



State Administration Council Chair Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting with senior officer instructors, senior officer lecturers, faculty members, officers and trainees and cadets yesterday in PyinOoLwin.

Discipline is the backbone of Tatmadaw, and only when individuals follow disciplines with good morale will the entire institution be better, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Yesterday morning, Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said so in his guidance given at a meeting with senior officer instructors, senior officer lecturers, faculty members, officers and trainees and cadets at the convocation hall of Defence Services Academy in PyinOoLwin.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that the Defence Services Academy is turning out qualified officers

Junior officers and cadets must learn with firm spirit to benefit State and Tatmadaw

Instructors must provide systematic military and academic training, along with their own experiences, to junior officers and cadets to develop future leaders with firm spirit, trusted by the State, Tatmadaw, and the people.

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the meeting with instructors and trainees of DSA

1. Only when individuals follow discipline and have good morale will the entire institution be better.
2. Instructors have to give training combined with their literary knowledge and life experiences to each trainee to forge a self-reliant spirit and capacity for achieving success.
3. Trainees have to follow 16 leadership characteristics that are being applied in Tatmadaw and dutifully serve their relevant assignments under discipline and orders.
4. Those taking responsibility of guardians in relevant groups of trainees need to forge a brotherly spirit and family spirit to lead trainees with correct leadership and guidance so as to handle the life of trainees.

with physical and mental capacity for Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air).

He stressed that instructors have to give training combined with their literary knowledge and life experiences to each trainee to forge a self-reliant spirit and capacity for achieving success.

He urged trainees to follow 16 characteristics of leadership being applied in Tatmadaw and dutifully serve their relevant assignments under disciplines and orders.

He underscored that those taking responsibility of guardians in relevant groups of trainees need to forge a brother-

ly spirit and family spirit to lead the trainees with correct leadership and guideline so as to handle the life of trainees.

Trainees have to pour out their utmost efforts in pursuing all training as the State is nurturing them, and Tatmadaw is spending a considerable capital of time and money.

As the government emphasizes the construction of libraries and the running of these libraries to contribute to the education sector, instructors and trainees need to read literature in order to have a broader scope of knowledge, he added.

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Ensuring Quality and Patient Safety Union in Private Healthcare Services

By Dr Zeyar Win

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NATIONAL

Product lists to be stored in Customs Warehouse released

The Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce has released an export and import-related Bulletin 2/2024 covering the product lists that are allowed to be stored in the Customs Warehouse on 30 May 2024.

The medicines, various electronic vehicles and related materials, industrial raw materials, chemical raw materials for industry and food products are allowed to be stored in the Customs Warehouse, aiming at ensuring adequate pharmaceutical products in the health sector, supporting wide use of EVs in the country and producing the needed raw materials for domestic manufacturing and food production industries in a short while.

Allowing these products to be stored in the Customs Warehouse can also help local MSMEs run their operations in normal conditions. — MNA/KTZH

Import items without permission are not allowed at ports/airports

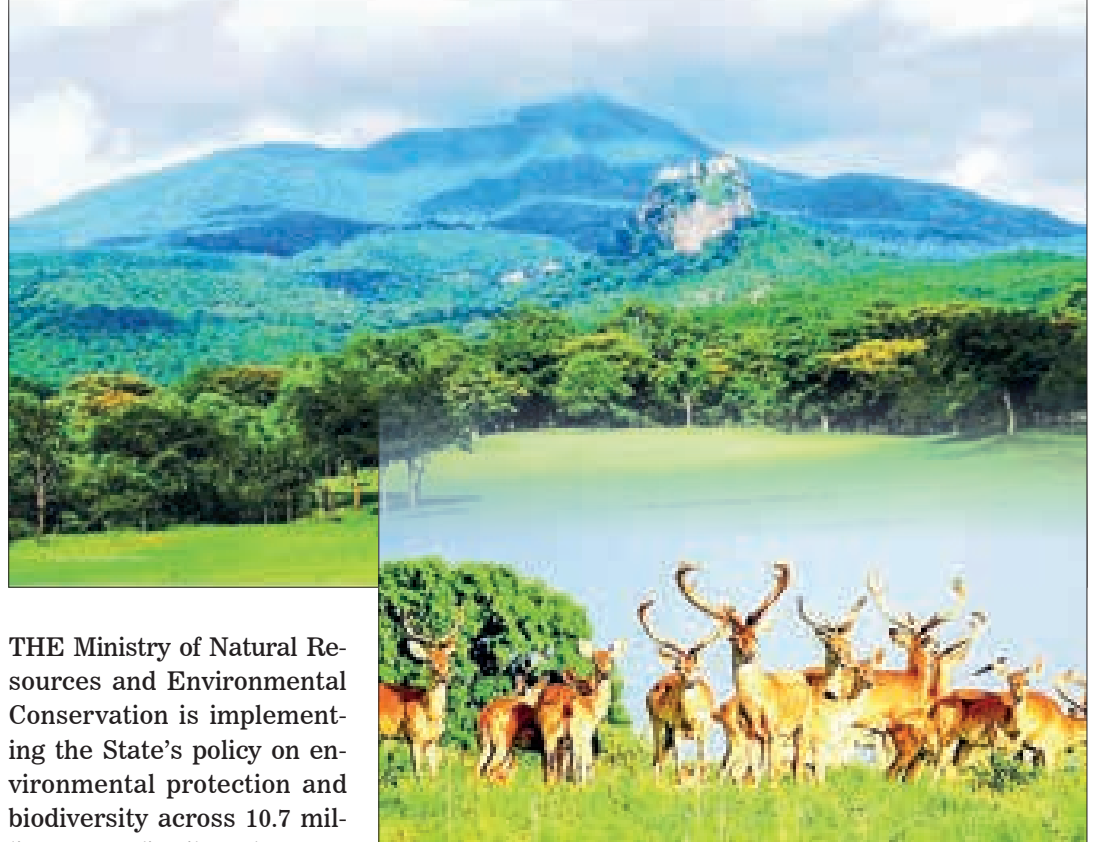
The Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce has released Newsletter 3/2024 on 30 May 2024, stating that actions will be taken under the Export and Import Law if it is found that the imports have arrived at ports and airports before receiving import licences or permits, starting from 1 July 2024.

Notification No 50/2020 was issued on 8 July 2020, saying that the import items, except for those that are allowed to be stored in the Customs Warehouse, shall not arrive at the ports and airports without any permission. If the early arrival of goods without permission is found, the companies that import these goods will face legal action in accordance with the Export and Import Law. However, people fail to follow the regulations, and the goods arrive at the ports and airports in advance without permission.

The Customs Department is permitted to store the essential products for local manufacturing and health sectors in the Customs Warehouse in accordance with the procedures.

Therefore, it is announced here that it should follow the enacted laws and regulations without fail and should not import the goods to the ports and airports without import licences or permits. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar's 59 protected areas cover 6.42% of country



THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation is implementing the State's policy on environmental protection and biodiversity across 10.7 million acres distributed among 59 ecological protection areas, covering 6.42 per cent of the country's total area, said U Nyein Aung, a Staff Officer of the Department of Forest's Environment and Wildlife Conservation Division.

He also said that Myanmar ranks third among ASEAN countries in terms of ownership of ASEAN heritage parks. The eight heritage parks in the country are Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary, Khakaborazi National Park, Inlay Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Alaungdaw Kathapha National Park, Mainmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary, Natma Taung National Park, the Lampi Marine National Park, and Htamathi Wildlife

Sanctuary. Images showcase some wildlife sanctuaries and conservation areas in Myanmar.

Sanctuary.

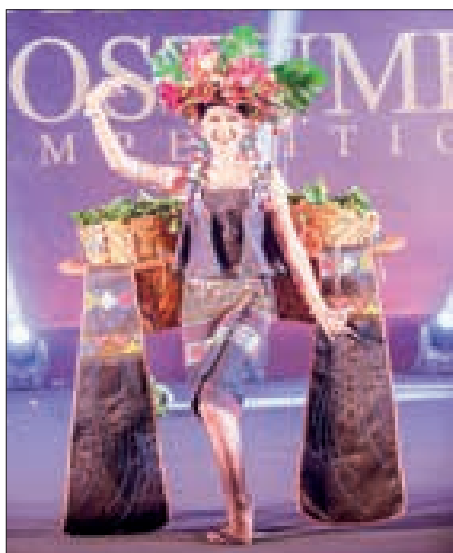
"Under the State policy, there are objectives to conserve forest on up to 30 per cent of the country's area and to establish reserved forests, protected public forests, and environmental protection areas on nearly 10 per cent of the country's area," U Nyein Aung said.

Myanmar cooperates with ASEAN countries in environmental conservation work. It also works with NGOs and residents to develop national parks and protect wild animals in the region.

Similarly, in order to pro-

mote regional cooperation in the management of nature and biodiversity conservation in the ASEAN region, ecosystems, biodiversity, and natural conservation areas with unique cultural and traditional values are designated and maintained as ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHPs).

In addition to this, conservation work is being carried out in areas such as scientific reserves, national parks, marine national parks, nature reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, geo-feature significant regions, and community-conserved protected areas. — ASH/TH



Miss Universe Myanmar 2024 Grand Final set for 7 June at Novotel

THE Grand Final of Miss Universe Myanmar 2024 will be held on 7 June at the Novotel Hotel, as announced by Miss Han Lay, the Best in National Costume Award winner for Miss Universe Myan-

The photo shows one of the participants in the National Costume Competition of Miss Universe Myanmar 2024.

mar 2024.

The National Costume Competition took place on 28 May, where Miss Han Lay won the title. Her prize-winning costume, named 'Tainay Ma Hay Thi', was designed by Saing Sai Swam Mein (Muse). Miss Han Lay has requested support for the final event in June.

A total of 52 contestants participated in the National Costume Competition

of Miss Universe Myanmar 2024. NK Aung Sha received the Best Fashion Award (Male), May Nwe Tun won the Best Fashion Award (Female), and Miss Nang Long Lang was awarded the People's Choice Award.

Miss Han Lay also won the title of Best in National Costume in the Miss Universe Myanmar competitions in 2015 and 2016. — ASH/ TRKM

NATIONAL

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing highlighted that as growing trees can conserve the natural environment, it is necessary to organize residents in residential wards of PyinOoLwin to grow trees under disciplines and rules.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning met with departmental personnel at different levels at the hall of National Landmarks Park in PyinOoLwin to give guidance on beautifying PyinOoLwin and coffee cultivation.

In his address, the Senior General stressed the need to shape PyinOoLwin City with characteristics such as Cherry City, Hill Recreation City, Flower City, and Hill Station.

He underscored that it is necessary to regrow forests and trees depleted for various reasons, and only when trees suitable for the regions are grown and nurtured will climatic conditions as well as the natural environment improve again.

In the land utilization sector, the Senior General instructed officials to supervise farmland utilization under the law and disciplines, adding that weak management of land utilization caused deforestation and environmental degradation.

He noted that favourable weather can contribute to the proper flow of water into rivers and creeks, which can lead to sufficiency of agricultural water and generate hydropower.

With regard to coffee cultivation, the Senior General urged officials to supervise farmland utilization for the cultivation of coffee crops as the construction of housing on the land allotted for the cultivation of coffee farms brings loss to coffee cultivation and production.

He underscored that as Myanmar's coffee is of high quality, it is necessary to cultivate coffee plantations on all sown acreage to boost the production of raw coffee.



SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing offers solace to patients at the PyinOoLwin General Hospital yesterday.

PyinOoLwin region must be beautified and greened with necessary renovation

As humans commit some acts that impact the natural environment and cause climate change with high temperatures, they have to strive to mitigate environmental degradation.

He noted that businesspersons can export coffee products rather than raw coffee to foreign markets in order to contribute a great deal to the State economy.

The Senior General highlighted that as a travel city, individuals have to shape clean and tidy residences, whereas departmental officials need to systematically maintain offices, roads, bridges and buildings to beautify PyinOoLwin City through engineering philosophy.

Union ministers reported on the cultivation of coffee plants in PyinOoLwin region, distribution of coffee saplings, taking action against those for undisciplined

Salient points from the speech made by the Senior General at the meeting with departmental personnel in PyinOoLwin

1. It is necessary to organize residents in the residential wards of PyinOoLwin to grow trees under discipline and rules.
2. PyinOoLwin City must be shaped in accord with the characteristics of Cherry City, Hill Recreation City, Flower City and Hill Station.
3. Officials need to supervise farmland utilization under the law and discipline due to deforestation and environmental degradation triggered by weak management of land utilization.
4. Businesspeople can export coffee products rather than raw coffee to foreign markets in order to contribute much to the State economy.

coffee farms, sites chosen for the construction of buildings to shape PyinOoLwin as a health city, development undertakings, school enrollment in Mandalay Region, location of Gelaung

Creek, proper flow of water, and greening and beautifying of PyinOoLwin.

Also present at the meeting were Union ministers U Min Naung, U Khin Maung Yi and

Dr Thet Khaing Win, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and the commander of Central Command.

The Senior General inspected National Kandawgyi Park and the sites for the construction of private hospitals in PyinOoLwin.

At PyinOoLwin General Hospital, the Senior General cordially asked about the health conditions of residents receiving treatments for their injuries sustained in rocket attacks by terrorists on the evening of 14

April.

He also visited patient wards and gave guidance on neat and tidy measures at the hospital and proper handling of the machinery. — MNA/TTA

Junior officers and cadets must learn ...

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The Senior General urged all to strive to shape a knowledgeable society in the future, as a broader scope of knowledge can improve individual lifestyles.

He noted that as instructors are qualified for relevant professions, they have to train the trainees with literary and military training plus their life experiences in order to produce leaders of the future.

After the meeting, the Senior General fulfilled the needs of officer instructors, trainees and cadets.

Also present at the meeting were Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admi-

ral Zwe Win Myint, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Central Command and officials. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Chinese Ambassador calls on DPM MoFA Union Minister

U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Chen Hai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They cordially discussed matters pertaining to the further consolidation of the existing Pauk-Phaw relations and imple-

mentation of mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries, cooperation in eradicating online scam rings, the maintenance of peace and stability along the Myanmar-China border area, China's continued constructive support towards Myanmar's economic development endeavour, as well as further enhancement of mutually beneficial cooperation both at the regional and international arena. — MNA



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe receives China's Ambassador Mr Chen Hai yesterday.

Myanmar participates in ACU BoD meeting virtually



CBM Governor Daw Than Than Swe joins the ACU Board of Directors Meeting in Dhaka online yesterday.

THE group led by Governor Daw Than Than Swe of the Central Bank of Myanmar attended the 52nd Asian Central Banks Clearinghouse (ACU) Board of Directors meeting held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, via remote video-conferencing yesterday.

ACU member countries, such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, as well as representatives from Maldives and Belarus, attended the meet-

ing.

At the meeting, ACU member countries' representatives of the participating member countries mutually discussed matters relating to ACU's activities and progress in the 2022-2023 financial year; payment systems studied by the ACU Committee of Expertise, conditions affecting the ACU payment system through interconnection, issues of increasing the use of local currencies in the ACU payment system, ACU Central

Bank digital currency implementation issues and ACU Message Delivery System Implementation and Strengthening the ACU System.

At the meeting, the 53rd ACU Board of Directors Meeting will be hosted by Myanmar in 2025 as the host country, and Daw Than Swe, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, took over the role of the alternate chairperson of the ACU Board of Directors in 2025. — MNA/TS

Myanmar ambassador attends ASEAN meeting with ASEAN Secretary-General in Seoul

MYANMAR Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, U Thant Sin, attended a gala lunch in Seoul on 28 May with ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Kao Kim Houn and members of the ASEAN Committee (Seoul), according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the meeting, the ASEAN secretary-general discussed current developments in the ASEAN region and ASEAN-ROK relations, with attend-

ees exchanging their views on these topics.

Ambassador U Thant Sin provided updates on the working visit to Myanmar by Mr Alounkeo Kittikhoun, ASEAN Special Envoy to Myanmar. He also discussed Myanmar's cooperation with ASEAN in implementing the five-point consensus and enhancing strategic relations between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea. — ASH/ TMT



ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Kao Kim Houn and members of the ASEAN Committee in Seoul are seen at the meeting.

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NATIONAL

Union Information Minister inspects Sarpay Beikman, meets staff officers

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn inspected the library and bookstore of Sarpay Beikman under the Printing and Publishing Department in Yangon yesterday.

He first observed the sales of 47,000 copies of 116 types of books at the bookstore and the buying processes of book lovers.

He also met staff officers at the meeting hall.

In his speech, he said the Prime Minister adores literature and doyen literati and supports the literature sector in developing successively. It should carry out proper measures to accelerate the reading habits of students in addi-

tion to people at the Sarpay Beikman Library. It should be a suitable activity that meets the trend as an accelerating reading habit programme.

He continued that Sarso Beikman will be in place as a recreational venue for book lovers.

He urged the staff to enhance their capacity in carrying out their duties for the department.

He concluded the meeting after hearing the attendees' reports. — MNA/KTZH

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn meets the Sarpay Beikman personnel yesterday in Yangon.



MoRAC designates 30 buildings over 100 years old as ancient in 3 regions

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture (MORAC) has designated 30 buildings over 100 years old in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions and Rakhine State as listed buildings.

Exercising its authority under Subsection (b) of Section 34 of the Preservation and Protection of Ancient Buildings Law, the MoRAC announced that eight buildings over 100 years old in Yangon, 12 in Ayeyawady and 10 in Rakhine were designated as listed buildings.

The eight listed buildings in Yangon Region include Dala Dockyard in Dala township, the Post and Telecommunications Department (formerly Government Telegraph Office) in Kyauktada township, Kyaw Home Mart (formerly Tejoomal Department Store), Inwa Bank (formerly Mercantile Bank of India) in Merchant street, Myanmar Citizens Bank (formerly Misquit & Co) at the corner of Maha Bandoola street and 37th street, the Department of Pension (formerly Currency Department) at No 27, the corner of Maha Bandoola Park street and Bank street, Myanma Port Authority Office at the junction of Pansodan and Merchant streets, and the Inland

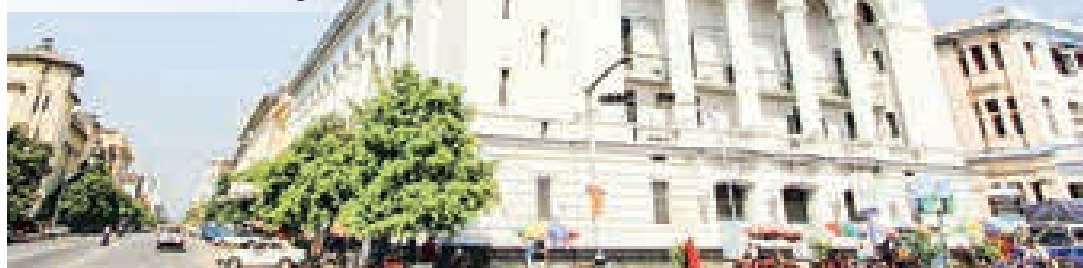
Water Transport between Merchant street and Strand Road.

Those in Ayeyawady Region include St Peter Catholic Church in Ward 4 and the archives office of the District General Administration Department in Pathein, Pobbayon, Arsoka, Vejyanda, Taikkyi, Sudatthana, Yadana Sein, Bawdi, Mya and Hmankin monasteries in Ward 15, Danuphyu, and Thukhitayama Monastery in Ward 2 in Danubyu.

Similarly, Thaddama Zawtikayon Monastery in Lanmadaw North Ward, U Ye Kyaw Thu Monastery in Sinkulan Ward, Gyt Bat Monastery in Kyaungtetlan Ward, Pyinnya Linkara Monastery in Ywagyi North Ward, Shwezedi Monastery in Kyaungtetlan Ward in Sittway, Ywachaunggyi Monastery in Ywachaunggyi village, Pauktaw, Panphechaung Monastery (Kyauktaw-Kanzauk) in Panphechaung village, Kyauktaw,

Phayapaw Monastery in Phayapaw Ward in MraukU, Kansauk Monastery in Kanzauk village in MraukU, and Ngalyintaung Monastery on the hill and Thabyuchaing village, Natmaw village-tract in Thandwe are included in the ancient building list of Rakhine State. — MT/ZN

Myanma Port Authority Office is at the corner of Pansodan and Merchant Streets in Yangon and is listed as an ancient building.



MGMA invites applications for Apparel Sourcing Paris Show

MYANMAR Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) has invited applications for product samples to be exhibited in Apparel Sourcing Paris, which will be held in Paris, France.

Organized by Messe Frankfurt, the fabric exhibition will take place on 1-3 July 2024 in Paris. Myanmar pavilion will join at the event. Myanmar pavilion will feature as an institutional booth in which MGMA booth and three-member factory booths will be exhibited, MGMA said in a statement.

As a business group, MGMA will promote Myanmar's garment industry with a Myanmar pavilion as well as with its member companies' owned exhibition booths, it said.

MGMA has invited applications to garment manufacturers to join MGMA booths with their selected product samples, and a company can showcase two to five numbers of their product samples. Factories will have to deliver their product samples by DHL express to Paris and incur delivery charges. If there are too many applications, MGMA will select only two samples for each factory, and after the event ends, product samples will not be re-sent to Yangon from Paris, it said.

Applications must be submitted by 5 June, along with 2-5 photos of product samples, and delivery of product samples can be made by 11 June.

In September 2016, the fabric show invited more than 400 participants from 15 countries, of which the majority were ASEAN countries. In February 2017, it attracted 13,599 enthusiastic participants, including brand decision-makers and representatives. This is the fifth time that MGMA joined it since 2017. For more information, enquiries can be made at the MGMA office or call 09 420036683 to MGMA's event and PR officer Daw Khin Thandar Aung.

The Apparel Sourcing Paris is Europe's top trading source, which can widely pave the way for opportunities in making and supplying knitwear, casual wear, sportswear, outerwear and corporate wear, and it is an exhibition where customers can choose from ready-to-wear men's clothing, women clothing, kid wear, casual wear to luxury clothing brands. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

FDA Myanmar warns against unregistered drugs, including Coralan-5

THE Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of Myanmar has issued a notification advising against the use of unregistered drugs, including Coralan-5, which are sold in the market.

The FDA conducts regular testing of medicines and has found that unregistered drugs are sold without any guar-

antee of quality, effectiveness, or safety. To inform the public and prevent the use of these drugs, the FDA has published a notice displaying photos of both the registered and illegal versions of the drugs.

The drugs that should not be used include brands such as Coralan-5, Coveram-5/10, Coversyl, Daflon-500/1000,

Diamicron MR, Vistaril OD, and Vistaril MR. The illegally imported drugs lack a Myanmar FDA registration number and have text written in Turkish.

In contrast, officially imported drugs carry a Myanmar drug registration number and have text written in English. — TWA/TKO



Drugs with registration number and drugs without registration number.

MoALI approves registration of 4,196 pesticides



A pesticide shop is seen in Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Region.

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has approved the registration of 4,196 pesticides.

The Pesticides Registration Board is conducting strict supervision to ensure that agricultural pesticides can be used with high quality and free from fakes and to ensure that they can be used safely and without harm to the environment.

Regarding the proper handling and disposal of pesticides, orders, specifications and instructions are issued from time to time to ensure that there is

no danger to the environment.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is approving applications for a license to use pesticides, sell pesticides, and repackage pesticides under the Pesticide Law.

After the 41st meeting of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, 4,196 types of pesticides have been approved for domestic use.

In the 42nd meeting, the Pesticide Technical Committee members discussed issues related to the approval of 149 types of pesticides submitted

for verification.

Based on the information and recommendations compiled by the Pesticide Technical Committee, the Pesticide Registration Team decides to approve the registration of pesticides.

Officials are also working to determine the evidence required to be submitted in relation to toxic substances and ban the use of pesticides that pose a high risk to people and the environment based on international recommendations.

— TWA/KZL

ME in S Korea opens applications for 2025 religious titles

THE Myanmar Embassy to Korea has announced that monks, nuns, and laypersons can apply for 2025 religious titles.

Every year, the Myanmar government offers religious titles to monks, both at home and abroad, who study the Pitaka or adhere to the Vinaya, as well as to individuals who donate four requisites (mon-

astery, robes, alms, and medicines) to monks.

Monks, nuns, and laypersons who meet the criteria for these titles can apply by completing the specified application form and sending it to the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul via email: seoul-embassy@mofa.gov.mm by the end of June at the latest. — TWA/MKKS



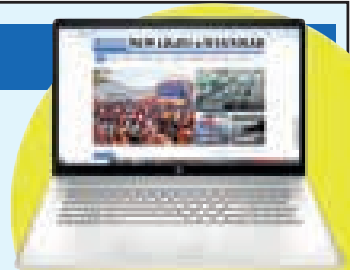
The Myanmar Embassy in South Korea.

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.

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma 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.

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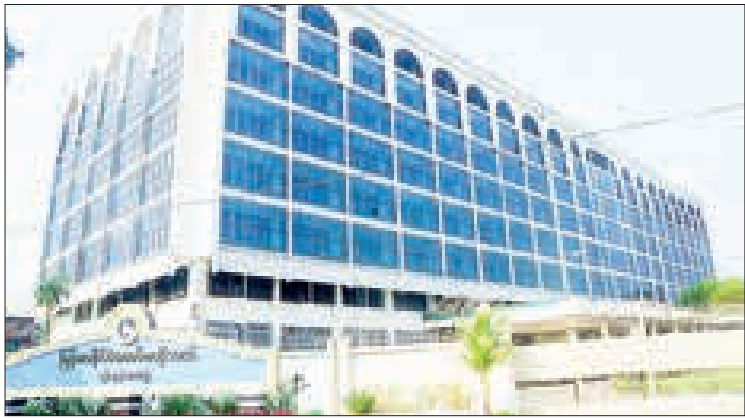
CBM notifies traders to submit EBRE, IBPE forms in barter transaction

THE Foreign Exchange Management Department of the Central Bank of Myanmar released a notification that traders need to submit Export Bill Receivable Exemption (EBRE) and Import Bill Payment Exemption (IBPE) in exchanging goods and services between trade partner countries, according to Barter Transaction Arrangement.

The traders must send the EBRE form or IBPE form with the allowed shipment notification, release order notification

copy, export/import licence sale contract and necessary documents to the director-general of the Foreign Exchange Management Department through Email: femd@cbm.gov.mm.

The department will reply when they receive the email. If they do not get an email after one working day, they are advised to recheck the email address or enquire the department through contact number 01 543511 (extension 461-462). — NN/KK



The front view of the office building of the CBM Yangon Branch.



The photo showcases a combine harvester working in a paddy field.

MoALI encourages farmers to use combine harvesters

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation notified farmers and those engaged in paddy plantation and production using combine harvesters and coordination with the departments concerned (Agriculture Department and Agricultural Mechanization Department).

Using a combine harvester can reduce time, workforce, effort and wastage. It can enhance rice quality, increase productivity and improve economic performance.

Before running operations, owners need to

check harvester maintenance instantly.

The harvester driver needs to have extensive training to become a skilled professional, as only the experienced driver can reduce the harvesting loss.

Additionally, the fields need to dry out before harvesting crops. When the rice fully ripens, it is ready to harvest.

It is difficult to harvest rice with grass weeds and rice lying on the ground. A skilled driver is a requisite. — NN/EM

50 container vessels scheduled to arrive in June

A total of 50 container vessels are slated to call in June at the Yangon Port, the Myanmar Port Authority announced.

In June, six container vessels run by Maersk A/S Line, Samudera Shipping Line and SITC Shipping Line, five each by Cosco Shipping Line, four each by BLPL Shipping Line, CMA CGM Line, MSC Line and Ti2 Container Line, three each by ONE Line and PIL Line, two each by Evergreen Line, RCL Line and one by Land and Sea are slated to enter the Yangon Port.

Myanmar Port Authority stated that 49 vessels in January, 53 in February, 55 in March, 50 in April and

52 in May arrived at the Yangon Port.

Yangon Port handled 629 container vessels in 2023. Thanks to the draught extension, the international ocean liners can access the inner port for now, according to the Myanmar Port Authority's statement on 22 June 2022.

After the new navigation channel (Kings Bank Channel) accessing the inner Yangon River had been found, the draft extension work was accelerated.

After that, the port can now handle larger ships. The container vessel (185.99 m LOA, 35.25 m

Beam, 29,232 GRT and 2,698 TEU) Hong Kong-based SITC Shipping Line docked at Asia World Port Terminal for the first time on 22 June, which is the largest ship that AWPT Port handled.

Since May 2021, the arrival of ships at terminals in Yangon has increased again. To fulfil the seaborne trade requirements, three new container vessels by Maersk Line Myanmar (SeaLand Maersk) started to run in 2021.

Earlier, the larger ships had draft problems preventing their sailing on the Yangon River. With the draft being extended up to 10 metres, more giant ocean liners can enter the Thilawa Port. — NN/EM



This captivating photo captures the bustling Yangon Port along the Yangon River, set against the backdrop of the city's skyline.

OPINION

Protect children from tobacco industry interference

TOBACCO use, in various forms such as cigarettes, cigars, cheroots, and betel quid with tobacco leaves, is prevalent worldwide, yet none of these products contributes to the users' health. The adverse effects of smoking extend beyond the smoker, impacting those exposed to secondhand smoke as well.

In Myanmar, cheroots and cigars are traditionally used, but they offer no benefits and harm both smokers and those around them. It is essential to raise awareness about the dangers of smoking in Myanmar to improve public health. Without intervention, the younger generation may turn to traditional smoking products as well as newer alternatives like e-cigarettes, which pose significant health risks.

The World Health Organization has emphasized the importance of protecting children from the tobacco industry's influence. This initiative aims to reduce the number of smokers globally, asserting the right to health and a smoke-free environment for future generations. The WHO's fight against the tobacco epidemic includes promoting health and fitness by advocating for smoke-free lives.

In 1987, the World Health Assembly adopted Resolution WHA40.38, designating 7 April 1988 as "a world no-smoking day." The following year, Resolution WHA42.19 established 31 May as World No Tobacco Day, an annual event to highlight the global tobacco epidemic and the preventable illnesses and deaths it causes.

World No Tobacco Day aims to draw international attention to the harmful effects of tobacco and encourage efforts to combat its use.

Secondhand smoke poses a significant danger, affecting those who do not use tobacco but are involuntarily exposed to it. At least 500 million children under 15 in 21 countries are exposed to secondhand smoke, highlighting the need for protective measures. Authorities must create environments where non-smokers can avoid exposure to tobacco smoke. Implementing smoke-free policies and encouraging smoking cessation is crucial in protecting public health and ensuring a healthier future for all.

Quitting smoking and establishing smoke-free zones are essential for safeguarding the health of non-smokers and reducing the overall burden of tobacco-related diseases. The WHO's efforts and the observance of World No Tobacco Day serve as critical reminders of the ongoing battle against tobacco use and the importance of protecting vulnerable populations, especially children, from the harmful effects of the tobacco industry.

Any country cannot successfully eradicate the abuse of tobacco yet. Nonetheless, they can protect most people from being free from smoking in specific areas and take action against tobacco abusers, as well as levy heavy taxes on tobacco companies and producers in order to mitigate the danger of tobacco across the world.

IN any nation, a population that enjoys good health and longevity serves as a crucial driver for socioeconomic development. The Human Development Index (HDI) is used to evaluate a nation's development. The HDI is an index measuring national socioeconomic development based on combining measures of education, health and adjusted real income per capita. Therefore, the attainment of longevity and healthy social lives is indicative of a nation's progress. Governments often prioritize enhancing healthcare to improve the longevity and well-being of their citizens.

Public healthcare comprises two fundamental facets: disease prevention and the administration of safe medical care in response to illnesses. The Ministry of Health assumes complete responsibility for the public health domain, which entails supervising large-scale vaccination campaigns to mitigate infectious diseases, conducting disease surveillance, and implementing effective control measures. The Ministry also works to reduce the spread of diseases such as HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria and to control the prevalence of non-communicable diseases such as hypertension and diabetes mellitus through national control programmes.

At the same time, public hospitals are being established with the aim of delivering safe and effective healthcare services to the populace. Furthermore, arrangements are being made to alleviate public out-of-pocket healthcare expenditures.

Due to the high costs of medicines and medical equipment,

coupled with limitations on human resources, it is challenging for most countries to deliver socialized medicine. These challenges are particularly acute in developing countries, where it is financially unfeasible to cover healthcare costs for the entire populace. Consequently, despite the governmental prioritization of essential healthcare expenditures, accessibility remains inadequate. Thus, private healthcare services play a crucial role in meeting the daily healthcare needs of the public, even in developed countries.

The Ministry of Health is, therefore, tasked with managing the integration of private healthcare within the necessary framework. As private healthcare expands, ensuring public safety, quality care, and affordability remains primary. The Ministry of Health continuously monitors and evaluates the development and expansion of private healthcare services.

Private hospitals and clinics that support and enhance the nation's healthcare system must be well-organized and properly accredited. The Ministry of Health acts as the chief regulator of private healthcare services, emphasizing the provision of adequate healthcare and ensuring patient safety.

In that situation, the government must regulate private healthcare services by enacting a law. The Law Relating to Private Healthcare Services was enacted on 4 April 2007 by the State Peace and Development Council (Law No 5/2007) to regulate private healthcare services. Subsequent revisions led to an

Ensuring Quality and Patient Safety in Private Healthcare Services

By Dr Zeyar Win

The Ministry of Health oversees the integration of private healthcare into the existing framework. Amidst private healthcare expansion, their focus is on maintaining public safety, quality care, and affordability.



The growth of private healthcare services is vital, and their collaboration with government regulations is essential for ensuring safe and high-quality healthcare for the public. **ILLUSTRATION: IMAGE USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE/PIXABAY**

amendment, which was enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Law No 14/2013) on 28 June 2013.

To accomplish this, the government has established the Central Body for private healthcare services, comprising no more than 21 members. This body includes the Union Minister and the Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Health as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the Director-General of the Department of Medical Services as Secretary, as well as heads and representatives of the relevant government departments and organizations and representatives of the non-governmental organizations as members.

The objectives of this legislation include several key aspects: to develop private healthcare services in accordance with the national health policy; to participate and carry out systematically private healthcare services in the national healthcare system as an integral part; to enable utilizing the resources of private sector effectively in providing healthcare to the public; to enable the public to choose as desired in fulfilling their needs for health by establishing private healthcare services; to enable the provision of quality services at fair costs and to take responsibility.

Under the authority of the Central Body, a working committee and state and divisional supervisory committees have been established to manage private healthcare services more effectively, with continuous monitoring. The Central Body provides guidance in accordance with the national health policy to maintain and enhance the quality of private

ARTICLE

healthcare services. The Central Body is primarily responsible for issuing or refusing licences for the operation of any private healthcare services and for inspecting and supervising private healthcare services to ensure compliance with prescribed terms and conditions.

In monitoring private healthcare services, the Ministry of Health evaluates the quality of healthcare personnel, the conditions of hospital and clinic buildings, and compliance with fire safety regulations. Additional considerations include tax compliance, refining treatment techniques, and improving service quality, all in alignment with periodically updated government policies.

Private hospitals and clinics that violate laws, regulations, or directives face various administrative actions, such as warnings, imposing the stipulated fine, suspension of the licence for a limited period, cancellation of the licence and legal action upon conviction.

Government regulations are essential, and public cooperation is equally necessary to enhance the quality of private healthcare services. Significant improvements in safety, patient satisfaction, and health outcomes can be achieved through active patient collaboration, contributing to their safety and the overall healthcare system. The Ministry of Health remains attentive to patient feedback.

In conclusion, the development of private healthcare services is imperative, and their cooperation with state regulations is crucial to ensuring safe and quality healthcare for the public.

What Google's Antitrust Defeat Means for The App Economy

By Yin Nwe Ko

IT TOOK less than four hours for nine jurors to reach a verdict. On December 11th in a San Francisco courthouse, they unanimously agreed that Google's app store was a monopoly and that the company had engaged in anticompetitive behavior. The decision strikes a blow against the search giant, which is concurrently embroiled in other legal battles. It may also redefine the app-store economy.

Most smartphones run on one of two operating systems. Apple's iOS is a walled garden with just one app store — its own. Other device-makers tend to use Google's Android, which on paper lets in app stores other than the Google Play store. The case was about whether it does in practice. In 2020, Epic Games, a game studio, urged players to use its payments sys-

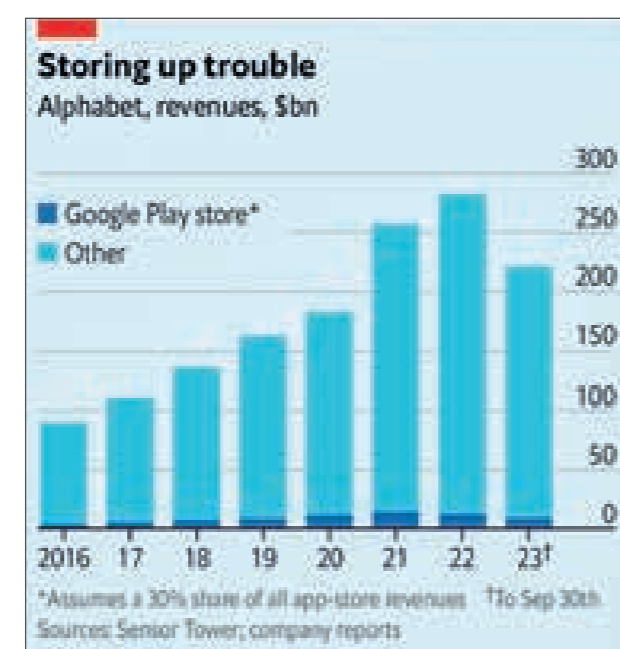
tem to make purchases in "Fortnite", its blockbuster shoot them up. The idea was to bypass the 30 per cent cut taken by Apple and Google on most in-app purchases in their app stores. "Fortnite" was briefly banned from both.

Epic sued. Its lawyers argued Google was stifling competition by striking deals with, among others, smartphone makers, such as Samsung and LG, to give the Play Store prime placement on their devices in exchange for a cut of revenues. The jurors did not buy Google's defence because it competes fiercely with Apple and other app stores on Android devices.

So far, so straightforward. What makes the situation strange is that the verdict is at odds with the one in Epic's near-identical case against Apple. That

concluded in 2021, with Apple winning nine out of ten counts (on the tenth, related to the use of alternative billing systems, it lost).

One reason for the difference may be that a jury, not a judge, decided Google's fate. Public opinion is sceptical of big tech, which two-thirds of Americans regard as having too much power. Jurors may also struggle to grasp the nuances of antitrust laws. Another explanation is, ironically, that Google has tried to make its mobile software too open. Anyone can use Android's open-source code free of charge to create their own OS. By contrast, Apple's customers and developers know that it controls all aspects of the iPhone. Being locked in Apple's walled garden may be more palatable if consumers know what they



are getting into, but it would be less so if limits are imposed by the maker of just the operating system, which it claims is open.

The verdict may influence two other lawsuits against Google by America's Department of Justice. The first went to court in September. It focuses on Google's deals to ensure it is the default search engine on various devices, including Apple's and web browsers. Such arrangements cost it \$26 billion in 2021. The second is likely to begin next summer and looks at Google's advertising business.

SEE PAGE-11

NATIONAL

Myanmar chairs 73rd Initiative for ASEAN Integration Task Force meeting

U Aung Myo Myint, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to ASEAN, chaired the 2nd Special Meeting of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force on Timor-Leste's Participation in IAI Projects and the 73rd Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 28 May.

The 2nd special meeting of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force on Timor-Leste's Participation in

IAI Projects discussed matters related to the participation of Timor-Leste in the IAI projects.

The 73rd Initiative for ASEAN Integration Task Force discussed matters related to development in the implementation of IAI Work Plan IV (2021-25), proposals of new projects, narrowing the development gap through the implementation of Priority Economic Deliverable (PED) and ASEAN Community Vision (ACV) Post-2025 Strategic Plans. — ASH/TMT



Myanmar permanent representative to ASEAN U Aung Myo Myint is seen presiding over the meeting.

Nationwide crackdown on illicit trading leads to seizures worth millions



Confiscated vehicles laden with illegal commodities in various regions.

UNDER the oversight of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, measures are being enforced nationwide against illicit trading.

During inspections on 25 May, Customs teams seized two types of goods worth K16.158 million, including 1,800 kilogrammes of carbon stick from China without an Import Licence, from a container at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint. This enforce-

ment was conducted in accordance with Customs procedures.

On 27 and 29 May, Customs teams seized 92,500 kilogrammes of Foodstuff Malt Extract Cereal (from Vietnam) worth K275.835 million, which were abandoned by a company at the Bonded warehouse at the Ywathagyi Dry Port. Additionally, an unregistered Nissan March (valued at K3 million) was seized in Mayangon township, and a Nissan Diesel truck

(valued at K40 million) carrying 2,760 gallons of illegal premium diesel was intercepted at the Shwegyin checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures, the Export and Import Law, and the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

Also, on 29 May, combined teams seized an unregistered Hijet (valued at K8 million) at the Yadanabon Bridge combined checkpoint in Sagaing township and an unregistered Subaru Sambar (valued at K8 million) at the Kantalu combined checkpoint. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported seven arrests on 25, 27, and 29 May, with an estimated value of K381 million. — MNA/MKKS



Study tour promotes conservation of endangered Popa Langur, only 300 left

IN order to encourage the preservation of Popa Langur, a species of monkey found only in Myanmar in the world with a population of only about 300, a study tour will be launched, according to Ko Tin Ko Min of Maha Giri group, which is organizing the trip.

Popa Langur study tour will take place from 6 am to 6 pm on 4 June, and each group of five people will study the Mount Popa Geopark where Popa Langur lives. He said that, on the excursion, ten people would be granted free participation.

"At present, as we have a little funds, we will give free participation to only ten persons. Each group will consist of five people who will study in the places where they live. People are interested. We will discourage the guests from eating monkey meat and keeping them as pets. And we will advise them to grow plants and fruits that monkeys eat. If a regional organization cuts down the trees, they should avoid such trees. There are only about 300 of them in the world, and they are only in Myanmar. Our purpose is to promote conservation," he said.

After the world was told about Popa Langur in 2020, a study tour to promote conserva-



Popa Langur, a rare monkey species, found only in the Mount Popa area, Myanmar.

tion was done on 4 June last year for the first time, and it will be the second time this year while they are trying to mark 11 November as the Popa Langur Conservation Day, he explained.

Due to deforestation and farmland expansion, their habitat is shrinking, and they also face the danger of keeping them as pets and being killed.

"They mainly hunt the mother monkey. When the mother dies, a baby monkey is left. They sell these babies. Some people buy them to keep as pets out of compassion. They should not be kept as pets. As there are buyers, the hunters continue targeting these monkeys. As they live in the jungle, it is best they are released into the jungle," he said.

— MT/ZN

NEWS IN BRIEF

600 looted artefacts worth US\$ 65 mln returned to Italy from US

ABOUT 600 looted artefacts and antiquities worth an estimated 60 million euros (US\$65 million) were returned to Italy from the United States, Italian police said on Tuesday.

All the artefacts had been stolen and brought to the United States at various stages in the past, and sold to galleries, museums and private collections across the country.

The return was the result of a long investigation by the Heritage Protection Unit of Carabinieri, Italy's military force, in coordination with several Italian prosecution offices, and with the assistance of New York District Attorney's Office and US Homeland Security Investigations, according to Italian authorities.

Carabinieri said the looted artworks included bronzes, numismatic and archival assets, all of which were obtained from illegal excavations in central and southern Italy, and from thefts carried out in museums, churches and private homes. — Xinhua

UAE participates in Gulf Radio and Television Festival in Bahrain

THE United Arab Emirates is participating in the 16th Gulf Radio and Television Festival in Bahrain. A high-level delegation, headed by Maitha Majed Al Suwaidi, CEO of Strategy and Media Policy at the UAE Media Council, is representing the country.

Organized by the Gulf Radio and Television Organization (GRTO) in Bahrain, the three-day festival provides a platform for regional media exchange. The UAE Media Council oversees the UAE pavilion, which features various national media and academic institutions. Dr Ramzan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi, Bahraini Minister of Information and Chairman of the Festival, visited the UAE pavilion. He expressed his admiration for the interactive and advanced radio and television content produced by UAE entities, particularly their advancements in artificial intelligence and technology. — ANI

Japan rail firms to swap magnetic tickets for QR codes in green push

The new paper QR code tickets will simplify the disposal process and reduce environmental impact compared to current tickets containing metal components, which require separation for recycling.

EIGHT east Japan rail operators, including the one operating the Tokyo Monorail to the capital's Haneda airport, announced Wednesday they will transition from paper tickets with a magnetic backing to ones that only have QR codes printed on them from 2027 to reduce their environmental impact.

Although most train journeys on the companies' lines are currently made using pre-paid cards like Suica or through mobile apps registered with the service, Japan's train operators still sell physical magnetic-backed tickets at stations.

However, the companies say they have decided to begin replacing them starting at the end of fiscal 2026 in March 2027 with paper QR code versions to transition to a sustainable



File photo taken in Tokyo in September 2020 shows East Japan Railway Co's test at Shinjuku Station of a new train station ticket gate that can be accessed using QR codes. PHOTO: KYODO

system that eliminates the need for the complex infrastructure required to sell and process magnetic-backed tickets.

Abolishing the tickets, which contain metal compo-

nents, in favour of ones made entirely of paper will also simplify the disposal process and reduce their environmental footprint, the firms said. — Kyodo

What Google's Antitrust Defeat Means for The App Economy

FROM PAGE-9

The judge in the Epic case will decide on a remedy early next year. One possibility is for app developers to be freed from Google's billing system. Last year, South Korea forced Apple and Google to enable alternative payments. The EU's new digital law has similar provisions. This may be making the app store economy more competitive — especially for games. Microsoft, which has just concluded its \$69 billion acquisition of Activision-Blizzard, a big game developer, is planning its own app store for games. Epic already has one for PCs. Riot Games, a rival, may launch its own.

The tech giants do not like this one bit. According to Sensor Tower, a research firm, people around the world will spend

about \$160 billion on apps this year. Google's and Apple's commissions account for perhaps five per cent of each firm's overall revenue. Operating margins for both app stores are thought to be over 70 per cent, according to testimony in the two court cases. (Google argued in court that this figure does not account for some app-store costs, such as research and development.) That is much higher than the overall margins of 26 per cent for Google and 30 per cent for Apple last year.

Google is already seeing its Play store revenues dip, reckons Sensor Tower (see chart). So, neither firm will give up without a fight. Google is challenging the jurors' decision at an appeals court, where a panel of judges will hear the case. Apple

is appealing against the payments ruling in its Epic case. Both are finding ways around rules like those in South Korea, where they let in alternative billing methods — and promptly slapped a commission of up to 26 per cent on any sum paid using them.

Let's continue to talk about Google and why some people are upset with it. Recently, Google had a big problem with something called "antitrust", which was mentioned above. This is when people think a big company, like Google, is being unfair and not playing by the rules.

So, what happened is that some important people, like judges, said that Google did some things that weren't right. They told Google was too power-

ful and didn't give other companies a fair chance. Imagine you have a game, and one player keeps changing the rules so they always win — that's a bit like what Google was doing.

Now, you might wonder, "Why does this matter to me?" Well, it's because Google is like a big boss in the world of apps. When you want to find and download apps on your phone, you probably use the Google Play Store. But because of what Google did, it made it harder for other companies to make cool apps and for you to have more choices.

Think of it like going to a candy store, and the owner only lets you buy one type of candy. You might want different flavours, but the owner says, "No, you can only have this one."

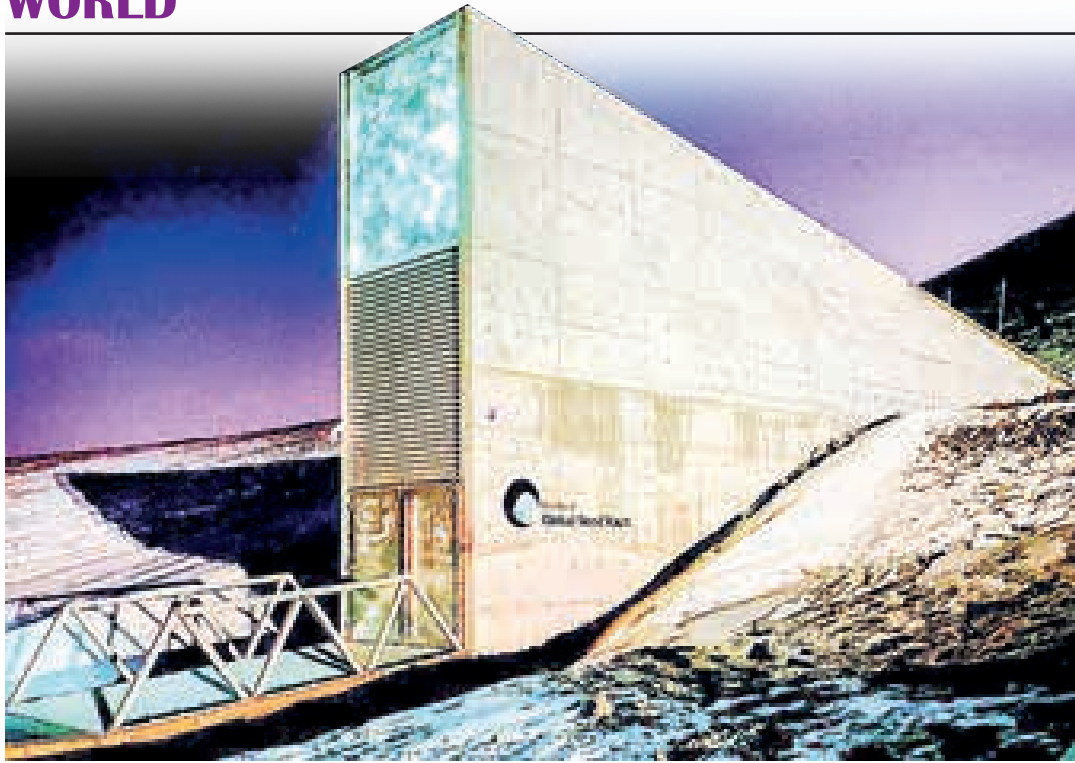
That's kind of what Google was doing with apps — not letting you have as many choices as you could.

So, this defeat for Google means they have to change their ways. It's like the owner of the candy store getting in trouble and being told, "You have to let people choose what they want." This is good news because it means more fairness and more chances for other companies to make fun and useful apps for you.

In sum, this is about making sure everyone has a fair shot in the app world. It might not sound like a big deal, but it's like making sure the candy store has all the different candies you love, not just one!

Reference: *The Economist Magazine 2023.12.16*

ECONOMY WORLD



A total of 20,683 seed samples from 15 gene banks were added, with four new contributors: two from Benin, one from Armenia, and one from Indonesia, marking their inaugural deposits. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

New seeds deposited in Norway's Svalbard Global Seed Vault

Geir Pollestad, Norway's Minister of Agriculture and Food, emphasized the significance of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in preserving global seed diversity, crucial for future food production readiness.

THE Svalbard Global Seed Vault, the world's largest repository of crop diversity, welcomed new deposits on Tuesday that raised its total number of seed samples to 1.29 million.

A total of 20,683 seed samples from 15 gene banks were added on Tuesday, including four new contributors: two gene banks in Benin, one in Armenia, and one in Indonesia that deposited seeds for the

first time.

This marks the second opening of the vault this year. Operated by the non-profit organization Crop Trust in collaboration with Norwegian authorities, the vault plays a crucial role in preserving the genetic diversity of important food crops.

"Svalbard Global Seed Vault is the world's ultimate security facility for global seed diversity, which is an essential part of countries' preparedness for future food production," Norway's Minister of Agriculture and Food Geir Pollestad said. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Türkiye's low birth rate rings alarm bell for economy

ONCE proud of its young population, Türkiye is now heading towards an ageing society that might cost national economic prospects, warned experts.

Türkiye, with an 85-million-strong population, welcomed the birth of 958,408 children in 2023. The country's total fertility rate has declined for eight consecutive years to 1.51 live births per woman this year, which remained below the population's replacement level of 2.10, according to statistics published by the Turkish Statistical Institute (Tuik) in May.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan profiled the downward trend as "an existential threat" to the country. He has repeatedly encouraged Turkish women to have "at least three children" to save birth rates from serious decline.

However, the cost and financial burden of raising children have dampened many people's willingness.

Duygu Cevik is a 30-year-old teacher on a prolonged maternity leave to care for her eight-month-old son Deniz. — Xinhua

Vietnam's state-owned commercial banks to sell gold directly to public

THE State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) will sell gold bars directly to four state-owned commercial banks starting from 3 June so that these banks can distribute them to retail buyers, local media reported Wednesday.

Pham Quang Dung, SBV's deputy governor, said the prices of gold sold to the banks would be determined by the SBV based on world prices.

The state-owned commercial banks involved are Agribank, Vietcombank, BIDV, and VietinBank.

With their extensive networks, those banks have prepared the necessary conditions to directly sell gold to people, the SBV official said.

He said the central bank was coordinating with relevant agencies to conduct inspections at credit institutions and businesses on compliance with gold business policies and laws and impose punishments on violations.

The SBV has held nine gold auctions, six of which were successful, releasing a total of 48,500 taels of gold. However, the gold price difference between Vietnam and the world remains high, at around 20 per cent, Vietnam News Agency reported. — Xinhua

2 central Japan nuclear reactors get 20-yr service extension

THE aging No 3 and No 4 reactors at the Takahama nuclear plant in central Japan were approved Wednesday by the nuclear regulator to continue operating for 20 more years, as the government maintains support of the technology's use in the resource-poor country's energy mix.

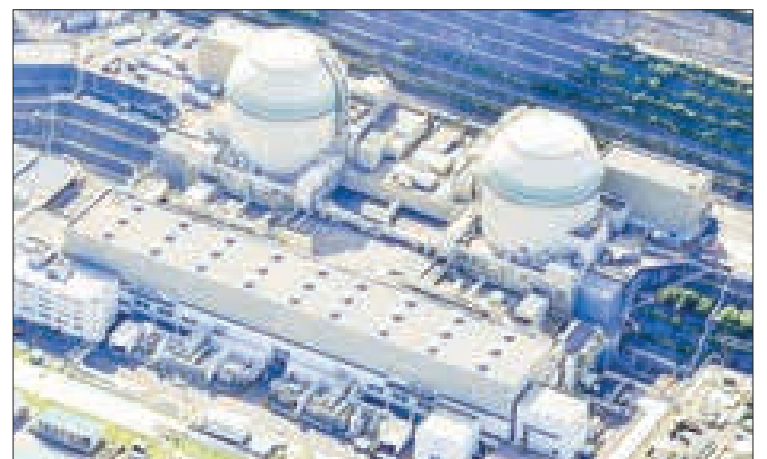
The decision makes them the seventh and eighth reactors nationwide that the Nuclear Reg-

ulation Authority has green-lit for extensions after 40 years of operations. All four reactors at the facility in Fukui Prefecture have now been approved to run for 60 years.

Both the No 3 and No 4 reactors are currently online and will reach their 40th anniversaries in January and June of 2025, respectively. Operator Kansai Electric Power Co applied for

the extension in April 2023 after carrying out special inspections of the facilities.

The regulator's Chairman, Shinsuke Yamanaka, said at a meeting that nuclear reactor pressure vessels tend to become brittle due to radiation, but an official at the organization's secretariat said the reactors had been evaluated carefully and that there was "no problem". — Kyodo



File photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter in October 2020 shows the No 3 (L) and No 4 reactors at the Takahama nuclear power station in Takahama, Fukui Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Toyota global output falls 4.0% in April, hit by Prius recall

Toyota announced plans to restart production of the Prius in mid-June after securing enough parts to address the problem.

TOYOTA Motor Corp said Thursday its global production for April fell 4.0 per cent from a year earlier to 756,254 vehicles, marking the third straight month of decline, as the automaker halted production of the Prius hybrid car due to a recall.

Domestic production

dropped 7.9 per cent to 251,485 units as Toyota announced production of the popular gasoline-electric vehicle will be halted until it can resolve a door handle issue.

The Japanese automaker said earlier this month it will restart production of the Prius

in mid-June as it has secured enough parts to fix the problem.

A halt caused by an unscheduled inspection of its minivan production line also contributed to the decline in total output.

Production outside of Japan fell 1.9 per cent to 504,769 cars, as the rise



Domestic production in Japan fell by 7.9 per cent to 251,485 units during April. **PHOTO: KYODO**

in North America failed to make up for a drop in China, which logged a 24.9 per cent decrease due to

increased competition. Global sales inched down 0.5 per cent to 797,097 units as robust results in

North America and Europe were offset by weaker sales in China and Japan. — Kyodo

Cambodia urges entrepreneurs, producers to join 21st China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning

CAMBODIA called on businessmen, entrepreneurs, investors and producers to participate in the 21st China-ASEAN Expo, to be held on 24-28 September in Nanning, capital city of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, according to a Ministry of Commerce's announcement on Wednesday.

"The China-ASEAN Expo is a significant platform for trade and investment exchanges between China and ASEAN member states," the announcement said. "As a co-organizer, the Ministry of Commerce would like to invite all Cambodian businessmen, entrepreneurs, investors, and manufacturers, who are seeking new business partners in China and ASEAN, to register for this expo," it

added. Joseph Matthews, a senior professor at the BELTEI International University in Phnom Penh, said China and ASEAN have become the largest trading partners and their bilateral trade volume has maintained strong momentum of growth.

"The expo will help accelerate the momentum of the current trade and economic cooperation between China and ASEAN, and through it, trade and investment volumes between the two sides will continue to grow stronger," he told Xinhua.

ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. — Xinhua

Exxon plays hardball against climate NGOs. Will investors care?

EXXONMOBIL investors will have a chance to weigh in at Wednesday's annual meeting on the company's hardball approach to the latest shareholder challenge from environmentalists over climate change.

The US oil giant, which unapologetically favours petroleum investment despite its negative climate impacts, has adopted a more aggressive posture towards activists at this year's virtual meeting compared with



ExxonMobil's annual meeting took place on Wednesday, providing investors with an opportunity to address the company's stance on climate change. **PHOTO: AFP**

years past.

ExxonMobil has sued two shareholder groups, NGO Follow This and activist fund Arjuna Capital, which sought an investor vote on a measure to limit emissions.

Its suit, which includes seeking legal fees, has drawn criticism from shareholders like Norway's sovereign wealth fund and California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS). — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2412S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2412S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-5-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY.NO. (W174)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (W174)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-5-2024** 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**

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ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD



Campaigning officially began as 650 seats of Members of Parliament (MPs) became vacant according to the electoral schedule. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

UK parliament dissolves ahead of election

Sunak's decision to hold the election on 4 July rather than later in the year as expected, is seen as an attempt to regain momentum for his party, which is slipping in opinion polls.

THE British parliament dissolved on Thursday ahead of a 4 July general election, which looks set to bring Labour to power after 14 years of Conservative rule. Five weeks of campaigning officially began as 650 seats of members of parliament (MPs) became vacant at one minute past midnight (2301 GMT) in line with the electoral schedule.

The first week of campaigning has seen a shaky start following Prime Minister Rishi

Sunak's rain-drenched election announcement, with many observers taking the downpour as a bad omen.

Sunak set the election for 4 July, instead of later in the year as had been widely expected, in what observers said was an attempt to regain momentum as his party slides in opinion polls. After 14 years in opposition, the Labour party now has the chance to win back power with its leader Keir Starmer, a

former human rights lawyer, at the helm.

Trailing double digits behind Labour in polls, the ruling party also faced a mass exodus of parliamentarians, some throwing in the towel in the face of bleak chances of victory.

Some 129 MPs have so far announced that they will not be standing for re-election. Among them are 77 Conservatives, an unprecedented exodus for a governing party. — AFP

Teachers given prison terms over 2017 Japan avalanche deaths

The presiding judge emphasized their serious carelessness, stating that they should have been more aware of the risk of an avalanche, particularly given the significant accumulation of fresh snow at the site on the day of the accident.

TWO high school teachers and a retired colleague were given prison terms of two years each on Thursday over the deaths of seven students and a fellow teacher in an avalanche that struck during a mountaineering lesson north of Tokyo in

2017.

The three, who conducted the lesson, were convicted of professional negligence resulting in the eight deaths and injuries to five others in the town of Nasu in Tochigi Prefecture on 27 March 2017.

Their defence team had sought an acquittal.

In handing down the ruling at the Utsunomiya District Court, Presiding Judge Toshifumi Takioka said the defendants — Shuichi Inose, 57, Hisao Sugamata, 55, and 61-year-old

NEWS ROUNDUPS: WORLD

US border policies facilitate human trafficking: report

THE US government's border policies exacerbate the problem of human trafficking, according to the Report on Human Rights Violations in the United States in 2023, which was released on Wednesday.

Seventy-two per cent of those trafficked in the United States are immigrants, said the report issued by China's State Council Information Office. Migrants abandoned in border state towns or transported across the country are often isolated and most vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking, it said.

Children who cross the border illegally and gather in crowded, lightly supervised shelters also fall prey to traffickers, an estimated "60 per cent of unaccompanied alien children are caught by cartels and exploited through child pornography and drug trafficking," the report said, citing a study from the Coalition Against Trafficking In Women. — Xinhua

Mexico presidential campaigns reach finale with women leading

CAMPAIGNING to be Mexico's next president reached a climax Wednesday with two women leading the race for the first time in the violence-plagued Latin American nation. Barring a major upset, a woman appears almost certain to be elected leader of the world's most populous Spanish-speaking country when millions of Mexicans vote on Sunday.

Left-wing ruling-party candidate Claudia Sheinbaum and centre-right opposition hopeful Xochitl Galvez, both 61, have dominated the presidential race, in a dramatic change for a country with long-standing gender inequality. "We're going to make history," Sheinbaum told a cheering crowd at her closing campaign rally in Mexico City's main square. "I say to the young women, to all the women of Mexico — colleagues, friends, sisters, daughters, mothers and grandmothers — you are not alone," she said.

After around three months of official campaigning, Sheinbaum, a former Mexico City mayor and a scientist by training, is the favourite with 53 per cent of voter support, according to a poll average from research firm Oraculus. — AFP



A person prays near the site where seven high school students and a teacher were killed by an avalanche in Nasu, Tochigi Prefecture, Japan, on 27 March 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Hironori Watanabe — should have been more attuned to the risk of an avalanche, adding

"It was a man-made disaster caused by a serious degree of carelessness." — Kyodo

SPORTS

Jacobs keen to repeat emotional Olympic boost for Italy

MARCELL Jacobs insists that there is a glimmer of back-to-back Olympic 100m golds in what he dubbed an "open" season during which he has uprooted his family to base himself in the United States.

But the Italian, a shock victor of the blue riband event at the Covid-delayed Tokyo Olympics in 2021, acknowledges that he has work to do under new coach Rana Reider.

Jacobs finished third in the 100 metres in Ostrava on Tuesday in 10.19 seconds, far from his European record of 9.80sec when winning Olympic gold, with the next step Oslo's Diamond League on Thursday. A debut run at Oslo's famed Bislett Stadium "is a really important test for me.

I competed (in Ostrava) and it was my worst race ever", said Jacobs, with one initial eye on the 7-12 June European championships in Rome before the 26 July-11 August Paris Olympics. — AFP



Italy's Olympic 100m champion Marcell Jacobs. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



The U-21 Yangon Region Football Team is taking training at the training camp.

Yangon Region Team preps for U-21 Men's Football Tournament

YANGON Region Football Team has been doing training to ensure victory in the Under-21 Men's Football Tournament, which will be held in Nay Pyi Taw, an official from the regional football team told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The Under-21 Men's Football Tournament, in which all regions and states will participate, will be held from 27 June to 11 July in Nay Pyi Taw.

"We've aimed to make sure the regional football develop-

ment, encourage new generations of talented players and help the regional football team enjoy victory.

"We have set up a training camp for 40 players along with six administrative members from 19 May to 9 June. From 10 to 24 June, we will select 18 finalist players and will start training. On 23 June, the manager, coach and players totalling 24 will head to Nay Pyi Taw," he said.

The training camp has been established at Padetha football

stadium in Yangon Region's South Okkalapa Township from 7 am to 9:30 am, and accommodation, meals, healthcare, security and disciplinary arrangements have been appropriately provided for players.

At present, 40 players from 14 districts for the Prime Minister's Cup Tournament have been nominated, and if there are externally qualified players who have met the requirements, they will be reinforced to the regional team. — Thit Taw/ZS

El Kaabi strikes late to give Olympiakos Europa Conference League glory

OLYMPIAKOS became the first Greek club ever to win a European title after a 1-0 extra time defeat of Fiorentina in the Europa Conference League final on Wednesday.

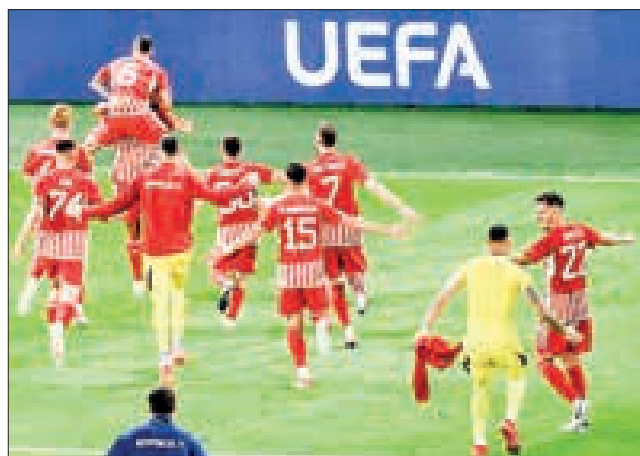
Moroccan striker Ayoub El Kaabi scored the winning goal in the 116th minute that allowed Jose Luis Mendilibar's side to make history in the home of local rivals AEK Athens.

Prior to Olympiakos' success, Panathinaikos were the only club from Greece to make a European final when they lost to a Johan Cruyff-inspired Ajax in the 1971 European Cup decider.

"I'm really happy. The team has made history. Mendilibar has made us a strong team. He told us we have to play as a family," said midfielder Santiago Hezze.

Mendilibar, 63, became the Greek side's third manager of the season when he took over the reins in February and he now has back-to-back European trophies after winning the Europa League with Sevilla last year.

Both sides started with great intensity as Dan-



Olympiakos' players celebrate after winning the UEFA Europa Conference League final. PHOTO: AFP

iel Podence forced a fine save from Fiorentina goalkeeper Pietro Terracciano, before Andrea Belotti missed his kick when presented with a good opportunity at the other end.

Fiorentina briefly thought they had taken the lead after nine minutes but Nikola Milenkovic was immediately flagged for offside when he turned home a cross past Olympiakos' Konstantinos Tzolakis.

Greek goalie Tzolakis made a fine save at the feet of Giacomo Bonaventura soon after and Nicolas Gonzalez later completely mistimed his volley when well positioned as Fiorentina had the better of the first-half chances.

Sights on goal dried up in the second half, though Tzolakis did come to Olympiakos' rescue again on 69 minutes when he adjusted well to leap backwards and palm away Christian Kouame's scuffed, bouncing effort. — AFP

Team Myanmar joins Group B in AFF U-19 Championship

THE drawing-lots event for the 2024 ASEAN U-19 Championship, supervised by the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF), was held on 30 May, and the Myanmar team went into Group B.

All 10 AFF member nations will participate in the tourney, while Team Myanmar is included in the same group as Australia, Vietnam, and Laos.

Group A sees Indonesia, Timor, Cambodia and the Philippines, while Group C comprises Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Brunei.

The tournament will be held from 19 to 29 July in Surabaya, Indonesia, and the top three teams from each group and the best of the three runners-up will qualify for the semifinals.

The Myanmar U-19 team will compete in the ASEAN U-19 Championship as the first international competition in 2024 and will compete again in the Asian Cup U-20 qualifiers in September.

U Aung Naing is handling the Myanmar U-19 team as the head coach, and the team is currently in China to play a friendly matches against the Chinese U-20 team. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



THE 10th ministerial conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum (CASCF) adopted the Beijing Declaration, the CASCF execution plan for 2024-2026, and a China-Arab states joint statement on the Palestinian issue in Beijing on Thursday.

During the conference, China also signed a number of bilateral and multilateral cooperation documents with the participating countries and the General Secretariat of the Arab League.

The Beijing Declaration reviews the important consensus and progress in implementing the outcomes of the first China-Arab States Summit and clarifies the practical path for promoting the building of a China-Arab community with a shared future. It reaffirms that China and Arab states will continue to support each other on core interests, deepen pragmatic cooperation, and expound on their shared positions on political resolution of regional hot issues, dialogue among civilizations, global governance, counter-terrorism, human rights, artificial intelligence, climate change, etc.

The execution plan charts the course for strengthening the building of a forum mechanism in the next two years and promoting bilateral and multilateral cooperation in fields such as politics, economy and trade, investment, finance, infrastructure, resources and environment, cultural exchange, aerospace, education and health.

The joint statement expresses deep concerns of China and Arab states over the prolonged conflict in Gaza, which has resulted in a humanitarian crisis. It em-

China, Arab states adopt series of outcome documents

phasizes the firm stance and important consensus of the two sides in promoting a ceasefire in Gaza, ensuring humanitarian aid, opposing the forced displacement of Palestinian people, supporting Palestine's full membership in the United Nations, and steadfastly working toward an early resolution of the Palestinian issue based on the two-State solution. — Xinhua

“The Beijing Declaration reflects on the progress made in implementing the outcomes of the first China-Arab States Summit and outlines the practical steps for advancing the construction of a China-Arab community with a shared future.”



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered the keynote address at the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum in Beijing on 30 May 2024.

IMAGE VIA THE CHINESE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS./XINHUA

South Korea targets Mars mission with new space centre

KASA's objectives include landing a homegrown probe on the moon by 2032 and planting the South Korean flag on Mars by 2045.



Researchers check up on Danuri, formally known as the Korea Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter, at Korea Aerospace Research Institute in August 2022, ahead of the lunar orbiter's launch. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/KOREA AEROSPACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE/FILE

SOUTH Korea aims to make a Mars landing by 2045, President Yoon Suk Yeol said Thursday, outlining plans to spend about \$70 billion over the coming decades on space exploration.

The newly created Korea Aerospace Administration (KASA) will lead the drive to make the land of K-pop a new space powerhouse, following the United States, Russia and China.

“I have always believed that there is an infinite dream and future in outer space,” Yoon said on Thursday.

“KASA will strive to land a homegrown probe on the moon by 2032 and plant the Taegukgi (South Korean flag) on Mars by 2045,” he said.

South Korea sent up its

first lunar orbiter, Danuri, in 2022 on a SpaceX Falcon rocket.

It also successfully launched its homegrown Nuri rocket and placed working satellites into orbit last year after two failed attempts.

Seoul is now gearing up for its fourth launch of the Nuri rocket in the second half of 2025.

Modelled after the United States' NASA, KASA says it will act as an “aerospace control tower”, overseeing aerospace policy, satellite development and space missions, including moon exploration.

Key projects will include expanding South Korea's participation in Artemis 3, an American-led mission which aims to put astronauts back on the Moon by 2026. — AFP

Global AI summit kicks off in Geneva

THE 2024 Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Good Global Summit began on Thursday in the Swiss capital of Geneva.

The summit is co-convened with the government of Switzerland and organized by the International Telecommunication Union – a specialized agency of the United Nations – in partnership with 40 UN agencies.

The event aims to leverage AI to advance various global development priorities, including health, climate, gender equality, inclusive prosperity and sustainable infrastructure. Over 2,500 participants will attend the event onsite this year, including government officials, experts and industry leaders. — Xinhua