force intercepted a Toyota Noah (valued at approximately K30 million) transporting illegal teak logs weighing 1.080 tonnes worth

K950,752 near Milepost 2/4 on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway in Hlegu township. Additionally, a Nissan Diesel truck (worth approximately K50 million) carrying illegal timbers weighing 3.182 tonnes valued at K3,182,800 was seized in Hlegu township, and another vehicle carrying illegal teak logs weighing 0.895 tonnes valued at K787,600 was apprehended near Milepost 45 on the Yangon-Pyay Road in Taikkyi township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that five arrests were made on 3 and 4 June, totalling an estimated value of K127 million. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated illegal items at Myanmar Industry Port, Yangon.

ECONOMY WORLD

Brazil economy picks up as shoppers spend more



A staff member prepares coffee during the Sao Paulo Coffee Festival in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 23 June 2023.
PHOTO: WANG TIANCONG/XINHUA

Brazil's GDP in the first quarter of 2024 grew by 2.5 per cent compared to the same period in the previous year, according to the Brazilian Institute of Statistics (IBGE).

BRAZIL'S economy grew 0.8 per cent in the first quarter, the government said Tuesday, a rebound boosted by consumer spending which analysts say could put the central bank on guard over inflation.

The result was slightly better than analysts' forecasts of 0.7 per cent in Latin America's biggest economy, whose President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has vowed to deliver "solid" growth.

Lula said the result was "more proof we are on the right track", in a post on X.

Brazil's GDP was up 2.5 per cent compared to the first quarter of 2023, said the Brazilian Institute

of Statistics (IBGE). Independent analyst Andre Perfeito noted a 1.5 per cent increase in household consumption was a key factor in the first quarter growth, with more Brazilians working after a fall in unemployment. William Jackson, chief emerging markets economist at Capital Economics, said the pace of growth and consumer spending "will raise (even more) concerns about inflation at the central bank". The central bank has slowly made tiny adjustments downwards of the interest rate, now at 10.5 per cent, under pressure from Lula who has said high lending costs are hurting economic growth. — AFP

NEWS ROUNDUP: ECON

California becomes leading US state for housing most Fortune 500 companies

CALIFORNIA, the largest economy and most populous state in the United States, has reclaimed the top spot for housing the most Fortune 500 companies in the country, according to a report by Fortune magazine. With 57 companies headquartered within its borders, California edged out Texas and New York, which are tied for second place with 52 companies each, said the report published on Tuesday. This marks a significant win for California, which last held the top spot in 2014.

The Golden State's success comes despite losing five companies from the list this year. However, this loss was offset by the addition of nine newcomers, including food delivery company DoorDash, real estate investment firm Prologis, cleaning product manufacturer Clorox, and software company Workday. — Xinhua

Shanghai looks to the future for high-quality development

IN east China's Shanghai Municipality, the "future" has continued to be a key word driving high-quality development in industries such as high-end equipment, smart terminals, biomedicine, and aerospace.

An automated container terminal at the northernmost area of Shanghai in Luojing Town is expected to commence full operations in July. At the terminal, bridge and track cranes stand in great numbers, autonomous intelligent vehicles (AIVs) efficiently transport containers, and there are no workers in sight. Qin Tao, deputy director of Shanghai International Port (Group)'s engineering headquarters, said a new generation of intelligent management and control system is being used at this new terminal. This innovative system employs big data and artificial intelligence to realize production planning, task scheduling, and interactive control. — Xinhua

Japan's real wages fall for record 25th straight month in April

Despite this improvement, uncertainty remains regarding when real wages will turn positive, considering the anticipation of price hikes in essential items such as food, driven by higher raw material costs and the depreciation of the yen.



An official from the Japan Association of Metal, Machinery, and Manufacturing Workers writes down offers received by member labour unions from management during annual wage negotiations in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO / FILE**

JAPAN'S real wages in April fell 0.7 per cent from a year earlier for the 25th straight month of decline, the longest since comparable data became available in 1991, as wage growth failed to keep pace with inflation, government data showed

Wednesday.

The size of the decline was smaller than a revised 2.1 per cent drop in March after many major companies awarded their highest salary increases in three decades during the spring wage ne-

gotiations this year.

But it remains uncertain when inflation-adjusted wages will turn positive, as price hikes are expected to come in food and other items amid higher raw material costs and the yen's depreciation.

"The effects of 'shunto' wage negotiations were reflected, to some extent, but it's not clear if we'll keep seeing good figures," said an official of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

"It's uncertain when real wages will turn positive when taking into account a balance" between wages and price increases, the official added.

Nominal wages, the average total monthly cash earnings per worker including base and overtime pay, grew 2.1 per cent to 296,884 yen (\$1,910), up for the 28th consecutive month. — Kyodo

India set for first current account surplus in 10 quarters by 4QFY24

INDIA Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) projects that India's current account balance (CAB) will achieve a surplus of approximately US\$6 billion (0.6 per cent of GDP) in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year 2024 (4QFY24).

This marks the first surplus since the first quarter of fiscal year 2022 (1QFY22), a significant turnaround from the previous quarter's deficit of US\$10.5 billion (1.2 per cent of GDP).

Despite this positive quarter, the overall CAB for FY24 is expected to remain in deficit at 0.6 per cent of GDP, the lowest since FY17, excluding the pandemic-affected FY21.

The global economic environment, though still uncertain, is showing signs of improvement for 2024. Easing inflationary pressures and robust economic growth in the US and several emerging markets contribute to a brighter outlook. — ANI

China-Australia trade full of wine aromas

China's Ministry of Commerce announced the lifting of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy tariffs on Australian wine at the end of March, signalling a positive turn in trade relations between the two countries.

THE aroma of wine permeates the air of China-Australia trade since the re-entry of Australian bottled wine into the Chinese market starting from the end of March.

"Business is going pretty well," Kym Teusner, a winery owner, told Xinhua, being optimistic about his wine products in the Chinese market.

"We have sent a few small shipments ... the wines are still travelling across the ocean so we will be better positioned to make some plans once



Kym Teusner, a winery owner, checks the wine's ageing process in Barossa Valley in South Australia (SA), Australia, 12 March 2024. PHOTO: ZHANG JIANHUA/XINHUA

they arrive and we have the opportunity to assess how receptive the con-

sumers are," said Teusner, who has been producing wines under the

Teusner brand in South Australia since 2002, and his products have been associated with the Chinese market for 18 years.

China's Ministry of Commerce announced at the end of March to lift anti-dumping and anti-subsidy tariffs on Australian wine.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the resumption of trade will see an even higher amount of Australia's wine exports to China than 2019 levels. — Xinhua

Japan aims to quadruple overseas market for anime, games

POP-CULTURE powerhouse Japan wants to expand its overseas market for video games, manga and anime fourfold to \$130 billion in about a decade, the government has said.

Japan, the birthplace of comic and cartoon epics such as "Dragon Ball" and game franchises from "Super Mario" to "Final Fantasy", sees the creative industries as a driver for growth on par with steel and semiconductors. In its revised "Cool Japan" strategy released Tuesday, the government said

it aims to boost exports of these cultural assets to 20 trillion yen (nearly \$130 billion) by 2033.

In 2022, Japan's gaming, anime and manga sectors raked in 4.7 trillion yen (\$30 billion) from abroad -- close to microchips exports at 5.7 trillion yen, government data shows. "In recent years, content like anime and manga has played an extremely important role in attracting bigger and bigger young audiences abroad, serving as their 'gateway' to Japan," the strategy document said. — AFP



A pandemic-fuelled streaming boom helped boost the global profile of anime. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2408S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2408S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-6-2024** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB421A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB421A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-6-2024** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA RANCAK VOY.NO. (0322W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA RANCAK VOY.NO. (0322W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-6-2024** 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 PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V DYNASTY VOY.NO. (02/2024)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V DYNASTY VOY.NO. (02/2024)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-6-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-1** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILHELMSSEN PORT SERVICE(S) PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

Indonesia replaces new capital chief weeks before opening

The capital is planned to move from Jakarta to the new city of Nusantara in August.

INDONESIA'S president has replaced the head of the country's new capital city, in a surprise shakeup just weeks before the controversial \$32 billion project officially opens on Borneo island.

The capital of Southeast Asia's biggest economy will formally move in August from traffic-clogged and sinking Jakarta to the planned city of Nusantara.

The legacy project by outgoing Indonesian President Joko Widodo has been hampered by a lack of foreign investment, land ownership issues and delays.

"President Jokowi has conducted a leadership change," Bambang Susantono, the outgoing official, wrote on Instagram late Tuesday.

"Allow me to apologize for any mistakes and shortcomings in my duties," added Bambang, a former Asian Development



President Joko Widodo has been hampered by a lack of foreign investment, land ownership issues and delays. **PHOTO: AFP**

Bank official.

The Indonesian government said he resigned without explanation and would be replaced by Basuki Hadimuljono, the country's public works and

housing minister.

Bambang's deputy, Dhony Rahajoe, was replaced by a deputy agrarian minister.

The sudden change was described as "shocking and

strange" by opposition lawmaker Mardani Ali Sera.

Both officials were known for their professionalism and careful approach to the megaproject, he told AFP. — AFP

US, South Korea conduct joint bombing drills

THE United States flew a B-1B bomber over the Korean Peninsula for the first joint bombing drills with South Korea in seven years, the South Korean military said on Wednesday. The development comes amid heightened tensions after North's Korea sent trash-filled balloons to the South and resorted to jamming the latter's GPS signals. South Korean military on Tuesday suspended a 2018 inter-Korean military pact, Yonhap news agency reported. Meanwhile, during Wednesday's exercise, the US bomber dropped Joint Direct Attack Munitions at an unspecified firing range in the country, while being escorted by South Korean F-15K fighter jets, according to the ministry as cited by Yonhap news agency.

US B-1B bombers last held such an exercise in South Korea in 2017. "Under close coordination between South Korea and the United States, this exercise took place with a focus on implementing the US extended deterrence commitment and strengthening the combined defence posture," the ministry said. — ANI

Top UK universities face funding and foreign student shortage

SOME of UK's top universities could see their attractiveness decline due to hits to funding and tighter regulations on overseas students, the annual QS 2025 university rankings warned on Tuesday.

Four British universities retained their spots in the top

10 of more than 1,000 universities ranked by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a benchmark ranking alongside the Times and Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

Imperial College London, renowned for its science teaching, shot up from sixth

to second place, dethroning for the first time the historically dominant "Oxbridge" duo, with Oxford and Cambridge ranking third and fifth respectively.

More than half (52) of the UK's universities were bumped down on the list, out of the 90 that were part of the ranking.

"This year's results suggest that British higher education has limited capacity remaining to continue excelling in the face of funding shortages, drops in student applications," and restrictions affecting the intake of international students, said head of QS Jessica Turner. In the last few months, the Conservative government has introduced several measures to reduce regular migration which it judges to be too high. — AFP



Four British universities retained their spots in the top 10 of more than 1,000 universities ranked by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trump in first election test after hush money conviction

DONALD Trump faced Republican voters for the first time as a convicted felon on Tuesday during the final state primaries for the 2024 presidential nomination, where he continued to sweep up votes.

The ex-president has already locked up the Republican nomination to run against President Joe Biden, making the votes in Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico and South Dakota formalities.

However, some political observers had wondered if Republican voters might sour on Trump's divisive candidacy after he was found guilty last week of falsifying business records in a conspiracy to unlawfully influence the 2016 election.

Though Trump steamrolled over other Republican presidential hopefuls, he faced a hiccup at a guaranteed-win primary earlier this year.

In May, two months after the last Republican rival standing, Nikki Haley, abandoned her campaign, she still won nearly 22 per cent of the votes in the Indiana primary.

Trump on Tuesday picked up 85 per cent of the vote in New Mexico, with Haley picking up nine per cent after more than 95 per cent of ballots were in.

In Montana, where Haley was not on the ballot, Trump picked up nearly 91 per cent, while nine per cent selected no preference, with 83 per cent of the votes in.

The ex-president was uncontested in New Jersey and South Dakota. — AFP

SPORTS

World Cup Qualifiers: Myanmar to play Japan today

MYANMAR will take on Asian powerhouse Japan today for the Asian Stage World Cup Qualifiers 2026 today (6:40 pm) at home stadium Thuwunna in Yangon.

In the first round meeting, the Japanese team won by five goals. After playing four games, team Japan won all four games and scored 12 points, while the Myanmar team has yet to win and only has one point. Due to the difference in football skills, team Myanmar will not easily get points from the Japanese team, and they will have to try to concede fewer goals.

The Japanese squad sees many European-class players,

including Tomiyasu from Arsenal FC, Endo from Liverpool FC, Kamada from Lazio FC, Minamino from Monaco FC, Kubo from Real Sociedad and Ueda from Feyenoord FC.

The pre-match press conference for the match was held on 5 June, and the head coaches of both teams attended.

Myanmar head coach Feichtenbeiner said, "The match against the Japanese team is really a big challenge for us. Team Japan is one of the top 20 teams in the World Cup, and it has world-class players. We will prepare the defence with the best priority and try to pro-



Myanmar national football team head coach Feichtenbeiner. PHOTO:MFF

duce good results from the opportunities we get. The fans are also expected to be patient and support the team. I believe that if all the players and fans work together, we will have chances to score goals like the games against North Korea and Syria.

Japan national team head coach Moriyasu said, "The game against Myanmar will be a difficult one. The home fans will also support team Myanmar, so it may be difficult to face the squad. But we will try to seize the win. The Myanmar team is improving fast, so we will compete hard," he said. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

MANCHESTER City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak is confident of finding the "right solution" regarding Pep Guardiola's future at the club, although he has not said what that would look like.

Spanish manager Guardiola, whose contract at the English giants runs until 2025, cast doubt over his long-term future at the Etihad after winning a historic fourth straight Premier League title last month, admitting it is difficult to find motivation after so much sustained success.

Guardiola's time at City since his arrival in 2016 has been marked by relatively short contracts, meaning his future beyond the end of next season remains uncertain.

"With Pep, we've had this conversation many times before over the years of the contract," Khaldoon told the club's media channels on Wednesday in his end-of-season review. "Pep has always been fully committed to this club, fully committed to every contract he's signed with us."

"The decision on his future is always a decision we take together, and I have no doubt we will find, as we always have done, the right solution that works for Pep and works for us."

Guardiola has won six Premier League titles in the past seven years as well as the Champions League, the Club World Cup, two FA Cups and four League Cups. — AFP

Man City chairman expects to find 'right solution' to Guardiola's future

Guardiola's tenure at City has been characterized by short contracts, leaving his future beyond the next season uncertain.



Pep Guardiola (left) has won six Premier League titles in the past seven seasons. PHOTO:AFP

Antonio Conte named new Napoli coach

FORMER Chelsea and Tottenham coach Antonio Conte was hired by Napoli on Wednesday as the deposed Serie A champions try to bounce back from their disastrous league title defence.

"Welcome Antonio," the club's president and owner Aurelio De Laurentiis wrote on X, formerly Twitter, accompanied by a photograph of Conte signing his contract.

Conte, who has also coached Juventus and Inter Milan, has signed a three-year deal which according to Italian media is worth eight million euros (\$8.7 million) per season.

"I can promise you one thing. I will do my utmost to grow this team and this club," Conte said.

De Laurentiis described Conte as a "high-level coach and a leader who is going to allow us to rebuild at the conclusion of a cycle". Conte is the fifth Napoli coach of the last year in a chaotic period for the club which in the 2022-2023 season won their first Serie A title since 1990, when Diego Maradona was still strutting his stuff. — AFP

Homeboys Germany and reborn Hungary headline Group A at the Euros

TOURNAMENT hosts Germany face Hungary, Switzerland and Scotland, a set of talented if unpredictable rivals, in Group A as they bid for a record-breaking fourth Euros crown.

After a decade of underperforming,

Germany come into the tournament on the rise. Improving under coach Julian Nagelsmann, the Germans may now be in the frame for a deep run in the tournament, particularly after dispatching France and the Netherlands in impressive style in

March.

Getting through the group will be no forgone conclusion however, particularly with Hungary firing under manager Marco Rossi. In spite of a 1-0 defeat by Ireland in their pre-tournament warm-up, the Hun-

garians have been in outstanding form, unbeaten until that setback since September 2022, a run of 12 games. Switzerland and Scotland are the outsiders but either could have a shot of spoiling the hosts' party with a run to the knockouts. — AFP



WORLD

WISHES are pouring in from across the globe after Prime Minister Narendra Modi secured a third consecutive win in the Lok Sabha polls.

The leaders from neighbourhood nations like Maldives, and others, including Israel, Ukraine, Italy, and Jamaica, have also extended wishes to PM Modi.

Extending his congratulations to Prime Minister Modi, Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe said, "I extend my warmest felicitations to the @

“ Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s third consecutive victory in the Lok Sabha polls has elicited congratulations from leaders worldwide.”



Modi holds a bow and an arrow during a public meeting in Banswara, 21 April 2024. PHOTO: ANI/FILE

BJP4India-led NDA on its victory, demonstrating the confidence of the Indian people in the progress and prosperity under the leadership of PM @narendramodi.”

“As the closest neighbour Sri Lanka looks forward to further strengthening the partnership with India,” Wickremesinghe said in a post on social media platform X.

The leader of the opposition of Sri Lanka, Sajith Premadasa too, wished the Prime Minister on the “historic win”.

“Congratulations to PM @narendramodi ji and NDA on a historic win. We look forward to being inspired by a new chapter of big decisions for India and another

Global leaders send wishes to PM Modi on getting re-elected for third consecutive term

chapter of India’s “Neighbourhood First Policy,” Premadasa wrote on X.

The wishes from Sri Lanka did not cease here. The former Prime Minister of the island nation, Mahinda Rajapaksa

also extended his wishes on PM Modi’s election win.

“My heartiest congratulations to my friend @narendramodi ji on securing a third term following BJP’s victory in

India. The people have spoken, acknowledging his vision & dedication to serving India. I look forward to furthering our ties with the new government,” Rajapaksa wrote on X. — ANI

World Environment Day 2024: Generation Restoration initiative takes action for our land and future



Climate change and biodiversity loss pose significant threats to health, the regional economy, and livelihoods. PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

WORLD Environment Day is celebrated annually on 5 June, after it was established at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in 1972. Led by the United Nations Environment Programme, it is the largest global platform for public outreach to raise awareness and taking action on urgent environmental issues – the planet’s most-pressing environmental problems.

This year, World Environment Day (WED) 2024 focuses on land restoration, halting desertification and building drought resilience under the slogan “Our land. Our future. We are Generation Restoration,” wrote WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia, Saima Wazed. — ANI

Danger warnings as heatwave hits western US

A dangerous heatwave was building over parts of the western United States Tuesday, with forecasters warning of rocketing temperatures in an early taste of a possibly brutal summer for the region.

The mercury was expected to top out at well over 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius), with some areas experiencing highs as much as 30 degrees above normal for this time of year.

Southwestern desert areas and California’s Central Valley fruit basket were set to be particularly unpleasant, the National Weather Service warned. “Widespread temperature records are expected to be tied or broken across much of the aforementioned areas,” the agency said. — AFP