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Admission fee to support maintenance of Maravijaya Buddha Image

Monks, nuns and students under school arrangements to enjoy admission free, service personnel a 50-per-cent discount fee

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the leading donor for the Maravijaya Buddha Image, stressed the need to keep necessary materials as reserve in maintenance for the image if necessary, at the meeting related to the Buddha image at the image board of trustees' office in Maravijaya

Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township yesterday afternoon. The Senior General highlighted that as no more architectural masterpieces from Maravijaya Buddha Image can be found anywhere, maintenance tasks must be undertaken for the image in detail.

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Ginger export leads price to rebound



Adventurous travellers grapple to conquer snow-capped Kachin State peaks amidst a landscape of towering summits. PHOTO: AFP

Mounting Interest: Homegrown tourists eager to conquer Kachin State's frosty peaks

KACHIN State is gearing up for an influx of eager climbers, with a multitude of enquiries pouring in from domestic adventurers who are poised to take on the icy summits. A local tour guide, Ko San Naing Elia, has already solidified 40 bookings for the impending high season between September and December. Furthermore, international enthusiasts are also waiting in the wings, ready to tread the frost-laden trails, pending government authorization.

"I have already received and confirmed bookings from homegrown tour-

ists for the high season of September and December. I also received inquiries from overseas tourists who are waiting for permission to visit the snow-capped mountains of Kachin State. If the government allows the tourists to visit there, I hope, many tourists will come to climb the mountains," expressed Ko San Naing Elia in an exclusive statement to the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM). Among the numerous peaks dotting the Kachin State landscape, Mount Phonkanrazi stands as a beacon for climbers seeking

thrilling ascents, while those with a penchant for adventurous undertakings opt for the challenge presented by Mount Khakaborazi.

However, ascending these frozen heights requires meticulous preparation and a keen focus on personal well-being. Travellers aspiring to conquer these frosty mountains must attend to their health requirements and diligently adhere to the guidance offered by local tour guides, ensuring a secure and enjoyable expedition. — TC/TH

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NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Order No 76/2023

3rd Waxing of Wagaung 1385 ME
19 August 2023

Appointment of Judge of Supreme
Court of the Union

THE State Administration Council has appointed Daw Pyone Pyone Aye as Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

MRTV delegation back from 4th Mekong-Lancang TV Week

DIRECTOR-GENERAL U Ye Naing of Myanmar Radio and Television partook in the 4th Lancang-Mekong Audiovisual Week Roundtable Conference in Kunming, China, from 16 to 19 August. The Myanmar delegation returned to Yangon via air yesterday.

The event delved into multiple themes, encompassing bolstering the national TV sector, elevating programme quality, and expanding into South Asian and Southeast Asian markets. Participants also explored potential collaborations and media sector growth. Co-production, broadcast, translation,

copyright concerns, and more were discussed.

U Ye Naing highlighted the Mekong region's cultural affinities, showcased Myanmar's attractions, and detailed media sector advancements. Conversations included inviting international media for filming, addressing requisite support, conditions, and file sharing.

Following the meeting, media representatives from Mekong region countries will collaborate on the Mekong LOOK App. Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar have expressed interest in cooperation with China. — MNA/KZW

Fourth Day of 7th China-South Asia Expo, 27th China Kunming Import-Export Expo continues



The exhibition booth of Myanmar at the 7th China-South Asia Expo and the 27th China Kunming Export-Import Expo is seen at Dianchi International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Kunming, China yesterday.

THE fourth day of the 7th China-South Asia Expo and the 27th China Kunming Export-Import Expo continued yesterday morning at Dianchi International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Kunming, China.

Director of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization Dr Thet Lwin Oo introduced the history of Myanmar, the beautiful natural sceneries and products with cultural dances performed at the exhibition booth of Myanmar attracted crowds.

Not only the officials from the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization answered the questions raised by Chi-

nese entrepreneurs but also Myanmar businesspersons and Chinese businesspeople discussed the conditions for the export and import of goods between the two countries.

In addition, Myanmar entrepreneurs who are participating in the trade fair visited the China-South Asia Southeast Asia Cross-Border E-Commerce Industry Centre in Kunming, China.

The centre is a place of the TikTok Live Broadcasting Room which is selling goods from South Asia and Southeast Asian countries and Myanmar entrepreneurs participated in the show with their product samples. — MNA/MKKS

MMPO to provide rice, oil for 13th time to film industry members

U Aye Kyu Lay, vice-chair of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization-MMPO, said the association will be distributing rice and oil for the 13th time to members of the film and video industry facing difficulties.

The distribution will encompass various layers of the MMPO, including management and distribution, video protagonists and film directors, script and editing, theatrical background music and production. It is also mentioned that the distribution will reach all members of the industry, including actors and actresses.

U Aye Kyu Lay mentioned, "As an

association, since the beginning of the Covid-19 period, we have been providing assistance and support to our members who are facing difficulties, thanks to generous donors and the government for the twelfth time. We are preparing to distribute aid for the thirteenth time on 28 August."

Myanmar Motion Picture Organization provided rice, oil, and food products to its members for the 12th time from 3 to 6 April, and the members of the organization came to collect such support and also brought their membership cards. — ASH/KZW



An official from the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization provides rice and edible oil to members of the MMPO for the 12th time.



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds discussions with officials at the meeting related to the Buddha image at the office of the image board of trustees in Maravijaya Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Admission fee to support maintenance of Maravijaya Buddha Image

Monks, nuns and students under school arrangements to enjoy admission free, service personnel a 50-per-cent discount fee

FROM PAGE-1

He underscored that it is necessary to consider the maintenance of the Maravijaya Buddha Image with the appointment of staff for carrying out maintenance, security measures and supply of electricity. The Buddha Image board of trustees must be formed under the prescribed rules and regulations, he added.

As part of environmental conservation, the Senior

of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), and Brig-Gen Zaw Naing Oo reported on management for maintenance and renovation of the image, e-ticket for visiting the image, free visit for monks, nuns and students under school arrangements, 50 per cent discount for service personnel, formation of relevant bodies, the image board of trustees, screening a recorded video by drone, preparations for building religious edifices,

... as no more architectural masterpieces from Maravijaya Buddha Image can be found anywhere, maintenance tasks must be undertaken for the image in detail.

General urged all to carry out greening tasks around the Buddha image and thriving Maha Bodhi banyan tree and other plants.

Adviser to the SAC Chairman Lt-Gen Nyo Saw, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swa Lin from the Office

placing tiles, growing of flowery plants, shade trees and windbreaks, and sanitation tasks.

Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant, the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Lt-Gen Kan Myint Than from the Office of the Com-



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets pilgrims at Maravijaya Buddha Image's platform on 19 August 2023.

mander-in-Chief (Army), Deputy Minister U Aye Tun and Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lin also presented reports on completion of security gates, upgrade of Myat Mingala road, compilation of the technological record book and design book, formation of Ovadacariya Sayadaws for the image and security measures.

In his response, the Senior General gave guidance to

emphasize the convenience of staff in transport and control consumption of electricity due to the installation of solar power bulbs. The Senior General disclosed that admission fee will be collected from visitors to the Buddha image after 3 September for raising the fund to be spent on the existence and beautification of the image.

The Senior General viewed round the platform of the im-

age, Gandakuti chambers, the water fountain square, and the Agga Dhipati Sasana Beikman.

The consecration of the Maravijaya Buddha Image, hoisting umbrellas atop stone plaque chamber pagodas and sharing merits gained took place on 1 August. Members of the Sangha and people have been allowed to visit the Buddha image from 8 August. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL



Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw arrives back at Yangon International Airport on 19 August 2023.

Myanmar delegation led by MIFER UM arrives back in Yangon

DR Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, led a Myanmar delegation that participated in the 7th China-South Asia Exhibition in Kunming, China, from 15 to 18 August. The Governor of Yunnan Province invited the delegation, which also attended the 27th China (Kunming) Export/Import Expo opening cer-

emony and the Greater Mekong Sub-region Economic Corridor Forum. The delegation returned to Yangon yesterday evening.

Accompanying the Union minister were regional government ministers, the UMFCFI president, vice-president, and joint secretary, all part of the returning Myanmar delegation. — MNA/KZW

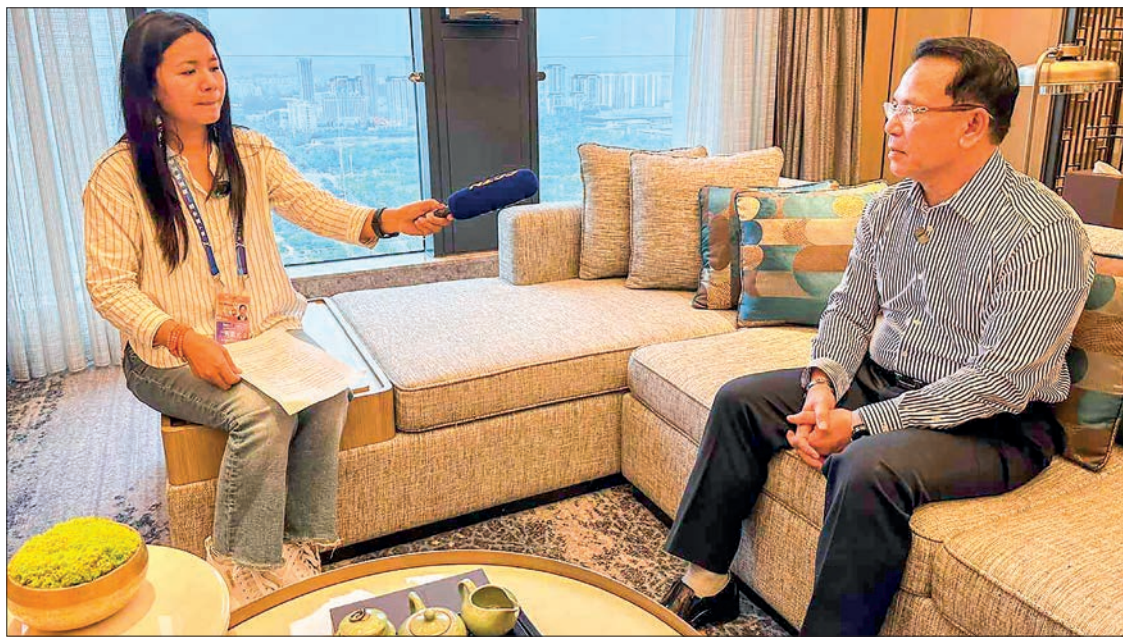
UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn visited the Yunnan Television YNTV in Kunming of Yunnan Province yesterday afternoon.

The Yunnan Television YNTV was established on 1 October 1969, using 10 TV channels to broadcast TV series contributing to increasing arrivals of international tourists to Yunnan Province as well as the whole of China.

After visiting the studios of the Yunnan TV Museum, the Union minister discussed past and present cooperation between MRTV and Yunnan Television YNTV and prospects of more effective measures for the media sector including the TV sector.

As Myanmar is a member of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation, MRTV and YNTV have agreed to participate in Lancang-Mekong Look App being initiated by YNTV including screening TV series with Myanmar subtitles and cooperation in telecasting the beautiful Myanmar on Yunnan

Union Information Minister visits YNTV, replies to queries of CGTN, Paukphaw Magazine in interviews



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn gives an interview with China Global Television Net (CGTN) on 18 August 2023.

Television YNTV.

The Union minister gave interviews with China Global Television Net (CGTN) on

the evening of 18 August and Paukphaw Magazine yesterday morning and replied to queries.

The Union minister expressed his pleasure of implementing the Mekong-Lancang App which is being run

on test in Chinese, Cambodian and Thai languages. It aims to emerge an application for all Mekong-Lancang members by 2025.

The Union minister also visited Kunming Medical University. It was constituted as a Kunming medical university in 2012. It was gradually upgraded from Independent Medical Education Institutions established in 1956. The institution cooperates with more than 90 other medical universities in academic measures and 29 countries in medical research. The graduates at different levels from the university effectively carry out healthcare services for the people from basic strata in far-flung areas of China and comprehensively contribute to economic and social development, peace and stability of the regions, and enhancement of friendly relations among the local people. Currently, the university focuses on lecturing medical subjects to students. — MNA/TTA

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

NATIONAL

MoH Minister tours China-aided Myanmar CDC construction

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, accompanied by Deputy Minister Dr Aye Tun and officials, inspected the ongoing construction of the China-assisted Myanmar Centre for Disease Control and Training Centre for Medical Staff (Myanmar CDC) in Nay Pyi Taw's Dekkhinathiri Township.

During the visit, officials from the Department of Public Health and CCCC Third Harbouring Co Ltd, responsible for the project's construction, provided updates on the progress, upcoming stages, and requirements of the project. Director-General of the Department of Public Health Dr Myint Myint Than, shared insights about the installation and utilization of necessary laboratory equipment

and the upcoming training of health workers in China.

The Union minister offered instructions, discussed needs, and inspected the construction sites. A fruit basket was presented to officials from CCCC Third Harbouring Co Ltd to mark the occasion. The Myanmar CDC, valued at approximately 400 million yuan, stands as an international disease control hub. It includes a three-storey disease control building with advanced laboratories and systems, as well as a health training building and an administrative building.

The centre can train around 400 individuals, a batch and the health workers assigned to Myanmar CDC will also undergo training in China. — MNA/MKKS



Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win visits the ongoing construction of the China-assisted Myanmar Centre for Disease Control and Training Centre for Medical Staff (Myanmar CDC) in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 August 2023.

Forex trading in official markets aims to stabilize commodity prices



The meeting related to payment for foreign currency trade in progress at the Central Bank of Myanmar yesterday.

IN a proactive move to curb soaring commodity prices, Myanmar is actively engaging in foreign currency trading within legal markets. This initiative is accompanied by a strategic implementation of interest rate and monetary policies, aligned with the nation's macroeconomic landscape, as highlighted by Central Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe.

CBM Governor Daw Than Than Swe articulated these measures during a recent meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw's Office No 55 yesterday. The gathering served as a platform to elucidate and deliberate on issues pertaining to

foreign trade payments.

Intending to streamline financial transactions and cater to the market's foreign currency demand, the Central Bank of Myanmar has taken several steps to ensure exchange rate stability. These measures encompass the sale of US dollars to entities involved in the motor oil, edible oil, and import sectors through private banks. Furthermore, the institution is harnessing the Back-to-Back SWAP Facility to meet the escalating demand for US dollars.

In a bid to enhance accessibility for importers seeking foreign currency, the CBM Governor underscored the

introduction of an online trading system on 22 June 2023. She also emphasized the establishment of transparent criteria for fair online trade, reassuring that transactions meeting these criteria will be facilitated.

Addressing concerns surrounding foreign exchange rates, she stressed the need for vigilance against the influence of online and social media narratives that might drive unwarranted price hikes and illegal activities, which are not grounded in market fundamentals and data.

Subsequently, the delegates at the meeting placed significant emphasis on active participation in online trading, devising comprehensive strategies to stabilize commodity prices, and addressing situations where goods prices surge due to illicit trading practices.

The discussions also revolved around topics such as facilitating access to export earnings under stipulated conditions, bolstering trade financing, curbing smuggling, and eradicating illegal trade, all aimed at achieving price stability in the commodities market. — MNA/KZL

Illegal foodstuffs, consumer goods, industrial materials and vehicles confiscated

A combined team under the management of Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force nabbed 30 cartons of various snacks and 10 cartons of Pesticides that were piled up with ownerless worth K1.4 million at Milepost 17/1 on Mandalay-PyinOoLwin road on 16 August. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Similarly, the on-duty teams conducted inspections on 16 and 17 August and impounded 10 kinds of goods worth K7.43 million including 11 tanks of Adhesive Glue and 2,600 LED bulbs that were smuggled and piled up by the side of road over the Sinphyu checkpoint in Muse township and a Renault Master minibus, a JMC minibus and a Fotton minibus (approximately K66 million), headed to Lashio from Chinshwehaw, carrying 17 kinds of goods worth K40.98 million including 3,500 sets of Phone LCD display and 286 kilogrammes of Plastic pipe cap without official documents near a tollgate on the detour of Lashio township.

The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The on-duty teams captured two kinds of goods worth K12.215 million including 4,262.5 liters of cooking oil- Soybean oil without official documents in a warehouse in Chitkyiyay Street in No 5 Ward in Myawady and a Toyota HiAce (estimated value of K19 million) carrying two kinds goods worth K6.384 million including 1,800 litres of cooking oil without official documents near Yepu village traffic light in No 5 Ward in Myawady on 16 August and an Isuzu Elf vehicle (estimated value of K25 million), headed to Thaton from Hpa-an, carrying 900 litres of Ruby Prawn palm oil and 720 bottles of SPY wine cooler black worth K7.37 million without official documents at the Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an) combined checkpoint on 17 August. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A total of 16 arrests were made on 16 and 17 August, with an estimated value of K185,779,000, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

LOCAL BUSINESS

Singapore leads Myanmar's FDI rankings over last 4 months

Singapore also emerged as the second-largest foreign investor in Thilawa Special Economic Zone, after a top investor, Japan

SINGAPORE ranked first in the foreign direct investment line-up in the past four months (April-July) of the current financial year 2023-2024, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration's statistics showed.

Four Singapore-listed enterprises pumped in FDI of over US\$335 million into the country in the past four months.

Singapore companies mainly put investments into urban development, real estate, power and manufacturing sectors.

China stood as the second largest investor this FY with an estimated capital of over \$124 million by 10 enterprises and the existing ones. China is ranked third in the line-up with more than \$105



The office sign of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

million from 36 businesses and the existing ones.

One enterprise each from India, Republic of Korea, Samoa and the USA also made investments this year. The existing

enterprises from China (Taipei), China, Hong Kong SAR, Singapore and the UK also increased foreign investments, the statistics released by the DICA indicated.

Myanmar attracted foreign

direct investments of \$467.793 million in the past four months, including the expansion of capital by the existing enterprises and the power sector drew the highest FDI. The Myanmar Investment Commission gave the green light to 18 foreign projects from six countries in the past four months, as per the DICA.

The agriculture sector drew \$1 million from one enterprise. Two enterprises put \$317.178 million in the power sector. The manufacturing sector received \$48.745 million of FDI, while the transport and communications sector attracted \$77.82 million. Over \$23 million of FDI was pumped into the livestock and fisheries sector as well. Singapore stood as

the largest foreign investor in Myanmar in the previous years, pulling in the FDI of \$1.158 billion in the 2022-2023 FY, \$297 million in the 2021-2022 mini-budget period (Oct-Mar), \$1.85 billion in the FY 2019-2020, \$2.4 billion in the FY 2018-2019, \$724.4 million in the mini-budget period (April-September, 2018), \$2.16 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, \$3.8 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, \$4.25 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, \$4.29 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$2.3 billion in the 2013-2014 FY and \$418 million in the 2012-2013 FY respectively.

Additionally, Singapore emerged as the second largest foreign investor in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, after a top investor, Japan. — KK

Surge in domestic sugar prices sends market soaring



(File) Photo shows the workplace of sugar mill.

THE price of sugar continued to soar in the domestic market amid the low stocks, lack of sugar import, and inflation sparked by the issuance of the new K20,000 notes by the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM), according to the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Commodity Centre).

The CBM notified on 23 July that the new K20,000 notes would be issued from 31 July. Before the notification, the price of sugar stood at K3,240-3,280 per viss on 23 July. It rocketed to K3,460-3,500 per viss on 19 August, showing a sharp rise of over K220 in the past four weeks.

With the sugar price on the rise, some companies have reportedly planned to subsidize K200,000 per acre in advance for those new sugarcane growers for the 2023-2024 season. In the 2023-2024 season, new machinery and equipment with better capacity will be installed at the sugar mills. Moreover, sugarcane acre expansion is also expected on account of soaring sugar prices, as per the Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane Entrepreneurs Association.

Myanmar's annual sugar production is estimated at 450,000 tonnes. Myanmar earlier sent sugar to China and Viet Nam beyond self-sufficiency. At present, it is

delivered to Viet Nam only, said U Win Htay, vice-chair of the association.

Sugar export to China via the border was conducted under the provincial-level Memorandum of Understanding. However, it came to an abrupt stop due to the COVID-19 policy in China. Therefore, the sugar industry called for a government-to-government agreement to legally export sugar to China under quota.

At present, Myanmar's sugar is shipped to Viet Nam and tax exemption is granted with the presence of the Certificate of Origin. Only three registered Myanmar companies are entitled to sugar exports to Viet Nam so far.

Sugarcane is commonly found in the upper Sagaing Region, followed by the northern Shan State. It is also found in the western and eastern Bago Region, Yangon Region and Mandalay Region.

The sugarcane is grown in December-January. It can be harvested from November to February of the following years. The sugarcane growing rotation cycle lasts four years in Myanmar. — NN/EM

Pure gold price gains in grey market despite spot gold price dip

THE price of pure gold extended its rally to approximately K4 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) in the grey market despite the spot gold price falling to K1,889 per ounce.

The local currency depreciation against the greenback in the shady dealings at K4,000 is driving the gold price up, despite the spot gold price dip. Pure gold fetched K3.97 million per tical in the domestic market accordingly. Nonetheless, YGEA set the reference rate to over K2,254,300 per tical. There is a large price difference of over K1.7 million per tical between the YGEA's reference price and the price in the unofficial market.

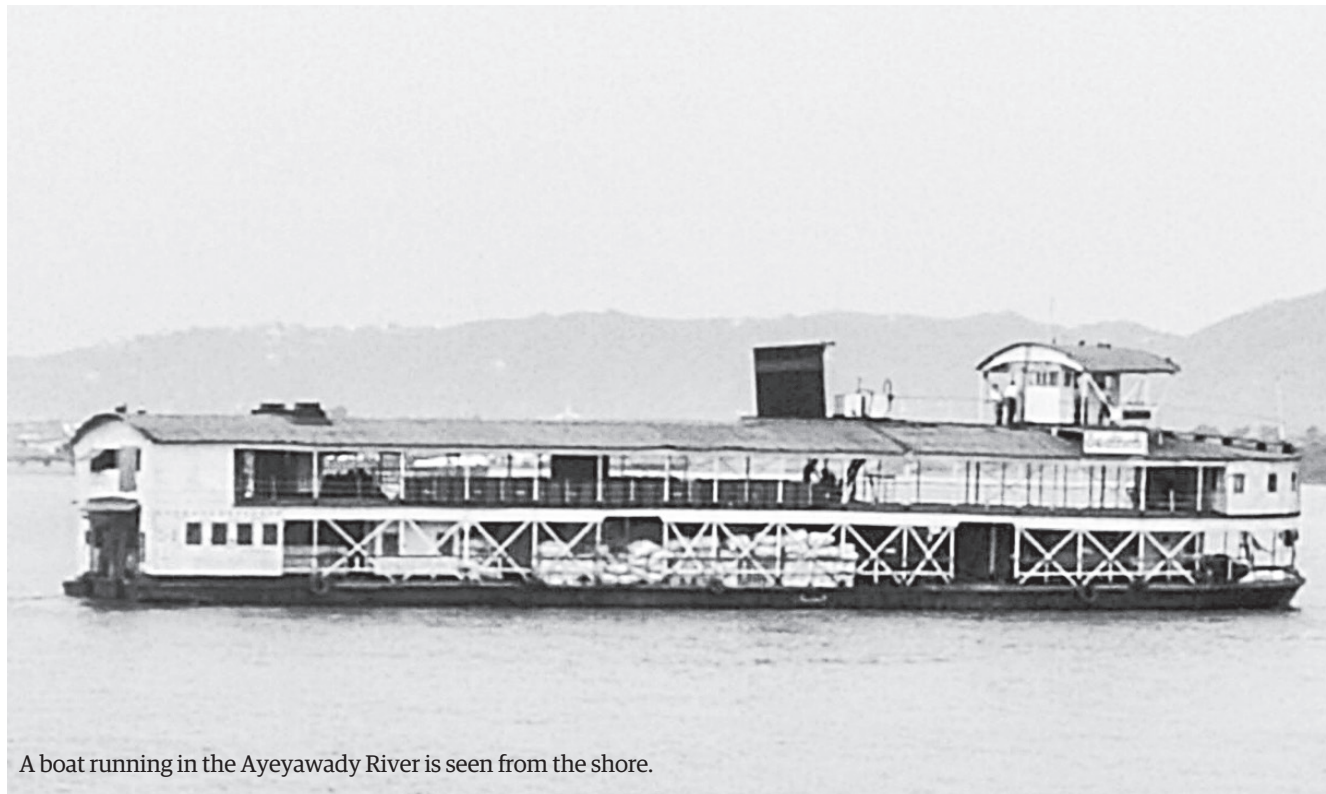
YGEA calculated the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate of K2,100, with some addition, despite the US dollar being exchanged at some K4,000 in the unofficial forex market.

The US dollar exchange rate, therefore, heavily weighs on the domestic gold market. Mandalay Gold Entrepreneurs Association (MGEA) sold over seven visses of pure gold at a special price in two weeks of June to stabilize the gold price. Myanmar's gold price is highly tied to the spot gold price and the US dollar exchange rate. The soaring dollar exchanging at over K4,500 drove the gold price up to a record high of K3.7 million per tical in late August 2022.

To lower the gold price, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been selling gold ingots under the competitive bidding system in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw.

With an aim at reducing gold prices, the YGEA and Mandalay Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association sold gold bullion supplied by the executive members and the members as well. — NN/EM

Waterway to temporarily be closed during transmission line construction in Ayeyawady River



A boat running in the Ayeyawady River is seen from the shore.

THE Development of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems issued a warning that the waterway will be temporarily closed during the construction of the 132 KV transmission line across the Ayeyawady River between Malun village in Minhla Township and Pahtanago village in Magway Township, Magway Region.

The Department of Power Transmission and System Control-DPTSC launches the changing and installation of the power transmission line across the Ayeyawady River from 18 to 24 August daily between 7 pm and 3 pm. As such, while the transmission line is being installed, the supervision and control teams will watch it by boat in the Ayeyawady River in the work sites leading the waterway to be temporarily closed.

The statement has issued a notice to the vessels which will pass through the waterway to stop and wait at a place where they are free from the work site and only run through it with the permission of the supervisory team. — TWA/MKKS

Ginger export leads price to rebound

GINGER prices went up on the back of strong foreign demand, the depots said.

The price of ginger rebounded to K5,000 per viss these days at the Bayintnaung Wholesale Commodity Centre. Normally, the price stayed below K1,000 per viss.

Ginger export to Bangladesh at the end of 2022 raised the price to K1,500-1,800 per viss depending on size and varieties.

This year, foreign demand drove the price up to K4,500-8,000 per viss in June. Then, the price dropped to

K3,000-3,500 per viss in July and K2,500 in early August.

Starting from the second week of August, the ginger price rose again to K4,500-5,000 per viss.

Ginger is mainly supplied from the Aungban area.

It is sent to the new Thirimingala market and Bayintnaung wholesale market in Yangon Region.

Myanmar exported 80 tonnes of ginger worth \$0.038 million to Bangladesh via Maungtau and Sittway borders in May 2023. — TWA/EM

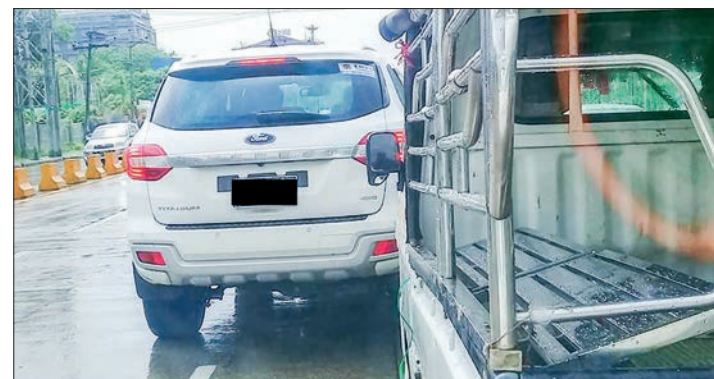


A worker is seen putting ginger into a sack at a warehouse.

Creating short films on traffic rules to educate public via news media

AT the No 22/2023 coordination meeting, U Bo Htay, the Chairman (Mayor) of the Yangon City Development Committee, announced that they will produce short films highlighting traffic rules to educate the public through the media.

Due to the ongoing rainy season, roads have become congested with vehicles. Given the frequent instances of violations, drivers are now compelled to adhere to traffic regulations. It is imperative to guarantee strict adherence to traffic rules. The process involves drivers themselves following the designated traffic lines. The creation of short films depicting traffic rules and news coverage is also underway. Through media platforms, awareness campaigns will be conducted, aimed at enabling the public to familiarize themselves with these regulations," he stated.



An undisciplined vehicle is seen on a road of Yangon.

Between January and October 2022, a total of 385 accidents occurred in the Yangon Region, resulting in the deaths of 322 men and 63 women out of 782 traffic accidents. Additionally, 816 accidents left with 564 men and 252 women injured.

Over 500 passenger buses with undisciplined drivers in the Yangon Region have faced action this week.

"It is crucial to prevent endangering passengers. Our focus is primarily on addressing behaviours such as competitive driving, driving in red lights, and driving with side doors open. Apart from imposing fines, there are also measures in place that could lead to the suspension of the driver's licence," stated joint-secretary U Lyan Cin Mang to GNLM. — TWA/KZW

COVID-19 report, 19 August 2023

NEW TESTS	4,156
NEW CASES	0
CASUALTIES	0

OPINION

Combat plastic waste for future generations in Myanmar

PLASTIC, a human innovation intended to enhance society, has inadvertently become a threat to our global community due to its uncontrolled proliferation. It is imperative to now explore effective solutions to curtail plastic usage and mitigate the adverse effects of plastic waste. Across the globe, plastic waste has permeated even our water and soil, wreaking havoc on the environment. While plastic products offer undeniable utility, their indiscriminate use has spiralled beyond control, prompting environmentalists to seek remedies.

Plastic's durability, stemming from its complex chemical structure, makes it a slow-to-degrade material, posing a challenge that is underscored by its persistence for over 400 years. Historically, plastic products, including bags, were designed for reuse rather than disposal. However, the proliferation of cheap, single-use plastic bags has fueled reckless consumption habits. The absence of consideration for the consequences of this waste exacerbates the problem.

That is why, the unforeseen menace of plastic waste calls for urgent action. Humanity's initial pursuit of progress inadvertently yielded a persistent ecological threat. The time is ripe for Myanmar, and the world at large, to unite against plastic waste in the society through conscience of the people. By embracing innovative solutions, fostering responsible consumption habits, and promoting recycling initiatives, the people of Myanmar can ensure a cleaner, greener future for generations to come.

In a promising development, scientists have proposed a solution by harnessing the capabilities of 184 fungi and 55 bacteria from China's Jiangsu Province. Recent discoveries indicate that a remarkable 436 species of fungi and bacteria possess the ability to digest plastic waste. Nevertheless, comprehensive research and testing on a larger scale are imperative before implementing these microorganisms as a solution on a global stage.

An alarming eight million tonnes of plastic products are discarded into oceans annually, with additional waste casually strewn on land. Governments worldwide grapple with the challenge of eradicating plastic waste without further environmental harm. Consequently, countries are rallying behind reuse and recycling initiatives, calling for active involvement from citizens to safeguard the environment.

Despite Myanmar's relatively conservative approach to its natural environment, global plastic consumption exceeds five million tonnes each year, with a mere quarter being recycled. Thus, Myanmar must adopt a proactive stance against potential plastic waste hazards, even though the threat to its society remains somewhat contained. The present moment presents a golden opportunity for Myanmar to take action against plastic waste.

That is why, the unforeseen menace of plastic waste calls for urgent action. Humanity's initial pursuit of progress inadvertently yielded a persistent ecological threat. The time is ripe for Myanmar, and the world at large, to unite against plastic waste in the society through conscience of the people. By embracing innovative solutions, fostering responsible consumption habits, and promoting recycling initiatives, the people of Myanmar can ensure a cleaner, greener future for generations to come.



Healthy skincare is not about quick fixes or overnight transformations. It's a consistent and mindful approach that involves taking care of your skin inside and out to achieve a natural, radiant glow and maintain long-term skin health. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY**

Beware Wallet-Munching Magicians for Radiant You!

By Serene

IN A world of flashy skincare trends and a gazillion products, it's easy to get lost and splurge on stuff our skin might not even care about. The global skincare market is ballooning like crazy, worth \$146.7 billion in 2021 and heading for the skincare stratosphere at \$273.3 billion by 2031. Time to watch out for our wallets while navigating the skincare wonderland. Oops!

Fear not, fellow skincare enthusiasts! We're here to debunk some of those

toxic trends and save you from wasting your hard-earned money on unnecessary skincare steps. Let's have a laugh while we unveil the secrets to achieving healthy, glowing skin without breaking the bank!

1. Physical Exfoliators: Too Scrubby for Comfort!

Picture this: scrubbing your face with tiny sandpaper particles. Ouch! We're not buffing our skin to shine like a diamond, right? Physical exfoliators can cause micro-tears, leaving your skin vulnerable to irritation and infections. Opt for gentler chemical

exfoliants like glycolic or lactic acid for safer, smoother skin and a more even exfoliating experience. Let's keep those skin gym sessions for the gym, shall we?

2. Exfoliating Gloves: For Rough 'n' Tough Skin?

We love exfoliating, but let's not turn it into a wrestling match! Those rough gloves can leave our skin feeling like it just fought in the ring with The Rock. Ouch! Opt for kinder alternatives like salicylic acid creams or lactic acid lotions. Our skin deserves the gentle touch of a spa, not a wrestling smackdown!

3. Ultrasonic Face Brushes: The High-Speed Spin Cycle!

We've all been guilty of overdoing it with these sonic gadgets. It's like giving your face a car wash, minus the wax. Sure, those ultrasonic brushes promise a thorough cleansing experience, but excessive use can lead to over-exfoliation. Stick to regular cleansers or upgrade to ones with glycolic or salicylic acid for occasional deep cleansing without the risk of irritation. After all, our faces aren't Teslas!

4. Charcoal Peel-off Masks: The Elusive Painful Peel!

Those viral TikTok videos make it seem like a thrill ride at a theme park, but who wants a skin rollercoaster? Those charcoal peel-off masks are like a clingy ex - they may leave, but they'll take a piece of your skin with them! Stick to chemical exfoliants or retinol for a safer and happier skin journey.

SEE PAGE-11>>



Book Title	-	Khayeethwar Ahmattayamyar
Writer	-	Sein Myo Myint
Publishing House	-	Seikku Cho Cho
Publication Date	-	June 2019 (1 st Edition)
Price	-	K2,500

Khayeethwar Ahmattayamyar

IN a paper-reading session held in March of 1979 in the Jubilee Hall (currently the Defence Services Museum), Saya Zawgyi, who chaired the paper-reading session on travelogue, delivered the opening speech. He said, "Travelogue can be likened to history, geography and science. Recording the knowledge gained during the travel can reflect on the historical events, the natural scenes and the diversified customs of the people around the world. The travelogues can be referred to in the compilation of research papers. Additionally, reading the travelogues can

widen the scope of knowledge of the readers. As they are written in an entertaining style, they can be more attractive to readers and researchers alike than heavy books on history and geography. May I go so far as to liken the travelogues to the eye-openers."

In Myanmar, the genre of travelogue is not very popular in the field of literature. The lack of books in this genre can be attributed to the lack of interest on the part of the writers. Saya Sein Myo Myint must be given a big credit to fill in this blank. He has been travelling since 16, having conducted about 400 trips. Where

ever he goes, he will take photos and note down what he sees and hears. Upon return, he will contribute travelogues to magazines and journals. And when he has accumulated enough articles, he will have books published. The book under review is a collection of 12 travelogues which were already carried in journals and magazines.

The travelogues include an article on Irrawaddy dolphins that help the fishermen in the latter's effort to catch the fish. This article is titled, "Pyu Khit Karla Hma Ahmattya Lin Pine," which means the dolphins in Pyu

Age. Another article is titled, "Ahmat Hmar Gya Thaw Hinth," which is about hibernating birds. Another article is about his trip to South Korea. During his trip, he was accompanied by U Tin Aung, who was a great goalkeeper during the golden era of Myanmar soccer. He wrote about Korean soccer. His travelogues carry colour photos of palm leaf manuscripts in the Pyu language about the Vinaya and Suttanta Pitakas, the parliament orders in the days of Myanmar monarchs, the 100-year-old teak trees in Bago Yoma, the bridges made of bamboo and cane by the Naga ethnic people, the rare species of birds across the nation, the strange beehives, the wonderful Gokteik Viaduct and the stone buildings in Bagan.

In this regard, it is worth quoting Sayagyi Theikpan Maung Wa, the great writer, as saying, "Reading the travelogues enables the readers to have knowledge about the places they have never been to. They are worth reading because the readers need not spend time, money and energy to know about the places they do not visit. So, I would say the travelogues bring great benefit



Book Title	-	Ma May Naing Zaya Sarpay Khayee
Writer	-	Maung Sein Win (Badeegon)
Publishing House	-	Seikku Cho Cho
Publication Date	-	August 2023 (2 nd Edition)
Price	-	K4,000

Ma May Naing Zaya Sarpay Khayee

BEFORE dealing with this book under review, I would like to talk about the magazines of those days. When there were no privately published newspapers and journals, we had magazines only. Among them, Shumawa, Ngwetaree, Myawady, Sandar, Moe Wai, Thway Thauk, Thaung Pyaung Htwe Lar, Cherry, Pe Phoo Hlwar, Thabyay, Gita Padetha, Yokeshin Myet Hman, Yokeshin Aung Lan, Yokeshin Amyutay and Mahaythee etc are popular. These magazines have produced famous writers, who have written books of high value. These magazines were sold for very low prices but many people

could not buy them. So, they had to hire the books from the book hirers. As they were all monthly magazines, the hirers had 30 days of hiring. The magazines carry poems, articles, short stories, cartoons and novellas in addition to local and international news.

Maung Sein Win (Badeegon) is a famous writer, who also has been contributing short stories to magazines in addition to writing novels. Maung Sein Win (Badeegon) has contributed articles on his experiences in delivering literary talks across the nation to Ngwetaree Magazine for about two years. These articles were

published in 2010 for the first time by Tun Oo Sarpay in Mandalay. And the book under review is the second impression.

All the articles are concerned with his experiences in delivering literary talks. The readers are believed to gain knowledge. This book does not belong to the genre of travelogue despite including the travelling experiences.

In his first article, the readers will know the stage fright in a debut. As the article is about his first experience in delivering the literary talks, the writer shares his first experience in the light of the stage fright. As he was scared of the crowd and as he knew he

was not a good speaker, he had dramatic difficulty talking on the stage in the presence of a big crowd. However, he was helped by Saya U Aung Thin, Sayama San San Nwet (Thayawady) and Saya Nwan Gya Thaung. In addition, he was also encouraged by Saya Mya Than Tint, who he met unexpectedly en route. In the article titled, "Nyaza", which means dinner, the writer recalled how they missed dinner in a big town in upper Myanmar. Before the event, the giant tiffin carriers arrived at the place they were staying at. As they did not get enough time, they merely touched this and that dish as appetizers before dinner. They drank a bit to loosen their tongue before delivering the talks. When they were back at the place they were staying at, they found only liquor and the leftover food. Only the next morning, did the writers learn that the food was all eaten by the guard and his family, thinking that the food was just left by the writers. Another interesting story is titled, "Hna Lone Tha De Ga Nwa Thar Ahmi," which was based on the talks the writer delivered in Shwebo.

Entertainment

Celebrity Briefs

Ayine

A famous comedian Ayine will take the role of presenter in a singing competition titled, "The Music Diary", which will only allow competitors age over 40 to sing the songs that were popular in the early era of stereo music. The competition organized and presented by Channel K has eight levels and the first prize winner will be awarded K5 million accompanied by related prizes. A famous vocalist May Khala and Chit Oo Nyo, a writer and another person will take the roles of judge, according to Ayine.



Maung Sein Win (Badeegon)

THE second edition of the famous novel "Pyo Mayaung Hotaungka Moe" (A rain looming to pour near a mountain) written by Maung Sein Win (Badeegon) and published by Shwepay Publishing House hit the stands on 17 August. The publisher received nearly 300 orders before the book was published. The publisher will organize an event to mark the publishing of the second edition of the book at Hledan Centre between 1 pm and 3 pm on 21 August, with the author attending the ceremony to engage with the readers. He will also endorse his signature on the books if the book buyers request.

Diramore

ACADEMY award winner composer Diramore, with the help of scholars, has collected nearly 560 Myanmar classic songs — supposed to be used in entertaining royals in ancient dynasties — for new generations to enjoy. The composer also collected 1,000 Myanmar songs between 2013 and 2019.



Wine Su Khaing Thein

A vocalist and actress Wine Su Khaing Thein who had been away from shooting scenes for nearly a decade starts shooting for a TV series in which her songs will be featured. She said the audience would find her in a quite different character than she never did before in the series shot by film director Pwint Theingi. Alin Yang and Sai See Twamkhan will take the roles of actors.



Anoni Mus

A novice singer and songwriter called Anoni Mus, with the official name Thiha Tun, hit number 5 on YouTube Popular Song Trending listing with his song "Htar Lite Par" (Let it be), and his achievement is the first of its kind in Myanmar. As of 18 August, the song had more than 4.2 million viewers on YouTube. He came from his native town of Pyu in Bago Region to Yangon to be employed as a factory worker while pursuing his hobby of enjoying music. He became famous in a short time soon after he posted a video featuring his song and performance on his YouTube channel. His song has already been purchased by a film company at a fee of K300,000 (about US\$143) and at the same time, more than 0.2 million accounts have followed him on Facebook. Anoni Mus said he would not think himself to be a famous person despite his abrupt popularity as the audience and musician are interdependent as the Myanmar saying goes "Islands depend on reeds, reeds depend on islands (One hand washes the other - Mutual cooperation can help both parties). He also said he would keep creating songs. — HTUN HTUN/TH



Interview with Academy Director Kyi Soe Tun



UNABLE to show local films at the cinemas since the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020, the films were broadcast on digital platforms like mobile applications, free channels – MRTV-4, Channel K, Fortune TV and M Entertainment Channel while over 200 films were on the waiting lists when the cinemas were reopened in April 2022. Although such moves bring success, the artistes of these movies faced huge losses in the Academy awarding processes. Therefore, this is the interview of Alinka Kyaw Swa Sithu Academy film Director Kyi Soe Tun, Chairman of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization regarding this trend and academy awarding processes.

Q: Some films are broadcast on online applications and some are on TV channels. These movies are successful to a certain extent and some bear smart actors. May I know about these movie series and the potential for outstanding awards of these movie series and actors?

A: Currently, the Silver Egg online media broadcast the moves. Ko Myo Min (Maung Myo Min-Yintwin Phyt) made such doing. As they have difficulties screening the movie at the cinema, they advertised and broadcast on an application. Smile also made such activity. Many movies are on the waiting lists. To cover the costs, they can get the profits when they broadcast on the application. But they will not be on the list of academy awards. For example, in the "Eggshell" movie screened on the "Silver Egg" application recently, I saw the acting of Shwe Hmone Yati in the trailer. It will be in vain regardless of her best acting. Because the rules of the Academy Award presenting section state that it must review the movies that are screened at the cinemas for outstanding awards.

Q: If so, what will happen to the expectation of awards for these successful film producers and actors?

A: There is one exception, we can review the movies that are screened at the cinemas. I don't know whether the producers, application developers and TV channels accept showing the movies at the cinemas before showing them on applications and TV channels. But it will be OK if the movies are broadcast on applications and channels after showing at the cinemas. To be clearer, we offer awards by reviewing the movies screened at the cinemas the whole year round. If they value the academy awards, it is more suitable to screen at the cinemas. The actors should allow the ones for the cinemas in the beginning if they want and value the awards. Now, movies streaming via TV channels grab big fans and are successful. In other countries, they offer awards like Grammy for TV series. We can't say there might not be such kind of prize in our country. So, there would be potential for movies broadcasting on other platforms. — ASH/KTZH

China, South Asia boost technology transfer, collaborative innovation

Chinese experts empower South Asian farmers to grow mushrooms, boost incomes, and restore biodiversity

CHINESE scientists have taught local farmers in South Asian countries including Nepal, India, and Sri Lanka to grow suitable mushrooms in forest land and shaded spaces.

The programme, carried out by a team led by Xu Jianchu, a researcher with the Kunming Institute of Botany of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, with the support of the China-South Asia Technology Transfer Centre since 2018, has helped increase incomes and restore biodiversity.

Xu shared the story at the ongoing 4th Forum on China-South Asia Technology Transfer and Collaborative Innovation held in Kunming, the capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province.

The programme is the epitome of strengthened technology transfer and collaborative innovation between China and South



Xu Jianchu, a researcher with the Kunming Institute of Botany of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, delivers a speech at the 4th Forum on China-South Asia Technology Transfer and Collaborative Innovation held in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, 17 August 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

Asian countries in recent years. Dhanushka Wanasinghe from Sri Lanka also participated in the project's training. He is

furthering studying at the Kunming Institute of Botany of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. During his five years in Yunnan,

he has traveled to more than 260 mountains to research micro-fungi.

"I will bring technologies I

learn here back to Sri Lanka and share them with more farmers," he said.

Zhang Guangjun, Vice Minister of Science and Technology, said that since 2014, China has sponsored nearly 200 young scientists from South Asian countries to conduct short-term scientific research in China through an innovative young scientist program.

In addition, nearly 2,000 scientific researchers and management staff from South Asian countries have participated in China-hosted training courses on advanced applicable technologies and scientific management, Zhang said. As friendly neighbors and development partners, China and South Asian countries are seeing closer cooperation and more fruitful results in terms of technological innovation. — Xinhua

Beware Wallet-Munching Magicians for Radiant You!

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5. Pore Strips: Temporarily Clear, Permanently Red!

Who hasn't played around with these sticky pore strips, hoping for clear pores and victory over blackheads? But, spoiler alert, those pesky blackheads will make a comeback faster than a Netflix series! Let's embrace the more reliable retinol or salicylic acid toners instead. Our skin deserves more than a one-night stand with pore strips!

6. Micellar Face Wipes: To Wipe or Not to Wipe?

Oh, the convenience of these micellar wipes! But alas, they're no match for good old cleansers. It's like using a feather to lift weights at the gym - not very effective, right? Save them for emergencies and embrace the power of cleansers to effectively remove makeup and oil without inviting skin irritation. Plus, those alcohol-soaked wipes are like inviting dehydration to a party! No thanks!

7. Toner: A Soap's Ancient Sidekick!

Claims big fail big! Serums are real heroes! Avoid alcohol-laden toners - they're not rainbow-like

Skittles!

8. Neck cream: Skip the Fuss!

Treat your neck like a VIP with your regular face goodies: cleanse, exfoliate, serum, moisturize, and sunscreen - ta-da! Age-defying neck without the extra coin!

9. Eye cream: A Specialized Gimmick!

The "undercover" agents of the skincare world promise miracles for the delicate under-eye skin! But truth be told, they're just regular moisturizers in fancy outfits. Save time, money, and rock your regular moisturizer or serum for undercover success!

10. Gua Sha Face Massagers: Shockingly Unrealistic!

Can a little face massager really give us a facelift? That's like expecting a magic wand to turn us into movie stars overnight! Let's be honest; a surgical facelift is a more reliable option if you want a real transformation. Save your money for high-quality skincare products, not fairy tales!

Skincare, the tricky magician, robbing our wallets while promising eternal youth! But no worries, here's the secret: keep it simple and budget-friendly!

1. Start with a good cleanser - just a pampering touch for your skin without scrubbing it like a whiteboard.
2. Serums are like tiny superheroes, but don't get too excited - stick to one or two, no mixologist moves!
3. Sunscreen is your skin's BFF, so slap it on like you're giving your skin a superhero shield.
4. Don't forget to moisturize from head to toe - your skin loves warm hugs!
5. Retinol is the boss of anti-ageing but take it slow, like a cautious dance partner.

So, ladies, beware of the money trap! Skip the unicorn chase and celebrity fairy tales. Affordable gems work magic too! No overnight miracles, darlings! Listen to your skin, avoid wild trends, and grasp your unique beauty with a big smile! Healthy, glowing skin is all about proper care and nourishment, not quick fixes! Embrace quality products, consistency, and patience for your best skin ever.

Voila! Cleanser, Moisturizer, and Sunscreen form the dynamic trio for a radiant you! Trust the basics, and let the magic happen. With the "Keep It Simple, Sweetly" charm, let your radiant skin enchant!

ECONOMY WORLD

N Korea to resume flights to Russia, China after COVID hiatus

NORTH Korea is expected to resume passenger flights to Russia and China in the near future following their suspension in early 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's TASS news agency and diplomatic sources said Friday.

A total of two flights from Pyongyang are set to arrive in Vladivostok on 25 and 28 August, the news agency quoted a local airport official as saying. North Korea and China have also been discussing the restart of Beijing-Pyongyang flights, the diplomatic sources in the Chinese capital said. The Vladivostok-bound flights are expected to be operated by Air Koryo, North Korea's state-run carrier, but no infor-

mation is available on return flights to Pyongyang. Fares for the flights linking Pyongyang and the Russian Far East city as well as the North Korean capital and Beijing have been released on the Air Koryo website. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, North Korea shut its border around the end of January and the beginning of February in 2020.

About 50 people believed to be North Korean athletes set to take part in an international taekwondo event in Kazakhstan arrived Wednesday in China's border city of Dandong, marking the first time that Pyongyang has sent a domestic sports team overseas since the border closure.—Kyodo



Air Koryo is the national airline of North Korea. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ ARAM PAN/ DPRK360

Japan's consumer prices rise 3.1% in July in blow to households

JAPAN'S core consumer prices in July rose 3.1 per cent from a year earlier, well above the Bank of Japan's two per cent target, as food and service price hikes kept the overall inflationary trend intact, government data showed Friday.

The nationwide core consumer price index, excluding volatile fresh food items, rose

for the 23rd straight month, amid emerging signs of entrenched inflation hurting consumer sentiment.

The key gauge of inflation slowed from 3.3 per cent in June as the impact of higher fuel costs, a major driver behind the recent bout of cost-push inflation, has been waning, according to the Ministry of Internal

Affairs and Communications. The gauge remained above the BOJ's two per cent target for the 16th straight month.

The core-core CPI, which reflects the underlying inflationary trend by stripping away volatile energy and fresh food prices, rose 4.3 per cent, accelerating from 4.2 per cent in the previous month.—Kyodo



Rising goods prices could lead consumers to cut back on services spending, which has been sustained by pent-up demand. PHOTO: KYODO

'Fuel of the future': Gulf states bet on 'green' hydrogen

AFTER riding a fossil-fuel boom for decades, Gulf Arab states are eyeing "green" hydrogen as they try to transition their economies and ease the climate crisis at a stroke.

Oil producers Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Oman are investing heavily in the climate-friendly fuel in a search for alternative revenues to crude and gas.

Green hydrogen, which is the hydrogen created when renewable energy electrolyses water, appears to solve many problems: it is low-polluting and has widespread potential uses,

which could make it lucrative and planet-saving at the same time.

But the fuel, which currently makes up less than one per cent of total hydrogen production, is not yet commercially viable and needs a major scaling-up of renewable energy sources — a process that could take years.

Despite this, the Gulf monarchies sense an opportunity to remain major players in energy markets as oil revenues fall.

"Gulf states aim to lead the global hydrogen market," said Karim Elgendy, associate fellow at Britain's Chatham House think tank.—AFP

Wet July dampens UK retail sales, spending outlook

BRITISH retail sales fell more than expected in July, official data showed Friday, with poor weather blamed for the setback as the country tries to revive its flagging economy. Retail sales volumes fell by 1.2 per cent last month, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said, worse than the 0.5 per cent that economists had forecast. It followed sales climbing more than expected in June, off the back of warmer weather in that month and some competitive pricing as inflation slowly cools. The government will hope the latest data is a temporary blip, but analysts warned it may signal dented consumer confidence after more than a year of rising interest rates.—AFP

US gas prices hit 10-month highs amid tighter supplies, heatwaves

US gas prices surged to an average of 3.87 US dollars a gallon nationally on Thursday, the highest level in 10 months, data showed.

That's 31 cents higher than a month ago, but still below the record high of 5.02 dollars in June 2022, according to the American Automobile Association (AAA).

California has been on the top of the 10 most expensive markets across the country, with an aver-

age of 5.18 dollars a gallon, followed by Washington, Hawaii, Oregon and Alaska. The summertime gas price spike has been driven by lower gasoline stockpiles and a series of refinery outages caused by extreme heat.

Goldman Sachs estimated that record heat levels in Texas have likely led to a sharp two per cent slump in US refiners' product yields over the past few weeks. — Xinhua



The summertime gas price spike has been driven by lower gasoline stockpiles and a series of refinery outages caused by extreme heat. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Walmart reports another solid quarter as consumers focus on value

WALMART raised its full-year forecast on Thursday as it posted another quarter of solid results, grabbing market share in groceries and other staples against a backdrop of inflationary pressures. The big retailer, which has been seen as well-positioned amid a period of pricing pressure because of its reputation for value, enjoyed another quarter of growing sales at its namesake US stores.

Walmart reported second-quarter profits of \$7.9 billion, up 53 per cent from the year-ago period, a time marred by excess inventories due in part to pandemic supply chain issues. — AFP

Canada to fund battery materials production for Ford EV

CANADA'S industry minister announced Thursday that the government will invest in the production of battery materials for Ford electric vehicles.

Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry François-Philippe Champagne said in a news release that funding of 644 million Canadian dollars (477 million US dollars) is for the construction of a new battery materials production plant in Bécancour, Quebec.

This EcoPro CAM Canada facility, valued at more than 1.2 billion Canadian dollars (888 million US dollars), will be built by a consortium formed by the Ford Motor Company and South Korea's EcoProBM and SK On, the release said.



A man looks at a Ford Escape PHEV (Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle) and its charging station during the 2020 Canadian International Autoshow at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in Toronto, Canada, 18 February 2020. **PHOTO: ZOU ZHENG/XINHUA**

The facility will produce an average of 45,000 tonnes of cathode active materials annually which will supply batteries for Ford's future electric vehicles. The facility is

expected to begin its operations in the first half of 2026, according to the release.

EcoPro CAM Canada was formed in February 2023 by South Ko-

rean cathode materials manufacturer EcoPro BM Co, American automaker Ford Motor Company and South Korean EV battery maker SK On Co. — Xinhua

Elon Musk arrives in Japan for first visit since 2014

ELON Musk was in Japan on Friday, prompting social media speculation on the purpose of his first known trip to the country in nine years.

"Just arrived in amazing Japan," the billionaire said late Thursday on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter that he bought last year.

In 2014, the CEO of

Tesla and SpaceX visited Japan for a ceremony marking his electric car-making company's full-scale entry to the country's market.

During that trip, he briefly met then prime minister Shinzo Abe, who was gunned down last year.

Japanese carmakers are seen by analysts as



Elon Musk's recent visit to Japan has sparked speculation and interest, given that it is his first known trip to the country in nine years. **PHOTO: AFP**

having fallen behind in the race to develop electric vehicles.

On Friday, Musk also posted videos of what appeared to be an exhibition

by prominent Japanese art collective teamLab, which is known for combining projections, sound and carefully designed spaces. — AFP

Adyen shares drop 39% on Amsterdam market

GLOBAL online payments platform Adyen on Thursday lost more than a third of its stock value after announcing net profits below analysts' expectations.

At close of trade Thursday on Amsterdam's AEX index, its shares were worth 898.40 euros against 1,472 on opening.

The 39-per cent drop is the heaviest on the Dutch markets in more than 20 years, according to media reports. It translated to nearly 19 billion dollars in lost market value, said the Dutch news agency ANP. "Adyen delivered a sizeable revenue miss relative to consensus expectations, reporting its slowest revenue growth rate in its history," said Sanjay Sakhrani of Keefe Bruyette & Woods KBW bank. — AFP

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Qingdao Audis Bio-tech Co.,Ltd** have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "**Shwe Chan Wii CO.,LTD**", to new distributor name "**Aventine 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. **Aventine Co.,Ltd**. Ph- Ph-09401573814.

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Small Aphids	Pymetrozine 20% + Thiamethoxam 15% WG	E2021-5350

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Japan PM to visit Fukushima plant before water release

Tokyo's proposal to release treated water from the Fukushima nuclear plant into the sea over the course of several decades has stirred significant concerns among neighboring countries

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said he will visit the Fukushima nuclear plant on Sunday, ahead of the discharge of treated water which is scheduled to begin by the end of summer.

Tokyo's plan to release treated water from the tsunami-hit nuclear plant into the sea over

the next few decades has raised concerns in neighbouring countries, prompting China to ban some food imports and sparking protests in South Korea.

Kishida, who was in Washington for a trilateral summit with US President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk

Yeol, told Japanese reporters he would visit the plant on Sunday following his return to Japan.

"The release of treated water is an issue that cannot be postponed in order to make steady progress with decommissioning and the reconstruction of Fukushima," he said. Kishida said



Some 1.33 million cubic metres of groundwater, rainwater and water used for cooling have accumulated at the plant, where several reactors went into meltdown after the tsunami. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

the government was at "the final stage" of making a decision but declined to comment on the exact timing of the release. — AFP

AI economic impact in Russia to reach \$4.2 bln by year-end



PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/Sergei Kiselyov / Moskva News Agency

Russian firms to save 400 billion roubles (\$4.2 bln) in operating costs by year's end, says Deputy Prime Minister at Army-2023 Forum

ARTIFICIAL intelligence (AI) technologies will help Russian companies to reduce operating expenses, and the economic impact from this will reach 400 billion roubles (\$4.2 billion) by the end of the year, Dmitry Chernyshenko, the Russian deputy prime minister, said at the Army-2023 military forum on Friday.

"According to experts, by the end of 2023 the economic impact from reducing operating costs with help of AI technologies will reach 400 billion. I think it is a modest estimate," Chernyshenko

stated.

A draft new AI strategy will be presented in September, the deputy prime minister added.

"The strategy for the national development of artificial intelligence, from 2019 to 2030, it is constantly updated... In September, the draft of the updated strategy will already be submitted to Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, and then in November we are already planning to receive the approval from President Vladimir Putin," the official noted. — SPUTNIK

Fears of meddling as Guatemala prepares for tense runoff vote

GUATEMALANS will vote Sunday in a presidential runoff tainted by efforts to disqualify the surprise frontrunner, whose promise to crack down on corruption has fired up voters. Three decades after the end of a brutal civil war, the Central American nation is dogged by poverty, violence, and graft, sending thousands abroad every year in search of a better life, many to the United States. Reformist outsider Bernardo Arevalo pulled off a massive upset by finishing second in the first round, and will face off against Sandra Torres in the runoff. — AFP

Rise from rubble: Czech brewery wins EU heritage prize

FOR Czech architect Pavel Prouza, restoring a run-down building with historic value was a childhood dream nurtured during family tours of old monuments.

Next month, he will receive a major European heritage award in Venice for having renovated a sprawling derelict brewery on the brink of total destruction.

The Renaissance-era site in Lobec, a village north of Prague, is now producing beer again after architect and his wife sank all their money into the high-risk investment.



Several hundred years old, the brewery produced over a million litres of beer a year during its heyday in the early 20th century. **PHOTO: AFP**

With an annual output of almost 100,000 litres of beer, the brewery looks set to thrive in the country known for its love of the tippel.

The Czech Republic tops world rankings with its annual beer consumption of 139 litres per head and has seen hundreds of small breweries emerge in recent decades.

When the couple chanced upon the run-down brewery and bought it in 2007, "it was not nice or cosy at all", Prouza, 46, told AFP. "The atmosphere of ruin and decay prevailed," he added. — AFP

SPORTS

8th Myanmar Lethwei World Championship to kick-start today



The Lethwei stars are seen clenching their fists to show that they are ready to enter the competition. **PHOTO: BALA SOE**

The press conference for the 8th Myanmar Lethwei World Championship, which will be organized by the Myanmar Martial Arts Group and hosted by the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation, was held at Theinbyu Gymnasium yesterday.

Fighters expressed their feeling ahead of their bouts during the event.

“Me and Thway Thit Win Hlaing are not enemies. He is a fellow Myanmar citizen like me. This match will represent a championship title. You can also say rematch,” Myanmar Lethwei star Tun Tun Min commented.

“This competition is a fight with Soe Lin Oo. When Ko Soe Lin Oo got injured during training, I took his position and prepared a lot. Since he is a foreigner, it gives me more strength to show my ability. This player is a really good fighter. As far as I know, he has won a lot of matches in the ONE Championship. I would like to join ONE Championship as well. So I will try my best for this fight,” said Kyaw Swa Win.

“We will try to provide the best match for our fans. I know Tokeshi from the beginning. He also fought with my brother Tun Min Latt. He is a southpaw, so he

has to focus on the left side. He is very different from other players. He is very talented but I am also strong in kicks. I have fought 16 matches and this one is the seventeenth, with 11 wins, five draws, showcasing no loss,” Myanmar fighter Tun Min Aung highlighted.

“Since I have had a Myanmar meal, I have a lot of power, In the morning, I passed the weight test, so I am satisfied. I think I will win this match, Tomorrow, I will fight Tun Min Aung, so I would like to say that everyone should come and watch,” said Mr Tokeshi.

In the five-round bouts, Tun Tun Min

will battle with Thway Thit Win Hlaing under the 80-kg category while Tun Min Latt (Myanmar) will face Kohei Tokeshi (Japan) under the 75-kg category.

Next, Avatan (Thailand) will challenge Kyaw Swa Win (Myanmar) in the 71-kg event and Sein Lon Chaw will take on Moe Htet Aung in the 63-kg event.

In the four-round bouts, Hanthawady will fight against Sito under the 65-kg category while Thaing Kyaw will come up against Wudawdo in the 54-kg event.

The championship will be broadcast live on SkyNet Sports 4-HD Channel. — Bala Soe/KZL

Myanmar share points with Cambodia in AFF U-23 Championship

MYANMAR U-23 men’s football team showcased a 1-1 draw against Cambodia in the Group A of the AFF U-23 Championship 2023 in Thailand yesterday.

The Myanmar team’s hopes of reaching the semi-finals faded away, and the draw left them with very little chance. Team Myanmar struggled to win this match due to weaknesses in attack and defence.

The Cambodian team started to score with a long shot at the 13-minute mark. After that, the Myanmar team tried to equalize but failed due to poor play. Myanmar’s defenders made a lot of mistakes, so the opposing strikers got some more opportunities. However, the Cambodians could not use every opportunity as a goal. Khun Kyaw Zin Hein scored an equalizer for the Myanmar team at 88 minutes to conclude

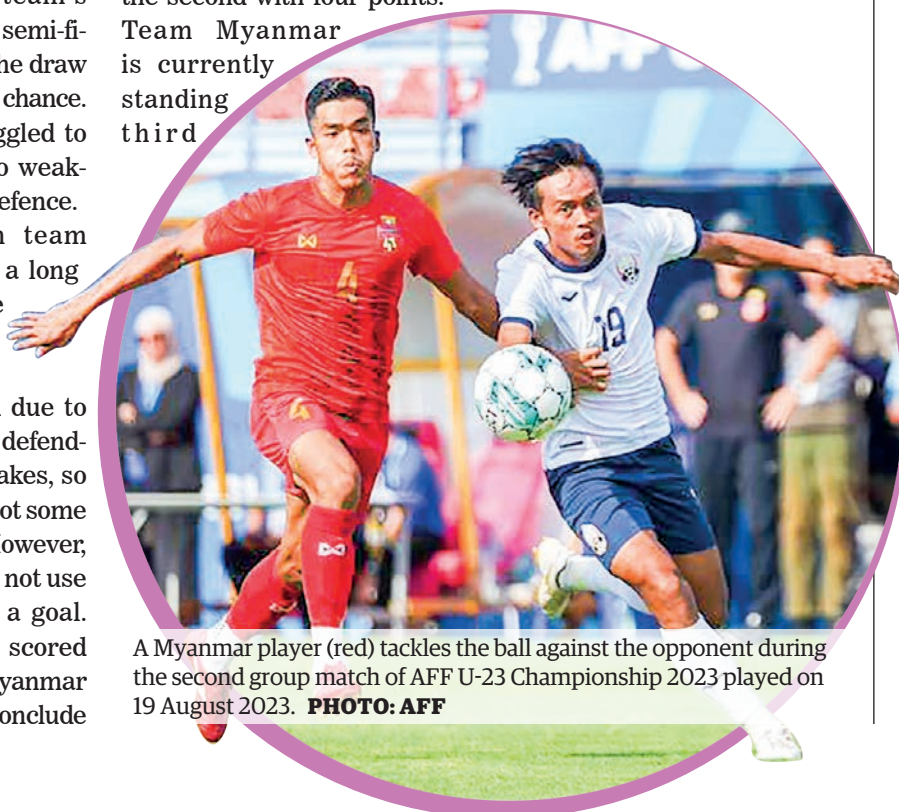
the game with a 1-1 tie.

After the last two matches, Thailand topped the position, garnering full six points while Cambodians stayed in the second with four points.

Team Myanmar is currently standing third

while Brunei is at the bottom with all losses. Team Myanmar will play the last group match against Brunei on 21 August.

— Ye Yint Lwin/KZL



A Myanmar player (red) tackles the ball against the opponent during the second group match of AFF U-23 Championship 2023 played on 19 August 2023. **PHOTO: AFF**



Sweden players celebrate scoring their second goal. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sweden take third place to spoil Australia’s World Cup party

SWEDEN scored either side of half-time to spoil Australia’s party and claim third spot at the Women’s World Cup with a 2-0 win in Brisbane on Saturday. In front of a crowd of nearly 50,000, Sweden took the lead with a 30th-minute penalty by Fridolina Rolfo and doubled their advantage with a powerful strike from Kosovare Asllani just after the hour. Ranked third in the world, this is the fourth time that Sweden have finished third at the tournament. They fully deserved their win against the hosts, dominating the midfield and keeping talismanic Australian striker Sam Kerr relatively quiet. Australia’s other dangerous attacker, Mary Fowler, had a night to forget as she struggled physically against the size and power of the Swedish defenders. By contrast, Sweden striker Stina Blackstenius caused havoc among the Australian defence during her 63 minutes on the pitch and had a hand in both goals.—AFP



This photo taken on 21 June 2023 shows the Drum Tower as seen from the Jingshan Park in Beijing, capital of China. **PHOTO: LI XIN/XINHUA**

Lifestyle

Benefits of leisure reading from young

Fewer and fewer young people read for pleasure. Yet this activity is extremely beneficial to them in cognitive, intellectual and behavioural terms, especially if they get into reading at an early age, a new study reveals. Researchers in Britain and China have investigated the multiple benefits of “leisure” reading by analyzing data from the Adolescent Brain and Cognitive Development cohort, recruited as part of a longitudinal study of over 10,000 young adolescents in North America. The scientists wanted to determine whether reading for pleasure in early childhood contributes to the cerebral and cognitive



Research shows that teenagers who had started reading for pleasure in childhood performed better than others not only at school, but also on cognitive tests measuring verbal learning, memory and speech development. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PEXELS**

tive development of young people.

Indeed, specialists and teachers often insist on the need for kids to immerse themselves in the joys of reading from an early age. That’s why they encourage parents to read stories with their children to give them a lasting love of books.

But previously, scientists have been unsure whether this activity involves cognitive and brain mechanisms that could benefit youngsters as they grow older. To test this hypothesis, researchers from the Universities of Cambridge, Warwick and Fudan analysed a wide range of data, including clinical interviews, cognitive tests, mental and behavioural assessments, and brain scans. They involved teenagers who began reading for pleasure at a relatively early age (between two and nine), and others who took up reading later, or not at all. Nearly half of the participants (48 per cent) in this the study — published in the journal *Psychology Medicine* — had read little for pleasure or had only started to do so later in their childhood. The other half of the group had spent between three and 10 years reading for pleasure. — AFP

Trending city-walk culture highlights slow-paced, low-carbon lifestyle

A casual walk along the Beijing Central Axis, joining the dots of the Drum Tower, the bustling Nanluoguxiang Lane, the Jingshan Park and the majestic Forbidden City — this was Zhao Xianghan’s maiden city-walking journey in the spring of 2022.

Since then, the 21-year-old student from the Beijing Foreign Studies University has remained a city-walk enthusiast, believing it to be the best way to “rediscover a city.”

“I visited Beijing before the start of my college life here, and it was a typical package tour during which going to scenic spots and taking photos was a big thing. The crowded tourist attractions gave me the impression that Beijing was a noisy place,” said Zhao. “Yet now a city-walk allows me to see a whole different side of Beijing, which is full of serenity,” Zhao added.

With the increasing variety of travel options, conventional group tours can no longer satisfy people who are looking for a more personalized and differentiated travel experience and hoping to delve into every part of the city in a more immersive way, wrote a blog on social media platform WeChat, which has garnered more than 100,000 views. Compared with tightly-scheduled travel plans and picture-taking tours, city-walking focuses on the free, casual and spontaneous experience, read a recent article by the People’s Daily.

On the video-sharing app Douyin, the Chinese version of TikTok, a recent video about city-walk routes in Guangzhou has gained more than 171,000 likes, with 72,000 viewers adding the video to their favorites. — Xinhua

In a hilltop slum crammed between two of Rio de Janeiro’s wealthiest neighbourhoods, children practice Brazilian jiu-jitsu, hoping to follow in the footsteps of the black belts whose graffiti portraits decorate their gym’s walls. Brazilian jiu-jitsu has provided an escape route for numerous kids from the rough alleys of Cantagalo, an impoverished favela whose shacks spill down a hill between the upscale beach neighbourhoods of Copacabana and Ipanema. Taking a break from teaching holds to a group of boys grappling on the mat, jiu-jitsu master Douglas Rufino says he has seen the sport literally save kids’ lives. “I can say it saved me, too,” says Rufino, 41. “I could have followed another path here in the community,” a neighbourhood rife with drug gangs and violence, he says.

Instead, the Cantagalo native went on to win the world lightweight championship in 2006. His face is now one of those painted on the walls of the gym — a hall of fame of sorts, paying tribute to the favela’s greatest black belts. Rufino has been teaching for the past 20 years at the Cantagalo Jiu-jitsu gym, part of a project founded in 2000 to channel the power of the sport — which is hugely popular in Brazil — to help children in the favela.

‘Way to break through’

The school has produced numerous

Brazilian jiu-jitsu offers lifeline to Rio favela kids



Students attend a jiu-jitsu class at the Cantagalo Jiu-Jitsu gym in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. **PHOTO: CARLOS FABAL / AFP**

champions, and former students now practice and teach Brazilian jiu-jitsu in Portugal, Singapore, Sweden and the United States. Beyond teaching takedowns, holds and sweeps, the program aims to impart life values. “Lots of kids arrive here with a rebellious streak. But they leave with discipline,

because that’s what jiu-jitsu is: respect and discipline,” says 17-year-old student Fabiano dos Santos Guedes.

Jiu-jitsu, an ancient Japanese martial art, arrived in Brazil in the early 1900s, introduced by an immigrant jiu-jitsu master named Mitsuyo Maeda.—AFP