

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing looks into the display at yesterday's event in Nay Pyi Taw.

Nations with educated populations implement political systems with stability

While political culture can often resolve political controversies, nations with lower levels of education may encounter heightened conflicts.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing highlighted that countries with a larger number of educated people can establish a political system based on a wide range of knowledge.

Chairman of the State Administration

Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attended the ceremony to launch the developing libraries and raising reading habit campaign that took place in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory at the Nay Pyi

Taw City Hall yesterday morning,

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that, according to the literacy rate in the 2019 interim census, Myanmar had a 92 per cent literacy rate, adding it is necessary to turn out well-versed human

resources as a must to establish a developed society and a prosperous society and build Myanmar capable of keeping abreast of global countries.

He continued that as a number of educated persons must be produced for the development of a country, all developed countries encourage the enhancement of the education sector.

The Senior General underlined that, although people can read literature online to improve their reading habits, it is necessary to choose literature that is beneficial for their lives to eliminate the influence of toxic information in online media.

He urged all to read all genres of literature to seek knowledge. The Ministry of Information and the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare publish weekly and monthly fiction and non-fiction books and publications, he added.

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350,000 foreign tourists visit Myanmar in January-March

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424 jade lots sold at 59th Myanmar Gem Emporium

BUSINESS

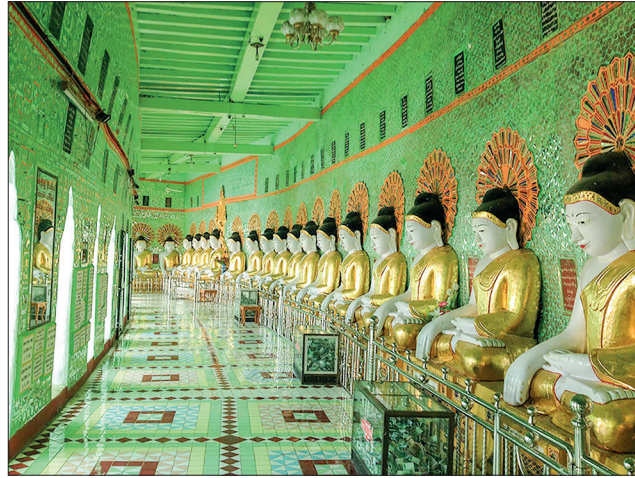
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Heat stress leads to shrunken, crumpled wings in honeybees

NATIONAL

Sagaing Region welcomes over 130,000 visitors in 2023



Photos show some tourist destinations in Sagaing Region in which efforts are underway to revive the tourism sector.

ACCORDING to the Minister for Economic Affairs of the Sagaing Region government, more than 130,000 travellers, both domestic and foreign, explored tour destinations in Sagaing Region in 2023. Despite challenging road con-

ditions in some areas of the region, over 130,000 tourists visited the Sagaing, Mingun, and Monywa areas during the same period.

The report highlights the presence of over 60 hotels, motels, and guesthouses, offering a total of 2,040 rooms across 11 townships in Sagaing Region. Currently, 47 of these accommodation are in operation.

Efforts are also underway to systematically revitalize the tourism sector in Sagaing region. — ASH/ TMT

Rising daily visitors flock to Taungthaman Lake, U Bein Bridge in Mandalay



The photo shows some boats running in the lake.

U Soe Win, secretary of the U Bein Bridge Maintenance Committee, mentioned that nearly 600 local and foreign travellers frequent Taungthaman Lake and U Bein Bridge daily, with approximately 50 boats operating for passengers.

Taungthaman Lake and U Bein Bridge stand as the most sought-after spots in Mandalay Region for both local and foreign tourists, with visitor numbers surging since 1 May.

"With the sweltering weather, an increasing number of travellers seek refuge here to beat the heat and unwind.

During last April's Thingyan festival, there were just over 300 daily visitor arrivals. Nowadays, we see almost 600 visitors coming to relax each day. As boat ridership on the lake grows, around 50 boats are now in operation daily. The lake's water level is currently low," stated U Soe Win.

Most domestic visitors to Taungthaman Lake and U Bein Bridge hail from Mandalay, PyinOoLwin, Taunggyi, and Yangon, while tourists from Thailand, Vietnam, and Korea top the list of foreign visitors. — ASH/MKKS

350,000 foreign tourists visit Myanmar in January-March

THREE hundred and fifty thousand foreign tourists arrived between January and March of this year, according to an official from the supervising department of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

"The foreign tourist arrival is 350,000 nationwide between January and March. Chinese tourists are the largest, and Thailand tourists are the second largest, which is larger than last year," he said.

The foreign tourist arrival has elevated again this year's tour season compared to the

previous year, he added.

Since the 2023 dry season, which is the tour season in Myanmar, the arrival of both local and foreign visitors has mounted again, and the arrival of local visitors surged in October and slightly fell back in November. However, it increased again during the New Year celebration and continued to rise in January, February, March, and April 2024. The tourist arrival reached a peak in the Thingyan period, said an official from the Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Association.

In this year's tour season, the majority of visitors went to Mandalay, Bagan, Inlay, Kalaw, Kyaiktiyo, Chaungtha, Ngwehsaung, and newly developed beaches. In Thingyan, people flocked to famous destinations such as Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung beaches, but hotels could provide rooms for those only who had already made reservations. Some people couldn't find rooms in Chaungtha, and Ngwehsaung visited newly developed beaches. Some people took day trips during Thingyan. — MT/ZS



The image shows some foreign tourists visiting Myanmar.

NATIONAL

Nations with educated populations implement political systems with stability

FROM PAGE-1

He noted that as the accumulation of correct and proper knowledge can be beneficial for the lifespan, it is necessary to create reading opportunities for individuals.

The Senior General recounted that, since its assumption of State responsibilities, the government has been shaping Nay Pyi Taw to be a green city, clean city, smart city, and smokeless industry, encouraging the construction of an education city by construction universities.

He gave guidance that Nay Pyi Taw Council Area must be

tion High School with the song “Let’s Go to Library” and viewed a video clip on raising the library.

The Senior General, his wife and his family donated cash to the fund for extended construction of libraries for the development of libraries to the Union Minister for Information.

The Senior General also accepted cash donated by the Myanmar Libraries Development Cooperation Committee, Nay Pyi Taw Council, region and state governments and well-wishers for the construction of libraries.

The ceremony to share



The Senior General accepts cash donations for the construction of libraries.

Salient points from the speech made by the Senior General in developing libraries and raising reading habit campaign

- Although political controversies can be solved through political culture, countries with a lesser number of educated citizens may face conflicts.
- It is necessary to turn out well-versed human resources as a must to establish a developed and prosperous society and build Myanmar capable of keeping abreast of global countries.
- It is necessary to choose the literature that is beneficial for their lives due to the influence of toxic information in online media.
- Accumulation of correct and proper knowledge can be beneficial for one’s lifespan.

an idol among other regions and states in all sectors, including the education sector.

He instructed all to launch the developing libraries and raising reading habit campaign in all regions and states as part of implementing the national cause.

Before the ceremony, the Senior General and attendees watched the presentation of students from No 11 Basic Educa-

K12,762,438 billion and 85,540 books was presented at the cash and book donation ceremony on 10 April, to regions and states, including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, followed. The Senior General presented K230 million for repairs and reopening of 46 libraries in 14 regions and states, K405 million for the construction of 27 new libraries, and 67,780 books for people to the chairman

of Myanmar Libraries Development Cooperation Committee Union Minister for Information.

Moreover, the Senior General provided K20 million for repairing four libraries in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and K45 million for building three new libraries as well as 3,000 copies of books and publications to the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman.

As part of developing librar-

ies and raising the reading habit movement, writer Dr Maung Thin, an outstanding student in 1974, talked about the benefits of reading.

The Senior General and attendees viewed round books, publications and documentary photos that were displayed at the ceremony.

Also present at the ceremony were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-

Gen Ye Win Oo and wife, council members and their wives, union-level dignitaries, union ministers and their wives, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council and senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief.

At the ceremony, K2,205 million and 70,780 books were donated to 147 libraries. — MNA/TTA

DPM Union MoFA Minister receives Thai Ambassador

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Than Swe received Mr Mongkol Visitstump, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the courtesy call, both sides cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further enhancement

of the existing long-standing cordial relations and bilateral partnership. Also, they discussed the expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation, especially in the areas of tourism, education, culture, trade, investment, and people-to-people connectivity between the two countries, as well as closer collaboration at both regional and multilateral arenas on the basis of mutual understanding and support. — MNA



Thai Ambassador Mr Mongkol Visitstump calls on Deputy Prime Minister Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe yesterday.

NATIONAL

Myanmar hosts ASEAN-China Workshop on Building Up Human Capital in Technology Transfer & Commercialization

THE ASEAN-China Workshop on Building Up Human Capital in Technology Transfer and Commercialization, jointly initiated by the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN COSTI, the Ministry of Science and Technology, was held at the Lotte Hotel in Yangon on 9 and 10 May.

The workshop aims to build up human capital in technology transfer and commercialization for MSMEs through the ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund (ACCF) from the stage of lab results of universities and research institutions.

At the event, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, Minister Counsellor Dr Zheng Zhong of the Chinese Embassy



The ASEAN-China Workshop on Building Up Human Capital in Technology Transfer and Commercialization in progress yesterday in Yangon.

to Myanmar and ASEAN COSTI Chairman Dr Hul Seingheng made opening speeches, and Mr Satvinder Singh, Deputy

Secretary-General for the ASEAN Economic Community, delivered the speech via a video clip.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, regional ministers, the permanent secretary and directors-general

of the Science and Technology Department, rectors, experts and representatives of ASEAN countries also attended the workshop.

The workshop discussed challenges and solutions encountered by the research organizations, MSMEs and universities in technology transfer, building up of human capital in technology transfer and market, measures to strengthen China and ASEAN cooperation in government and private sectors, human resource development network for startup ecosystem and technology transfer among research organizations, entrepreneurs and universities using the online system. — MNA/KTZH

Counter-argument to false information

Misleading reports circulate regarding security operation in Kanthit Village in Pakkoku Township



The screenshot validates misinformation.

REPORTS from certain media sources are spreading false information alleging that Tatmadaw security forces conducted a raid on Kanthit Village in Pakokku Township, Magway Region, on 8 May. They claim that two villagers were killed, 20 were arrested, and 13 houses were set on fire.

However, an accurate account reveals that a dutiful civilian informed the security forces about the presence of PDF terrorists moving in the vicinity of Kanthit Village, intending to carry out acts of terrorism. Consequently, on 8 May, security forces undertook counter-terrorism measures in the vicinity of the village. During this operation, they discovered a temporary camp used by the terrorists, engaged in a firefight, and cleared the area. As the terrorists retreated, they set fire to houses in the village.

The report states that the security forces seized two terrorist bodies, five handmade guns, and related explosive devices.

It is apparent that certain media outlets are deliberately spreading false information to tarnish the reputation of Tatmadaw's security forces and to conceal the terrorist activities perpetrated by the insurgents. — MNA/TMT

Nepali Ambassador calls on CBM Governor



CBM Governor Daw Than Than Swe receives Nepali Ambassador Mr Harishchandra Ghimire yesterday.

GOVERNOR Daw Than Than Swe of the Central Bank of Myanmar received Ambassador of Nepal to Myanmar Mr Harishchandra Ghimire at the meeting hall of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. They frankly discussed mat-

ters related to bilateral trade promotion and financial cooperation between Myanmar and Nepal.

The deputy governors of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the permanent secretary, and department heads attended the meeting. — MNA/TS

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NATIONAL

Kachin State Chief Minister assists IDPs

THE Kachin State government officials met the household members from 20 temporary camps in Myitkyina and Waingmaw townships sheltering in Ngwepyaw model village that was established by the state government budget on 8 May.

During the meeting, Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan encouraged the internally displaced persons and called for cooperation in providing assistance.

Then, the chief minister and officials provided a total of K30,025,472, including cooking oil, foodstuffs and cash assistance for 476 internally displaced persons.

The chief minister and party also inspected the low-cost housings and J2A garment factory in

Naungnan villages-tract.

The chief minister attended the 7/2024 coordination meeting of the state-level village supervisory committee for agriculture using the State Economic Promotion Fund at Malikha Hall on 9 May.

At the meeting, he said the



Photos show Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan and officials meeting household members and providing foodstuffs and cash assistance yesterday.



first revolving period was successfully implemented using K8 billion from the State Economic Promotion Fund. According to land areas, systematic measures will be taken to allow projects for farmers and entrepreneurs

submitted by the district and township committees in line with the rules and regulations.

He then concluded the meeting after hearing the presentation made by the relevant officials. — State IPRD/KTZH

MoFA Deputy Minister receives Nepali Ambassador



Deputy Minister U Lwin Oo greets the Nepali ambassador at yesterday's event.

DEPUTY Minister for Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo received Mr Harishchandra Ghimire, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Nepal to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call, they cordially exchanged views on mat-

ters pertaining to the further enhancement of the friendly bilateral relations between the two countries, expansion of cooperation, particularly in the areas of trade, investment and tourism, as well as closer collaboration in regional and multilateral fora. — MNA

424 jade lots sold at 59th Myanmar Gem Emporium

THE seventh day of the 59th Myanmar Gems Exhibition took place on 9 May at the Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, attracting a large crowd of local and foreign jewellers.

Starting in the morning, both local and foreign gem traders began to inspect the collections of jade stones exhibited outside the Maniyadana Jade Hall, based on their preferences.

During the exhibition, jade lots numbered from 1901 to 2750 were vended to both domestic and foreign jewellers through an open tender system, with an announcement that 424 jade lots were sold.

Officials will review and inspect the proposed price lists of jade lots numbered from 2751 to 3750 on the eighth day, and the sold-out jade lots will be announced on the ninth day of the exhibition.



Gem traders look into jade stones at yesterday's emporium.

Moreover, gem and jewellery shops are operating inside the Maniyadana Jade Hall, which is bustling with buyers and gem merchants.

The 59th Myanmar Gems Emporium is scheduled from 3 to 12 May at the Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Throughout the exhibition, 182 lots of pearls were sold on the

second day, followed by 197 lots on the third day, 88 lots of gems on the fourth day, 546 lots of jade on the fifth day, 569 lots of jade on the sixth day and 424 lots on the seventh day.

The remaining jade lots will continue to be marketed through an open tender system. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Statements issued over PDF in firing Hsonywa Village of Myingyan Township

PDF terrorists attacked Hsonywa Village, east of Hsameikkhon village in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, yesterday using small and heavy firearms, claiming the lives of 32 individuals and injuring 14 residents.

Young Men's Buddhist

Association (Central), Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central), Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance, Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar), Myanmar Press Council, Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization,

Myanmar Artists Organization (Central), Myanmar Music Association (Central), Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central), Myanmar Comedians' Association, Myanmar Sports Media Federation, Faith Evangelical Church (Bago), Deliv-

erance Church (Yangon), All Myanmar Hindu Central Council, All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ), Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association, Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar, Myanmar Writers' Association, Pinnay-

gone Yakhine Jaame Mosque and Buthidaung-Maungtaung Regional Development Association issued statements strongly condemning the acts of terrorism that have claimed the lives of local people and injured them. — MNA

Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association Statement

9 May 2024

INNOCENT civilians died, and some were injured in the brutal attacks by PDF terrorists in Hsonywa village of Myingyan township on 9 May.

The Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association issued this statement strongly condemning the attacks of terrorists.

Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association

Myanmar Music Association (Central) Statement

9 May 2024

ON the morning of 9 May 2024, PDF terrorists launched an indiscriminate attack with small and heavy arms on Hsonywa village in Myingyan Township of Mandalay Region, resulting in the deaths of 32 local people and injuring 14 others.

The Myanmar Music Association (Central) expresses its strong condemnation of this terrorist act.

Myanmar Music Association (Central)

Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central) Statement

9 May 2024

ON 9 May 2024, PDF terrorists indiscriminately fired small and heavy arms at Hsonywa village in Myingyan Township of Mandalay Region, leading to fatalities and injuries among the local population.

The Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central) vehemently condemns this act of terrorism.

Executive Committee of Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central)

Faith Evangelical Church (Bago) Statement

9 May 2024

WE sadly heard that terrorists opened fire on Hsonywa Village, east of Hsameikkhon Village, Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, with heavy and small arms yesterday morning, killing 32 people and injuring 14.

Thus, the Faith Evangelical Church (Bago) has issued a statement condemning the actions of terrorists who are harming the lives of innocent people.

Faith Evangelical Church (Bago)

Buthidaung-Maungtaung Regional Development Association Statement

9 May 2024

1. The Buthidaung-Maungtaung Regional Development Association has learnt that 32 locals died and 14 were wounded due to the attacks of PDF terrorists in Hsonywa village in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, on 9 May.
2. The association issued this statement strongly condemning such brutal attacks by terrorists.

Buthidaung-Maungtaung Regional Development Association

All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ) Statement

9 May 2024

1. Thirty-two locals died, and 14 were wounded owing to the attacks of PDF terrorists in Hsonywa village in Myingyan township, Mandalay Region, on 9 May.
2. All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ) issued this statement strongly condemning the brutal attacks of terrorists.

All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ)

Myanmar Sports Media Federation Statement

9 May 2024

THE Myanmar Sports Media Federation is deeply saddened by the news that 32 innocent civilians, including 17 males and 15 females, were killed, and 14 others, comprising five males and nine females, were injured when PDF terrorists launched an indiscriminate attack with small and heavy arms on Hsonywa village in Myingyan Township of Mandalay Region on 9 May.

The Myanmar Sports Media Federation strongly condemns this act of terrorism perpetrated against peaceful civilians.

Myanmar Sports Media Federation

Myanmar Writers' Association Statement

9 May 2024

1. Terrorists opened fire on the Hsonywa Village, east of Hsameikkhon Village, Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, with heavy and small arms yesterday morning, killing 32 local people, including 17 men and 15 women, injuring 14, including five men and nine women.
2. The Myanmar Writers' Association has issued a statement condemning the actions of terrorists who are harming the lives of innocent people.

Myanmar Writers' Association

Myanmar Press Council Statement

9 May 2024

1. Some terrorist groups inhumanely fired at Hsonywa Village, east of Hsameikkhon Village of Myingyan Township in Mandalay Region, with the use of small arms and heavy weapons yesterday morning. It is sorrowful to hear that a total of 32 innocent civilians — 17 men and 15 women — were killed in the incident, and five men and nine women were wounded.
2. Myanmar Press Council issued a statement that it strongly objects to and does not totally accept any groups which intentionally committed terror acts to cause casualties of innocent people who live peacefully.

Myanmar Press Council

NATIONAL

Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization Statement

9 May 2024

PDF terrorists killed 32 people (17 males and 12 females) in Hsonywa village of Myingyan township of Mandalay Region on 9 May using small and heavy weapons. Moreover, five males and nine females, totalling 14, were wounded.

Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization strongly condemned such brutal killings of innocent civilians by PDF terrorists.

Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization

Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) Statement

9 May 2024

IT is deeply saddening to hear that a total of 32 individuals, including 17 men and 15 women, lost their lives, while five men and nine women sustained injuries when terrorists indiscriminately opened fire with heavy weapons and small arms on Hsonywa village, located in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region.

The Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) vehemently condemns such a despicable act of terrorism.

Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central)

Myanmar Artists Organization (Central) Statement

9 May 2024

IT is profoundly distressing to learn that on the morning of 9 May, a total of 32 individuals (17 men and 15 women) lost their lives, while 14 others (five men and nine women) were wounded when terrorists indiscriminately opened fire with both large and small arms on Hsonywa village, located in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region.

The Myanmar Artists Association (Central) strongly denounces the terrorists responsible for perpetrating such an act of terrorism.

Myanmar Artists Organization (Central)

Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar Statement

9 May 2024

1. PDF terrorists launched attacks in Hsonywa village of Myingyan township in Mandalay Region using heavy and small weapons yesterday, resulting in the deaths of 32 people, and 14 were wounded.
2. The Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar issued this statement strongly condemning the attacks of terrorists using heavy and small weapons.

Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar

All Myanmar Hindu Central Council Statement

9 May 2024

1. Terrorists opened fire on the Hsonywa Village, Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, with heavy and small arms yesterday morning, killing 32 local people and injuring 14.
2. All Myanmar Hindu Central Council has issued a statement condemning the actions of terrorists who are harming the lives of innocent people.

All Myanmar Hindu Central Council

Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance Statement

9 May 2024

ON the morning of 9 May 2024, PDF terrorists launched an indiscriminate attack with small and heavy arms on Hsoywa village in Myingyan Township of Mandalay Region.

It is distressing to report that as a result of these cruel and inhumane acts of terrorism, 32 innocent locals lost their lives, while 14 others sustained injuries.

Such acts of terrorism are utterly unacceptable, and the Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance vehemently condemns them.

Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance

Pinnaygone Yakhine Jaame Mosque Statement

9 May 2024

1. PDF terrorists launched attacks in Hsonywa village of Myingyan township in Mandalay Region using heavy and small weapons yesterday, leading to the deaths of 17 males and 15 females, and the injuries of five males and nine females.
2. The Pinnaygone Yakhine Jaame Mosque issued this statement condemning the acts of terrorists.

Pinnaygone Yakhine Jaame Mosque

Young Men's Buddhist Association-YMBA (Central) Statement

9 May 2024

ON the morning of 9 May 2024, PDF terrorists carried out an indiscriminate attack with small and heavy arms on Hsonywa village, situated east of Hsameikhon village in Myingyan Township of Mandalay Region.

This heinous act resulted in the deaths of 17 men and 15 women, while five men and nine women sustained injuries.

The Young Men's Buddhist Association-YMBA (Central) vehemently condemns this act of terrorism, which is entirely unacceptable.

Young Men's Buddhist Association YMBA (Central)

Deliverance Church (Yangon) Statement

9 May 2024

WE sadly heard that terrorists opened fire on Hsonywa Village, Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, with small and heavy arms yesterday morning, killing 32 local people and injuring 14.

Thus, we have issued a statement condemning the actions of terrorists who are harming the lives of innocent people.

Deliverance Church (Yangon)

Myanmar Comedians Association (Central) Statement

9 May 2024

TERRORISTS opened fire on Hsonywa Village, Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, with heavy and small arms yesterday morning, killing 32 local people, including 17 men and 15 women, and injuring 14, including five men and nine women.

The Myanmar Comedians Association (Central) has issued a statement condemning the actions of terrorists who are harming the lives of innocent people.

Myanmar Comedians Association (Central)

Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar) Statement

9 May 2024

WE sadly heard that terrorists opened fire on Hsonywa Village, Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, with small and heavy arms yesterday morning, killing many local people.

Thus, Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar) has issued a statement condemning the actions of terrorists who are harming the lives of innocent people.

Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar)

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.

OPINION

Sustain water quality for consumption and cultivation

NOW is a critical time for the people of Myanmar to face high temperatures and shortages of water triggered by the severe impacts of El Nino. People from not only urban but rural areas are struggling to overcome the challenges of Saturn El Nino, which sparks severe climate change throughout the world, outbreaks of untimely natural disasters, famines and so on. Myanmar is also facing terrible impacts of El Nio as the country is located in Southeast Asia, not far from the Pacific Ocean, where El Nio is centred. Among the catastrophes, shortages of safe water for consumption and agricultural purposes are a strong blow for people from Myanmar in their daily routines. The supply of water can change most sectors for the better, so efforts are being made to distribute safe water to the people in various ways and means.

Most people forget the value of water at a time when people around the world are enjoying the advantages of water. Actually, when they really encounter shortages of water, they can understand the invaluable water, but they cannot search for lost water resources at that time. Hence, all living beings, especially the global population, have to use water in all drops efficiently. The whole world is formed of water and ground parts. In this regard, 71 per cent of water and 29 per cent of ground are combined in the world. But, just 3.5 per cent of water among all the massive water volumes is fresh water for consumption. As such, everybody needs to avoid waste of fresh water, not only for themselves but for all.

Climate change firstly destroys the dryness of water resources underground and above ground. Extreme extraction of water from relevant resources can bring danger to society. On the other hand, the operation of agriculture and livestock breeding sectors needs the utilization of water sources in order to make the economic sector booming. As such, it is necessary to take care of losing freshwater resources.

Myanmar possesses 1.7 per cent of fresh water out of the total freshwater sources in the world. Myanmar's people have a good fortune in consuming fresh water until the whole world faces a shortage of safe water. However, Myanmar people should take care of using fresh water and not decline underground water quality because of using pesticides and chemical fertilizers at crop farms while making efforts to reduce water pollution and waste of water as a national duty for saving society.

A HOSPITAL is a facility where sick individuals receive medical care from trained healthcare professionals using specialized equipment. Hospitals are a significant component of health service delivery. Public hospitals play substantial roles in providing healthcare services to the people.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), access to quality healthcare is a fundamental human right. It is the responsibility of governments to lead efforts in providing public healthcare services that meet recognized principles within their respective nations.

Either developed nations possessing ample resources and infrastructure or developing countries facing limitations must prioritize the establishment of public healthcare systems that align with their respective socio-economic contexts and geographic positions.

The Ministry of Health, Myanmar, is actively pursuing the objectives by facilitating access for every citizen to achieve their full life expectancy in addition to experiencing a prolonged lifespan and ensuring that every citizen enjoys freedom from diseases and illnesses.

In pursuit of these goals, efforts are directed towards disease prevention, well-timed delivery of treatment upon disease occurrence, and the formulation of

effective policies and measures tailored to the country's available resources.

Since Myanmar gained independence, consecutive governments have assumed responsibility for public healthcare, navigating challenges of limitations on medical school establishment, hospital/clinic construction, and procurement of essential medical equipment.

However, numerous challenges persist, particularly concerning health infrastructure and human resources distribution across regions. Although the imbalance in population-based medical coverage has remained to be fulfilled, the Ministry is prompting continuous efforts to mitigate these discrepancies.

It is crucial for public hospitals to maintain consistent delivery of medical services to the community. Furthermore, it is imperative for the government to ensure continuous provision of healthcare services in areas where public healthcare facilities

Public Hospitals: The Heart of Healthcare

By Dr Zeyar Win



Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win encourages the patient who received a kidney transplant at the Yangon Speciality Hospital (500-bed) on 2 September 2023. PHOTO: GNLN/FILE

are the sole option available.

Following events from 1 February 2021, efforts have been undertaken to restore normal operations in public hospitals, which had faced potential suspension of services.

Initially, hospital administra-

tion and staff have been adequately equipped, ensuring effective governance and necessary support. Consequently, public hospitals swiftly resumed regular operations, delivering medical care without significant delays.

The Ministry of Health has reestablished hospital management committees and support committees in every public hospital, targeting to modernize healthcare services and enhance hospital operations.

Likewise, all public hospitals are equipped to cater to emergency cases round-the-clock, ensuring continuous access to medications, diagnostics, and treatments. This initiative aims to minimize out-of-pocket expenses for patients, thereby alleviating the financial burdens associated with healthcare.

The Ministry of Health has commenced concerted efforts to guarantee the timely provision of specialized medical treatment by convening coordinated meetings with specialists and administrative officials.

It has endorsed the instant restoration of specialized medical interventions, including cancer radiation therapies, cardiovascular treatments, brain and neurological treatments, as well as liver and kidney disease treatments.

Cancer radiation therapy is currently being administered at Yangon General Hospital, Mandalay General Hospital, Nay Pyi Taw

General Hospital, and Sao San Tun General Hospital of Taung Gyi, thereby ensuring access to radiation treatment for cancer patients.

Moreover, kidney transplant procedures, halted since February 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have resumed at the Yangon Specialty Hospital (500-bed) as of 29 November 2022. These procedures are now performed regularly. Additionally, complimentary repair procedures for cleft lip palate patients and corneal transplantations are also being offered.

The Ministry of Health is currently organizing the provision of super speciality medical care for residents living in districts, states and regions. This initiative involves despatching groups of specialists from Yangon, Mandalay, and other cities to such regions on a regular basis to administer comprehensive and targeted medical care.

The Ministry of Health is dedicated to enhancing public healthcare and medical services, targeting to address the needs and shortcomings of public hospitals in caring for patients. Constant actions are ongoing to leverage medical care provision, with a focus on fulfilling safer treatments to broaden health coverage and minimize out-of-pocket expenses for patients more equitably.

Seeing Bona Fide Happiness

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

WHAT is happiness? If so, what about the real happiness? The first question looks pretty easy to answer, but it will be quite challenging to reply to the second question. Many people perceive the term happiness as having diverse meanings from different points of view. Some find it happy to lead a life of luxury, live a family life, or even have an unmarried life. Others think that happiness or love depends only on money. That is, almost everything can be bought or done with money

in their eyes. These opinions are easier said than done to be deniable to some degree. In actual fact, the very happiness gives not only pleasure but also life satisfaction. The following will describe the fundamental principles of finding true happiness.

Firstly, most happy people are free from debt. This debt can be subdivided into three types – a debt of reaction (Wut-kyway), a debt of action (Kan-kyway), and a debt of recurrence (Samsara-kyway) – by Buddhism. And the debt also includes a debt of mon-

ey, words or gratitude, and backlogs. Of course, to owe any debt to nobody in the world is good. It would sometimes be hard to stay out of debt when some people get into others' debt. To be said, at the very least, those who live a life beset with debt cannot sleep a sound night by night. Hence, a person with debt will be living an unhappy life even before his death.

Secondly, happy people are usually off the danger list, especially insecurity and ill health. Physical safety, psychological well-being, emotional stability, and good health are the bare bones of a person remaining happy. Physical safety involves three basic needs of life-food, clothing, and shelter;

which are available as and when a person wishes, as well as reliable neighbours and a safe atmosphere. Psychological well-being is full of a tranquil state of mind, intrapersonal peace, permanent beliefs, mental strength, fine attitudes towards life, and a thriving life's uncertainties and come with moral courage. At last, poor health will never contribute to the fulfilment of positive emotions like happiness throughout human life.

Thirdly, a happy person does not like to look for trouble or make trouble for others. In other words, he is not a can of worms. Some people are naturally troublemak-

ers, particularly having a finger in every pie. Actually, doing bad deeds on purpose resembles, most likely, digging one's own grave. Several problems often bring about subsequent implications, such as ill feelings, hatred, vindictiveness, and revenge. If a person does not hanker after any trouble at all, then he will have no hard feelings between himself and others for sure. A strong desire for no hostility automatically breaks down any trouble in the future, as the Myanmar saying goes. Having less trouble will certainly bring more happiness in life.

Fourthly, many happy people tend to stay innocent of whatever they do. That is to say, they ab-

stain from a life of sin. Instead of doing bad things, they are given the chance to practise meditation, follow their hobbies like reading or travelling, and so on. Meditation offers intrapersonal peace, which motivates someone to become aware of what is happening in the body, appears and disappears in a while. These coming and going processes allow meditation practitioners to control any sense occurring within the meditation time, whether pleasant or unpleasant so that they do not feel too many of those senses. People like to do their best with what they wish without noticing other external senses at all. Thus, their time to do negative things will be reduced apparently. Happy people are always able to neglect the offences of others and then help them as much as they can.

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Happiness is closely linked to physical safety, psychological well-being, emotional stability, and good health. Meeting basic needs like food, clothing, and shelter, along with having reliable relationships and a safe environment, contributes significantly to happiness. ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY

NATIONAL

32 residents dead, 14 more wounded in heavy weapon attacks of PDF terrorists at Hsonywa Village in Myingyan Township



The location map of heavy-weapon attack by terrorists and houses ablaze.



Damage and debris are seen in the aftermath of terrorists' attack.



PDF terrorists fired at Hsonywa Village, east of Sameikkhon Village in Myingyan Township of Mandalay Region with small arms and heavy weapons yesterday, leaving 17 men and 15 women of the village dead and five men and nine women wounded due to splinters of bombs.

PDF terrorists opened fire at remote villages and wards to cause fear of people with heavy weapons without reason, set fire to houses, schools and religious buildings and commit the kill-

ing and abduction of residents. Yesterday morning, those PDF fired at the people's militia camp in Hsonywa Village, 4,000 metres east of Sameikkhon Village, from the south and southeast parts so people's militia troops launched counter-attacks. The terrorists could not occupy the people's military camp and withdrew to the east but set fire to nearby villages.

In the incident, heavy weapon shells destroyed houses with explosions. Therefore, 17 men

and 15 women in the village, totalling 32, died from a heavy weapon shell explosion, and five men and nine women, totalling 14, were wounded by splinters of bombs.

About 50 houses were ablaze due to the destructive act of terrorists. So, security forces put out the fire and sent wounded residents to the local military hospital in Mandalay to receive medical treatment. Moreover, security forces are in hot pursuit of those terrorists who retreated from the scene. — MNA/TTA

Confiscation of illegal items

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

On 5 and 7 May, the combined teams captured two vehicles – a Mitsubishi Fuso bus and a Daewoo bus (K70,000,000) that carried K3,180,000 worth of undocumented Japan-made second-hand refrigerators and Thai-made foodstuffs at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray checkpoint, and K 7,581,794 worth of illegal timbers in Toungoo and Pyay districts.

On 6 May, the Ayeyawady Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized K2,489,753 worth of illegal timbers in Pathein and Hinthada districts.

On 7 May, the Yangon Region

Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized K88,466,000 worth of unregistered UAE-made Borouge plastic resin and Thai-made Encore tyres, and one Mitsubishi Fuso truck and one Hino truck that carried these illegal goods at Ywathagyi Dry Port.

On the same day, the Customs Department also captured K 47,901,285 worth of six unregistered products, including 1260 kilogrammes of Ass Roller and 150 GST Turbochargers at Myanmar Industrial Port and K 441,000 worth of 60 kilogrammes of Pigment Timbasol at Asia World Port Terminal, totalling K48,342,285.

Similarly, the Nay Pyi Taw Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized K 1,281,722



Confiscated illegal goods from different states and regions.



worth of illegal teaks and timbers in Lawe and Ottarathiri districts.

The Mon State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized K6,250,000 worth of three illegal goods beside Mawlamyine-Kyaikmaraw road in Painnegon village in Kyaikmaraw township.

The Magway Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force also seized one unregistered Honda Fit and one Mitsubishi Outlander, approximately

K10,000,000 at the entrance to Magway and one unregistered Honda Fit worth K10,000,000 at the Ayeyawady bridge checkpoint. Moreover, K210,000 worth of 60 gallons of raw petroleum and K5,000,000 worth of an unregistered Honda CRV, totalling K25,210,000 on Minbu-Padan road in Minbu township.

On 8 May, the Kachin State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized undocumented 33,040 kilogrammes of ammo-

nium nitrate (K33,040,000) and three vehicles (K90,000,000) that carried these products, totalling K123,040,000 near Yayaye Creek Bridge, Kanhla village in Namti township.

The cases were taken action under the respective laws.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 28 arrests were made on four consecutive days from 5 to 8 May, with an estimated value of K375,841,554. — MNA/KTZH

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise



Heat stress leads to shrunken, crumpled wings in honeybees



A glimpse of beehives.

THE Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department warned the beekeepers of the deformed wing virus (DWV) induced by extreme temperature, causing twisted, shrunken and crumpled wings.

DWV threatens the European honeybee population and lowers mite fertility owing to the heat stress during the May-July period. It can trigger the loss of nurse bees as well.

The department notified the beekeepers of managing pests and diseases and beekeeping practices to protect the

honeybee from DWV.

Beehives must be located in shady places. Beekeeping practices include managing parasites and pests, providing adequate access to water and good ventilation, and the need to balance honeybee and bee larvae better. Furthermore, feeding sugar water with a sprinkle of salt to honey bees is required. The department also encouraged starting a business with new beehives. The beekeepers must inform the nearest office of the township apiculture development division and

Myanmar Apiculture Association of any detected bee disease.

Myanmar exports honey to China, the Republic of Korea, Japan, Thailand, the US and Singapore. Myanmar shipped over 2,200 tonnes of honey to foreign trade partners in the 2023-2024 financial year (April-March).

Myanmar's beekeeping businesses are mostly found in Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Magway Region and Shan State. Myanmar produces sesame honey, jujube honey, niger honey, sunflower honey, lychee honey and flower honey. Myanmar's honey production is estimated at over 4,000 metric tonnes annually. Sixty per cent went to foreign markets, while the remaining was designated for domestic consumption.

Honey is utilized as a traditional medicine in the country. There are some state-owned beekeeping stations with 6,200 beehives in 31 townships and over 950 private beekeeping businesses operating with nearly 200,000 beehives.

Moreover, two million acres of crops yearly contribute to bee pollination every year. Beekeeping businesses near the crop fields contribute to the successful yield of the crop as well as quality bee production. — NN/EM

55th Algiers International Fair invites participation of Myanmar entrepreneurs

MYANMAR entrepreneurs can participate in the 55th edition of the International Fair of Algiers (FIA) that will be held from 24 to 29 June 2024 in the vibrant Algiers city, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

It offers a multisectoral exhibition platform covering agriculture, manufacturing industry, construction, petrochemical industry, services, electrical industry, mechanical industry and steel industry,

FIA serves a pivotal role for economic stakeholders in both Africa and beyond. The event promotes the commercial exchange between Algeria and partner countries and trade cooperation potentials in line with the new investment law of Algeria.

To make further enquiries about the event, the website www.safex.dz can be visited for online registration.

— NN/EM

Targeting 350,000 tonnes of rubber exports this financial year

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Rubber Growers Association, 350,000 tonnes of rubber are expected to be exported to foreign countries this financial year.

Nearly 200,000 tonnes of rubber were exported in the 2023-2024 financial year.

A total of 200,000 tons of rubber is produced in the country each year, more than 90 per cent of which is exported, and the remaining eight per cent is used

domestically.

Myanmar's rubber is mostly exported to countries like China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Viet Nam, Japan and India. Among the southern regions of Myanmar, Mon State and Kayin State are the regions that grow the most rubber.

The rest of the regions, namely Yangon, Bago, and Taninthayi, also grow rubber. — TWA/KZL



The private rubber manufacturing industry is seen in Mon State.

CBM sells US\$5M for exporters, importers on online trading platforms

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$5 million for exporters and importers through online trading platforms on 9 May, again after sales of 2.5 million yuan on 7 May and five million yuan and 30 million Thai baht on 2 May.

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

According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been joining hands with law



The front view of the office of Central Bank of Myanmar in Yangon.

enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws.

The reference exchange rate set by Central Bank of Myanmar is K2,100 against a US dollar.

CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to op-

erate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023.

Additionally, the outward remittance procedures must adhere to the rules and regulations stipulated by the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee. — NN/EM

ECONOMY

WORLD/ARTICLE

China's foreign trade growth accelerates amid improving demand



An aerial drone photo taken on 2 February 2024 shows an international container terminal of Tianjin Port in north China's Tianjin. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINA'S total goods imports and exports expanded 5.7 per cent year on year in yuan terms in the first four months of this year, stronger than the five per cent recorded in the first quarter, official data showed Thursday.

The country's exports rose 4.9 per cent year on year in the January-April period, while imports climbed 6.8 per cent, according to the General Administration of Customs (GAC).

From January to April, the country's foreign trade in goods stood at 13.81 trillion yuan (1.95 trillion US dollars). Exports reached 7.81 trillion yuan, while imports hit 6 trillion yuan.

In April alone, the foreign

trade soared eight per cent to 3.64 trillion yuan, after contracting in the previous month, signalling improvements in demand at home and overseas.

The growth rate of imports and exports in the first four months has accelerated compared to the first quarter, and the scale has reached a new high in the same period in history, said Lyu Daliang, director of the GAC's Department of Statistics and Analysis.

In April, China's trade with emerging markets continued to improve, while its trade with traditional markets such as Europe and America shifted from decline to increase, he said. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Malaysia's wholesale and retail trade reach all time high in March

MALAYSIA'S wholesale and retail trade reached an all-time high of 145.7 billion ringgit (30.72 billion US dollars) in March, grew 5.2 per cent year on year, official data showed Thursday.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) said in a statement that the increase was mainly driven by retail trade sub-sector, which rose 7.1 per cent to 62.8 billion ringgit.

Meanwhile, wholesale trade expanded by four per cent to 64.1 billion ringgit and motor vehicles grew 3.2 per cent to 18.8 billion ringgit.

As for the first quarter, the wholesale and retail trade reached 429.2 billion ringgit. (1 ringgit equals 0.21 US dollar) — Xinhua

Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia stock exchanges deepen strategic ties

THE Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) and the Saudi Tadawul Group, the operator of the Saudi Exchange, co-hosted the Capital Markets Forum Hong Kong 2024 on Thursday in another step towards closer strategic ties after signing a cooperation document last year.

The event was attended by over 650 people from around the world, including financial leaders, investors and those representing regulators and enterprises, among which more than 200 were from Saudi Arabia.

China's Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia boast great potential for cooperation, because Hong Kong is an international financial centre and Saudi Arabia has set goals on developing its financial market, said Michael Wong, deputy financial secretary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government, while addressing the forum.

A business meet-and-greet event was held on the sidelines of the forum on Thursday and will continue on Friday, with the participation of about 200 investors and over 40 firms. — Xinhua

Bank of England holds rate at 16-year high, signals looming cut

THE Bank of England on Thursday kept its main interest rate at a 16-year high, but hinted at a cut over the summer as UK inflation cools further and the country looks set to exit recession.

"We need to see more evidence that inflation will stay low before we can cut interest rates," BoE governor Andrew Bailey said after the central bank left borrowing costs at 5.25 per cent, the highest level since 2008.

Signalling that a rate cut was on the horizon, two members of the bank's nine-strong Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted at the May meeting for interest rates to be cut by 0.25 percentage points.

The BoE maintained borrowing costs for a sixth meeting in a row, mirroring a wait-and-see approach by the US Federal Reserve and European Central Bank (ECB).

Thursday's decision came on the eve of official

data expected to show that the UK economy has exited a mild recession ahead of a general election due this year. The BoE on Thursday voiced confidence that the UK economy had grown in the first quarter, which would signal the end of a short-lived recession.

"The bank is still on track for summer easing," Yael Selfin, chief economist at KPMG UK, said following the rate decision. — AFP

Seeing Bona Fide Happiness

FROM PAGE-9

A Pope, a priest and laureate, once wrote, "Happy the man, whose wish and care, A few paternal acres bound," in his poem 'The Quiet Life'. The connotation means that a happy man content himself only with what he has got. Some people innately lust for a good voice, intelligence, beauty, fame or something like that, not their inborn features or the things which they would surely have achieved in any way in the future. Even worse, some totally envy others' success and growth at which they should prohibitively arrive. Consequently, jealous people may potentially ruin successful ones' reputations one way or the other. After all, the

less greed, the happier.

Finally, bona fide happiness is just anything that happened in the past and will not take place in future, as Buddha Myatswa said. This sermon will make an infinite life cycle come to an end, namely, the Road to Nibbana. However, we humans will be born, live and die through colourful life cycles as long as we are not on the path to Lokkotara, i.e. Vivasana, which can take us to the route to Nibbana's lack of death. Before this, we ordinary people should obey those mentioned five fundamental principles of seeing Lawki's happiness in the letter. This life is absolutely worth living for us if we have actual happiness.

Nissan FY 2023 net profit doubles on post-pandemic growth, weak yen



People look at a car on display at a showroom of Japanese automaker Nissan Motor in Yokohama on 9 May 2024. PHOTO: AFP

NISSAN Motor Co said Thursday its net profit for the year ended March almost doubled from a year earlier to 426.65 billion yen (\$2.7 billion), as vehicle sales grew following the coronavirus pandemic and a weaker yen boosted its overseas profit.

Its sales for fiscal 2023 jumped 19.7 per cent to a record 12.69 trillion yen while operating profit rose 50.8 per cent to 568.72 billion yen, the Japanese automaker said.

Nissan's global vehicle sales for the reporting year grew 4.1 per cent to

3.44 million units, lifted by upbeat results in North America and Europe.

"We have been steadily improving our financial strength even in the face of a severe business environment where the market is being fragmented and competition is intensifying," CEO Makoto Uchida said at a press conference.

Sales in North America rose 23.3 per cent to 1.26 million cars while those in Europe expanded 17.2 per cent to 361,000 vehicles. In Japan, Nissan saw a 6.5 per cent increase

to 484,000 units.

But the automaker continued to struggle in China due to intensifying competition, logging a 24.1 per cent drop to 794,000 vehicles.

Overall production at the company grew 1.5 per cent to 3.43 million units, it said.

The weakness of the Japanese currency lifted its operating profit by 12.9 billion yen. Nissan assumed an average US dollar rate of 145 yen for the reporting year, compared with 136 yen the previous year. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Air India Express lays off employees over mass sick leave

AIR India Express has sacked at least 30 employees, mostly cabin crew, over mass sick leave amid flight cancellations, officials said Thursday.

The terminations came a day after nearly 300 employees of the private airline called in sick and switched off their phones, leading to large-scale flight disruptions.

The termination letter issued to the employees says that the mass leave "clearly points to a pre-meditated and concerted abstention from work without any justifiable reason".

The airline management has also given an ultimatum to the employees to join work by Thursday evening or face action.

Since Tuesday night over 100 flights, both international and domestic, were cancelled by the airline. Reports said 74 flights were cancelled Thursday.

The cancellations have snowballed into a crisis for the budget airline, which is a subsidiary of Air India, owned by the Tata group. —Xinhua

Türkiye raises year-end inflation forecast amid soaring prices

TÜRKIYE'S Central Bank has raised its end-of-year inflation forecast for 2024 to 38 per cent, a two-percentage-point increase from previous estimates, as revealed in its latest quarterly report.

The bank's outlook for the subsequent years remains unchanged, with inflation expected to decrease to 14 per cent in 2025 and nine per cent in 2026, aiming for a medium-term stabilization target of five per cent.

Central Bank Governor Fatih Karahan acknowledged the higher-than-expected inflation rates, anticipating a 75 to 76 per cent peak in May.

"Our commitment to a tight monetary policy will persist until we achieve our inflation targets," Karahan affirmed during the report's announcement.

Türkiye's annual consumer price inflation neared 70 per cent last month, marking the highest level since 2022, driven by a 3.2 per cent monthly increase due to rising service and food prices. —Xinhua

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Shandong Zhongxin Kenong Biological Technology Co.,Ltd** have registered the following product in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "**Friends Helper Co.,Ltd**", to new distributor name "**Agro Hero Crop Science Co.,Ltd**". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. **Agro Hero Crop Science Co.,Ltd**. Ph-09-784772103.

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB417A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-5-2024** 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.

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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

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ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

Xi says ready to jointly promote China-Hungary ties to higher levels

CHINESE President Xi Jinping expressed on Thursday his readiness to work with Hungarian President Tamas Sulyok to carry forward the traditional friendship, deepen political mutual trust, strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation, and steer the China-Hungary relationship to higher levels.

Xi made the remarks when holding talks with Sulyok at the Sandor Palace in Budapest.

Noting that Hungary is one of the first countries to recognize New China, Xi said since the establishment of their diplomatic ties, China and Hungary have always respected each other, treated each other as equals, and pursued mutual benefit.

The bilateral relationship has stood the test of the changing international landscape and continued to grow in depth from a friendship across the continent, to a friendly and cooperative partnership and then to a comprehensive strategic partnership, Xi said.



Chinese President Xi Jinping arrives in Budapest for a state visit to Hungary at the invitation of Hungarian President Tamas Sulyok and Prime Minister Viktor Orban, 8 May 2024. Xi was warmly welcomed by Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban and his wife at Budapest Airport upon arrival. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

The China-Hungary relationship is now at its best in

history, he said, adding that the traditional friendship has taken

deep roots in the hearts of the people, and cooperation in var-

ious fields has yielded fruitful outcomes.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations, Xi said.

Noting that China-Hungary relations have maintained steady development over the past 75 years, Xi said the two sides should sum up valuable experience and chart the course forward. First, Xi said, both sides should treat each other as equals, follow a development path suited to their respective national conditions, and firmly hold their destiny in their own hands.

China-Hungary friendship from generation to generation does not target any third party, nor should it be dictated by any third party, he added.

Second, the two countries should uphold mutual trust and mutual assistance, always understand each other, and firmly support each other in safeguarding their respective sovereignty, security, and development interests, Xi said. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brazil flooding death toll surpasses 100

THE death toll from devastating floods that have ravaged southern Brazil for days surpassed 100 on Wednesday, authorities said, as the search for dozens of missing people was interrupted by fresh storms.

Some 400 municipalities have been affected by the worst natural calamity ever to hit the state of Rio Grande do Sul, with hundreds of people injured and more than 160,000 forced from their homes.

Many have no access to drinking water or electricity – or even the means to call for help, with telephone and internet services down in many places. — AFP

1 killed in eastern Thailand chemical storage tank fire

A blaze at a chemical storage tank terminal in eastern Thailand killed one person and injured three others, prompting evacuation orders for nearby communities, the industry ministry said on Thursday. The fire broke out at about 10:45 am local time in Rayong province. According to the ministry's statement, all activities at the facility have been suspended while an investigation and damage assessment are underway.

Firefighters are battling to contain the blaze, the ministry said. — Xinhua

Yoon says S Korea, Japan ready to progress despite historical issues

SOUTH Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said Thursday at a press conference to mark the second anniversary of his presidency that his country and Japan are ready to move forward based on mutual trust built over the years, while noting historical issues may act as a hindrance. "There are discrepancies between the stances of the peoples of South Korea and Japan over historical and other issues. But, regarding South Korea-Japan ties, we should think about what to do for our future generations," Yoon said.

He added that the two countries must cooperate in dealing with North Korea's nuclear weapons development and securing leadership in the global community.

Yoon's People Power Party suffered a crushing defeat in a general election on 10 April, with the main opposition Democratic

Party and its affiliate retaining a parliamentary majority.

Bilateral ties, which have improved since Yoon took office on 10 May 2022, hit their lowest point after South Korea's Supreme Court in 2018 ordered two Japanese companies to compensate South Korean plaintiffs over wartime forced labour. In March 2023,

Yoon's administration decided to compensate the plaintiffs in a series of cases involving forced labour during Japan's colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula between 1910 and 1945 with money from a South Korean government-backed fund, rather than seeking restitution directly from the Japanese companies that were sued. — Kyodo



South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol holds a press conference at his office in Seoul on 9 May 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

SPORTS

Nadal squeezes past qualifier Bergs in Rome opener

RAFAEL Nadal battled into the second round of the Rome Open on Thursday after bouncing back from a set down to beat qualifier Zizou Bergs 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Clay court icon Nadal will face world number nine Hubert Hurkacz next as he continued his comeback from injury with a punishing match against his Belgian opponent which lasted nearly three hours.

Also on Nadal's side of the draw are last year's winner, world number four Daniil Medvedev, and the beaten finalist Holger Rune.

"I'm happy to win a match which was important to me but I didn't play very well," admitted Nadal to Sky Sport.

"I played very badly for about half an hour but then I got a bit better. But I'll have to improve a lot if I'm going to win the next match and I expect to do so".

Spaniard Nadal has in recent times been a shadow of the player who has won 22 Grand Slams in a storied career which has also brought a record 10 titles in Rome, his most recent in 2021.

The 37-year-old has struggled with injury, dropping down to 305 in the world rankings after missing almost all of last year. He returned in April from another three-month lay-off with a second-round exit in Barcelona before reaching the last 16 in Madrid last week. — AFP



Spain's Rafael Nadal celebrates after winning his match against Belgium's Zizou Bergs at the Men's ATP Rome Open tennis tournament at Foro Italico in Rome on 9 May 2024. PHOTO: AFP

Shan United face Brunei Club in ASEAN Club Championship Play-off



The Shan United logo is seen during the ASEAN Club Championship Qualifiers drawing-lots event held in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, on 9 May 2024.

ASEAN Club Championship Qualifiers and final round drawing-lots event held in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, on 9 May. Myanmar football club Shan United FC meets Brunei Football Club (Kasuka) in the qualifying play-off stage.

In the qualifying play-off stage, one club from Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and Brunei will be allowed to compete. The tourney will run from 17 to 24

July with two rounds at home and away system.

According to the drawing-lots ceremony, Myanmar's Shan United will take on Kasuka of Brunei, while Cambodian club Svay Rieng FC will play against Young Elephant FC of Laos. The winners will qualify for the next stage. If Shan United qualifies for the next stage, they will book into Group A.

The final round matches will

be held from August 2024 to May 2025.

Shan United team won the championship title in the 2023 Myanmar National League championship, so they have the opportunity to compete in this competition. In addition to the ASEAN club competition, they will also compete in the club competition organized by the Asian Football Confederation. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Olympic flame arrives on French soil for Paris Games

THE Olympic flame arrived in France at Marseille on Wednesday on board a 19th century ship in front of 150,000 spectators for a ceremony that posed a first major security test for organizers of the 2024 Paris Games.

The flame was brought to the southern French port from Greece on the three-masted Belem, 79 days before the Olympics begin.

As the ship entered Marseille's Old Port with hundreds of small boats trailing behind, planes from the Patrouille de France display team traced the Olympic rings in the sky before they returned to paint the red, white and blue of the French flag.

Fireworks tore into the sky as the Belem docked after its 12-day voyage from Greece, where the flame was lit in ancient Olympia on 16 April.

Olympic gold medal-winning swimmer Florent Manaudou carried the torch from the deck of the ship.

Manaudou passed it to Paralympic champion sprinter Nantenin Keita, who handed the torch to French rapper Jul to light a cauldron.

The arrival of the flame marks the start of a 12,000-kilometre (7,500-mile) torch relay across France and its far-flung overseas territories.

Organizers are hoping the first public spectacle of the Games on French soil will help build excitement after a row about the price of Olympics tickets and concerns about security.

President Emmanuel Macron praised the "unprecedented effort" of the security forces in Marseille and said after watching the flame arrive that he hoped



This photograph shows the Olympic flame on the French 19th-century three-masted barque Belem as the boat sails near the coast of Marseille, in the Mediterranean Sea, on 8 May 2024, before landing with the Olympic torch, ahead of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. PHOTO: AFP

the Olympics would bring France together.

"I want our compatriots to imagine that this is a moment of unity and that we are capable of it and that we can be proud of it,"

Macron said.

The chief organizer of the Paris Olympics and Paralympics, Tony Estanguet, said this week "the Games are coming home".

France, which last hosted

the Olympics a century ago, sees itself at the heart of the modern Olympic movement after a French aristocrat, Pierre de Coubertin, revived the idea of the Games as practised by the Greeks until the 4th century BC.

After the Covid-hit edition in Tokyo in 2021 and the corruption-tainted Rio de Janeiro Games in 2016, the Paris Olympics are seen as an important moment for the sporting extravaganza.

High security

In the background in Marseille, around 6,000 security forces are on duty at a time when the country is on its highest terror alert. The torch relay will begin for real in Marseille on Thursday when Ivory Coast football great Didier Drogba, a former player for Marseille, will be one of the bearers. — AFP



Boeing plane leaves runway in Senegal injuring 11

A Boeing passenger plane came off the runway during takeoff in Senegal early Thursday, injuring 11 people and shutting the international airport near the capital Dakar for almost 12 hours, management said. The B737/300 aircraft, an Air Senegal flight chartered by privately-owned Transair, was carrying 78 passengers and headed for the Malian capital Bamako, airport managers LAS said in a statement after the early hours drama left four passengers seriously hurt.

The jet “came off the runway during its takeoff phase” around one am (0100 GMT), said LAS, made up of Turkish group Limak, the publicly-owned airport operator AIBD and another Turkish entity, Summa. Eleven people were injured, four of them seriously. Six other passengers were taken for medical check-ups inside the airport, LAS said. The group said the airport at Diass, 50 kilometres (30 miles) from Dakar, had reopened shortly after midday.

“We inform you that Blaise Diagne international airport has reopened. Airport operations have resumed as normal,” LAS stated.

The aircraft was “immobilized” away from the runway and an emergency plan triggered by airport authorities as soon as they were alerted, the group said.

“All the airport emergency services have been mobilized for the evacuation of passengers and their care, as per the plan,” LAS went on. Online images showed a large hole in the left engine and the wing covered in firefighting foam.

“The exact circumstances of the incident remain to be determined, but an investigation is already under way to establish the reasons” why the aircraft left the runway. — AFP

Israel hits Rafah despite US warning on arms transfers



A boy rides a bicycle alongside a woman and girl walking past a mound of trash by a destroyed building in the Zaytoun neighbourhood of Gaza City on 9 May 2024 amid the ongoing conflict in the Palestinian territory between Israel and the militant group Hamas. **PHOTO: AFP**

SMOKE rose from strikes on Gaza’s crowded southern city of Rafah Thursday after US President Joe Biden vowed to stop supplying artillery shells and other weapons to Israel if a full-scale offensive into the city goes ahead.

It was the starkest warning yet from the United States, Israel’s main military provider, over the civilian impact of its war against Hamas Palestinian militants.

An AFP correspondent and wit-

nesses on Thursday reported strikes on several parts of Rafah, where the United Nations said 1.4 million people were sheltering.

“The tanks and jets are striking,” Tarek Bahlul said on a deserted Rafah street. “Every minute you hear a rocket and you don’t know where it will land.”

Israel has already defied international objections by sending in tanks and conducting what it called “targeted raids” in eastern Rafah, the city it says is home to Hamas’s last remaining bat-

talions. In an interview with CNN on Wednesday, Biden warned he would stop some US weapons supplies to Israel if it carried out its long-threatened major Rafah ground offensive.

Israel on Thursday called Biden’s comments “very disappointing”.

Biden told CNN: “If they go into Rafah, I’m not supplying the weapons that have been used... to deal with the cities.” “We’re not gonna supply the weapons and the artillery shells that have been used.” — AFP



Putin: Revanchism, mockery of history, justification of Nazism are part of Western policy

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Thursday congratulated Russians on the occasion of the 9 May Victory Day.

“Dear veterans, soldiers, ... heroes of the special military operation, I congratulate you on Victory Day,” Putin said at the Victory Day parade in Red Square. The president also called all participants of Russia’s special military operation “heroes” and announced a minute of silence at the end of his speech.

According to the president, the country is going through a “difficult and milestone” period, and its

fate and future depends on “each of us”.

Russian Putin said that the descendants bow their heads before the deceased veterans of the Great Patriotic War, their combat comrades, who fell in battle against Nazism and neo-Nazism.

“Revanchism, mockery of history, and the desire to justify the current followers of the Nazis are part of the general policy of the Western elites to foment more and more regional conflicts, inter-ethnic and inter-religious hostility to contain sovereign, independent centres of world development,” he noted. — SPUTNIK

Russian President Vladimir Putin delivers a speech during a military parade on Victory Day, which marks the 79th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany in World War Two, in Moscow, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**