

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

SUNDAY EDITION

OPINION

Follow important factors to overcome disaster challenges

PAGE 8

NATIONAL

PAGE 4

Weekly Roundup



Trees Planted

WORLD

PAGE 14

Weekly World News Digest



Nuclear Response

New Bago River Crossing Thanlyin Bridge 3 now open

The newly-inaugurated Thanlyin Bridge 3 will help ease traffic junctions on the Thanlyin Bridge 1.



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing walks along the Bago River Crossing Bridge (Thanlyin Bridge 3) in Yangon Region during the inaugural event yesterday.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing remarked that Thilawa SEZ will contribute to the socioeconomic development of people in Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Kayan and Thongwa areas of Yangon Region thanks to Thanlyin Bridge 3.

Yesterday morning, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the ceremony to commission the Bago River Crossing Thanlyin Bridge 3 into service in Yangon Region.

SEE PAGE 2

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the inauguration of the Bago River Crossing Thanlyin Bridge 3 in Yangon

1. Thanlyin Bridge 3 will help utilize the East-West Corridor to benefit the Hpa-an-Myawady area, as well as the development of Mon and Kayin states and the improvement of their connections with regional countries.
2. Newly-inaugurated Thanlyin Bridge 3 will help ease traffic junctions on the Thanlyin Bridge 1.
3. The government spent more than K46 billion on the construction of the bridge for timely completion.
4. Flyovers and four-lane river-crossing bridges are being built in Yangon Region in order to ease traffic congestion and to ensure a smooth and swift flow of commodities.

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NATIONAL



The river-crossing section of the bridge is **6,663 feet** long, and the bridge section on land is **1,975 feet** long, totalling **8,638 feet** long and **75 feet** wide. It is a four-lane facility flanked by a five-foot-wide safe zone on either side. Its water clearance is **43 feet** high and **735 feet** wide. The bridge was built as a cable-stayed bridge made of steel box, and PC box with **75-tonne** withstanding.

section of the bridge is 6,663 feet long, and the bridge section on land is 1,975 feet long, totalling 8,638 feet long and 75 feet wide. It is a four-lane facility flanked by a five-foot-wide safe

FROM PAGE 1

In his address, the Senior General disclosed that the bridge was built under a loan agreement signed in 2017 and started its construction in 2019 with a loan from the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

He unveiled that the Thanlyin Bridge 3 will help utilize the East-West Economic Corridor, which will benefit the Hpa-an-Myawady area, as well as the development of Mon and Kayin states and the improvement of connection with regional countries.

He continued that political situations delayed bridge construction tasks and loan plans in 2021, but construction of the bridge resumed due to coordination several times.

The Senior General recounted that the government spent more than K46 billion on the construction of the bridge for timely completion.

He explained that the government is striving for equitable development of all parts of the nation, including border regions, by upgrading roads and expanding road networks.

He said that flyovers and four-lane river-crossing bridges are being built in Yangon Region in order to ease traffic congestion and to ensure a smooth and swift flow of commodities, contributing to the improvement of the people's economic, social, and health

New Bago River Crossing Thanlyin Bridge 3 now open



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers a speech at the ceremony to commission the Bago River Crossing Thanlyin Bridge 3 into service in Yangon Region yesterday.



sectors.

Mr Togo of Nippon Koei Company presented documents related to the bridge to Director General U Kyaw Kaung Cho of the Department of Bridges under the Ministry of Construction.

SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Council members Admiral Tin Aung San and Lt-Gen Nyo Saw, Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein cut the

ribbon to open the bridge.

The Senior General unveiled the plaque of the bridge and sprinkled scented water on it. He also sprayed the bronze plaque at the pylon of the bridge.

The Senior General strolled along the newly-opened Thanlyin Bridge 3.

Also present at the bridge opening ceremony were SAC members Mahn Nyein Maung and Khun San Lwin, union ministers, senior military of-

ficers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Yangon Command, Japanese engineers, officials from Nippon Koei Co and departmental officials.

According to the agreement between the Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA and the Ministry of Planning and Finance, the Ministry of Construction and relevant ministries, the bridge project was implemented in phases from 2013. The river-crossing

zone on either side. Its water clearance is 43 feet high and 735 feet wide. The bridge was built as a cable-stayed bridge made of steel box, and PC box with 75-tonne withstanding.

As the bridge was built with advanced technology, Myanmar engineers have accumulated modern technologies to build the bridge. Thanks to the bridge, skilled workers could be turned, and employment opportunities could be generated. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hears the reports by officials during the inspection tour of the Shwe Pyi Agriculture and Livestock Zone in the Thilawa Multi-Agriculture and Livestock Zone Project yesterday.

Agriculture, livestock zones ensure meat and fish sufficiency in Yangon Region

Only when products from agriculture and livestock zones directly flow into people will the prices of commodities be low.

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing underlined that the Yangon Region emphasizes boosting the production of meat, fish, and seasonal crops in order to adjust to the high prices of commodities in supply and demand as the region is populous with many factories and industries.

Yesterday, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected progress in the implementation of the Thilawa Multi-Agriculture and Livestock Zone Project of Myanmar Economic Corporation between Yangon River and Hmawun Creek in Kyauktan Township yesterday.

While in the project area, the Senior General stressed the need to efficiently utilize land plots in the zone, urging all to extend agriculture and livestock tasks, including raising layers and

ducks with better livestock breeding techniques.

He continued that as efforts are being made to produce products from agriculture and livestock zones to flow into people directly for declining commodity prices, it is necessary to contact the Yangon City Development Committee and convenient shops of the military command headquarters.

The Senior General pointed out that if Myanmar produces products for local food security, it will have a plan to export frozen meat and fish to neighbouring countries and regional countries.

He continued that Myanmar has a firm market for the export of meat, fish, and agricultural produce due to the high demand from regional countries.

Chairman of MEC Lt-Gen Nyo Saw and officials reported on the imple-



SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing feeds fish at a fish farm of the Thilawa Multi-Agriculture and Livestock Zone yesterday.

Salient points from the speech of the Senior General during his inspection tour at the Thilawa Multi-Agriculture and Livestock Zone

- Only when products from agriculture and livestock zones directly flow into people will the prices of commodities be low.
- All need to extend agriculture and livestock tasks, including raising layers and ducks with better livestock breeding techniques.
- Myanmar has a firm market for the export of meat, fish and agricultural produce due to the high demand of regional countries.

mentation of the Shwe Pyi Agriculture and Livestock Zone, the functioning of the Thilawa Multi-Agriculture and Livestock Zone and 26th-mile Multi-Agriculture and Livestock Zone plans to distribute agricultural and livestock products to the market, production of feedstuffs at the livestock zones, and sales of dairy products.

The Senior General viewed samples

of fish species being bred at the Thilawa Multi-Agriculture and Livestock Zone and eggs produced from relevant zones.

He inspected the fish hatching process at the livestock zone, duck farming and fish farming tasks at the Thilawa Multi-Agriculture and Livestock Zone and left instructions on the systematic process of livestock breeding tasks. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Weekly Roundup

2 June

PAKOKKU LITERARY AWAD

SAYAGYI U Khin Aung (Shwebo Bamahti Khin Aung) and U Tint Lwin (Tet Lu) won the Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement together with winners in the novel, collected short stories, collected poems, treatise and research genres and two students for Pakokku scholarship awards.

PATENT LAW

The State Administration Council has announced that the Patent Law shall come into force on 31 May 2024.

MUSIC INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry of Information held a meeting focusing on the development of the music industry with a plan to award Music Academy to winners.

3 June

DRILLING DEEP WELLS

The Ministry of Energy decided to drill deep wells in old oil fields with the technological assistance of MPRL E&P Company in the 2024-25 financial year.



An old oil pump.

MARKET MANIPULATOR ARRESTED

Twenty-one manipulators in the domestic gold market were arrested, and ten more evading legal action are under investigation.

4 June

SCHOOLS OPEN

Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe stressed the importance of learning from the start of the academic year to achieve the goal of opening basic education schools, institutes, degree colleges and universities on 3 June.

ILLEGAL SELLERS CHARGED

Five suspects were charged with the illegal sale of foreign condominiums.

5 June

TREES PLANTED

Myanmar plans to grow 22.332 million saplings nationwide during this monsoon season. The 2020 report of FAO stated Myanmar possessed 42.19 per cent of forest coverage.



Locals grow various kinds of trees in Ngazon, Mandalay Region, recently.

CBM NOTIFICATION

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

6 June

FABRICATED NEWS REBUTTED

The leader of the SAC Information Team clarified fabricated news about the incident in Byaingphyu Village in Sittway Township released by AA terrorists.

7 June

CBM SELLS FE

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.

8 June

PEOPLE NOTIFIED OF TERRORISM

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing highlighted as citizens prioritize national development, terrorism undermines progress, requiring opposition to saboteurs at the SAC 3/2024 meeting.

MESSAGES SENT

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sent a congratulatory message on BIMSTEC Day and exchanged messages with the Sri Lankan President and Prime Minister to mark 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Sri Lanka. — GNLM/TTA

Counter-argument to false information

False claims: Security forces arrested 2 monks as human shields in Madaya

THE false news is spreading on the malicious media outlets claiming that the security forces detained two monks as human shields from the new Hintha village of Madaya Township in Mandalay Region at 3 pm on 7 June.

The actual event was that PDF terrorists were near the village, attempting to collect

money and recruit new members forcibly. As a result, villagers had to evacuate the area. Responsible citizens reported the situation, prompting security forces to provide security for the area.

Terrorists took cover near houses and began shooting. An exchange of fire ensued between security forces and terrorists.

Subsequently, terrorists fled, and there were no monks present at the monasteries. According to the relevant security official, the monks had temporarily left the monasteries at that time, leaving only two elderly individuals (monastery guards) behind.

Subversive media outlets are intentionally circulating false claims based on events to

disrupt security measures of the security forces aimed at maintaining peace and tranquillity among the public. Their goal is to create misunderstandings between security forces and citizens. — MNA/ TRKM

The screenshot validates false claims.



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NATIONAL

Comedians' Association plans 2023-2024 comedy awards

THE Excellent Comedy Awards Ceremony will be jointly held with the 14th respect-paying ceremony to senior comedians in July, according to the Myanmar Comedians' Association (Central).

The respect-paying ceremony dedicated to comedians aged over 65, scheduled for 7 July at the Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC) in Nay Pyi Taw, will also include the award ceremony.

"We pay respect to our seniors annually, and we're collecting cash donations for this 14th year. We need to rent cars and loudspeakers to collect donations for senior comedians. However, sometimes, we're unable to pay for the car rental due to the poor amount of cash donations we re-

ceive during these difficult times. Therefore, we respectfully invite everyone to donate to support senior comedians who make people laugh in the olden days," said comedian actor Dein Daung, Chairperson of the Myanmar Comedians' Association.

A total of nine awards, including four Excellent Comedian Awards, one Supporting Comedian Award, and four Best Comedy Creation Awards for 2023-2024, will be given. These awards will be granted based on the screening and selection of comedians who have consistently demonstrated brilliant comedic skills in movies, videos, state TV channels, and social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube channels, among others. — ASH/TRKM



The photo shows the 13th Respect-Paying Ceremony to Senior Comedians by the Myanmar Comedians' Association in Nay Pyi Taw.



Myanmar Chargé d'Affaires U Thet Win and Mr Asanga Abeyagoonasekera meet at the Myanmar Embassy in Washington DC.

Myanmar, South Asia Foresight Network eye future collaboration

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar and the South Asia Foresight Network (SAFN) based in Washington DC discussed future collaboration on 6 June.

U Thet Win, Charge' d'Affaires/ Minister of the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Washington DC,

received Mr Asanga Abeyagoonasekera, Executive Director of the South Asia Foresight Network (SAFN), which functions under the Millennium Project in Washington DC at the embassy.

During the meeting, the chargé d'affaires clarified the development and the current

situation in Myanmar, including the dissemination of fake news and misleading information by certain terrorist groups, as well as their terrorist activities and the actual situation on the ground. They exchanged views on possible areas of cooperation between Myanmar and SAFN in the future. — ASH/TMT

Myanmar participates in 27th anniversary of BIMSTEC establishment in Dhaka

MYANMAR Ambassador to Bangladesh U Kyaw Soe Moe attended the ceremony marking the 27th anniversary of the establishment of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 6 June, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

The event, organized by the BIMSTEC Secretariat at the

Sheraton Hotel in Dhaka, was attended by Dr Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, Bangladesh Prime Minister's Advisor on Electricity, Energy, and Mineral Resources, as a special guest, alongside ambassadors, charges d'affaires of BIMSTEC member countries, the secretary-general of BIMSTEC, ambassadors based in Dhaka, and heads of embassies and diplomats. — ASH/TKO



Myanmar attendees seen at the 27th anniversary of the establishment of BIMSTEC.

Daily newspapers available online

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NATIONAL

Logo competition representing 5th National Sports Festival to be held



The Fifth National Sports Festival Organizing Committee meeting in progress on 6 June 2024.

A logo competition representing the Fifth National Sports Festival will be held in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 and 13 June 2024.

In designing the logo, the meaning of the event to be held in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, the number of times the festival is, and the representation of the participating ministries and states and regions must be highlighted.

The logo should also include five rings with the colours of blue, yellow, black, green and red, which are the international Olympic memorial, a design that expresses the friendship between athletes, ministries, states and regions, and a design that depicts the famous monuments in the country. Contestants must have a clear explanation of the content and col-

ours used in their painting or graphic design.

Anyone can enter the competition, and the chosen logo will be considered the property of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, and K2.5 million will be awarded as a prize.

The Fifth National Sports Festival will be held in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory in December 2024. — TWA/KZL

MDY pumping stations release rainwater into Ayeyawady River

RAINWATER will be released into the Ayeyawady River with nine pumping stations in order to prevent flooding in Mandalay, according to the Water and Sanitation Department under the Mandalay City Development Committee.

During this rainy season, water flow and water level regulations have already been im-

plemented in Thingaza Creek, Shweta Creek, Kandawgyi Lake, and Taungthaman Lake. These measures primarily aim to conserve rainwater and prevent flooding in Mandalay.

The nine pumping stations have a total capacity of releasing 217.92 million gallons of water to the river to prevent floods in the residential areas. — TWA/MKKS



Officials make an inspection tour of a water pumping station in Mandalay.

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93 freighters depart Mandalay Port in May

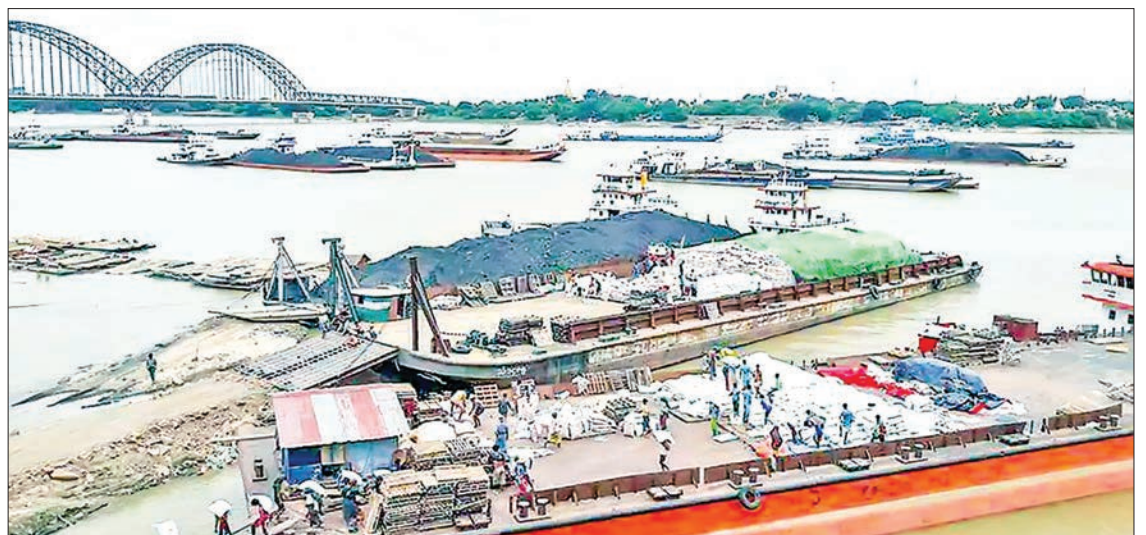
A total of 93 cargo ships departed from Mandalay Port for destinations including Yangon, Bhamo, and other townships in May of this year, according to the Department of Marine Administration.

DMA reported an increase in the number of goods being sent from Mandalay Port, such as maize, sugar, cement, and other commodities, due to the ease of transportation via the Ayeyawady River during the rainy season.

A total of 0.63 tonne of cement, 58,049.6 tonnes of

maize, 450 tonnes of limestone, 9,957.606 tonnes of molasses, 4,688.35 tonnes of sugar, and 670 rice bags have been transported so far.

“Despite the current high-water levels, cargo ship operators are reminded to adhere strictly to their vessels’ designated weight capacity. The Department of Marine Administration emphasizes that exceeding the tonnage limit or neglecting to consider a ship’s size and weight limitations can pose serious safety risks. — TWA/TRKM



The photo depicts cargo ships at Mandalay Port.

Pulse exports cross 470,000 tonnes worth US\$412M in Apr-May

MYANMAR generated export earnings of US\$412 million from over 470,000 tonnes of pulses in the past two months of the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Myanmar's pulses export by sea totalled over 460,800 tonnes of pulses worth \$397.8 million. In contrast, over 17,000 tonnes of pulses worth \$14.6 million were shipped to the neighbouring countries through land borders between 1 April and 31 May this financial year.

The value of Myanmar's pulses exports hit over US\$1.484 billion from over 1.76 million tonnes in the previous FY 2023-

2024 (April-March), comprising 1.6 million tonnes worth \$1.34 billion through maritime trade and 157,400 tonnes worth \$141.38 through border posts, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

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

India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black grams and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on

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

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

The Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association stated that black grams, which



Pulses and beans seen being displayed for sale in the market.

India primarily purchases, are commonly found only in Myanmar, while pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia. — NN/EM



File photo shows the fish at a cold storage.

Myanmar's fisheries exports bag US\$100M in 2 months

MYANMAR'S fisheries exports swelled to over US\$102.97 million in the past two months of the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

The figures reflected an increase of \$33.545 million compared to \$69.425 million recorded in the corresponding period last FY 2023-2024.

Myanmar conveys fisheries to foreign trade partners through maritime and border trade channels.

Myanmar sends fisheries such as fish, crab, and shrimp to neighbouring countries

(China and Thailand) through Muse, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Sittway and Maungtay border posts. They are shipped to Japan, European countries, China, Thailand, and other regional countries via maritime channels.

More than 20 fish species, including hilsa, rohu, catfish, and seabass, are delivered to foreign markets, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

Myanmar exports fisheries to over 40 countries, and the leading importer of Myanmar's fisheries is Thailand, followed by China. — NN/EM

Over 300 container vessels arrive in H1

A total of 309 container vessels entered the Yangon Port in the first half of 2024, the Myanmar Port Authority announced.

Myanmar Port Authority stated that 49 vessels in January, 53 in February, 55 in March, 50 in April and 52 in May arrived at the Yangon Port. This month, 50 ships were scheduled to dock at the Yangon Port.

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

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

accelerated. After that, the port can now handle larger ships. Hong-Kong based MV SITC Zhaoming (185.99 m L.O.A, 35.25 m Beam, 29,232 GRT and 2,698 TEU) docked at Asia World Port Terminal for the first time on 22 June, which is the largest ship that AWPT Port handled.

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

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

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OPINION

ARTICLE POEM/ BOOKRACK

Follow important factors to overcome disaster challenges

FOR the past century, Earth has faced substantial losses from a variety of natural disasters. Among these, climatic events have been particularly devastating, accounting for 44 per cent of damage over the past 20 years, followed by floods and storms, which contributed to 28 per cent of the destruction. While most natural disasters, except earthquakes, can be predicted, humans have struggled to mitigate their impacts effectively.

Natural disasters are inherently more powerful than living beings, making complete evasion impossible. Yet, humans possess the intelligence to minimize damage and mitigate casualties. Effective disaster management and public participation are crucial in overcoming these challenges. In Myanmar, particularly during the monsoon season, it is imperative for people to listen to timely weather forecasts and adhere to preparedness guidelines issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology in Myanmar.

disasters to save lives. Today, countries worldwide employ early warning systems to reduce the risks and potential losses from natural disasters. These systems encompass public awareness campaigns, monitoring potential disaster developments, providing warnings, ensuring effective communication, and outlining responsibilities. However, even with efficient early warning systems, if people do not heed disaster awareness messages, the resulting losses can be catastrophic.

Natural disasters are inherently more powerful than living beings, making complete evasion impossible. Yet, humans possess the intelligence to minimize damage and mitigate casualties. Effective disaster management and public participation are crucial in overcoming these challenges. In Myanmar, particularly during the monsoon season, it is imperative for people to listen to timely weather forecasts and adhere to preparedness guidelines issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology in Myanmar.

To effectively manage and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters, proper preparation of local authorities and public cooperation are essential. Embracing early warning systems and maintaining high levels of disaster awareness can significantly reduce the adverse effects of such events on society. By understanding and acting on the information provided by meteorological authorities, communities can enhance their resilience against the inevitable forces of nature.

Natural disasters possess immense power, significantly affecting the environments inhabited by all living beings, including humans. Given their high intelligence, humans strive to prepare as best as possible against such catastrophes. The improvement of early warning systems worldwide has led to a reduction in casualties from natural disasters. However, economic impacts remain severe. For instance, the severe cyclonic storm Nargis, which struck the Ayeyawady and Yangon regions in Myanmar in May 2008, ranks as the eighth most damaging natural disaster in global history and the most damaging one in Myanmar's history.

While nature triggers disasters, their occurrence is independent of human efforts. Meteorological and hydrological disasters can often be forecasted, but predicting geographically based dangers like earthquakes remains challenging. Nevertheless, scientists are working diligently to forecast all types of natural



Book Title - Kyaput Ta Chaung Ye
 Writer - Zatlan Ahkyin
 Publishing House - Naing Win Thi
 Publishing House - Pyi Myanmar
 Publication Date - June 2024 (1st Edition)
 Price - K6,000

Kyaput Ta Chaung Ye Zatlan Ahkyin (Short Stories from Magazines)

THE book under review is written by Naing Win Thi, who writes in a different style from other writers. He is considered to be a new addition to those writers who have deviated from old-fashioned writing. He has been contributing short stories and essays to magazines and journals for two or three decades. This book is a collection of 17 short stories that he has contributed to magazines. The short stories are Kyaput Ta Chaung Ye Zatlan Ahkyin; Chin; Ngar Da Gaung Ye Revolution; Lu Hnint Hlyoh Hwet Chet; Chit Chin Gallery; First Street; Nya Nay Gin Geta; Myit

Myar Ah-Kyaung; Myopya Thit Ywet Myar; Nyein Thet Chin; Sein Mya Mya Mee Hlyan; Na Yee Pyin Saya; Einmat Ta Khu Hnint Seegyin Htoe Gyin; Theingaya Hnin Zet; Yat Kyaw Ywa Kyaw Myar; Pontu Kauk Kyaung; and Ahnar Ma Nye Thaw Trigan Myar.

Regarding this book, the writer said that it is a collection of the best stories of his choice, which were written between 1997 and the current age, and that he has edited some short stories to conform to the contemporary situation. He also explained that as his stories had had to undergo the

Press Censorship Board, some critical parts were deleted or amended with the result that the theme of the stories was adversely affected to a certain extent and that he was thus forced to rewrite and add some new things to make the stories look more sensible.

The title story is Kyaput Ta Chaung Ye Zatlan Ahkyin, which, upon a rough translation, would mean a brief tale of a whip. The main character in this story is a circus whipper who has to tame the wild animals so that they can be commanded to play the tricks as they are trained.

The writer has composed this story to stimulate the readers' compassion toward the circus whipper, who cannot

express his skills to his heart's content.

This story opens with the following dialogue uttered by the whipper: "A man needs a whip to live a convenient life in this world of us. That's why I always keep a whip with me wherever I go." Although he prefers to lead a happy-go-lucky life, he is constantly confronted with problems. Although he has honestly settled all of the issues, he has always been a loser, losing his job very often. Despite these defeats, he has never given up, embracing the truth having won over those untruthful people.

Nonetheless, his livelihood was challenged by losing his job of whipping wild animals. And obviously, his unemployment has caused abject poverty, which has caused his untimely death. When he passed away, his roommate put into his friend's coffin the whip the late friend loved dramatically.

The writer seems to give the readers the thought that people these days do have a chance to be engaged in a business in the fields where they are skilled.



Book Title - Ahmay Myazwa De Ga Ahmay Ta Yauk
 Writer - Thura Zaw
 Publishing House - Sarpay Beikman
 Publication Date - October 2023 (1st Edition)
 Price - K3,000

Ahmay Myazwa De Ga Ahmay Ta Yauk (A Collection of Short Stories)

THE writer of this book is nobody but Saya Thura Zaw, who is known chiefly as a poet laureate. Nonetheless, he writes the proses quite well. As he is a Lifetime National Literary Award winner, he is now in his overripe age. Although he is rather old and feeble, he still embraces poems and the literature he cherishes profoundly. He is known to have great love and care for his mother. That is evident in choosing the title of this book under review. Among the 17 short stories published in this book, he has chosen this title, which can be roughly translated into English as a mother from amongst many a mother. These stories have been published in the magazines many years ago. The

title short story was published in Issue 1 of the Transport Magazine published in 2005. The story opens with the funeral of Daw Sein Tin, the mother of U Sein Lu, the main character of this story. According to their local culture, they dig a pit to bury the corpse. The writer depicted the inconveniences of laying down the corpse into the pit, which made U Sein Lu, the main character in this story, heartbroken. Naturally, all the bereaved families would like to see the funeral proceedings go smoothly, as this is the last time for the deceased. The writer has provided the details of inconveniences in burying the dead, which would make the readers feel awfully sorry for U Sein Lu, who was

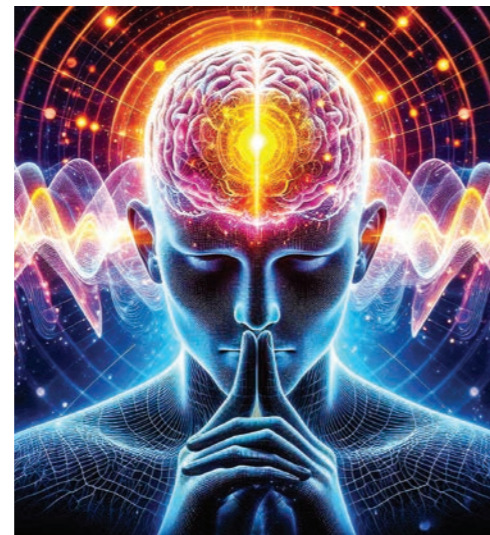
overwhelmed with sorrow with the fear that her mother would be reborn in unhappy abodes. U Sein Lu has lived a miserable life because of the atrocious activities of a plethora of insurgents. The political instability in those days caused the emergence of the colourful insurgents, who set fire to the villages and slaughtered the people en masse for no apparent reason. That being so, his family members have sailed down the River Pan Hlaing in a small boat to escape from the atrocious acts of the multicoloured insurgents. Upon disembarkation at the jetty on Kyimindine Strand Road in Yangon, they sought shelter in the compound of Maha Theikpan Kyaugtaik in the Bargaya Monastery. They had to stay there for a summer and a rainy season. Their mother, Daw Sein Tin, has had to

struggle hard to make a living for the entire family. Only when there was political stability in their native village did they return to their native village, doing the same business again. Their mother sent the three brothers to Yangon for schooling. Upon the death of their father, Daw Sein Tin, the widow, had had to struggle harder. When Maung Sein Lu got married, they moved back to the City of Yangon again.

The writer has depicted the details of how her aged mother took good care of Maung Sein Lu and how Maung Sein Lu is still missing his mother, unable to bring himself to forget her.

In addition to this title story, there are other short stories such as Myitta Thi Thar, Pali-bodha Kinpa Ashin Bakula, Sink-yaigyin Pya Yoke, Myozay Ne Ahpin, Mahson Sa-gaung Hson Sa-gaung, Thamee Dagaung Nwar Ta Htaung, Naukhsan Minute, Taung Pya Hmaing Go Kyaw Khaing Thu, Hsi Da Beiktha Hnint Nyazar ta Nut, Thanthayar Khayeethai Ma Lay, Thanman Thamar, Ywet Hna Hlwar Shetkar Nwe Te Lei, Yin Hnint Ah Hmya, Sandawgyein U Phawt, Gambiya Pawah and Gadin Ga Chauk Thit Ka Hnauk.

Scientists design injectable, wireless sensor for brain signal monitoring



Researchers from Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST) and Nanyang Technological University have developed a revolutionary implantable sensor for monitoring signals within the human skull. ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY

This innovation opens new avenues for clinical monitoring of physiological indicators, offering a less invasive and more efficient solution.

ATEAM of researchers from China and Singapore has designed an implantable miniaturized sensor capable of conducting wireless ultrasonic monitoring of signals within the human skull. In the clinical monitoring of physiological indicators like intracranial pressure, the use of conventional wired sensors demands surgical implantation. Additionally, the wireless sensors currently available are relatively large, requiring minimally invasive surgery.

The researchers from Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST) and Nanyang Technological University developed a hydrogel cube sensor, measuring

just two millimetres in size, which can be implanted into the intracranial space using a puncture needle.

Upon injection, the hydrogel deforms in response to physiological environmental changes, which results in shifts of the peak frequency of the reflected ultrasound waves. These shifts can be non-invasively measured wirelessly by an external ultrasound probe, according to the study published on Wednesday in the journal Nature.

The sensor is capable of independently measuring intracranial pressure, temperature, pH, and flow rate, with a detection depth reaching up to 10 centimetres.

SOURCE: Xinhua

By Chit Ko Pe

Agape Love

In the east, were it a sunset, or a sunrise in the west, let my love detach itself replacing with hatred!

ချစ်စွဲ

အရှေ့ရပ်ဆုံး
 နေဝင်ပုန်းလို့
 နောက်ဖုံးအခြမ်း
 အရက်သန်းမှ
 ချစ်ပန်းလွင့်ကြေ မုန်းရစေ။
 ချစ်ကိုဗေ



Tenacity of a snail

By Thu Ya Zaw, Translated by Maung Swe Ngae

- ❖ Imitating a frog, A snail tries to hop. And the pond seems to get spoiled.
- ❖ Taking a nap at the water-edge The frog doesn't hop its best Be still in the pond of wet.
- ❖ The snail doesn't hop But sluggishly moves a lot Taking no rest with tenacity Gritting its teeth more The snail can move up the shore.

ခရုမာန်ခွဲ

❖ ဖားတူလို့ ခရုခွဲနဲ့။
 ❖ ကမ်းစပ်ကို လှမ်းမတက် အိုင်ပျက်မည့်ပုံ။
 ❖ ရေစပ်မှာ အသာမေးဖားကလေး သူမခွဲနဲ့ ကုဏ္ဍလာ အိုင်တွင်း။
 ❖ ခရုက မခွဲနဲ့ပဲ။ ရွေ့ရွေ့သာ သူတားလို့ နားမနေ မာန်ခွဲနဲ့ အခဲကာ ကမ်းအထက် လှမ်းတက်ရောက်ခြင်း။ ။



သူရဇော် 'ကဗျာစိပွင့်' စာအုပ်မှ

NATIONAL Entertainment

'Thaye Kar' filming begins in Yangon

THE filming of the 'Thaye Kar' movie, directed by director Khin Hlaing (Nyan Gyi Shin), began in Yangon on 6 June, according to main lead actress Li Li Kyaw Khaing. Aung Kyaw Soe arranged the movie, whereas the story and plot were created by Di Di Htet Aung and produced for Kyi Nuu Say Production.

"Fans will see my new character in this movie. Amy Ko of Kyi Nuu Say Production offered me

the lead role, and I am so satisfied with it. It is a sort of horror and comedy movie. There might be many night scenes like eating raw meat and so on," said Li Li Kyaw Khaing.

Casts are Academy Nay Toe, Academy Kyaw Kyaw Bo, Moe Moe, Li Li Kyaw Khaing, Wai Lari, Moe Pwint Phyu, Chuu Sit Han, K Nyi, Si Si, Yan Pyay, Yayan Doli and child starlet Nyein Su Wai. — ASH/KTZH



A glimpse of artistes of the 'Thaye Kar' movie.



Sithu Htar

Singer Htar, who received the Sithu title and was the original singer of 'Mon Doh Htami', 'Manat Phyan Thoh Ma Hote Bel Thaw Akha', 'Mone Sett Ma Ywel', and 'Than Tha Yar Ta Gway Wel' songs, donated cash for the homage paying ceremony to senior Myanmar classical singers.

Those who want to donate can transfer to KPay accounts of U Thein Htay 09 444717515, Daw Zun Hnin Pwint Nway 09 974537705, and Daw Thin Thin Swe 09 400315688.



Aung Htet

Singer Aung Htet performed at the first anniversary of the PK Htun gold and jewellery shop of actress Poe Kyar Phyu Khin held on 2 June in Mandalay. The singer said, "I haven't met my fans for a long time as there were no public shows or events. Currently, I am meeting my fans again, and I feel delighted. I also miss the old days". He also told his fans that he will release his new song.



Thet San Andersen

THE Grand Coronation Night of the 11th Miss Universe Myanmar 2024 was held at Yangon Convention Centre on 7 June. Miss Thet San Andersen, representing Yangon North District, won the winning award of Miss Universe Myanmar 2024. The Miss said, "I always try hard to achieve what I want. I am so proud of it, and I will present Myanmar culture as much as I can." — Htun Htun/ KTZH



Li Li Kyaw Khaing

Li Li Kyaw Khaing, who was cast as Akyin Nar role in the 'Saung Taw Kuu' series of Maha Application, expressed thanks to artistes, Lavendar production and fans. She made commitments to keep trying hard, focusing on the criticisms on her Facebook page after releasing the final episode of the series.



Khin Maung Htwe (guitar)

Composer, singer and conductor Khin Maung Htway mentored many new generations in the music arena. Now, he has opened the Saya Htway Guitar Class with a young music lover at No 12, Thahtay Street (near Arthawka traffic light) in Tamway, Yangon, since 2 June. The class will offer valuable benefits to those who love guitar, said Ko Khin Maung Htway@ Saya Htway.

Wai Lari

Actress Wai Lari, who took the younger character of Khin Khin Gyi in MRTV-4's series 'Yay Natha Khin Khin Gyi', received applause from fans and appreciation of great artistes for her outstanding acting skills. The actress did not wear makeup in some episodes. She also affirms that she was tired for that series. Therefore, Wai Lari can perform her role even though she is not a lead actress.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Danish Prime Minister attacked in Copenhagen

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen was assaulted by a man in Copenhagen, according to a statement from her office to CNN.

"Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen was hit by a man Friday evening on Kultorvet (public square) in Copenhagen. The man was subsequently arrested," the prime minister's office said.

In response to the distressing event, Frederiksen's office said that she "is shocked by the incident", while refraining from providing further details about any potential injuries sustained during the altercation.

Minister of Environment Magnus Heunicke urged for national unity in the wake of the assault, emphasising the importance of collective responsibility in safeguarding one another, irrespective of "political disagreements, election campaigns".

"Something like this must not happen in our beautiful, safe and free country," he said on X. "This is ugly and unacceptable. Let's show that Denmark is much better."

"Deeply shocked by the outrageous attack on my colleague and friend, Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen," Latvian Prime Minister Evika Silina said in a post on X. — ANI

Apollo 8 astronaut dies in plane crash

William Anders, renowned NASA astronaut and member of the groundbreaking Apollo 8 crew, died in a plane crash in Washington state, as confirmed by his son, Gregory Anders, CNN reported.

The 90-year-old space pioneer met his untimely demise in an aircraft incident in the San Juan Islands.

My "dad passed in an aircraft incident in the San Juan Islands," Anders told CNN Friday evening. The San Juan County Sheriff's Office issued a statement disclosing that an aircraft had crashed off the coast of Jones Island. The initial report, received around 11:40 am PT, indicated that an "older model plane was flying from north to south then went into the water near the north end of Jones Island and sunk." San Juan Sheriff Eric Peter relayed to CNN via email that the dive team was deployed to conduct a search at the scene.

In the wake of the tragedy, the Anders family is grappling with profound grief. "The family is devastated and grieving the loss of a great pilot," Gregory Anders expressed. — ANI

Xi meets Pakistani PM

Chinese President Xi Jinping emphasized the deepening and solidifying of the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership during his meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Beijing.



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who is on an official visit to China, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, 7 June 2024. **PHOTO: HUANG JINGWEN/XINHUA**

CHINESE President Xi Jinping met with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Beijing on Friday.

Pointing out that China and Pakistan are good neighbors linked by mountains and rivers, good friends who share faith and righteousness, good partners who help each other, and good brothers who share weal and woe, Xi said the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership

had continuously deepened and enjoyed solid public support with a strong internal driving force and broad prospects for development.

China stands ready to work with Pakistan to firmly support each other; strengthen cooperation, deepen strategic coordination, accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, and make greater con-

tributions to regional peace, stability, development, and prosperity, Xi noted.

Xi stressed that the key to the ever-strengthening iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan lies in mutual understanding, high trust, and firm support between the two sides. He thanked Pakistan for its long-term and firm support for China on issues related to China's core interests and major concerns. — Xinhua



The 'peace conference' is scheduled to take place at the Bürgenstock resort, perched high above Lake Lucerne in Switzerland. **PHOTO: FABRICE COFFRINI / AFP**

Ukraine conference in Switzerland to end without peace agreement: Swiss President

AN international conference on Ukraine in Switzerland will end without the signing of a peace agreement due to Russia's absence from the event, Swiss President Viola Amherd said on Friday.

"We realize that we will not sign a peace agreement following the conference. To achieve peace, it is necessary for both sides to come to the negotiating table. This is not possible at the

moment," Amherd told German newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

The president expressed the hope that Russia and its allied countries would agree to join a new conference.

"For a conference to be successful, it would be very important that countries close to Russia attend it. But judging by the current state of affairs, China, Brazil and South Africa will not

take part in it," Amherd said.

The upcoming conference will focus on humanitarian assistance, nuclear and food security rather than peace issues, the Swiss president added. Switzerland will host a high-level conference on Ukrainian peace at the Bürgenstock resort outside of Lucerne on 15-16 June. More than 160 delegations from around the world have been invited to attend the event. — SPUTNIK

ECONOMY WORLD

New Zealand dairy industry sees great opportunities in China



A Fonterra stand seen in the 2019 China International Import Expo in Shanghai. **PHOTO: CHINA DAILY/FILE**

Fonterra plans to enhance its food service business, focusing on second- and third-tier cities, through innovation, menu development, and strengthening offerings in Chinese cuisine.

AS China remains New Zealand's top milk powder destination, New Zealand dairy industry has been exploring more opportunities in the Chinese market with increasing and diverse demands.

"Fonterra continues to see great opportunities in China," Teh-han Chow, Fonterra Greater China CEO, told Xinhua on Thursday.

New Zealand's dairy giant

Fonterra plans to expand its food service business to more second- and third-tier cities in China by enhancing its products through investment in innovation, continuous menu development, and strengthening its offerings in Chinese cuisine.

"We're seeing increased demand for health and wellness solutions, especially when it comes to nutrition driven in part by the 'Healthy China 2030

initiative,' which is a government-led campaign to improve public health in China," Chow said.

Fonterra opened its fifth application centre in Shenzhen in 2023 and recently upgraded its application centres in Shanghai and Beijing. A sixth Fonterra application centre will open in China later this year to support local customers in creating innovative products, he said. — Xinhua

Türkiye aims for top 3 global travel destination status by 2028

FOLLOWING a successful year in 2023, Türkiye is targeting a position among the world's top three travel destinations by 2028, industry officials said.

Culture and Tourism Minister Mehmet Nuri Ersoy announced in May that Türkiye aims to attract 80 million foreign tourists annually within the next four years, aspiring to become one of the top three foreign tourist destinations globally. Currently, Türkiye ranks fourth.

Türkiye's ambitious tourism plans are crucial for its economy, which relies heavily on tourism revenue. The nation welcomes millions of foreign visitors each year, providing vital income amid significant economic challenges.

"This goal is attainable, but Türkiye has work to do," said Kaan Sahinalp, Türkiye representative of German travel company TUI, in an interview with Xinhua in Ankara. To achieve this, Türkiye

needs to diversify its tourism offerings, showcasing its rich culture and gastronomy beyond its coastal attractions, he said.

"State and private stakeholders must collaborate. Türkiye needs to refine its pricing policy, as competition in the Mediterranean is strong, and some regional countries offer compelling alternatives," Sahinalp stressed. "Sustainability is crucial; Türkiye must be a sustainable and reliable player." — Xinhua



The photo taken on 6 June 2024 shows tourists enjoying leisure time at a beach in Antalya, Türkiye. **PHOTO: MUSTAFA KAYA/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

SUMMARIES: WORLD

Nepal parliament endorses agreement on establishment of International Solar Alliance

NEPAL'S lower house of parliament, the House of Representatives (HoR) on Thursday endorsed an agreement on the establishment of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) floated by India and France.

The agreement presented by the Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Shakti Bahadur Basnet was endorsed by the parliament with a majority. Nepal joined the ISA in the year 2022 during the visit of Nepali Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba to India.

Addressing queries raised by lawmakers about the establishment of the ISA, Minister Basnet stated that it would guide the development of the energy sector and minimize the effects of climate change. He clarified that the government prioritized national benefits and that this establishment would not add any financial liability to the country. — ANI

Japan household spending up 0.5% for April

JAPAN'S household spending in April rose a real 0.5 percent from a year earlier for the first increase in 14 months, lifted by increased outlays on education and clothing amid warm temperatures, government data showed Friday. While a three-day holiday in the reporting month also helped increase outlays, "As a trend, it's hard to say that spending is moving upward," a ministry official said.

Households of two or more people spent an average of 313,300 yen (\$2,000), the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications said. The gain followed a 1.2 per-cent decline in March.

By category, spending on education surged 25.9 per cent, as tuition fees at private universities increased after measures to exempt or waive them due to the coronavirus pandemic ended, the official said. But expenditures on food, which account for around 30 per cent of spending, fell 2.7 per cent due to people purchasing less vegetables and meat amid rising prices.

Outlays on clothing and footwear climbed 11.3 per cent driven by purchases for summer clothing, with April recording higher temperatures than usual, the official said. — Kyodo

China's urban rail transit trips up 11.7% in May

In May, China's urban rail transit networks recorded 2.79 billion passenger trips, marking an 11.7 per cent increase from the previous year, with a total operation length of 10,286.2 kilometres spanning 310 lines across 54 cities.

THE number of passenger trips operated by China's urban rail transit networks grew by around 290 million, or 11.7 per cent from a year earlier to reach 2.79 billion in May, according to the Ministry of Transport.

On a monthly basis, the passenger traffic increased by about 30 million passengers, or 1.1 per cent, the ministry said.

In the meantime, the operation length of 310 urban rail transit lines in

54 Chinese cities reached 10,286.2 kilometres.

Last month, China saw new operation length of 12.5 kilometres, as well as a new section of urban rail transit line in Hefei, Anhui Province, the ministry added. — Xinhua



Visitors look at the latest models of urban rail trains shown at the International Urban Rail Exhibition in Beijing. PHOTO: XINHUA

US hiring surges past expectations as job market still strong

US job growth blew past estimates in May even as unemployment edged up, data showed Friday, underscoring the labor market's resilience as policymakers seek to cool the economy gradually.

But the hotter than expected figures could complicate the Federal

Reserve's calculus as it weighs the right time to lower interest rates.

It also remains to be seen if positive employment data would translate into rosier perceptions of President Joe Biden, who has been struggling to convince voters of his handling of

the economy.

The world's biggest economy added 272,000 jobs last month, up from a revised 165,000 in April, said the Department of Labour.

This was significantly above the 185,000 increase analysts predicted according to Briefing.

com. It was also the highest level since December 2023.

The jobless rate crept up from 3.9 per cent to 4.0 per cent. But unemployment remains relatively low compared with recent decades, painting a picture of a still-healthy labour market. — AFP

Watchdog accuses MUFG bank of sharing info with brokerage affiliates

JAPAN'S securities watchdog is planning to call for a bank and two brokerage firms under Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc to be punished over allegations they shared confidential information about customer businesses despite being refused permission, a source familiar with the matter said Friday.

The Securities and Exchange Surveillance Commission is considering recommending the Financial Services Agency take punitive action as early as next week against MUFG Bank,



The recommendation for punitive action could come as early as next week and may involve MUFG Bank, Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities Co, and Morgan Stanley MUFG Securities Co.

Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities Co and Morgan Stanley MUFG Securities Co. The two securities firms are alleged to have

used information shared by the bank for sales activities. MUFG Bank also is accused of telling business customers they would only be extended financing on the condition they work with the brokerages, according to the source.

The Financial Instruments and Exchange Act requires a "firewall" be put in place to stop information sharing among related banks and brokerages and stipulates they cannot transfer confidential information about customers if they refuse. — Kyodo

Air Arabia resumes its flights to Basra in Iraq

THE Middle East and North Africa's first and largest low-cost carrier (LCC) operator, today marked the resumption of its first flight to Basra in Iraq from Sharjah International Airport.

The new route connects Sharjah and Basra with a frequency of four weekly flights. Basra is Air Arabia's fourth direct route to Iraq from Sharjah, following Baghdad, Najaf, and Erbil.

Upon arrival at Basra

International Airport, Air Arabia aircraft was greeted with a traditional water cannon salute and a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by representatives from Air Arabia and Basra International Airport.

"Air Arabia's new flights to Basra mark a significant milestone in our commitment to providing affordable travel options within the region," said Adel Al Ali, Group Chief Executive Officer of Air Arabia. — ANI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PADIAN 4 VOY.NO. (0UV7YS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PADIAN 4 VOY.NO. (0UV7YS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-6-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



A deactivated Titan II nuclear ICBM is seen in a silo at the Titan Missile Museum on 12 May 2015 in Green Valley, Arizona. PHOTO: BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP/FILE

Nuclear Response

8 JUNE

MOSCOW will respond to Washington's statements on its nuclear weapons deployment in accordance with the Russian nuclear doctrine, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova told Sputnik on 8 June.

Russia has never refused talks with the US on nuclear weapons control – despite Washington's ramping-up of the arms race, the Foreign Affairs Ministry's spokeswoman has said.

A White House official said

on 7 June the US may increase deployment of strategic nuclear weapons in coming years to deter threats from China, Russia and other nations.

"Yesterday the president (of Russia Vladimir Putin) said everything, there is a nuclear doctrine. If there is a need for its modification, some amendments will be adopted." Foreign Affairs Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on the sidelines of the St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF). – SPUTNIK

7 JUNE

Modi to form next govt

INDIA'S Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi on 7 June staked the claim to form the country's next government by submitting a list of lawmakers supporting the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) before President Droupadi Murmu, confirmed an official source at the President's House.

Modi is scheduled to take oath as the country's prime minister for the

third consecutive five-year term on 9 June. Earlier in the day, Modi was chosen as the leader of the NDA Parliamentary Party. Two days ago, Modi resigned from the prime minister's post as per the protocol, in order to pave the way for the next government's formation. President Murmu accepted the resignation, requesting him to act as the prime minister till the new government is formed. – Xinhua

6 JUNE

D-Day anniversary

ROYALTY and world leaders gathered on 6 June with veterans in Normandy this morning to mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings. French President Emmanuel Macron is hosting President Biden, King Charles and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, representing the Allied powers whose troops gave their lives in the landings on the Normandy beaches on 6 June 1944. Luxembourg is represented by Grand Duke Henri and Prime Minister Luc Frieden. And with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky joining the Western leaders in Normandy, the ceremonies will provide a hugely symbolic backdrop to talks on how Ukraine can gain back ground after Russian advances. – AFP

5 JUNE

First human case of H5N2

THE World Health Organization on 5 June announced that the first laboratory-confirmed human case of infection with H5N2 avian influenza virus had been reported from Mexico.

On 23 May 2024, the Mexico International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Point (NFP) reported to PAHO/WHO a confirmed fatal case of human infection with avian influenza A(H5N2) virus detected in a resident of the State of Mexico who was hospitalized in Mexico City.

This is the first laboratory-confirmed human case of infection with an influenza

A(H5N2) virus reported globally and the first avian H5 virus infection in a person reported in Mexico.

Although the source of exposure to the virus in this case is currently unknown, A(H5N2) viruses have been reported in poultry in Mexico. According to the IHR (2005), a human infection caused by a novel influenza A virus subtype is an event that has the potential for high public health impact and must be notified to the WHO. Based on available information, WHO assesses the current risk to the general population posed by this virus as low. – WHO

4 JUNE

Lack of AI transparency

A group of current and former employees from OpenAI on 4 June issued an open letter warning that the world's leading artificial intelligence companies were falling short of necessary transparency and accountability to meet the potential risks posed by the technology.

The letter raised serious concerns about AI safety risks "ranging from the further entrenchment of existing inequali-

ties, to manipulation and misinformation, to the loss of control of autonomous AI systems potentially resulting in human extinction." The 16 signatories, which also included a staff member from Google DeepMind, warned that AI companies "have strong financial incentives to avoid effective oversight" and that self-regulation by the companies would not effectively change this. – AFP

3 JUNE

Biden trial

JURORS heard unsparing accounts of Hunter Biden's drug use in his own words on 3 June as his trial on gun charges, the first ever prosecution of a child of a sitting US president, got underway. Hunter Biden, 54, the only surviving son of President Joe Biden, is charged with lying about his illegal drug use when buying a handgun in 2018, a felony. He is also charged with illegal possession of the firearm, which he had for just 11 days in October 2018. "No one is above the law – it doesn't matter who you are and what your name is," prosecutor Derek Hines said in his opening statement at the federal trial being held in the Biden family stronghold of Wilmington. – AFP

2 JUNE

Murdoch's Fifth: Tycoon weds biologist

MEDIA magnate Rupert Murdoch has married for the fifth time at age 93, tying the knot with a retired molecular biologist a quarter century younger than him.

Murdoch and Elena Zhukova, 67, were wedded Saturday at the media mogul's California vineyard and estate, called Moraga.

Photographs published in The Sun, the British tabloid owned by Murdoch, show the

couple posing and smiling – he in a black suit and yellow tie and she in an off-the-shoulder white gown as she clutched a bouquet of lilies of the valley.

Jet-set guests at the nuptials included Robert Kraft, 82, the owner of the New England Patriots US football team, and his 50-year-old wife Dana Blumberg, news reports said. – AFP

SPORTS

Team Myanmar heads to Laos for remaining World Cup qualifiers

MYANMAR'S national football team departed for Vientiane, Laos, on 8 June to play the remaining Asian Zone World Cup qualifiers for 2026, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation.

Team Myanmar head coach Feichtenebeiner took 24 players for the final group match against North Korea and made some changes to the 23 players selected for the game against Japan.

The Myanmar squad will travel three days before the match against the North Korean team. Head coach Feichtenebeiner, who was suspended for the match against Japan, will have the opportunity to supervise the field again. The back row player Hein Phyo Win will also be allowed to play again.

The North Korean team was unable to host home games, so Laos will host their match against the Syrian squad on 6 June and the Myanmar team on 11 June. The Myanmar-North Korea game will be at 7:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time.



The Myanmar national football team is seen posing for a group photo. **PHOTO: THAWGYI**

In Group B of the second round of World Cup qualifiers, Japan is leading with 15 points and has already advanced to the next round. Syria is securing seven points, and North Korea is collecting six points, but Myanmar has only one point.

If the North Korean team beats the Myanmar team, there is hope that they will get second place in the group. The Myanmar team lost 1-6 in the home meeting of the first round against the North Korean team. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Myanmar clubs to join AFC Challenge League after format change

AS the Asian Football Confederation has changed the format of club competitions starting from the following 2024-2025 football season, Myanmar clubs will have to compete in the AFC Challenge League.

Shan United Football Club, defending champion of the Myanmar National League, will be allowed to compete in the AFC Challenge League Tournament. The Asian Football Confederation has held only two club competitions in recent years, the AFC Champions League and the AFC Cup, but starting next season, it will hold three club competitions. The AFC Champion League Elite tournament will be held at the first level, the AFC Champion League Two at the second level, and the AFC Challenge League at the third level. The Asian Football Confederation determines the countries that will be allowed to compete in each competition depending on the ranking of the member countries and the success of the clubs, and Myanmar will only be allowed to compete in the AFC Challenge League. Only one team from Myanmar will be allowed to compete, and it will have to start from the play-off stage of the AFC Challenge League tournament. The AFC Challenge League, which Myanmar clubs will contest, will be held from July 2024 to May 2025 and will be divided into the East Asia zone and the West Asia zone. The Myanmar club will compete in the East Asian zone, and the play-off stage sees Myanmar, North Korea, Indonesia, Cambodia, Macau, Chinese Taipei, Laos, Mongolia, Brunei, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands and Timor-Leste. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Top-ranked Scheffler seizes three-stroke lead at PGA Memorial

WORLD number one Scottie Scheffler grinded through brisk winds to fire a four-under par 68 and grab a three-stroke lead after Friday's second round of the PGA Memorial tournament.

The two-time Masters champion, seeking his fifth victory of the year, stood

on nine-under 135 after 36 holes at the Jack Nicklaus-hosted event in Muirfield Village.

"You've got to play it fairly conservative out here, just with how much trouble there is around the golf course. There's a lot of hazards and you've got the heavy rough," Scheffler said.

"Can be really tough to judge the wind. I'm just trying to do my best to execute. Sometimes I get the wind right and hit the right shot. Other times, things don't work out as well.

"We'll see how the winds are this weekend. I think it'll only get tougher". — AFP

Alcaraz to meet Zverev in French Open final

CARLOS Alcaraz outlasted Jannik Sinner in a five-set battle on Friday to reach his first French Open final, where he will face Alexander Zverev who beat two-time runner-up Casper Ruud.

The Spanish two-time Grand Slam champion pulled out a 2-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 victory over the incoming world No 1 Sinner of Italy in the semifinals after four hours and nine minutes on Court Philippe Chatrier, which made the 21-year-old the youngest man to reach a Grand Slam final on three surfaces.

"I hope to play many,

many more matches like this one against Jannik but it's one of the toughest I've played for sure," said Alcaraz.

"I'm really happy about everything I did today. I waited for my moment until I took it".

Alcaraz will be the favorite heading into Sunday's final as he aims to become the youngest man to win Grand Slam titles on clay, grass and hard courts.

The Spaniard won championships at the US Open in 2022 on hard court and at Wimbledon in 2023 on grass. — Xinhua

Messi: Argentina are Copa America favourites

ARGENTINA captain Lionel Messi has declared the Albiceleste frontrunners to win the upcoming Copa America in the United States.

The reigning World Cup and Copa America champions will begin their title defence against Canada on 20 June before also facing Chile and Peru in the group stage.

"I think that Argentina is always the favourite," Messi said in an interview with Argentine news service Infobae.

"Even before the current period (of success), Argentina was a candidate, just like Brazil. This Copa America will be no exception". The 36-year-old Inter Miami forward added: "I think all of the South American teams are very strong right now. Uruguay is very good, Colombia, Ecuador. Each game will be a tough contest and it's going to be a very even tournament". — Xinhua

Argentina's captain Lionel Messi asserts his team's status as frontrunners for the upcoming Copa America in the United States. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**



Julia Butters in talks to join Disney's 'Freaky Friday 2'

ACTOR Julia Butters, best known for her work in 'Once Upon a Time in Hollywood', may star in Disney's 'Freaky Friday' sequel.

The studio first confirmed plans for the long-hoped-for film last year, and in March announced Nisha Ganatra of Welcome to Chippendales had been tapped to direct, as per The Hollywood Reporter.

Andrew Gunn, who produced the 2003 movie, will produce alongside former Disney exec Kristin Burr.

Butters' role and any plot details for the long-gestating sequel have yet to be revealed. Butters' other credits include "The Gray Man", "The Fablemans" and "I Think You Should Leave".

— ANI



Julia Butters, known for her role in 'Once Upon a Time in Hollywood', may star in Disney's 'Freaky Friday' sequel. **PHOTO: ANI**



This photo taken on 26 May 2024 shows the cruise ship Adora Magic City docking at the Shanghai Wusongkou International Cruise Terminal in east China's Shanghai. **PHOTO: WANG XIANG/XINHUA**

China's 1st homegrown large cruise ship receives over 150,000 tourists

Since its maiden voyage earlier this year, the ship has gained popularity among tourists.

CHINA'S first domestically built large cruise ship, Adora Magic City, has completed 37 journeys and welcomed over 150,000 tourists as of Friday, according to its operators.

The ship embarked on its maiden voyage at the beginning of the year and gained popularity among tourists.

In the run-up to the Dragon Boat

Festival this year, the ship received nearly 4,000 passengers shortly after docking at Shanghai Wusongkou International Cruise Terminal Friday.

The cruise ship, 323.6 metres in length, has a gross weight of 135,500 tonnes, and can accommodate up to 5,246 passengers in 2,125 guest rooms.

The cruise industry, with its long industrial chain and a high degree of inter-

nationalization, is often called "the golden industry that floats". Over 1,000 domestic and foreign manufacturers were involved in building Adora Magic City.

Meanwhile, China's second homegrown large cruise ship entered a shipyard in Shanghai for final assembly on 20 April signifying that China has developed the capability to engage in bulk production of cruise ships. — Xinhua

AM radio listeners set to be permanently tuned out in Japan

AM radio in Japan has a storied history since its launch in 1925.

IS Japan witnessing the death of AM radio?

Since February, some commercial radio broadcasters have begun a trial suspension of AM radio, with a real possibility the pause will extend to a permanent discontinuation across the country as broadcasters look to cut costs.

Thirteen of the 47 commercial operators in Japan have shut off their transmitters to see what effect the temporary end of AM broadcasts will have. AM was launched in 1925, bringing Japan into the radio broadcast age, but may not last long enough to see



Photo taken on 3 May 2024 shows curator Tadanobu Okabe looking at radios on display at the Japan Radio Museum in Matsumoto, Nagano Prefecture. **PHOTO: THE MUSEUM / KYODO**

its 100th anniversary next year.

"Radio was at the centre of the home, a medium enjoyed by the entire family," said Tadanobu Okabe, curator of the Japan Radio Museum in Matsumoto, Nagano Prefecture.

The museum in central Japan displays a wide collection of radios and documents, mainly covering the "golden era" of Japanese radio from the 1930s through the 1950s, organized in a way that lays out the chronological history of broadcasting in Japan which emerged five years after the world's first radio broadcast in the United States.

Like elsewhere in the world, AM broadcasting in Japan was the first method of making audio radio transmissions.

It brought to the people such

historic events as the "Jewel Voice Broadcast" on 15 August 1945, when Emperor Hirohito announced that the Japanese government had accepted unconditional surrender at the end of World War II, among other major news events. The evolution of radio broadcasting in Japan reflects societal shifts and technological advancements. Initially, radio was a communal experience, but the advent of television in 1953 shifted family entertainment focus.

Subsequently, AM radio became solitary, while youth culture blossomed with programs like "All Night Nippon" in 1967 and the rise of FM broadcasting. However, aging infrastructure and changing entertainment preferences led to a decline in AM radio. — Kyodo