

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Article

New Media Workshop delivers key messages, good insights

By EM
PAGE-8-9

NATIONAL PAGE-2



Innovative bamboo products in high demand as natural decorations spread

NATIONAL PAGE-6



Yangon starts school enrolment week for 2024-2025 academic year

NATIONAL PAGE-10



Schedule for 16th TOPIK exam announced



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win presides over the first meeting of the Central Committee on Myanmar Special Economic Zones yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

MSMEs should supply high-quality raw materials to Thilawa SEZ

Relevant chief ministers also have to urge MSME businesspeople and agencies to supply domestic quality raw materials as import-substitute products to Thilawa SEZ.

Although Thilawa SEZ is being operated with more than US\$2 billion investment among three SEZs, it should not be satisfied with such achievement as its investment amount is lesser than neighbouring countries, South-east Asian countries and Asian countries, said the Vice-Senior General.

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, who is in the capacity of Chairman of the Central Committee on Myanmar Special Economic Zones, delivered a speech at the first meeting of the central committee for the 2024-25 financial year at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the Vice-Senior General highlighted that production forces such as all industrial zones in regions and states and MSME businesses, in addition to SEZs, need to increase high-quality export products on the one hand, and it is necessary to strive for further increase of local and foreign investments in relevant

Salient points from the speech made by the Vice-Senior General at the first meeting of the Central Committee on Myanmar Special Economic Zones

1. Relevant chief ministers also have to urge MSME businesspeople and agencies to supply domestic quality raw materials as import-substitute products to Thilawa SEZ.
2. Thilawa SEZ is operated with a more than US\$2 billion investment among the three SEZs.
3. MSME businesses supplied K2.1 billion worth of raw materials to the SEZ in March 2024.
4. Thilawa SEZ earned more than K361 million in March 2024, K4.6 billion in commercial tax and K760 million in pre-income tax while exporting \$13.34 million worth of export products and importing \$52.27 million worth of import goods.
5. Law experts and procedure experts of Myanmar have to carefully verify appropriate factors when signing the memorandum of interest for Dawei SEZs to initiate a win-win situation between both sides.

zones.

He stressed the need to attract further investments for the ongoing Thilawa

SEZ, initiate the Kyaukpyu SEZ, and invite developers to invest in the Dawei SEZ.

SEE PAGE-3

NATIONAL

Site museum recommended for ancient Pyu Pinle artefacts

SINCE the Pinle (Mongmaw) city is an invaluable ancient city that can reveal the links to the Pyu culture in Myanmar, a site museum should be constructed to showcase the artefacts discovered in this city, U Kyaw Myo Win, director of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch) recommended on his Facebook page.

Located in the Kyaukse plain and designated as a Pyu cultural heritage according to the surveys and excavations following a satellite image in 1965, the Pinle (Mongmaw) Pyu ancient city, which can be said to be the most recent city among ancient ones, is less well known and the Archaeology Department has been carrying out research and excavations since 1978-1979.

During the excavation work led by a researcher from Mandalay Archaeological Branch in 2005 in a field adjacent to the north of Nantawya Pagoda, circular stakes made of ancient bricks, which were supposed to drive in wooden pillars, were unearthed from a depth of over one foot, U Kyaw Myo Win wrote.

As no report was found on this excavation, another team, including U Kyaw Myo Win, has



The partially excavated ancient Pyu City of Pinle (Mongmaw) and the research team.

resumed this research since 2008. After completing the excavation of 12 mounds up to Mound No 21 by 2010, they have successfully made a digital GIS map of the Pinle (Mongmaw) ancient city based on a GPS survey, he added.

The city wall, about six miles in circumference, looks like an orange, and it survives to this day in a discontinuous line pattern with some parts on the surface and some below the surface. Villages in the area of this ancient city, such as Oohnepok, Mongmaw and Kanswe, have engulfed some parts of the Pinle (Mongmaw) with their new houses and ex-

tended wards to accommodate the growing population so that it may pose many more difficulties with time for incomplete research work in this ancient city, he pointed out.

The Mandalay branch has started unearthing Mound No 22 for about one month and has discovered a never-seen Pyu-era big pagoda, which is 120 feet long, 90 feet wide and about 17 feet high. In addition, enormous staircases, the architecture which designed the bricks as needed, the unprecedented three-colour painted urns, and a small silver pagoda at the centre of the great pagoda were unearthed, he said. — MT/ZN



Well Marked Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (19:00) hours MST on 23-5-2024

ACCORDING to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the Well Marked Low-Pressure Area over the Westcentral Bay of Bengal and adjoining South Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to move northeastwards and intensify into a Depression over Central Bay of Bengal around 24-5-2024 morning. Thereafter, it may continue to move northeastwards and intensify into a Cyclonic Storm over the Eastcentral Bay of Bengal around 25-5-2024 morning, it would move nearly northwards and intensify into a Severe Cyclonic Storm. It may reach near Bangladesh and adjoining west Bengal coasts, India by 26-5-2024 evening.

General caution

Under the influence of Well Marked Low-Pressure Area, rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavyfalls in some Regions and States along with strong winds from today afternoon to 27-5-2024. Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 40-45 miles per hour and wave height will be about 9-12 feet from 23-5-2024 to 25-5-2024. Frequent squalls with rough to very rough seas will be experienced in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 40-45 mph and wave height will be about 9-13 feet from 23-5-2024 to 24-5-2024 and surface wind speed in squall may reach 50-60 mph and wave height will be about 13-16 feet from 25-5-2024 to 26-5-2024.

Advisory

Under the influence of well marked low pressure area, people should be aware of heavy rain with strong wind, flash flood and landslide in the hilly areas and near small rivers and also domestic flight, trawlers, vessels and ships off and along Myanmar Coasts.

Innovative bamboo products in high demand as natural decorations spread

AS decoration with bamboo handicrafts in large and small cities alike has become widespread, the demand for innovative bamboo products in the local market is rising, according to bamboo craftsman U Kyaw Win.

In recent years, traditional bamboo products have become more prevalent in shop decorations, while some have been adorned with naturally beautifying handicrafts.

“Whether traditional or

innovative, both bamboo and handicrafts are trading well. The buyers’ interest is growing steadily. More bamboo decorations are seen in both large and small cities. Demand is rising. Our local bamboo market is higher than the foreign market. We have to pay more locally. We supply raw materials until our stock is exhausted,” he said.

Bamboo innovators are selling to the local market, where there are some orders,

and they haven’t exported yet to fulfil some orders abroad.

“A Myanmar national who opened a shop in Japan ordered bamboo handicrafts two years ago, but I couldn’t deliver. He plans to collect locally and sell in Japan and the European market. But we weren’t able to supply it. Those who can produce good handiworks are busy with local orders. So, they can’t sell abroad,” he said.

At present, some areas are facing a rare bamboo situation



Some bamboo handicrafts.

due to slash-and-burn farming and improper harvesting of bamboo shoots, so it becomes

necessary to encourage private bamboo plantations, he suggested. — MT/ZN

Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association supports Ministry of Health

ONLY when the country reduces the maternal death and mortality rate, which are essential health indexes for the State, will the life expectancy of the nation rise, said Union Minister for Health Professor Dr Thet Khaing Win.

Honorary Patron of MMCWA Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister, attended the 33rd annual meeting of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association at its office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was also attended by honorary patrons of the association Daw Khin Thet Htay and Daw Than Than Nwe, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun, departmental heads, the chair of MMCWA and CEC members, patrons, chairs and secretaries of region and state MCWA Supervisory Committees, and officials of social organizations.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union minister said that more than 60 per cent out of over 54 million people in Myanmar are mothers and children.

He continued that the Ministry of Health provides health-care services to people in all age groups in different forms, such as school health, workplace and environment health, and so on.

In this regard, he disclosed the important participation of internal social organizations like MMCWA in the implementation of the policy to enhance the health standard of the nation.

The Union minister urged MMCWA to improve the lives of the people by studying advancements in health, education, economic, social and international relations.

Next, a video clip on the movements of MMCWA was presented.

Honorary Patron Daw Kyu Kyu Hla presented first, sec-



MMCWA Honorary Patron Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the SAC Chair Prime Minister, views the display at yesterday's event in Nay Pyi Taw.

ond and third prizes to Bago, Magway and Taninthayi region MCWASCs with that of Kayah State as a consolation prize winner for education, social, economic and health sectors' movements.

Honorary patrons Daw Khin Thet Htay and Daw Than Than Nwe, as well as Union Minister for Health Prof Dr Thet Khine Win, presented prizes to relevant

winners.

Honorary patron Daw Kyu Kyu Hla viewed round documentary photos on movements of region/state MCWASCs.

She then gave nutritious foods and catch-up vaccines to children under five and viewed sales of domestic products and traditional goods by region and state MCWASCs.

The 33rd meeting of the asso-

ciation followed, with an address by Chair Prof Dr San San Myint Aung.

The secretary of the association submitted the annual report for 2023, the treasurer's financial statement for the 2022-23 financial year and the budget for 2023-24. Region and state MCWASCs submitted their annual reports. The meeting adopted future tasks. — MNA/TTA

MSMEs should supply high-quality raw materials to Thilawa SEZ

FROM PAGE-1

He underlined that officials have to supervise service personnel not to commit abuse of authority and prevent illegal trade, monetary abuse, and weak management so as not to lose existing investments.

The Vice-Senior General said he recognizes the efforts of chairpersons from relevant task forces and foreign exchange management committees to solve difficulties in raw materials and loans at the promotion zone of Thilawa SEZ.

Likewise, he continued to say that as a policy has been adopted to manage compensation for land plots of Kyaukpyu

SEZ. So, it is necessary to complete all work processes as soon as possible.

The Vice-Senior General stressed that all measures of Kyaukpyu SEZ must be done entirely within the extended 18-month long stop date term.

He recounted that MSME businesses supplied K2.1 billion worth of raw materials to the SEZs in March 2024.

He underscored that Thilawa SEZ earned more than K361 million in March 2024, K4.6 billion of commercial tax and K760 million of pre-income tax while exporting \$13.34 million worth of exports and importing \$52.27 million worth of imports.

The Vice-Senior General noted that

relevant task forces and management committees have to encourage companies from the promotion zone of Thilawa SEZ to raise more export volume in order to reduce the gap between export and import values.

With regard to power supply, the Vice-Senior General highlighted that if the zones use electricity from solar systems, the supply time of electricity will be extended in other regions and states.

Law experts and procedure experts of Myanmar have to carefully verify appropriate factors when signing the memorandum of interest for Dawei SEZ to initiate a win-win situation between both sides, he added.

Joint Secretary of the Central Committee Deputy Minister for Commerce U Min Min reported on accomplishment for the minutes of meeting 1/2024 of the Central Committee.

Secretary-1 Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo and Secretary-2 Union Minister U Tun Ohn presented measures to implement the Myanmar SEZs successfully.

Chairpersons from the management committees of SEZs sought approvals from the meeting for relevant reports. Union ministers and attendees took part in the meeting.

The meeting approved the minutes of the first meeting of the central committee for the 2024-25 financial year. — MNA/TTA

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

2024 Inter-State/Region Sepak Takraw Championship opens in Nay Pyi Taw



The 2024 Inter-State and Region Sepak Takraw Championship opener in action yesterday.

WITH the aim of bringing out a new generation of athletes, the 2024 Inter-State and Region Sepak Takraw Championship was launched at Wunna Theikdhi

Gymnasium A in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the event, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, who is

also chairperson of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, said that he wants all the athletes to demonstrate their skills and talents in the competition and try to be-



SAC members and dignitaries watch the opening match yesterday.

come outstanding athletes who will be able to strengthen the Myanmar national team through this competition. Next, the Union minister opened the ceremony, which was followed by athletes reciting the sports pledge.

Then, State Administration Council members, Union Minister U Min Thein Zan and officials cordially greeted athletes and enjoyed the men's double Sepak Takraw match played between

the Ayeyawady Region team and the Kayin State team.

A total of 269 athletes from 28 teams (15 men's teams plus 13 women's teams), including the coaching members, competed in the tourney, which is being held from 23 to 31 May at the Wunna Theikdhi Gymnasium A. Anyone interested in the sport is free to come and watch, as officials have stated. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar discusses Portability of Social Security Benefits for Migrant Workers

UNION Minister for Labour U Myint Naung virtually attended the fourth Labour Ministers Meeting on Portability of Social Security Benefits for Migrant Workers in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam yesterday.

Speaking at the Laos-led meeting, the Union minister said the migrant workers benefit their countries for economic growth, whereas the undocumented migrant workers face hardships in getting primary so-

cial security benefits. Therefore, it should cooperate to create a situation where migrant workers can go abroad for job purposes officially and grab the benefits of their host countries in accordance with the law. According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to social security benefits.

He then highlighted Myanmar, being a member of the International Social Security Association (ISSA) in 1957 and the ASEAN Social Security As-



Union Minister U Myint Naung virtually remarks at the fourth Labour Ministers Meeting yesterday.

sociation in 2015, including the measures to carry out social security benefits-related matters for all labourers, including migrant workers. He mentioned the unity and goodwill of ASEAN for better social status and healthcare services of migrant workers and called for cooperation to be a prosperous region.

Director-General U Maung Maung Than of the Department of Labour attended the seventh Senior Labour Official Meeting and discussed migration and statistics of individual countries, practices for portability of social security benefits for migrant workers in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.

At noon, at the fourth Labour Ministers Meeting on Portability of Social Security Benefits for Migrant Workers, Laos' labour officials and attendees reviewed the meeting minutes of the seventh meeting. They approved the Labour Minister Level Joint Statement. — MNA/KTZH

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aunghuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

National committee on resettlement and camp closure holds coordination meeting 1/2024

THE Ministry of Border Affairs held the coordination meeting 1/2024 of the National Committee on Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons and Closure of IDP Camps yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Attendees included National Committee Chairman Union Border Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Vice-Chairman Dr Soe Win, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, directors-general, and officials. Relevant regional and state ministers also joined via Zoom.

The chairman highlighted the committee's progress in resettling IDPs and closing temporary camps, urging de-



Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung chairs the coordination meeting 1/2024 of the National Committee on Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons and Closure of IDP Camps yesterday.

tailed discussion on completed work and future programmes.

He emphasized the need for coordinated efforts with state

governments and ministries, financial support for displaced

persons, and overcoming challenges posed by terrorist disruptions.

International negotiations are underway for humanitarian assistance, ensuring that aid reaches only eligible recipients. Within five months, 4,788 households (18,468 people) were resettled, and 69 temporary shelters were closed, with K4,790.588 million in aid provided.

Vice-Chairman Dr Soe Win reported on relief efforts, vocational courses, and support for returnees. Regional and state ministers presented their sector-wise progress and plans. The meeting concluded with discussions and coordination by the national committee members. — MNA/TS



The group documentary photo during the Bangladeshi Ambassador's call on Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine yesterday.

MoHT Union Minister receives Bangladeshi Ambassador

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine met a delegation led by Dr Md Monwar Hossain, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar, at the ministry's meeting hall yesterday morning.

They discussed reciprocal visits of travellers between both countries, cooperation between Myanmar, India, Nepal, and Bhutan to promote pilgrimages, trade and investment promotion, resumption of direct flights between Dha-

ka and Yangon, and strengthening mutual friendship and cooperation in tourism.

Deputy Minister U Phyo Zaw Soe, the permanent secretary, and officials of the ministry also attended the meeting. — MNA/MKKS

Traditional costumes of 8 major national races to be standardized

THE Committee on Standardization of National Costumes of National Race People organized its 2/2024 meeting yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Daw Nu Mra Zan, who is chairperson of the committee, said submitting dress codes (male, female) for daily attire and ceremonial purposes of eight major national races to the committee plays a crucial role in the first phase according to the decisions made at 1/2024 meeting. They should include textiles, designs, colours, and charms, as well as the meanings and details

of their cultural significance and approvals of the respective literature and culture troupes.

The points discussed with the committee, ministries and national race representatives will be submitted to the Myanmar National Culture Central Committee meeting, she said, calling on the invitees of the Ministry of Commerce to seek rights to ownership as the traditional costumes of national races flow into other countries.

Attendees then coordinated the discussion, and the deputy minister concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH



The meeting 2/2024 of the Committee on Standardization of National Costumes of National Race People in progress yesterday.

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

NATIONAL

Yangon starts school enrolment week for 2024-2025 academic year

IN Yangon Region, basic education schools under the Department of Basic Education for the 2024-2025 academic year will be open on 3 June, and enrolment week has been set from 23 May to 2 June.

School heads, school administration officials, and teachers in basic education schools in Yangon Region visited the school yesterday to assist parents and students in smoothly enrolling in school. Students are provided with free stationery and school uniforms specified by the Ministry of Education.



Schoolchildren, along with their parents and guardians are enrolling in Yangon schools. **PHOTOS: ZAW MIN LATT (MNA)**

For the 2024-2025 academic year, parents and students came to enrol in basic education schools, private schools and

monastic education schools in the Yangon region yesterday in accordance with the school enrolment week theme: "Let's

enrol all school-aged children to learn basic education". — Zaw Min Latt (MNA)/KZL



AS basic education schools for the 2024-2025 academic year will be opened on 3 June, the enrolment week has been set from 23 May to 2 June with the slogan "Let all school-aged children enrol in school to learn basic education."

In the basic education schools in Mandalay, the school registration process has been started since yesterday morning. The teachers on duty oversee the students' parents and students to come to the school in an orderly and convenient way



Schoolchildren, their parents and guardians seen lining up for the school enrolment in Mandalay.



School enrolment week starts in Mandalay

and to make the students' registration disciplined.

In relation to the school registration process, the headmaster of No 16 Basic Education High School, Dr Than Htike Soe said, "There are more children who will enrol in our school than before. According to the guidelines of the Head of State and the Ministry of Education, school-age children and all the children

who could not go to school due to various reasons are to be admitted. We have an entire staff of teachers and schools.

"Since it is a free education system, textbooks, notebooks, school uniforms and stationeries are fully provided. Children will be admitted without a holiday from 23 May to 2 June, the week which is set for school enrolment. If the school opens, the

lessons will be taught to the children systematically. Therefore, we invite school-aged children to submit to school as soon as possible," he added.

In order for the students to be able to study peacefully and happily, the school provides a free education system without charging any money and provides school textbooks, notebooks, and stationery.

During the enrolling time, a parent of the students said, "It's all right to enrol in school. Teachers also carefully explained the steps of the enrolment process. We want our children's education not to be delayed, so we come and dedicate them on time. Thank you all for providing the stationery for free. Therefore, I would like to urge parents to come and enrol their children

at school as soon as possible." During the reopening of schools, measures have been taken to ensure that students can study in a clean and orderly manner. During the school enrolment week, administrative organizations are cooperating with the needs of schools in Mandalay. Within Mandalay Region, there are 4,198 basic education schools, 235 private schools and 311 monastic schools. — Maung Aye Chan/KZL

NATIONAL

One killed, two injured in bridge explosion in Mon State

KNLA and PDF terrorists exploded No 1/130 Masaw Bridge between mileposts 129/1 and 129/2 on the Yangon-Mawlamyine Union Highway in Bilin Township of Mon State yesterday.

As a result of the explosion, the 106-foot-long and 24-foot-wide reinforced concrete bridge collapsed, causing three motorcycles to fall. Moreover, one person died, and two others were hurt in the explosion.

The wounded were transported to Bilin People's Hospital for medical treatment.

Terrorists intentionally exploded public transport facilities to cause difficulties and fears, affecting trade flow, and are com-



Photos depict the damage in the aftermath of the blast perpetrated by KNLA and PDF terrorists in Bilin Township.

mitting war crimes.

Officials and staff from

the Departments of Highways/Bridges are working to repair

the collapsed bridge, and security personnel are conducting

counter-terrorism operations. — MNA/KTZH

Illegal goods seized in various states/regions



Photos show seized illegal items and a car in different states and regions.

SUPERVISED by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, action is being taken under the law against illicit trading across the nation.

During inspections on 21 and 23 May, the combined team supervised by the Nay Pyi Taw Council Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force nabbed illegal teak weighing 2.588 tonnes and illegal timbers weighing 0.471 tonne worth K1,482,603. This enforcement was carried out under the Forest Law.

On 22 May, the on-duty teams under the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force confiscated an Isuzu light truck

(worth approximately K25 million) carrying 2,460 kilogrammes of beads (supposed to be made of jade) and 200 kilogrammes of jade blocks of various sizes valued at K96.1 million without official documents at the 6th-Mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint, a Toyota Crown (estimated value of K30 million) carrying 98 kilogrammes of beads (supposed to be made of jade) worth K3.43 million without official documents near Pyinsa village in PyinOoLwin township, a Howo tractor head with a trailer (worth approximately K101 million) carrying 10,000 kilogrammes of galvanized iron pipe from China without official documents at the

Kywetseton checkpoint and two vehicles (estimated value of K46 million) carrying 1,000 bags of IFFCO fertilizer from India worth K30 million without official documents at the Yadanabon Bridge (Mandalay) combined checkpoint. The action was conducted under Customs procedures.

On 23 May, the combined team captured illegal timbers weighing 0.791 tonne worth K189,840 in Toungoo district. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 13 arrests were made on 21, 22 and 23 May, with an estimated value of K354 million. — MNA/MKKS

Counter-argument to false information

False reports by Shwe Phee Myay News Agency debunked; security forces assist in rehabilitation efforts

THE malicious media outlet, Shwe Phee Myay News Agency, deliberately reported on false news claiming that security forces entered Htivor Village in Hsihseng Township, Shan State (South), from 15 to 17 May, took villagers' property and set fire to their houses.

In the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone in Shan State (South), elements of the PNLA group, who oppose peace, along with other terrorist groups, aimed to destabilize the region by attacking security forces with small and heavy arms and torching villages that do not support them. Therefore, security forces, in collaboration with local authorities, have to be working on rehabilitation efforts.

The subversive media are spreading misinformation to deceive the public and propagandise their acts of terrorism. — MNA/TMT



The screenshot validates false claims.

OPINION

Let's enrol offspring of people without reluctance

ALL citizens of Myanmar are entitled to an education under the Constitution. Consequently, it is crucial for parents to ensure their school-age children enrol in school on time to exercise this constitutional right. This will increase the number of educated citizens, contributing to the nation's development.

According to Section 366 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, every citizen has the right to education in line with the Union's educational policy. The Union mandates basic education as compulsory by law. For the 2024-25 academic year, the school enrollment week is scheduled from 23 May to 2 June 2024, with the motto: "Let's enrol all school-age children for learning basic education." By ensuring children receive compulsory education under

the KG+9 scheme adopted by the Ministry of Education, the nation can produce well-educated citizens.

Myanmar currently needs a significant number of intellectuals and experts to drive modernization. Therefore, the education sector is being developed through both short-term and long-term plans, aiming to produce qualified human resources. Despite these efforts, various challenges and obstacles still hinder the education of many youths.

The 2019 interim census revealed that 8.1 per cent of the 46.46 million citizens over five years old had never attended school. Additionally, over 900,000 of the 25.16 million people above 25 years old lack any school education. The data also shows that 12.83 million out of 25.16 million people have only primary or pre-primary education, while 5.46 million population have completed middle school education, and more than three million people

have high school education. Many students drop out of school due to diverse reasons and circumstances.

To address these issues, the government and educational institutions are providing support to enable students to attend school free of charge. The Ministry of Education has listed free educational accessories for students from kindergarten to Grade 12. Given that parents do not need to incur any expenses for their children's enrollment, it is essential to enrol them without hesitation. Local authorities, parents, teachers, and students must collaborate to ensure enrollment during the school enrolment week from 23 May to 2 June this year.

Children are like wax, moldable by parents and teachers into exemplary citizens. Myanmar society values the emergence of well-educated citizens who, through their education and general knowledge, can contribute to nation-building efforts. Those well-educated citizens will be a reliable force for the State to generate educated citizens further.

(CONTINUED FROM
YESTERDAY)

It is vital to connect with people with real-time information. Shwe Yamin Oo said that she had a handful of experiences in New Media during her visit to China.

Lwin Min Oo said that during his visit to the Temple of Heaven, he found that senior citizens could get access to public transport, recreation sites, and parks free of charge. He witnessed the health activities of the senior citizens in the park. I am so happy with it. We should also encourage the elders to participate in health activities.

Although our country is lagging in terms of digital technology, we will make efforts to do it,

and media convergence in English and Myanmar channels. It will serve as a gateway for South Asian and Southeast Asian countries. Yunnan Gateway, which was founded in 2012, is a news web portal of the Yunnan International Communication Centre of South and Southeast Asia. They make news available in seven languages (Chinese, English, Thai, Myanmar, Lao, Cambodian and Vietnamese) for international communication.

They also hosted international exchanges, including the China-Myanmar Media Spring Festival Party and China-Myanmar Media Forum.

Mr Hwang, deputy director of Yunnan Daily Press Group, shared his experiences of how he

has various forms of news presentation with multi-angle views. It is a kind of news product. Yun news shows trends for young people, includes feedback categories to interact with people and provides real-time info.

Mr Zhang, deputy director of Yunnan International Communication Centre for South and Southeast Asia, said that he presented a video clip of the Myanmar-Kunming direct flight for mutual interests, trade, transport, travel and contribution to Myanmar young people's education in Ruli. He emphasized that he hoped the people of Myanmar would have a good understanding of China.

Mr Wang, director of Yunnan International Communication

monthlies.

Lwin Min Oo, Editor of The Standard Time Daily, said I got a new insight into news as a product with an innovative app.

Soe Yu Hlaing, editor of Swe Myo Pauk Phaw Magazine, explained their monthly publication and distribution of 5,000 copies to schools and libraries for free. She hopes to deepen the ties between the two countries.

Ei Myat Mon from The Global New Light of Myanmar said, "I felt a good impression of Yunnan Daily's effort to increase circulation to more than 200,000 copies amid new media evolution. We, the GNLN, will also endeavour to develop digitally. China is the top trading partner with Myanmar. Chinese food, music, and culture

and viewed round the campus. We climbed a man-made artificial hill adorned with flower plantations. Breathtaking scenic views enchant us.

In the School of Journalism at Yunnan University, the exchange focuses on the joint training of journalists from China and Myanmar. The Journalism School of Yunnan University and Myanmar Golden Phoenix built an overseas teaching practice base, sending students to Yangon to carry out overseas internships. The school has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Journalism Department of National Management College. One of us, Khin Lay from Monnet Group, is also an alumnus of the NMC, and she was delighted by the coopera-

New Media Workshop delivers key messages, good insights

By EM

and I believe it will be achieved sometime in the future.

Wint Wah Han said, "We connect with Myanmar people through vlogs. I have taken many vlogs at the Temple of Heaven and Olympic Park and will share my vlogs and experiences on Facebook soon. I saw the maintenance of the museum and the renovation of the ancient buildings." They affirmed that preserving culture and heritage through generations is of vital importance.

In Myanmar Vlogs, it is straightforward, unlike the ones with AI and VR technology. Sky Net has also initiated AI, but it still needs to keep up-to-date with AI technology in other countries. AI technology made an impression on them.

Kunming Gateway to South-east Asia and South Asia

They arrived at Kunming city at night on 26 April. It is the capital and largest city of Yunnan Province. The Myanmar Media Delegation attended the New Media Workshop at the Yunnan Daily and acquired knowledge about the functions of the Yun News app



New Media Workshop organized by Yunnan Daily Press Group at Yunnan International Communication Centre for South and Southeast Asia on 27 April 2024.

took part in the transformation of Yunnan Press. He highlighted that disseminating information effectively in a real-time manner does not change. Yet, one can view detailed info through a QR code. Unlike traditional media, it

Centre for South and Southeast Asia, elaborated on Yunnan Daily's mobile platform "Yun News" app, which prioritizes the stories of South and Southeast Asian countries. They also have Mingala, Champa, Khama and Mekong

have also influenced the people of Myanmar. I hope cultural exchange will foster civil dialogue and understanding between China and Myanmar."

The Myanmar media delegation left for Yunnan University



Participants were seen sharing stories of their hometown at China-ASEAN People-to-People Friendship Dialogue (China-Myanmar Paukphaw Friendship) held on 27 April 2024 in Yunnan Province.

al Communication Centre for South and Southeast Asia, and lecturers from Yunnan Normal University shared their stories.

The dialogue highlighted China-Myanmar cooperation in various sectors and the role of media in bridging the hearts of the people.

The following are dialogues of Myanmar Media delegations regarding new media and relations between the two countries.

"In the era of integrated media, we cannot rely on the traditional media anymore. With the help of new media, our content can attract the younger generation and penetrate easily into our audiences," Kywe Kywe Hlike, Deputy Director of Myanmar, pointed out.

"There is no doubt that the media plays a critical role in promoting relations between two countries. And I think the cultural perspective is particularly important because culture can help us embrace diversities and achieve mutual understanding," Ei Myat Mon, sub-editor of The Global New Light of Myanmar, said.

"The rapid development of new media does not necessarily mean the decline of traditional media. Traditional media still plays an important role in the media industry," Captain Myo Min Thant, Officer of Myawady News, claimed.

"As a TV news host, I believe that video content, especially short videos, is quite effective for communication. We have also begun to learn the AI technologies,

including the application of virtual anchors in the programme," Shwe Yamin Oo, presenter of Skynet, elaborated.

"China and Myanmar share a border, and I hope to create content that promotes friendly exchange between the two countries along with Chinese media and serve as a bridge for communication through Vlogs and other innovative formats," Thet Zin, marketing and product manager of Vidya Myanmar, said.

"New Media formats such as short videos are capturing the attention of the younger generation. I hope that in the future, leveraging the power of AI and within technological bounds, we can create innovative short videos that bridge communication between Myanmar and China," Wint Wah Han, presenter of Vidya Myanmar.

"New media should be objective. I hope to objectively record the real situation in China so that the audience can independently form an understanding of Myanmar-China relations and feel the friendship through real and objective information," Lwin Min Oo, Editor of the Standard Time Daily.

"Establishing Myanmar-China bilateral relations is like making friends, which is built upon mutual understanding. The media plays a crucial role in fostering mutual understanding between Myanmar and China," Soe Yu Hlaing, editor of Swe Myo Pauk Phaw Magazine, highlighted.

"Media practitioners are also facing a transition from tradition-

ARTICLE

al media to new media. Emotional communication can be important to international exchanges during this period," Daw Cho Thet Tun, general manager of Myanmar Golden Phoenix said.

"Being a documentary producer, I hope Myanmar and China can collaborate in the production of documentaries to show more stories of ordinary people of the two countries. I also hope to communicate with Gen-Z groups to understand their thoughts," said Khin Zar Thwe, programme director of Monnet Group.

New media allows people to communicate and express themselves through various forms of media (blogs, mobile apps, social media networks, streaming services, and virtual reality). The advantages of new media include global reach, effectiveness, interactivity, engagement, real-time updates and data analytics. With a different method of distribution from traditional media, it empowers individuals and institutions to connect with a vast audience instantly. The key advantages of new media are connectivity and real-time communication. However, the significant challenges of new media are misinformation, privacy concerns and addiction.

We will endeavour to adapt to new media trends with ethical considerations. I wrote this article with the expectation that constructive feedback will cultivate open dialogues for better civil understanding and progress between Myanmar and China.

■

NATIONAL



Part 1 and Part 2 buildings of the Kyansitmin housing project under Department of Urban and Housing Development.

Tender for construction permits of 26 Kyansitmin and Yuzana Project buildings

ACCORDING to the Department of Urban and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction, permission to construct 26 buildings in Kyansitmin and Yuzana Housing Projects in Dagon

Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Yangon Region, will be granted to private entrepreneurs through an open tender system.

Tender forms can be obtained from the housing devel-

opment division of the Department of Urban and Housing Development in Nay Pyi Taw from 23 May to 7 June. Completed forms must be submitted by 3 pm on 10 June at the latest. — TWA/MKKS

MoE announces enrolment details, safety guidelines for 2024-2025AY

THE Ministry of Education has announced that enrolments for all classes, from Grade 1 to Grade 12, for the 2024-2025 academic year (AY) commenced on 23 May. Enrolment is open from 23 May to 2 June. On 3 June, universities, degree colleges, and basic education schools under the Ministry of Education, as well as universities and institutes under other ministries, will begin classes simultaneously.

Additionally, the Ministry of Education has urged parents and students to cooperate with school authorities and teachers on various matters, including drug prevention, alcohol, tobacco, and betel quid avoidance,

traffic safety and regulations, and maintaining healthy lifestyles. There's also an emphasis on combatting students' addiction to gaming.

The statement advises students not to attend school if they have symptoms such as a runny nose, cough, or fever. Instead, they should seek medical attention from the nearest health clinic or hospital and collaborate with the school heads and teachers for treatment. Students are also instructed to adhere to the Ministry of Health's regulations for preventing COVID-19 and cooperate with vaccination efforts against the disease. — TWA/TKO



School enrolment for the 2024-25 academic year at schools in Chanmyathazi, Mandalay, on 23 May.

Open tender invited for Yangon Mental Health Hospital

THE Department of Medical Services of the Ministry of Health has announced that local entrepreneurs will be allowed to engage in an open tender system for the construction works of the Mental Health Hospital (Yangon).

An open tender has been invited from local entrepreneurs to carry out the construction of 4,430 feet long hospital fence, building a connecting corridor to the drug addiction treatment centre and the food pantry, and electrifi-

cation in a one-storey building and a four-room apartment for the staff of the central medical storage facility.

Tender applications will be sold from 21 May, and the tender will be closed on 12 June.

According to Mental Health Hospital (Yangon), those interested in the tender can visit the hospital director's office during office hours for detailed information about the rules and regulations. — TWA/KZL

Timetable for 16th TOPIK exam announced

THE date, time, venue, and room numbers for the first batch of examinees for the 16th TOPIK (Test of Proficiency

in Korean) exam have been announced. Examinees must bring their original passport books, citizenship scrutiny

cards, and exam cards.

Those who pass the EPS-TOPIK and Colour-Blind tests will be issued with the first-stage pass list, and only those who pass the skills test will be issued with the final pass list. After this, they will need to undergo a health check-up before being allowed to submit a job application.

The overseas employment agency stated that the timetable for the second batch of examinees for the exam will be announced once HRD-Korea sends it. — TWA/TRKM



The photo shows applicants to the TOPIK exam at Pinlon Hall in Ward 43 of Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

ASEAN Trade Fair 2024 welcomes Myanmar entrepreneurs

ASEAN Trade Fair 2024, organized by the ASEAN Korea Centre, will take place from 8 to 11 August 2024 at COEX and invite Myanmar's businesspeople, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

The fair aims to bridge the network between Korean and regional entrepreneurs, promote regional food and beverage products in South Korea's market and deepen economic ties between South Korea and ASEAN.

Five companies from members of ASEAN are

entitled to exhibit the following food categories: coffee (roasted bean, instant coffee, among others) (green bean is not allowed), confectionery (bakery, cookie, chocolate, dessert, among others), beverages: fruit juice, tea, low sugar healthy drink, and others (spice, sauce, nut, honey, jam, among others).

As it is solely organized by the ASEAN Korea Centre (AKC), they will not bear the shipment of the products to be displayed. Yet, they will cover the ac-

commodation of a representative of each company only, excluding flight tickets and transport expenses.

Those products are designated only for display and are not allowed to be sold. AKC will take the sample. For detailed information on the trade fair, individuals can enquire through the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization via email: event.td.myantrade@gmail.com and contact numbers 067 408622 and 067 408623. — NN/KK

Monywa's Seintalone mango flowing into domestic market

SEINTALONE mango is in season at present, and the domestic market saw abundant supply from Monywa Township.

Shwebo, Budalin and Kani townships have been supplying the Seintalone mango to the Monywa's market since early May, fetching a good price at the beginning of the season. They are delivered to Yangon, Mandalay and PyinOoLwin areas from Monywa's market.

Myanmar primarily grows mango in Bago, Sagaing, Mandalay, Kyaukse, Sintgaing areas and Shan State. Additionally, Shwehintha, Myakyauk, Pad-



amya Ngamauk, Yinkwe, Seincho and Machitsu varieties are also found in the country.

Shwebo, Kanbalu and Budalin townships are the main producing areas of Seintalone.

Of about 200 mango vari-

eties that originated in Myanmar, Seintalone, Shwehintha, Padamyar Ngamauk, Yinkwe, and Machitsu varieties are primarily grown. The foreign market prefers Seintalone varieties. Ayeyawady Region belongs to the largest mango plantation area, with about 46,000 acres. Bago Region is the second largest producer, with 43,000 acres, and Mandalay has 29,000 acres of mango. There are over 24,000 acres in Kayin State, over 20,400 acres in Shan State and over 20,000 acres in Sagaing Region, according to the association. — NN/EM

Kampaiti border trade tops US\$5 mln in five days

THE trade value at the Kampaiti border between Myanmar and China hit US\$5.527 million between 14 and 18 May 2024, according to the news released by the Ministry of Commerce online.

The export volumes were 6,425 tonnes of tissue culture banana worth \$2.233 million, 160 tonnes of rice valued at \$0.069 million, 711 tonnes of rice beans worth \$0.47 million, 127 tonnes of lablab beans worth \$0.103 million, 70 tonnes of lima beans worth \$0.052 million, 62 tonnes of small white kidney beans worth \$0.039 million, 840.5 tonnes of butter beans worth \$0.84 million, 62 tonnes of red kidney beans worth \$0.04 million, 104 tonnes of chilli pepper worth \$0.059 million, 741.5 tonnes of dried chilli pepper worth \$1.08 million, 647.5 tonnes of onion worth \$0.256 mil-



The crossing at the Myanmar China border.

lion, 102 tonnes of tamarind with seeds worth \$0.023 million, 13 tonnes of thermal paper worth \$0.003 million, 121.1 tonnes of roselle seeds worth \$0.242 million and 34 tonnes of dried mango slice worth \$0.005 tonne.

The Ministry of Commerce aimed to achieve a trade target of \$37 million in May, comprising exports worth \$35 million and imports worth \$2 million from the Kampaiti border. The Kampaiti border saw exports worth \$20.002 million and imports worth \$6.663 million as of 18 May. The total trade balance reached over 72 per cent of the trade target of this month.

The main export items as of 18 May in the 2024-2025 financial year beginning 1 April were tissue-culture banana, sesame, rice beans, lablab beans, lima beans, butter beans, green grams, red kidney beans, white kidney beans, small red beans, watermelon, chilli pepper, dried chilli, dried mango slice, tamarind with seed, fresh areca nut, black cardamom, coffee bean, onion, petrified wood and aluminium scrap. Meanwhile, Myanmar imports capital goods, intermediate goods, construction materials, consumer goods, fruits and CMP raw materials. — NN/KK

Mawtaung-Singkhon border likely to become permanent checkpoint

THAILAND'S cabinet has been planning to open the Singkhon crossing connecting with Myanmar's Mawtaung border as a permanent checkpoint. The Singkhon post, located in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province which shares a border with Mawtaung Township, Taninthayi Region, will be upgraded to be a permanent checkpoint to bolster bilateral cross-border trade. Traders from both countries engaged in that border trade expressed their willingness for Singkhon post to become a full-time checkpoint, citing reports from Thailand's media agencies. "Thailand's businesspeople are pushing authorities for it. Thailand's ministers for Defence and Foreign Affairs visited the Singkhon border on 14 May 2024, marking the first-ever visit of the highest-ranked officials. There's a high expectation of opening Singkhon as the permanent checkpoint to accelerate border trade with Myanmar, said a trader executing border trade with Thailand at the Mawtaung border. At present, it has yet to be defined to conduct international trade. It is just a temporary crossing for now. "The trade is regularly flowing at the Maw-

taung-Singkhon checkpoint. With Thailand's western economic corridor initiative, they eye the Mawtaung-Singkhon-Bangkok trade route rather than the Hteekee-Kanchanaburi trade channel. The Phayathonzu border is not an option for now. The delay in the Myawady-Mae Sot border prompted Thailand's authority to explore another border checkpoint. They went to uninhibited land at the border and discussed matters regarding the trade potential, benefits and difficulties upon upgrading the permanent checkpoint. The two ministers said they will undertake negotiations with Myanmar's counterparts, according to reports from Thailand's media outlets.

The Mawtaung border, located in Mawtaung Township, Myeik District, Taninthayi Region, was opened as the permanent checkpoint on 8 May 2013. One year later, Thailand's Singkhon border was designated as a special temporary border checkpoint. Thailand has not yet given the green light to the border pass of the people despite ongoing bilateral border trade. — Myint Oo (Myeik)/EM



The general view of the Mawtaung-Singkhon border.

ECONOMY WORLD



The Dalian International Convention Centre made history by hosting a series of surgical simulation operations performed exclusively by robots on 1 July 2019. This groundbreaking event highlighted the cutting-edge advancements in robotic surgery and its promising impact on healthcare. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

China maintains growth in number of invention patents

The report indicates that over 362,000 invention patents were granted between January and April, with enterprise patents comprising the majority.

THE number of invention patents granted in China in the first four months of this year witnessed a year-on-year increase of 43.42 per cent, the country's top intellectual property regulator said this week.

The latest patent data report by the China National Intellectual Property Administration

revealed that over 362,000 invention patents were granted in China between January and April this year. Enterprise patents constituted the majority and exhibited the highest year-on-year growth rate when compared to those obtained by universities, research institutions, and individuals.

China owned about 4.02 million domestic valid invention patents by the end of 2023, making it the first country in the world to hold over four million valid domestic invention patents.

High-value invention patents accounted for over 40 per cent of the total, the administration said. — Xinhua

AI dominates annual Paris startup event VivaTech

THOUSANDS of tech enthusiasts filed into Europe's self-declared biggest startup event VivaTech in Paris on Wednesday, with artificial intelligence stealing the show this year.

Over four days, the event, now in its eighth year, will host more than 150,000 guests, 11,000 startups and 450 speakers, according to the organizers.

The star turns will take to the stage on Thursday — former US climate envoy and secretary of state John Kerry is expected to make a push for

a green tech revolution, and billionaire Tesla, SpaceX and X owner Elon Musk will appear via video link to answer audience questions.

"AI will be at the core of everything that you will see," said VivaTech founder Maurice Levy in his opening address.

On the same stage, France's minister for digital affairs Marina Ferrari urged the public: "Don't be afraid" of AI.

"With the acceleration of AI we are living a real revolution, which could be compared

to printing or electrification," she said.

Alongside dire warnings from critics that sentient AI could take over the world, the technology uses vast energy resources.

Firms like OpenAI, which use publicly available information for their programmes, are widely accused of copyright and privacy breaches — most recently apologizing to actor Scarlett Johansson after appearing to use her voice for their chatbot. — AFP



A robot from the Untree company is on display at the Vivatech technology startups and innovation fair, at the Porte de Versailles exhibition center in Paris, on 22 May 2024. **PHOTO: JULIEN DE ROSA / AFP**

SUMMARIES: ECON

RBI approves dividend of Rs 2.11 lakh crore to government for FY24

THE Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board approved the transfer of Rs 210,874 crore as surplus to the Central Government for the accounting year 2023-24.

The decision was taken at Apex Bank's 608th meeting of the Central Board of Directors. Presided over by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, the board reviewed the global and domestic economic scenario, including risks to the outlook. The workings of Apex Bank during the year April 2023 - March 2024 were also discussed during the meeting.

The transferable surplus funds for the years 2023-24 were determined using the guidelines set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in August 2019. These guidelines were recommended by a committee led by Dr Bimal Jalan. The committee suggested that the RBI should keep aside funds for unexpected risks, known as the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB), which should be between 5.5 per cent and 6.5 per cent of the RBI's total assets, the release added.

"With the revival in economic growth in FY 2022-23, the CRB was increased to 6.00 per cent. As the economy remains robust and resilient, the board has decided to increase the CRB to 6.50 per cent for FY 2023-24," the apex bank said. — ANI

UK inflation slows to near three-year low

BRITAIN'S annual inflation rate slowed to a near three-year low in April as energy prices cooled further, official data showed Wednesday, boosting the governing Conservatives before this year's general election. The Consumer Prices Index slowed to 2.3 per cent from 3.2 per cent in March, the Office for National Statistics revealed in a statement, though it was still faster than the 2.1 per cent analysts were expecting. April marked the lowest level since July 2021, when inflation had stood at the Bank of England's 2.0-per cent target.

The news comes after the British central bank this month signalled a summer interest rate cut, as it held borrowing costs at a 16-year peak of 5.25 per cent to further dampen price rises. — AFP

Resumed Turkish Airlines flight arrives in Afghanistan

A Turkish Airlines plane arrived at the Kabul International Airport on Tuesday morning, as the national flag carrier of Türkiye resumed its flights to Afghanistan following almost three years of suspension.

Welcoming the step as a sign of friendly development in bilateral relations, Ghulam Jilani Wafa, a senior advisor for the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, said he hopes more airliners could resume flights to Kabul as the airport has met international standards.

“The aerial bridge

between the Republic of Türkiye and the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan once again assures us that the Republic of Türkiye and the Turkish people stand alongside us in any circumstances,” Wafa said.

“Air travel and the flights flying to Kabul and vice versa would have a positive impact on cultural and economic relations between the two countries,” Wafa said.

The Turkish Airlines is scheduled to conduct four round-trip flights between Istanbul and Kabul per week. — Xinhua

EU hits Oreo maker Mondelez with 337.5 mln euro (\$366 mln) antitrust fine

THE EU on Thursday slapped a 337.5 million euro (\$366 million) fine on Mondelez, the US confectioner behind major brands including Toblerone and Oreo, for forcing consumers to pay more by restricting cross-border sales.

Mondelez, formerly called Kraft, is one of the world's largest producers of chocolate, biscuits and coffee, with revenue of \$36 billion last year. The EU fined Mondelez “because they have been restricting the cross border trade of chocolate, biscuits and coffee products within the European Union,” the EU's competition commissioner, Margrethe Vestager, said.



Aside from Oreo, Mondelez also owns Philadelphia cream cheese, Ritz crackers and Tuc salty biscuits. PHOTO: MAZEN MAHDI /AFP/FILE

“This harmed consumers, who ended up paying more for chocolate, biscuits and coffee,” she told report-

ers in Brussels. “This case is about price of groceries. It's a key concern to European citizens and even

more obvious in times of very high inflation, where many are in a cost-of-living crisis,” she added. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BMC ALPHA VOY.NO. (05/2024)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BMC ALPHA VOY.NO. (05/2024)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-5-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC CHUNMING VOY.NO. (2406S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHUNMING VOY.NO. (2406S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-5-2024** 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**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (2418E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (2418E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-5-2024** 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 TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MAERSK NASSJO VOY.NO. (419X)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK NASSJO VOY.NO. (419X)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-5-2024** 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: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MCL 17 VOY.NO. (03)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 17 VOY.NO. (03)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-5-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MKH** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S UNIVERSE LOGISTICS INTERNATIONAL CO LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V TAY SON 1 VOY.NO. (2401)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TAY SON 1 VOY.NO. (2401)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-5-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-1** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S WILHELMSSEN PORT SERVICE(S) PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

France tests updated air-launched nuclear missile

The ASMPA-R missile was launched without a warhead as part of an exercise over national territory, simulating a nuclear air raid.

FRANCE on Wednesday carried out its first test firing of an updated nuclear-capable missile designed to be launched by a Rafale fighter jet, Defence Minister Sébastien Lecornu said.

The ASMPA-R missile was fired without a warhead by a plane in an exercise “above national territory... at the end of a flight representing a nuclear air raid,” Lecornu said in a statement. In a separate post on X, he congratulated “all the forces, (defence) ministry teams and industrial partners involved” in a “long-planned” opera-



A Rafale fighter jet carrying the ASMPA-R nuclear-capable missile. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ MBDA**

tion. The French nuclear missile test came a day after Russia began nuclear drills in its Southern Military District. — AFP

Australia gives largest coal power plant two-year lifeline

SUN-SOAKED Australia’s lofty renewable energy ambitions were given a harsh reality check on Thursday, as looming electricity shortfalls delayed the long-awaited shutdown of the country’s largest coal-fired power plant.

The hulking, heavily polluting Eraring power plant — about a two-hour drive north of Sydney — was slated for closure in 2025 but will be kept ticking

over for at least two more years while renewables are ramped up.

“The best way to undermine the renewable energy transition is to have the lights go out in 2025. I’m not letting that happen,” New South Wales Premier Chris Minns announced Thursday.

His backflip highlighted the chasm between Australia’s reality and its goal of having

renewables supply 82 percent of electricity by 2030.

The move was deeply unpopular with environmentalists.

“Summers in New South Wales are now characterised by unprecedented floods, heatwaves or deadly fires and this extreme weather is exacerbated by extending the life of fossil fuels like coal,” the Australian Conservation Foundation said. — AFP

SUMMARIES: WORLD

US reports 2nd human case of bird flu tied to dairy cow outbreak

A second case of bird flu has been found in a human, US health authorities announced Wednesday, less than two months after the first one as an outbreak of the disease circulates widely among dairy cows.

Both individuals infected with the virus called H5N1 — the first in Texas, the second in Michigan — were dairy farm workers who suffered only minor symptoms and have recovered, according to authorities.

Despite the second infection, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said its risk assessment for the general public remained “low,” but it did suggest it expects more cases. — AFP

Hundreds evacuated due to concerning quakes in Italy

THE Phlegraean Fields near Naples continued to be shaken by tremors on Wednesday, prompting worries that a major earthquake in the densely populated area could be on the way.

As of mid-day Wednesday local time, 46 families were evacuated from 27 buildings declared unsafe in the wake of more than 200 quakes and aftershocks.

Area schools were closed on Tuesday as a precaution, but reopened on Wednesday after inspections revealed only light structural damage.

The strongest earthquake so far measured a relatively mild 4.4 on the Richter scale, but reverberations were felt as far as 25 kilometres (16 miles) away in Naples, Italy’s third largest city. — Xinhua

Sunak announces snap general election in UK on 4 July

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak confirmed on Wednesday that the next general election in the country will take place on 4 July.

Earlier in the day, Sky News reported that Sunak could call the general elections in the country for 4 July.

“Earlier today I spoke with his majesty the King to request the dissolution of parliament. The King has granted me this request and we will have a general election on 4 July,” Sunak said in a statement outside 10 Downing Street. — SPUTNIK



The debris is seen covered with a tarp after a stage collapsed during a campaign rally for Mexican presidential candidate Jorge Alvarez Maynez in San Pedro Garza Garcia, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, on 22 May 2024. **PHOTO: JULIO CESAR AGUILAR / AFP**

Four dead in stage collapse at Mexico candidate’s rally: president

FOUR people died and 15 others were injured when a stage collapsed on Wednesday during a campaign rally for Mexican presidential candidate Jorge Alvarez Maynez, according to President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

On social media platform X, the incumbent president quoted a report from the Nuevo Leon state governor Samuel Garcia, who said “four dead and 15 injured

are reported” from the incident.

Maynez said he was not injured in the accident at his rally in the town of San Pedro Garza.

“I am fine and in communication with the authorities” over what happened, he wrote on X, adding that the priority was to take care of the victims.

He did not specify how many people were hurt but said that members of his team had been

taken to the hospital for treatment. Videos of the accident broadcast by local media showed a giant screen toppling over during Maynez’s rally. The 38-year-old centrist from the Citizens’ Movement party is running for president in the 2 June vote, but lags far behind both frontrunner Claudia Sheinbaum and main opposition presidential candidate Xochitl Galvez in polling. — AFP

SPORTS

Swiatek, Osaka in potential French Open 2nd round clash

DEFENDING champion Iga Swiatek and fellow four-time Grand Slam title winner Naomi Osaka could clash in the French Open second round after the draw was made on Thursday.

Top seed and world number one Swiatek will take on a qualifier in her opener with Osaka facing Lucia Bronzetti of Italy in her first round tie. Swiatek is bidding to win a fifth major and fourth French Open title.

"It feels like home here," said Swiatek who arrives at the tournament with clay-court titles in Madrid and Rome under her belt.

"I have been working hard to play at a high level".

Former world number one Osaka, now ranked 134, has never got past the third round in Paris.

Bronzetti, the world number 48, has yet to win a main draw

match at Roland Garros in two visits.

Osaka, 26, has endured a bittersweet relationship with the French Open.

In 2021, she was fined for opting out of mandatory media commitments before withdrawing from the competition after just one match insisting she was protecting her mental health.

Osaka missed the 2023 edition due to being pregnant before giving birth to a baby girl in July.

Swiatek, meanwhile, is bidding to become the first player to lift three successive women's titles in Paris since Justine Henin in 2007.

The 22-year-old Pole is also aiming to join Chris Evert, Steffi Graf and Henin in lifting the Coupe Suzanne-Lenglen four times in the Open era. — AFP



Poland's Iga Swiatek (R) could face fellow four-time Grand Slam winner Naomi Osaka in the French Open second round. PHOTO: AFP

Myanmar defeats Philippines 3-0 in ISTAF World Cup 2024 Regu Event



Team Myanmar in action in the triple event on 23 May in Malaysia.

THE first day of the ISTAF World Cup 2024 Sepak Takraw regu event continued in Malaysia on 23 May, with the Myanmar team winning.

Team Myanmar beat the

Philippines with a solid 3-0 victory (2-0 in the first match, 2-1 in the second match and 2-1 in the third and final match).

Team Myanmar falls into the same group as the Philippines

and South Korea.

Myanmar will take on South Korea today as a second match for the group. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Lewandowski willing to stay with FC Barcelona next season

FC Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski ensured that he won't leave the club this summer as he "wants to win more titles with the team".

According to some Spanish media, Barcelona is considering selling the forward, which would allow the club to bring in other players. An important factor is the Pole's high salary, which media reports suggest amounts to approximately 30 million euros per year.

"For me it's very clear that I will play for Barca next season. I want to win many cups here. I think not only about myself, but also about my teammates. I'd like to give many more things to the team and the club," Lewandowski said in an interview with Spanish media Mundo Deportivo on Thursday.

The 36-year-old doesn't think about retiring as he believes he is still able to compete at the highest level. — Xinhua

THE world's top surfers are currently experiencing the renowned waves of Teahupo'o in Tahiti, just two months ahead of the surfing events at the Paris Olympics.

Two months before the surfing events of the Paris Olympics take place there, the world's best waveriders are getting an early taste this week of the majestic waves of Teahupo'o in Tahiti.

Nearly 16,000 kilometres (9,950 miles) from the French capital, the French Pacific island of Tahiti was chosen to host the surfing events.

This week's event, which finally got underway on Thursday, is officially a World Surf League event but it is really a chance to whet the appetite at one of the world's top surfing venues.

"It's one of the best surfs in the world," the American John John Florence told AFP.

Taming Teahupo'o: Olympic surf rehearsal in Tahiti



French-Tahitian surfer Mateia Hiquily rides a wave in Teahupo'o, Tahiti, where the Olympic surfing events will take place. PHOTO: AFP

"The way the reef is, it's as deep as you can imagine and you've got the open ocean swell. The wave is just in the same spot every single time.

"It's one of the most amazing feelings. Nowhere else do you get to really do that." Florence, 31, the world champion in 2016 and 2017 and one of the favourites

for the Olympics, returns each year to Teahupo'o to learn to surf one of the most extreme waves in the world.

"The first time I came I was 14, maybe 15. (The wave) was small, but I was so scared because you see what it does when it's really big and you always think, a big one is going to come," he said.

"I came every year after that to get more comfortable with the wave".

Tower controversy

Teahupo'o is a small village in the southwest of the Tahiti peninsula, with a backdrop of misty mountains, where every year a few hundred residents welcome the elite surfers and their teams in their wooden bungalows.

The resurfaced road stops abruptly as it approaches the town and gives way to lush vegetation, houses and a handful of restaurants. — AFP



FOR the first time, the Arab world has shown unanimity in calling for an end to the war in the Gaza Strip at the Arab League summit, said King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain on Thursday at the start of talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

“At the Arab summit in Bahrain, the situation in the Gaza Strip was discussed, and we want the war to stop,” the king said.

“For the first time, the position of Arab countries has been characterized by unanimity on this issue, as it is the responsibility of the entire Arab world.”

The Bahraini monarch noted that Russia was the first country which Bahrain turned to for support in holding a peace conference on the conflict.

“There is full agreement among Arab countries on the need to hold a peace conference to resolve the Middle East issue,” King Hamad said. “Russia is the first country to which we have turned with a call to support its holding, as Russia is the most influential

King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain highlighted the historic unity among Arab nations in calling for an end to the Gaza war during talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

country on the international stage.”

At the 33rd summit of Arab League countries chaired by Bahrain, Arab leaders supported the proposal for a Middle East conference to discuss the issue of creating a Palestinian state in order to end the conflict.

Bahrain seeks Russian support for Mideast peace conference



King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa gets out of a car as he arrives for a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

During his talks with Putin, King Hamad also expressed support for normalizing relations with Iran — until recently seen as an enemy by the five-member Gulf Cooperation Council. “We used

to have problems with Iran, but now there are practically none. There is no reason to delay normalization of relations with Iran,” the king said. — SPUTNIK

S Korea president announces record US\$19 bln plan to boost chip industry



An image shows the planned SK hynix semiconductor cluster with four fabs at an industrial complex in Yongin, Gyeonggi Province. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ SK HYNIX**

SOUTH Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on Thursday announced a record \$19-billion-dollar support plan for the country’s crucial semiconductor industry.

South Korea is home to the world’s top memory chipmakers Samsung Electronics and SK hynix and last year pledged to build the world’s largest chip centre using \$456 billion of private investment as it seeks an edge in the global industry. “We have created a comprehensive support programme for the semiconductor industry worth 26 trillion Korean won, which encompasses financial, infrastructure, research and development, as well as support for small and medium-sized companies,” he said, according to a statement from his office. The package includes a \$7 billion investment announced earlier this month.

Yoon also said Seoul would extend tax benefits for chip investments, in hopes of boosting employment and attracting more talent to the industry. — AFP

Venezuela hopes to join BRICS in 2024

VENEZUELA hopes to join the BRICS association in 2024, Vice-President Delcy Rodriguez said.

BRICS consists of Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

“Venezuela hopes to officially join BRICS this year because this is the road of a new world, a world without hegemonism, a world built on respect for international law,” Rodriguez said.

Her statement was broadcast by VTV. Venezuela announced its desire to become a full member of BRICS in 2023.

The country’s President Nicolas Maduro said in March 2024 that the country expects to join the organization at a summit in Russia in October 2024. — SPUTNIK