

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Article

Thursday Chatterbox

By Dr Hsu Yadanar Aung Min

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CBM sells US\$176.7M, THB1.56B, CNY40.7M online in 5 months

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$176.71 million, 1,559.5 million Thai baht, and 40.7 million yuan to exporters and importers on online trading platforms in the past five months.

CBM pumped \$10 million, 30 million baht and 22.5 million yuan into markets in May through online trading platforms.

CBM injected \$3 million, two million yuan and 54 million baht into the financial market in April. It also sold \$18 million, 12 million yuan and 312 million baht in March, \$77.38 million and 850 million baht in February and \$68.33 million, 313.5 million baht and 4.2 million yuan in January 2024, with a view to curbing the instabil-

ity in the foreign exchange market and stopping the currency devaluation.

According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been joining hands with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market, under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers

(private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. Additionally, the outward remittance procedures must adhere to rules and regulations stipulated by the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee. — NN/KK

Seamless freshwater fish shipments to bolster exports



The Sanpya Fish Market (Aungmingala Port) was recognized as a temporary port that allowed freshwater export to Bangladesh.

Bangladesh ranks top in purchasing locally farmed rohu, stripped catfish and silver carp. Although scrutinizing processes were conducted at the Sittway border previously, the Sanpya Fish Market (Aungmingala Port) in Yangon was recognized as a temporary port to facilitate freshwater export to Bangladesh according to the guidance of the Head of the State. Moreover, One- Stop

Service (OSS) was organized and comprised the Customs Department, Trade Department, Fisheries Department, Maritime Police Force and Anti-Drug Trafficking Task Force.

The OSS team inspects the daily exports systematically, conducts the sealing processes and checks the fish and amounts to ensure they are in conformity with the export licences and export claims and do not contain drugs, arms, and ammunition on the vessel.

A total of 10,812 tonnes of fish were exported from the Aungmingala Port between March and 1

Continuous oversight of OSS officials at Aungmingala Port ensures smooth export cargo transport, strengthening Myanmar's export industry.

June 2024.

Moreover, over 623 tonnes of commodities and foodstuffs such as areca nut, preserved plum jam, dried Mourala, dried vermicelli, coffee mix, Mamee instant noodles, Shwepyinan Thanaka, slippers, alum and tragacanth gum herbs were exported to Bangladesh via Mottama port in Hlinethaya of Yangon. — MNA/KTZH

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NATIONAL

Buddhological museums at Pyay Shwesandaw, Shwemawdaw upgraded to digital museums

ACCORDING to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bago Branch), the Buddhological museums at the Pyay Shwesandaw Pagoda and the Shwemawdaw Pagoda have been upgraded to pagoda digital museums and are now accessible on the website.

During virtual museum visits, only items of significant historical value will be on display, as it's not feasible to exhibit all items online. Furthermore, efforts are underway to enable offline viewing of ancient areas near the museum.

"Besides the Shwemawdaw and Shwesandaw Buddhological museums in Bago

and Pyay, the Department of Archaeology and National Museum has been progressively converting 32 museums into digital formats since 2023. That enables both online and offline visits. Plans are in progress to allow viewers to explore the museums' collections of rare artefacts in 3D," stated an official from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bago Branch).

Since December 2023, digital directories of ten historical pagodas, including the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon Region and the Kyauktiyo Pagoda in Mon State, have been accessible to the public for both online and offline viewing. — ASH/MKKS



The photo shows Bago Shwemawdaw Pagoda.

Hseaindan Beach: A year-round haven for beachgoers in Yangon Region

The photo shows vacationers on Hseaindan Beach.



THE Hseaindan Beach in Kungyangon Township, Yangon Region, remains bustling with visitors daily, even with the onset of the rainy season, as reported by a member of the Beach Development Committee.

Throughout the year, the beach attracts holidaymakers due to its pris-

tine cleanliness, clear water, and fresh seafood. "Given its proximity to Yangon, day-trippers frequent the beach year-round. Some visitors actually prefer the rainy season for its comparative tranquillity, cleanliness, clear water, and safety, not to mention the fresher seafood despite its lesser availability," stat-

ed a member of the Hseaindan Beach Development Committee.

Presently, the beach hosts nearly 150 visitors daily, with numbers rising to almost 300 during the dry season, most hailing from various townships within Yangon Region.

Stretching 2,739 feet in length and nearly 300 feet in width, the Hseaindan Beach boasts over 80 restaurants lining its shores and approximately five hotels and guesthouses. Situated between Hseaindan village and Alae village of Kungyangon Township, it lies 38 miles away from Dala Township along the Dala-Danok-Letkhokgon-Kanyingon road. — ASH/MKKS

Ancient Myanmar traditional costume designs make a stylish comeback

THESE years, people's interest in old-time Myanmar traditional dress designs has elevated again, according to experts in Myanmar culture.

Myanmar's traditional outfits have once again attracted the public's attention, resulting in Myanmar's conventional clothing-related sectors becoming widely known.

"Recently, Myanmar traditional dresses are being worn in beauty pageants. Old-time wear designs have gained popularity again lately. Some wear things like ancient times in their pre-wedding photo shoots. So old Myanmar wear designs have become quite popular again in recent years," said Ko Hteik Tin Sithu Hein from Myat Taw Win, who provides services on Myanmar culture.

With the widespread use of online social networks, interest in Myanmar's traditional wear has mounted. Myanmar culture has been found widely used in wedding receptions, and Myanmar traditional dresses have been worn in renovated designs as a new fashion trend. Myanmar traditional Longyi (sarong) and blouse have also gained popularity among international customers. Myanmar's conventional clothing style and natural sceneries are a diverse cultural heritage that can catch the attention of international tourists. — Thit Taw/ZS



The photo depicts a damsel in traditional Myanmar outfits in the Yadanabon era and Amarapura era. PHOTO - MYAT TAW WIN

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

NATIONAL

Union Information Minister coordinates preparations for 5th National Sports Festival

A coordination meeting on the holding of the Fifth National Sports Festival was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn first said the Fifth National Sports Festival will be held on a grand scale at Wunna Theikdi Stadium from 9 to 20 December.

The meeting will discuss proper plans for opening and closing ceremonies and suitable activities for previous sports festivals, and the 2013 SEA (South-

east Asian) Games should be applied for the event.

He continued that the opening ceremony would be held splendidly, and the closing ceremony would feature football matches at the National Sports Festival, honouring songs and performances.

The National Sports Festival is a festival that carries the whole essence of the national spirit and is a sign to symbolize patriotism. Therefore, it will be held to be proud of being Myanmar people and get a feeling



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn chairs the coordination meeting to hold the Fifth National Sports Festival yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

like watching the previous SEA Games.

He added that the essence of a festival depends on the opening ceremony as it conveys patriotism, unity, and willingness to develop the country for all, and he called for full participation.

Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan and Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant and other attendees discussed the opening and closing event plans (draft), Free Fall carrying State Flag for the opening event, entertain-

ment programmes, 17 estimated programmes for the opening ceremony, performances, stage decoration and lighting system.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn made proper instructions and concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

School supplies donated marking 74th anniversary of China-Myanmar ties

A ceremony of donating educational materials was held at No 14 Basic Education High School, Hlinethaya (East) Township, Insein District, Yangon Region, yesterday to mark the 74th anniversary of the establishment of China-Myanmar diplomatic relations.

During the ceremony, Grade-3 students performed with the songs named Harvest Season. Then Mr Chen Hai, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar, gave a speech.

U Soe Thein, Chief Minister of the Yangon Region government, in his speech, recognized China for its efforts to improve the education sector, which is one of the most critical sectors of the country.

In commemoration of the



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai cordially greet the students at yesterday's event.

74th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, he added that the relations be-

tween the people of the two countries should be long-lasting and robust.

Next, Mr Chen Hai, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar, and U Soe Thein, Chief Minister

of the Yangon Region government, presented the donated items, and China Rural Development Foundation Myanmar Country Director Ms Lin Yuan handed over food packages.

Afterwards, the Yangon Region chief minister presented a certificate of appreciation to the Chinese ambassador to Myanmar.

Grade-6 student Ma Juu Theint Nadi expressed her gratitude, and the Yangon Region chief minister presented the awards to the students who performed the dance and a group photo was taken. Next, officials looked round students' paintings to commemorate the 74th anniversary of the establishment of China-Myanmar diplomatic relations. — MNA/KZL

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NATIONAL

MoCRD Deputy Minister heads to Bangkok for 24th CIRDAP Governing Council Meeting



Deputy Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Myint Soe (C) is pictured before leaving for Thailand yesterday.

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Myint Soe left Yangon for Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday to attend the 24th Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific — CIRDAP Governing Council Meeting, chaired and hosted by Thailand.

The deputy minister and delegation were seen off at Yangon International Airport by departmental officials from the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) is made up of 15 member countries in Asia and the Pacific region with the aim of promoting rural cooperation

carried out by member countries and participating as a service organization in carrying out rural development activities with the cooperation of the people.

The Governing Council Meeting and the Executive Committee Meeting of the CIRDAP organization are held alternately in the member countries every two years, so the 34th Executive Committee Meeting was held on 4 and 5 June 2024, and the 24th Governing Council Meeting will be held on 6 June in Bangkok, Thailand. Representatives from the CIRDAP member countries will join the meeting to share and exchange activities related to the rural development of the member countries and discuss CIRDAP's plans. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar to feature 84 booths at 21st China-ASEAN Trade Fair in Nanning



The 21st China-ASEAN Expo Promotion Conference in progress on 3 June in Yangon.

was held on 3 June at Wyndham Grand Hotel in Yangon. Ms Wei Zhaohui, secretary of the China-ASEAN Expo Secretariat, provided insights into the fair.

The ASEAN-China Expo plays a crucial role in promoting China-Myanmar trade cooperation.

It serves as a significant platform for Myanmar firms to engage in Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and Belt and Road cooperation.

The China-ASEAN Expo Secretariat has extended an invitation to Myanmar to participate in 'the Graceful City' segment of the exhibition. — ASH/TMT

THE 21st China-ASEAN Trade Fair is set to take place in Nanning, Guangxi, China from 24 to 28 October, with

84 booths allocated for Myanmar, as per the China-ASEAN Expo Introduction.

The introduction event

Lashio IDPs return home

THE Catholic Church in Aungmingala Ward, Lashio, Shan State (North), which was opened as an internally displaced persons camp for 30 households of 86 people, was successfully closed after IDPs returned to their home, Hsenwi Township, with their own plan on 28 May. — Maung Zaw/KZL



IDPs are seen loading their personal belongings onto the vehicle.

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,

Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,

Hotline - 09 251022355

marketing@gnlm.com.mm

subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

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NATIONAL

Government repatriates Myanmar woman facing hardship in UAE

THE government has been making efforts to repatriate Myanmar nationals who are encountering difficulties abroad by coordinating with the Myanmar Consulate-General and relevant embassies to ensure their safe return to Myanmar.

The Consulate-General of Myanmar to the UAE collaborated with the Ministry of Home Affairs, relevant police forces, and authorities from the Ministry of Human Resources and Citizen Interest Promotion of the UAE to facilitate the repatriation of Ma Khin Myo Htay, who faced difficulties in the UAE.

Ma Khin Myo Htay successfully returned to Yangon from Dubai on 5 June. She had been in Dubai for eight months, transferred by various agents and residing in a hostel operated by a Myanmar national before returning to Myanmar. Many Myanmar workers in Dubai arrive on visit visas arranged by agents from Yangon and Dubai, often



Ma Khin Myo Htay. PHOTO: KANU

working without proper employment visas. Consequently, they are vulnerable to exploitation by employers and agents. Lan-

guage barriers, cultural differences, food, and an unfriendly work environment add to the challenges faced by Myanmar

workers in Dubai.

The Myanmar Consulate-General provided necessary assistance to Ma Khin Myo Htay and obtained the exit permit for her return to Myanmar.

Ma Khin Myo Htay, who encountered numerous challenges in Dubai, UAE, shared her experience: "I come from a village in Ayadaw Township, Sagaing Region. I went to Dubai with the assistance of an agent to support my elderly parents. It took eight months for me to secure a job as the agents from Yangon and Dubai were searching for employment on my behalf. However, when I informed the Yangon agent that I had not found a job, he did not respond to my calls. My family from the village tried to contact the Yangon agent to bring me back to Myanmar but received no response. I struggled to live in Dubai amidst many difficulties. Fortunately, a friend contacted the Myanmar embassy, and they

assisted. I was immensely relieved. I want to urge others not to go abroad without thoroughly understanding the agents and the conditions abroad. Despite facing many challenges and being unemployed, I was able to return to my country. I dread to think what would have happened if the embassy had not helped me. I express my heartfelt gratitude to the State leaders, the Myanmar ambassador, and embassy staff for ensuring my safe return to Myanmar".

The Myanmar Consulate-General to the UAE is actively working to repatriate those facing difficulties in the UAE.

Dubai agents or employers often hold Myanmar workers' passports in the UAE.

As the government continues to repatriate Myanmar nationals facing challenges abroad, labourers and their families express their gratitude to the State leaders. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/TMT

Thai Embassy in Yangon to process 400 non-LA visa applications daily

THE Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon has announced that it would receive up to 400 applicants a day for non-LA visas.

The MOU companies can only apply after booking through the embassy's website at <https://thaiconsularyangon.com/Labour-visa>, and it will take just about three business days to apply for a visa, it said. Visa applicants are encouraged to follow the

rules. At the same time, they are advised to make a reservation through the embassy's website, to come to the embassy and apply on the appointment date, to check particulars on the visa page when the visa is granted, and to buy air tickets only after verifying personal information, it added.

As a non-LA Visa is valid for 90 days from the date the

visa is granted, MOU companies can make arrangements for departure and other necessary preparations during this time frame. In addition, Thai immigration offers a two-year free visa for migrant workers, effective from the date of arrival, and the embassy will not be responsible for solving any resulting issues due to one's own requirements and negligence. — MT/ZN



Some visa applicants seen at the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon.

Over 500 pass EPS-TOPIK in agri, livestock, and construction; Over 3,700 in service industry

THE Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA-EPS) released the 16th EPS-TOPIK results on 5 June, and there are more than 500 passes in the agriculture, livestock and construction industries and more than 3,700 passes in the service sector.

According to the exam results, 513 passed in agriculture, livestock, and construction industry, with 3,767 passing in service industry groups 1 and 2.

Those who want to work in the Republic of Korea's manufacturing industry, agriculture, livestock, construction, and service industries are required to have EPS-TOPIK and Skills Test, and POEA takes charge of the dispatch of EPS workers.

In the 16th TOPIK Test, recruitment of Myanmar workers would be extended to the Republic of Korea's service industry, and both male and female workers would be eligible to take the test. Women who completed basic high school level were also allowed for the first time, and there were many women candidates in the service sector, according to Korean language training schools.

As of 2016, the Union of Myanmar's Ministry of Labour and the Republic of Korea's Employment and Labour Ministry have cooperated in the recruitment of foreign workers through a marking system in Myanmar. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

Yangon Region High Court extends school uniforms, stationery



The ceremony of providing school uniforms and stationery for the offspring of judges, legal officers and staff in progress at the Yangon Region High Court on 4 June.

THE ceremony of providing school uniforms and stationery to the offspring of judges, legal officers, and staff of Yangon Region High Court was organized at the hall of the high court on 4 June.

The chief justice of the Yangon Region High Court made

an opening speech, and officials handed over cash assistance for uniforms and stationery to parents of the students who are studying in the 2024-2025 academic year.

At the event, a total of K2,656,500 worth of stationery and cash assistance were pre-

sented to 29 students from primary to post-graduate levels.

In the 2024-2025 academic year, 6,536,713 students are attending basic education schools, monastic schools and private schools in different regions and states, including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. — TWA/KTZH

New vehicle ownership rules mandate inspections from 4 June

ACCORDING to the Road Transport Administration Department, vehicle inspections will be required from 4 June for any changes in vehicle ownership.

Regardless of the vehicle's licence status, inspections must be conducted when changing the owner's name. Additionally, motorcycles, three-wheeled motorcycles, and three-wheelers will also need to undergo inspections.

As of 31 May 2024, there are a total of 6,180,881 registered vehicles, categorized by ownership type, vehicle type, and fuel type, according to the statistics of the Road Transport Administration Department. — TWA/TKO



Photos bear initial stages of vehicle registration processes.

Myanmar Music Day celebrations, awards scheduled for 27 June

THE commemorative ceremony and music festival for Myanmar Music Day will be celebrated at the National Theatre on 27 June, according to the Myanmar Music Association (Central).

The event is supported by the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. This annual celebration will be broadcast on Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV).

Additionally, nine categories of music awards, including My-

anmar traditional, studio, modern, and international music, will be presented at the inaugural Music Academy event in Nay Pyi Taw this October.

Myanmar Music Day originated from the 2nd Conference of the Doh Burma Asiayone, held on 27 June 1936 in Myingyan Township. At this conference, YMB Saya Tin composed the song 'Doh Bamar', which was selected as the national anthem.

That day was designated Myanmar Music Day. — TWA/TRKM



The front view of the Myanmar Music Association (Central).

Online sales registration renewal and amendment available from 17 June

THE Department of Consumer Affairs has announced that online sales registration certificate amendment and renewal can be applied starting from 17 June.

The process of correcting and renewing the registration certificate must be done through www.ecomreg.gov.mm.

When the information on the registration certificate is changed at the time of applying for the certificate, the renewal can only be carried out after the correction process has been undertaken first.

Information amendment fees and renewal fees must be submitted according to the export and import bulletin 17/2023. In the case of renewal applications, people can apply 60 days before

the expiration of the online sales business registration certificate.

When applying for renewal, the information from the previous online sales registration application must be correct.

Applicants must be responsible for the promise, and if there are any changes to the information, they can apply for an extension only after making corrections in the preparation section.

After the Ministry of Commerce announced on 21 July 2023 that the online sales business must be considered an essential commodity service and registered, the online sales registration application was allowed to start on 2 October 2023. — TWA/KZL

Manufacturing exports surpass US\$900 mln by 24 May

EXPORTS from the manufacturing sector amounted to over US\$966.588 million as of 24 May in the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April 2024, indicating a sharp drop of \$134.655 million compared with that of the FY 2023-2024, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

The finished industrial goods export reached \$1.1 billion in the corresponding period last FY 2023-2024. By two transport modes (sea and land borders), Myanmar delivers manufacturing goods to foreign markets. Myanmar exports agricultural products, livestock products, fisheries, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other goods, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, raw materials for CMP garment factories, and consumer goods.

Myanmar has been implementing the National Export Strategy (NES) 2020-2025 in order to bolster exports. The priority sectors of the NES comprise agricultural production, garment and apparel, industrial and electronic device, fishery business, forest product, digital manufacturing and service, logistic service, quality management, trade information service, innovation and entrepreneurship sectors. — NN/EM



Kawthoung border nears May export target

Myanmar exports oil fish, sand crab, anchovy, ray, squid, octopus and other fisheries.

THE Kawthoung border for Myanmar-Thailand trade aimed to achieve an export target of US\$17 million in May 2024, and the actual trade value reached \$16.687 million, performing 98.159 per cent of the trade target for May, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

There is always a trade surplus at the Kawthoung border, with exports surpassing imports. Fisheries export at Kawthoung checkpoint are operating with a freight on-board system.

Between 28 May and 1 June,

Kawthoung border trade amounted to \$2.65 million, with exports worth \$1.54 million from over 5,318 tonnes and imports worth \$1.108 million from 2,938.377 tonnes.

The export volume stood at 463.207 tonnes of fisheries worth \$0.452 million, 4,705.4 tonnes of agricultural produce worth \$1.076 million and 150 tonnes of other goods worth \$0.015 million, totalling \$1.54 million.

Thailand is the leading importer of Myanmar's maize and grants maize imports under zero tariff (with

Form-D) between 1 February and 31 August. Myanmar exports maize to Thailand's Ranong through Yangon Port. There is a direct export to Thailand from Kawthoung town as well. Myanmar has shipped 37,097.829 tonnes of maize valued at \$8.368 million to Ranong from Kawthoung as of 1 June 2024.

The prices of fisheries move in the range between one to three dollars per kilogramme. Myanmar exports oil fish, sand crab, anchovy, ray, squid, octopus and other fisheries. — NN/KK

Expert: High demand for eco-friendly bamboo products faces challenges



Photos depict various kinds of bamboo handicrafts and furniture.

U Kyaw Win, a bamboo expert from the Bamboo Shoots and Bamboo Cultivators Association,

stated that the eco-friendly bamboo products market is facing challenges due to a limited num-

ber of manufacturers despite solid consumer demand. Currently, the association primarily focus-

es on the production of bamboo furniture and bamboo buildings. Additionally, they offer

courses on bamboo charcoal baking, bamboo distillation, and the production of bamboo soap and bamboo shampoo.

"Bamboo furniture sales have decreased compared to last year. In the past, we had to work both day and night shifts, but that is no longer the case.

"The market for bamboo is narrow, but there is still interest in our bamboo furniture. Bamboo beds and lounges are popular at resorts and restaurants, and bamboo chick rolls are in demand all year round," said U Kyaw Win. Currently, raw bamboo materials are scarce, and their prices are rising, along with transportation and service fees.

Although the public is interested in bamboo products like lamps, tissue boxes, and other souvenirs, the number of manufacturers is limited due to market challenges. — ASH/TRKM

OPINION

Provide society with safe food for safe lives

ENSURING food safety is essential for the well-being of all living beings, including humans. Safe food significantly contributes to the health of individuals and society at large. A society composed of healthy individuals is more resilient to dangers, disasters, and adverse situations.

Among the necessities for human survival — food, clothing, and shelter — food stands out as particularly crucial. Access to safe and nutritious food enables individuals to thrive and overcome societal challenges. Moreover, it allows parents to raise their children in a healthy environment, fostering both physical and mental development.

Food safety plays a vital role in maintaining the integrity of the food supply chain, encompassing every stage from production to consumption. That includes production, harvesting, processing, storage, distribution, preparation, and consumption.

Foodborne illnesses, which are often caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites, or chemical substances, pose a significant threat. These contaminants, invisible to the naked eye, can enter the body through contaminated food or water, leading to infectious or toxic conditions.

The United Nations highlights the gravity of this issue, noting an estimated 600 million cases of foodborne illnesses annually. Unsafe food poses a threat to both human health and economies, disproportionately affecting vulnerable and marginalized populations such as women, children, conflict-affected individuals, and migrants. Globally, about 420,000 people die each year due to contaminated food, with children under five bearing 40 per cent of this burden, resulting in 125,000 deaths annually.

To address this critical issue, it contributes to food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism, and sustainable development. This year, the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations collaborate with Member States and relevant organizations to facilitate the observance of World Food Safety Day in accord with the theme “Food safety: prepare for the unexpected”.

The safety of the food supply is crucial for sustaining healthy societies. Ensuring that food remains safe from farm to table protects public health, bolsters economic growth, and enhances societal resilience. Food safety incidents, which pose potential or confirmed health risks, can arise from accidents, insufficient controls, food fraud, or natural events. Managing these incidents requires concerted efforts from policymakers, food safety authorities, farmers, and food business operators. Hygiene production chain of safe foods can contribute to healthy conditions for humans and society. Hence, individuals have to choose the best options for shaping a healthy society.

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IN OUR rapidly globalizing world, the significance of effective communication in international languages, especially English, cannot be overstated. For diplomats of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of Myanmar, proficiency in English is not just an asset but a necessity. It enables them to engage more effectively in diplomatic dialogues and negotiations and to understand the nuances of international law and policy. In light of this, MoFA has established the “Thursday Chatterbox”, an English-speaking club every Thursday aimed at providing a relaxed yet structured environment for members to practise and improve their English-speaking abilities, fostering a culture of continuous learning and professional development.

Overcoming Language Barriers

For those whose native language is not English, speaking in English can often be a source of anxiety. We all experience this common apprehension when speaking in another language because it is not our mother tongue. Encouraging ourselves and pushing each other to speak English is a challenge we all must overcome. This phenomenon is known as the language barrier. To break the ice, we need encouraging words and a supportive environment. The issue is not a lack of ideas but rather the difficulty in expressing them. Therefore, we must help each other before we embark on this journey of improving our English-speaking skills. At “Thursday Chatterbox”, we aim to create an environment where members can confidently share their thoughts and ideas, gradually overcoming their fears and enhancing their communication abilities.

Before every session of the “Thursday Chatterbox” begins, I always remind our members as a moderator of an important

message: “Here we are, gathering today as colleagues and friends to have a friendly discussion on topics that interest us in our daily lives. Remember, you don’t need to be shy, you don’t need to be embarrassed about incorrect grammar, and you don’t need to worry about not being able to speak very fluently. All I want you to do here is JUST SPEAK. Speak frankly, speak freely, without any tension and pressure.” This philosophy underpins the welcoming and supportive atmosphere of the club, ensuring that all participants feel comfortable, expressing themselves and improving their English communication skills. By fostering an environment free of judgment and pressure, “Thursday Chatterbox” encourages open dialogue and continuous learning, vital for effective diplomacy and international relations.”

Thursday Chatterbox” is designed with the objective of enhancing communication skills among MoFA staff. By focusing on fluency, accuracy, and effective public speaking in diplomatic contexts, the club aims to make its members more adept at handling real stages of international interactions. This improvement in language skills is expected to have a direct impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of Myanmar’s diplomatic efforts. Furthermore, creating a supportive learning environment where staff at all levels of English proficiency can practice and learn without fear of judgment is crucial. Such an environment encourages participation and ensures that everyone, regardless of their positions, has the opportunity to improve.

Youthful Voices Enrich “Thursday Chatterbox”

Our speaking club, “Thursday Chatterbox”, thrives on friendly and open conversations among its members. The ideas and comments from the younger genera-

Thursday Chatterbox

By
Dr Hsu
Yadanar
Aung Min¹

tions are not only crucial but highly effective, and I am delighted to see these youths as the future of our ministry. Young people possess a different mindset than ours; they have access to mobile phones and free internet — luxuries we did not have in our childhood. As a result, their ideas are fresh, offering unique perspectives and pointing to different angles of a problem statement. It is incredibly interesting to learn from them in my role as a moderator.

Their unique insights and innovative thinking bring a dynamic energy to our discussions, challenging us to think outside the box and consider new approaches. The enthusiasm and creativity of our younger members are contagious, sparking lively debates and inspiring all of us to broaden our horizons. By incorporating their perspectives, we not only enhance our understanding of contemporary issues but also ensure that our ministry remains forward-thinking and adaptable in an ever-changing world. The contributions of these young voices are invaluable in shaping the future of our diplomatic efforts.

Promotes Cultural Exchange and Enriches Diplomatic Skills

Another key objective of “Thursday Chatterbox” is to promote cultural exchange. By discussing a wide range of topics, members gain insights into

diverse cultures and perspectives, broadening their worldview and enhancing their ability to engage in international diplomacy with a deeper understanding and respect for different cultures. This cultural enrichment is invaluable in fostering better international relations and promoting a more harmonious global community.

It is fascinating to observe how members approach various discussion topics. Their different perspectives on the same problem statement often complement each other positively, contributing invaluable ideas to our society. Witnessing their ideas during the discussions is truly interesting. After each discussion, I always summarize their key points and provide a few comments, ensuring that all members grasp the key messages from the speakers. This approach not only reinforces learning but also helps in building a cohesive and informed community within our ministry.

Professional Development and Skill Enhancement

Professional development is also a cornerstone of the “Thursday Chatterbox”. The club offers a foundation for both personal and professional growth, equipping MoFA staff members with the confidence to participate in international discussions and negotiations. By honing their English communication skills, members can more effectively represent

Myanmar on the global stage. This is particularly important as the country navigates complex geopolitical landscapes and seeks to strengthen its international part-

nerships.

The activities of “Thursday Chatterbox” offer a diverse and stimulating platform for its members. At “Thursday Chatterbox”, members gather weekly for lively chats covering a wide range of topics. There is something for everyone, from global issues to everyday tips like staying healthy or finding fun weekend spots. These sessions are not just about chatting — they are structured to help members improve their speaking skills. They get feedback from others and even practice negotiating and persuading in mock diplomatic situations. Plus, it is a chance to unwind and de-stress while picking up useful advice for daily life.

Specifically, structured speaking sessions serve as a valuable opportunity for members to refine their communication skills and receive constructive feedback and guidance from their moderators. Furthermore, the inclusion of role-plays and debates simulates real-life diplomatic scenarios, enabling members to practise negotiation, persuasion, and public speaking — skills indispensable for any aspiring diplomat. Beyond the realm of diplomacy, discussions on everyday topics offer practical insights and tips to navigate daily life. From recommendations on travel destinations to advice on maintaining a healthy lifestyle, these conversations serve as a break from stressful daily life, of-

fering a space for relaxation and stress relief.

Moreover, the club’s focus on cultural exchange and professional development aligns with Myanmar’s broader goals of strengthening its international presence and building robust diplomatic ties. As members of the “Thursday Chatterbox” become more proficient in English and more adept at navigating cultural nuances, they will be better equipped to represent Myanmar in international forums, negotiate effectively on behalf of the country, and build stronger, more meaningful relationships with their international counterparts.

Good Speaker versus Good Debater

The club’s sessions are structured to maximize learning and engagement. In the first section, the moderator provides two or three guideline questions for discussion, and each member has the opportunity to speak individually. This format ensures that everyone gets a chance to practice and improve their speaking skills. The second section focuses on debates, which are crucial for developing critical thinking and strategic communication skills. Debating helps members learn how to construct and present valid arguments supported by facts and evidence, which is a vital skill for diplomats.

Understanding the distinction between good speaking and debating skills is an essential aspect of the “Thursday Chatterbox”. While both are important, they serve different purposes. As a moderator, I have realized that even a good speaker might not necessarily excel in debates. Effective debating requires strategic thinking, the ability to build valid arguments supported by reliable

facts and evidence, and the skill to present these arguments comprehensively to counter opposing views. This skill is essential for any diplomat, as it enables them to navigate complex negotiations and advocate effectively for their country’s interests.

A popular Myanmar saying describes speaking skill as ‘ကော့ကံဝင်ရိတ်လို့’ (kaut pin yate hlee) speaking style, akin to the method of harvesting rice in the past old days. Just as farmers carefully held onto rice plants with one hand while using a sickle with the other to trim them, effective communication involves selecting essential words from past conversations. The casual atmosphere of a chatterbox serves as an ideal setting to hone this vital debating skill. Regular and relaxed conversation helps alleviate fears and builds confidence, which is essential for overcoming personal barriers. Weekly debate sessions not only foster the exchange of fresh ideas but also provide valuable practice in debating techniques, embodying the true essence of a chatterbox.

An in-person social platform

Besides enhancing language proficiency, the “Thursday Chatterbox” serves as a crucial social hub. Each week, members, both new and regular, gather to strengthen robust social bonds within the ministry. In the midst of our fast-paced lives, such interactions are crucial for fostering social connections and teamwork, contributing to a more cohesive work environment. These social connections are not only beneficial for personal well-being but also enhance professional collaboration, leading to more effective teamwork and better outcomes for the ministry.

In today’s world dominated by virtual interactions, face-to-face discussions hold immense value in forging genuine social ties.

From my personal point of view, simple gestures, like smiles, can alleviate the significant tension of daily challenges. Therefore, engaging in conversations with genuine smiles, body language, and authentic connections is invaluable for establishing meaningful interpersonal relationships in the real world beyond the confines of the virtual realm.

I would like to encourage the establishment of similar fun and engaging speaking clubs in other ministries and organizations. This club provides a platform for improving speaking skills, building social connections, and fostering a supportive community. By creating opportunities for regular practice and interaction, such activities can significantly enhance the communication abilities of their members, contributing to their personal and professional growth.

In conclusion, “Thursday Chatterbox” is more than just an English-speaking club; it is a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing the overall capabilities of MoFA staff. I wrote this article to support this initiative and look forward to the positive impact it will have on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff’s English proficiency. By fostering a culture of continuous learning, promoting cultural exchange, and encouraging professional development, the chatterbox will play a crucial role in enhancing Myanmar’s diplomatic efforts and international relations.

1. The analysis and conclusions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not reflect the official policies or position of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar. Conclusions made within this analysis are not representative of the positions of any Myanmar government entity. This disclaimer is meant to inform readers that the views, thoughts and opinions expressed in this text belong solely to the author. ■

Study finds how low-dose aspirin eases inflammation caused by sleep loss

A RECENT study discovered that low-dose acetylsalicylic acid, popularly known as aspirin, can attenuate inflammatory responses to sleep deprivation.

Study is to be presented at the SLEEP 2024 annual meeting.

The results suggest that prior treatment of low-dose aspirin during sleep restriction lowered pro-inflammatory responses compared to a placebo. Aspirin specifically reduced interleukin-6 expression, COX-1/COX-2 double positive cells in lipopolysaccharide-stimulated monocytes,

and C-reactive protein serum levels. “The novelty of this study is that it investigated whether we can pharmacologically reduce the inflammatory consequences of sleep restriction,” said lead author Larissa Engert, who has a doctorate in behavioural physiology and is a postdoctoral fellow in the department of neurology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Centre and the division of sleep medicine at Harvard Medical School in Boston. “We used a non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory drug because it has been shown to affect specific inflammatory pathways, which were

previously shown to be dysregulated by experimental sleep restriction or sleep disturbances.” The researchers collected data from 46 healthy adults in a randomized placebo-controlled crossover trial with three protocols — sleep restriction/aspirin, sleep restriction/placebo, and control sleep/placebo — each consisting of a 14-day at-home phase followed by an 11-day in-hospital stay. In the sleep restriction/aspirin condition, participants took low-dose aspirin during the at-home phase and in-hospital stay. — SOURCE: ANI



ILLUSTRATION: SHUTTERSTOCK

NATIONAL



Embankments shield Thanlyin, Kyauktan from flooding, saltwater intrusion

THANLYIN and Kyauktan Townships are protected from flooding and saltwater inflow from the Bago River and the Hmawun Creek by embankments, according to the Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management (Yangon Region).

As a result, a total of 95,818 acres of monsoon paddy fields

are safeguarded from flooding and saltwater intrusion.

The Zamaniinn Reservoir in Thanlyin Township provides year-round drinking water to the residents of Thanlyin and the Thilawa Industrial Zone, while the Bantwegon Reservoir supplies drinking water to the people in Kyauktan. — ASH/TKO

Efforts to combat illegal trade yield results: Responsible citizens rewarded



Confiscated illegal items in various states and regions.

UNDER the oversight of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, operations to eradicate illegal trade are effectively conducted in states/regions, including Nay Pyi Taw. This involves the formation of special teams and One-Stop Service departmental groups, led by the Customs Department, at various locations such as border entry/exit points, border trade offices and stations, permanent checkpoints along trade routes, warehouses, international ports, airports, and coastal ports. The availability of information is crucial in these efforts.

In May 2024, there were 79 reports submitted by conscientious citizens. Among these, seven reports were found to be false, and one was delayed. Nonetheless, these reports led to 71 seizures involving 66 types of goods valued at approximately K4.28 billion. These seized items included timber, industri-

al materials, consumer goods, foodstuffs, and vehicles used for smuggling.

Responsible citizens who reported incidents in May 2024 will be rewarded with K856.109 million, which accounts for 20 per cent of the total value of the seized illegal goods, amounting to K4,280.544 million. In the financial year 2023-2024, a total of K1.168 billion was awarded as a reward for reporting. The cash reward for information provided up to May in the financial year 2024-2025 will be distributed as soon as possible.

Therefore, conscientious citizens are encouraged to contact the mobile phone number 09 404339969 for any information regarding illegal trade. Reports can also be made to the landline number 067 409883 or emailed to antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com, as stated by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Disaster Management Department: YR prepares for monsoon season disasters

ACCORDING to U Than Soe, Director of the Disaster Management Department in Yangon Region, the region is well-prepared for the timely distribution of relief and assistance in the event of natural disasters during the monsoon season.

According to the report, a total of 17 types of rescues and support equipment have been readied for distribution to 5,000 households in anticipation of disasters during the rainy season in Yangon Region.

U Than Soe stated, “We have already practised procedures and plans with rescue and support equipment to respond to natural disasters as swiftly as possible. Relief supplies for at least 500 households have been stockpiled at district-level offices for immediate deployment during disasters. Fur-

thermore, we have reserves to accommodate up to 5,000 households if a disaster strikes Yangon Region. These supplies include clothing, kitchen items, and other essentials”.

Last year, the Yangon Region experienced 102 disasters, prompting the allocation of funds amounting to K99.68 million and relief supplies valued at K27.83 million. It has also been reported that 17 rescue items, such as life jackets, makeshift tents, lifebelts, ropes, boats, and other rescue materials, are already stored at district and departmental offices for rapid deployment to disaster-affected areas.

Moreover, a fleet of vehicles and 3,056 volunteers are on standby to respond promptly to disasters and storms within Yangon Region. — ASH/TMT



A rescue team from Yankin Township, Thingangyun District, Yangon Region, was observing training for the disaster response on 26 May 2024.

Japan to build anti-tourist fence at Mount Fuji viewpoint

Locals have raised concerns about mostly foreign visitors straying onto the road at the Mount Fuji Dream Bridge in pursuit of the perfect shot.

A tall metal fence will be built to control unruly tourists who have annoyed locals at a popular Mount Fuji photo spot, a Japanese official said Thursday.

It follows the construction last month of a black screen in another nearby town to block an Instagram-famous view of the snow-capped volcano rising from behind a convenience

store.

Now residents have complained about mostly foreign visitors venturing into the road on the Mount Fuji Dream Bridge in search of the perfect shot of Japan's highest peak.

Despite its flashy name, the bridge is an ordinary overpass that runs above a river, with a narrow pavement separated

from the road by a waist-high concrete wall.

But people have been jaywalking across the road to reach a vacant area between the two lanes of traffic, said Haruhito Yoshizaki, a tourism official at Fuji City.

There, they pose for photos, twirl for videos or just chill out — some even bringing their



Tourists are flocking to take photos of Japan's highest peak Mount Fuji. PHOTO: KYODO

suitcases. To deter this risky behaviour, authorities have already put up low metal scaffolding and signs telling people to keep away from the stretch of tarmac.

Next, authorities say they plan to erect a 1.8 metre (5.9 feet) high metal mesh fence

around the area by the end of June.

Locals “welcome visitors as long as basic rules are observed”, Yoshizaki said, saying the move is meant to ease the “frustration of local residents”. — AFP

Harry Potter offers magical boost to UK tourism

The Scottish capital draws fans from around the globe, contributing to the UK economy and driving billions of pounds in global sales of Potter-related merchandise.



Sam Thorne leads Harry Potter enthusiasts on guided tours through the historic streets of Edinburgh, where author JK Rowling first envisioned the beloved boy wizard over thirty years ago. PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

SAM Thorne guides Harry Potter fans through the gothic streets of Edinburgh, where controversial author JK Rowling dreamt up the boy wizard more than three decades ago.

The Scottish capital attracts lovers of the bespectacled schoolboy from across the world, boosting the UK economy and helping generate billions of pounds in global sales of Potter-related offerings.

“Here you will encounter the tomb of Voldemort,” Thorne tells his tour group, in reference to the villainous dark lord of magic who murdered Potter's parents when he was a baby.

Fans of the Harry Potter series are flocking to Edinburgh for themed tours, drawn by the magical world created by author JK Rowling.

The tours take visitors through locations such as

Greyfriars Kirkyard cemetery, where some gravestones bear names similar to characters in the books. Despite Rowling's lack of admission to any direct link between the sites and her novels, fans remain captivated by the city's connection to the series.

The popularity of these tours has surged, with tourists eager to explore the inspiration behind Hogwarts and its fantastical characters. — AFP

NEWS ROUNDUP: LIFESTYLE

Singapore's only heavy metal bar rocks 'something different'

THE Flying V, hidden in an ageing mall in Singapore, is a haven for metalheads where international rock legends mingle with fans over beer and the timeless chords of heavy metal classics

Tucked away in the basement of an old mall lies gleaming Singapore's only heavy metal bar, where music fans brush shoulder-to-shoulder with international rockers who helped pioneer the genre.

Few venues cater to the country's tiny but vibrant metal scene, while the government has focused on luring more mainstream headliners — most recently Taylor Swift.

Around the corner from the looming parliament and Supreme Court buildings, “The Flying V” is a metal music oasis in the otherwise manicured environment.

Sitting at the bar on a Tuesday night, Deep Purple bassist Roger Glover enjoyed a dark Welsh beer ahead of his band's concert the next day. — AFP

Family looted by Nazis donates works back to Louvre

TWO 17th century paintings looted by the Nazis and kept at the Louvre in Paris after the war have finally been returned to their Jewish owners, who then donated them back to the museum.

Several of the 48 descendants of the Javal family gathered at the Louvre on Tuesday to see “Still-Life with Ham” by Floris van Schooten and “Food, Fruit and Glass on a Table” by Peter Binoit rehung alongside items

detailing the family's experience under the Nazis.

It is a “duty of memory towards my family, looted from and persecuted, whose history speaks to current generations”, said one of them, Marion, who did not want to give her full name. Five members of the family were deported from France during the war and murdered at Auschwitz, while others fought in the Resistance or went into hiding. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD



During the fiscal year, significant FDI inflows in sectors like construction, development, and power more than doubled, with India's cumulative FDI reaching US\$ 990 billion and FDI equity at US\$ 678 billion from April 2000 to March 2024. **PHOTO: IMAGE USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE /ANI/FILE**

India's FDI steady at US\$70.9 billion in FY24, inflows more than doubled in construction sector

Sectors such as construction, construction development, and power experienced substantial FDI inflows, more than doubling during the fiscal year.

MAINTAINING consistency in attracting foreign investment inflows, India has received a total foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow of US\$70.9 billion in the financial year 2023-24.

India received the highest FDI of US\$ 6 billion in October last year followed by US\$5.9 billion in January 2024.

Out of total FDI flows, FDI equity inflow received during

FY 2023-24 stood at US\$44.4 billion. The equity inflows for the quarter January 2024 to March 2024 stood at US\$12 billion registering a 33 per cent year-on-year growth.

The FDI inflow in construction (infrastructure activities), construction development and power sectors more than doubled in 2023-24.

Further, the cumulative amount of FDI inflow into the country stood at US\$ 990 billion and the cumulative amount of

FDI Equity inflow into India stands at US\$678 billion during the period April 2000 to March 2024.

The largest contributor to the country's FDI inflow was Mauritius with a total of 25 per cent, followed by Singapore which infused 24 per cent of the total FDI inflow in the country. The share of the USA stood at 10 per cent, the Netherlands at seven per cent and the share of Japan stood at six per cent from April 2000 to March 2024. — ANI

China-aided airport in Pakistan's Gwadar port city starts flight test

THE China-aided New Gwadar International Airport in Pakistan has started carrying out a five-day flight test from Tuesday, marking that the project is about to enter the final sprint stage, the airport's project management team said.

Ding Kan, head of the project management team, told Xinhua that the flight test work of the airport, being built under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and located in the southwest port city of Gwadar, is organized and im-

plemented by Pakistan's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

The main purpose of the activity is to check the standardization and safety of the project's navigation facilities, navigational aids, flight procedures and road surface performance, he said, adding that the test is an important nodal target of the project's construction, which is of great significance for the safety and quality of the flights at the new airport.

Following the completion of the flight test, the project will



A plane parks after completing its flight test at the China-aided New Gwadar International Airport in the southwest port city of Gwadar, Pakistan, 4 June 2024. **PHOTO: CHINA-AIDED NEW GWADAR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

enter the final sprint stage, and it is expected that the airport will be completed and handed

over to the local authorities in 2024, the Chinese manager said. — Xinhua

SUMMARIES: ECON

World's richest have never been so wealthy: study

THE world has never had so many rich people and their investments in soaring stock markets have made them wealthier than ever recorded, according to a study published on Wednesday.

The number of "high net worth individuals" (HNWI) – defined as people with liquid assets of at least \$1 million – rose by 5.1 per cent last year to 22.8 million, according to consulting firm Capgemini.

Their total wealth reached \$86.8 trillion in 2023, a 4.7-per cent increase from the previous year, according to the annual World Wealth Report. — AFP

Lao govt, development partners discuss promoting socioeconomic development

SENIOR officials from the Lao government, private sectors and other stakeholders have gathered here to discuss ways to address current challenges and review the implementation of the national socioeconomic development plan in the first six months of 2024.

The meeting was attended by Lao Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment Phonevanh Out-havong, the Country Manager of the World Bank Laos Alexander Kremer, and other relevant officials, Lao National Radio reported on Thursday. — Xinhua

Zimbabwe moves to address cash shortage of new currency ZiG

ZIMBABWE'S central bank has moved to avert a shortage of the country's newly introduced currency, the Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG), amid concerns that the shortage is hampering people's daily transactions.

The southern African country launched the gold-backed ZiG on 5 April in hopes of curbing inflation and promoting currency stability. — Xinhua

Contentstack introduces groundbreaking solution to digital marketers' personalization woes

CONTENTSTACK, the creator of the Headless CMS and the Composable DXP category, on Thursday announced the first-ever solution to address long-standing personalization challenges for digital marketers: an over-reliance on IT, generic AI content, and manual processes that impede scale.

The announcement was made at ContentCon, the company's annual customer conference, featuring speakers from Air France KLM, ASICS, Cartier, Dawn Foods, and Evinova. Contentstack has introduced new premium features integrated within its headless CMS, accompanied by "no-fail promise" customer support services. These include Personalize, an A/B/n testing and seg-

mentation engine; Brand Kit, a writing assistant for AI-generated brand-relevant content; extensions for Contentstack Automate for fully automated content lifecycle management; and an expanded Academy with an AI Accelerator programme for practical AI use cases.

Neha Sampat, Contentstack's CEO, emphasizes the importance of personalized digital experiences amid a relevancy crisis and highlights the simplicity and comprehensiveness of Contentstack's solution. Personalize, as a native capability of the headless CMS, aims to empower marketers by streamlining the personalization process and reducing reliance on technical teams. — ANI



Neha Sampat, CEO of Contentstack, stressed the significance of personalized digital experiences in the face of a relevancy crisis. PHOTO: ANI

China expects 30% surge in border crossings during Dragon Boat Festival

CHINA'S National Immigration Administration has projected a 32.5 per cent year-on-year surge in border entries and exits during the upcoming Dragon Boat Festival break, with a daily average of 1.75 million crossings nationwide, according to figures released Thursday.

The Dragon Boat Festival is one of China's major traditional holidays, falling on the fifth day of the fifth month of the lunar calendar, which this year is 10 June.

As the holiday immediately follows a weekend this year, people will enjoy a three-day break from 8 to 10 June, with many expected to take advantage of the period to travel.

Major aviation hubs



Travellers wait to go through immigration inspections at the Shenzhen Bay Port in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, 29 April 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA/MAO SIQIAN

are expected to see a steady increase in passenger traffic, and daily average arrivals and departures at Shanghai Pudong Airport are projected to reach a combined

89,000.

Land border checkpoints leading to Hong Kong and Macao will also face surging traveller volumes. Luohu Port in Shenzhen City is ex-

pected to handle a daily average of 217,000 crossings, while the Gongbei checkpoint in Zhuhai City is projected to see a daily average of 320,000 crossings. — Xinhua

Notice for Change of Distributor

We, **Shandong Qiaochang Modern Agriculture Co.,Ltd.** would like to change the Distributor of the following products, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from **Myanmar Max Agro Service Co.,Ltd.** to **Seinn Lae Thwin Co.,Ltd.**, If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from here to next (2) weeks.

Sr.	The Old Distributor	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No.	The New Distributor
1	Myanmar Max Agro Service Co.,Ltd.	Qiaochang Haloxy fop-P-methyl	Haloxy fop-P-methyl 108g/l EC	Provisional	P2021-5261	Seinn Lae Thwin Co.,Ltd.

Address: **SEINN LAE THWIN CO.,LTD.** No.(525), First Floor, Corner of Merchant Street & 38th Street, Ward No.(6), Kyauktada T/S, Yangon. Tel 09-455188188

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BAJO VOY.NO. (V.029N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BAJO VOY.NO. (V.029N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-6-2024** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (V.120N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (V.120N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-6-2024** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V QUEEN CORAL VOY.NO. (V.001)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V QUEEN CORAL VOY.NO. (V.001)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-6-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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: **2301191, 2301178**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S ECL (SINGAPORE) PTE LTD.

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

NEWS SUMMARIES

Israel ready to take decisive actions against Hezbollah: Netanyahu

ISRAEL is ready to take decisive actions against the Lebanese Hezbollah movement in the north, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday. "At the beginning of the war, we said we would restore security in the south and the north, and we will ... We are ready for very strong actions in the north. One way or another, we will restore security in the north," the prime minister said during his visit to the Qiryat Shemona city in northern Israel.

On 7 October 2023, Palestinian movement Hamas launched a large-scale rocket attack against Israel and breached the border, attacking both civilian neighbourhoods and military bases. Israel launched retaliatory strikes, introduces a complete blockade of Gaza, and started a ground invasion into the enclave, vowing to eliminate Hamas and rescues hostages. — SPUTNIK

Ulan Bator dialogue mulls over Northeast Asian security

THE ninth International Conference of the Ulan Bator Dialogue mulled over Northeast Asian security in the Mongolian capital of Ulan Bator on Thursday.

During the opening ceremony, Mongolian Foreign Minister Batmunkh Battsetseg highlighted Mongolia's commitment to a peaceful, open and multi-pillar foreign policy. "Contributing to the peace and security of Northeast Asia has long been a core priority of Mongolia's foreign policy. A key priority of the dialogue is the promotion of confidence-building measures to reduce tensions and enhance stability in the region," said Battsetseg. — Xinhua

Russia's flagship forum kicks off in St Petersburg

Themed "The Formation of New Areas of Growth as the Cornerstone of a Multipolar World," the forum aims to address key economic challenges facing Russia, emerging markets, and the global community.

THE 27th St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) opened here on Wednesday with the participation of delegates from 139 countries and regions.

The forum, with the theme of "The Formation of New Areas of Growth as the Cornerstone of a Multipolar World" will focus on key economic issues facing Russia, emerging markets, and the world, according to the organizer. "Russia is open to constructive dialogue and interaction with its partners and is willing to work together to solve the economic, social, scientific and technological problems of our time," Russian President Vladimir Putin said in his congratulatory message to the forum. The four-day forum will



This photo taken on 5 June 2024 shows an exhibition hall of the 27th St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) in St Petersburg, Russia. **PHOTO: CAO YANG/XINHUA**

feature more than 400 business events including seminars, dialogues and panel discussions, covering topics ranging from world economic transition to advanced technology development.

Since its inception in 1997, SPIEF has evolved into a renowned global platform for the business community to discuss critical economic issues facing Russia and the world. — Xinhua

Japan lower house passes political funds reform bill in response to scandal

The revised law is expected to pass during the ongoing parliamentary session, as Prime Minister Fumio Kishida seeks to restore public trust amid a fundraising scandal that has damaged his popularity and weakened support for the LDP ahead of an upcoming election.



The House of Representatives holds a plenary session in parliament in Tokyo on 6 June 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN'S House of Representatives on Thursday cleared a bill proposed by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to reform rules on political party funds, ending weeks of fraught inter-party negotiations for Prime Minister Fumio Kishida as a fundraising scandal continues to damage his popularity.

The revised political funds control law is expected to be enacted during the ongoing parliamentary session through 23 June as Kishida attempts to regain public trust due to the scandal having badly eroded support for his LDP and potentially loosened the party's grip

on power with an election on the horizon.

As the bill proposed by the LDP is so far lacking in detail, opposition lawmakers have lambasted it for containing many loopholes and have cast doubt on whether it will strengthen transparency concerning the use of political funds.

The envisioned changes to the rules will impede The LDP's fundraising abilities, with Kishida facing criticism within the party for conceding too much to its junior coalition partner the Komeito party in an attempt to salvage his plummeting Cabinet approval ratings. — Kyodo

SPORTS

Maddison, Jones cut from England squad for Euro 2024

TOTTENHAM playmaker James Maddison and Liverpool midfielder Curtis Jones will not be included in England's 26-man squad for Euro 2024.

Maddison and Jones were part of Gareth Southgate's 33-man provisional squad, but both players have left England's training camp after being told they will not make the final cut.

Southgate must name his official 26-man squad by Friday's deadline, which is just

after England play Finland at Wembley in their last warm-up ahead of the tournament.

The Euros start in Germany on 14 June and England are among the favourites as they chase a first major men's trophy for 58 years.

Maddison, 27, was introduced as a 61st-minute substitute in Monday's 3-0 friendly win against Bosnia and Herzegovina at St James' Park. — AFP



James Maddison came on as a substitute against Bosnia-Herzegovina at St James' Park. **PHOTO: AFP**

13th ASEAN School Games: Myanmar Vovinam Team wins 2 golds, 1 silver, 4 bronzes



The Myanmar Vovinam Team seen cheering with medals during the 13th ASEAN School Games. **PHOTO: ARKA LIN**

THE Myanmar Vovinam Team won two gold medals, one silver medal, and three bronze medals in the 13th ASEAN School Games held in Danang, Viet-

nam, from 1 to 9 June.

Yoon Lawun Eain Shwe grabbed one gold at the women's individual performance event, while Nway Lun Htet,

Aung Pyae Sone Naing, Kyaw Zaw Shin and Pyae Sone Aung secured another gold medal at the Female 1+ Male 3 team event of weapon performance.

Meanwhile, Wai Yan Kyaw picked one silver medal in the 54-60 kilogrammes event of men's individual attacking event. Yoon Pann Thazin Aung garnered further silver in the 45-50.9 kg event of women's individual attacking event. Next, Naing Aung Shwe at the men's individual performance event, Zin Lei Phyu and Kyel Sin Lwin at the women's double sword performance event and Min Khant Naing, Naing Aung Shwe, Pyae Sone Aung and Kyaw Zaw Shin at men's team of four performance (without a weapon) event claimed bronze medal each totalling seven medals for team Myanmar. — Arka Lin/KZL

Argentina's Martinez ready 'to fight' Villa to play in Olympics

ARGENTINA goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez says he is ready to "fight" with his club Aston Villa over being able to feature at this year's Olympic Games.

Clubs are not obliged to release players for the Olympic football tournament held in France between 24 July-9 August with the new Premier League campaign beginning on 17 August.

Martinez, 31, hopes to be included as one of three players aged more than 23 to be selected in the Argentina squad.

"I always put Argentina first, and if I have to fight with my club then I will do so," Martinez told TycSports on Wednesday.

"The most important thing for me is the Copa America then the Olympic Games. My dream is to win the gold medal.

"I want to play in the Olympic Games but it doesn't depend on just me," the 2022 World Cup winner added.

Inter Miami's Lionel Messi is also a possible inclusion in the squad as he holds talks with Javier Mascherano who is the coach of Argentina's Olympic side. — AFP

Japan trounces Myanmar 5-0 at round-2 World Cup qualifiers

JAPAN, an Asian powerhouse, easily edged team Myanmar 5-0 in front of the Myanmar crowd at Thuwunna YTC in Yangon, Myanmar, yesterday. They played for the second-round qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup 2026.

Due to the penetration of the Japanese players, the Myanmar team had to play with all 11 defensive players. Known as Samurai Blue, team Japan has repeatedly threatened Myanmar's defence with its world-class style of play since the beginning.

Japan found the icebreaker at 16 minutes as Keito Nakamura scored beautifully. Japan expected to score at least half a dozen goals, so they weren't satisfied with the first goal and used their power play to score more. Japan scored the second goal in 33 minutes as Ritsu Doan touched the ball superbly into the net. In the first half, the Japanese team had a two-goal lead.

Myanmar team could not match the high-speed players of the Japanese team in the second half as well. Japan produced the third and fourth goals at 74 and 83 minutes by Koki Oagawa and the fifth or final goal at 90+2 minutes by Keito Nakamura. Due to the win, the Japan squad has a lot of potential to advance to the next stage, but the Myanmar team has the potential to leave the group with consecutive losses at the World Cup qualifiers. — GNLM

A Myanmar player (white) vies for the ball with the Japanese player (blue) during the round-2 World Cup qualifiers played at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon on 6 July 2024. **PHOTO: MFF**



Russia's flagship forum
kicks off in St Petersburg

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WORLD

Russia-China relations based on common interests, conducive to world stability: Putin

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday that the development of Russia-China relations, based on profound common interests, is conducive to world stability.

The development of Russia-China relations is not a short-term behaviour, but is based on profound common interests, and the bilateral relations rely on prudent decision-making and accumulated joint efforts, Putin said when he took a question from Xinhua, on Russia-China ties, at a meeting with heads of major international news agencies.

Putin noted that China has been Russia's main economic and trade partner for the past 15 years. Bilateral trade has exceeded expectations, reaching 240 billion US dollars last year according to Chinese statistics.

Meanwhile, Russia-China economic and trade cooperation is increasingly diversified, in addition to the energy field, and the two sides also have broad prospects for cooperation in high-tech fields such as aircraft manufacturing and artificial intelligence.

He underlined that bilateral cooperation is beyond the fields of economic and trade, military and technical and the international arena. Cooperation between the two countries on the international stage has been an important factor in maintaining world stability.

This year is the Russia-China Year



The United Aircraft Building Corporation released an image showing a prototype of the Russian short-haul aircraft SJ-100, produced by the Production Centre of Yakovlev PJSC, following its inaugural flight in Komsomolsk-on-Amur, Khabarovsk region, Russia, on 29 August, 2023. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ SPUTNIK/FILE**

Russia and China's economic and trade collaboration has expanded beyond the energy sector to include high-tech domains like aircraft manufacturing and artificial intelligence, offering promising prospects for cooperation.

of Culture, Putin said, adding that cultural exchanges lay the foundation and create a good environment for the development of bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields, which is no less important than other fields.

Commenting on China's development achievements, Putin said that under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, China has achieved success in various fields of development, for which Russia is deeply pleased.

According to Putin, China has succeeded in creating a very unique and more efficient economic development model than other countries, and China is still developing at a desirable rate. — Xinhua

Thailand warns 'Jurassic World' producers over filming impact



Phang-nga bay northeast of Phuket, Thailand, on 30 October 2021.

PHOTO: AFP

THAI officials have given "Jurassic World" producers a stern warning not to damage beaches and national parks when they film the next instalment of the blockbuster franchise in the kingdom.

Hollywood superstar Scarlett Johansson has reportedly been lined up to star in the seventh movie in the long-running dinosaur series.

Shooting for parts of the movie — as yet untitled but slated for release next year — will take place in Bangkok and at national parks in Krabi, Phuket, Phang-nga and Trang, starting next week and running into July. — AFP

Vietnam leads Southeast Asia in attracting long-term investors: survey

VIETNAM is leading the way in attracting long-term investors in Southeast Asia, Vietnam News Agency reported Wednesday, citing a survey by Bain & Company.

Investors believe that investment activities in Vietnam will increase by 83 per cent in the 2025-2030 period, said the report.

Vietnam is currently the third pole in the Southeast Asian start-up golden triangle, along with Singapore and Indonesia.

The country also has the perfect combination of leading technology talent and an existing innovation culture, which is highly attractive for global investors, Vietnam News Agency reported.

Vietnam currently has about 3,800 start-ups. Among them, 11 are valued at over 100 million US dollars and three are valued at over US\$ 1 billion, including Momo, VNG and VNLife. — Xinhua