

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round the exhibition on the occasion of World Water Day yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Youth's role to govern water sufficiency in the future: Senior General

Youth plays an essential role in water governance in order to ensure water sufficiency in the future, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

A ceremony to mark World Water Day 2024 took place at Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, with an address by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General highlighted that the government is effectively managing water resources in order to supply agricultural water, generate hydropower, and provide household and industrial use water by adopting water policies and laws.

He noted that Myanmar has formed the national water resource committee to enact the national water law so as to manage water sectors systematically.

The Senior General disclosed that a total of 246 dams, 144 diversion weirs, 72

Salient points from the speech made by the Senior General at the ceremony to mark World Water Day 2024

- Youth plays an essential role in water governance in order to ensure water sufficiency in the future.
- Myanmar has formed the National Water Resource Committee to enact the national water law so as to manage water sectors systematically.
- A total of 246 dams, 144 diversion weirs, 72 lakes, 199 sluice gates and 219 river water pumping stations are used to supply water for cultivation and consumption as well as to generate electricity.
- Irrigated water covers some 750,000 acres of farmlands, and underground tapping benefits some 930,000 acres of cultivable lands.

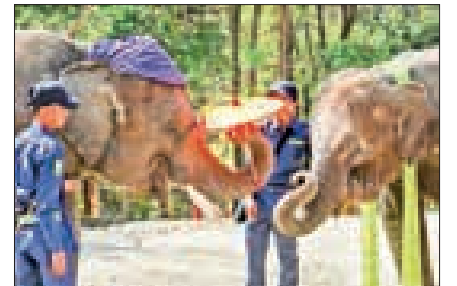
lakes, 199 sluice gates and 219 river water pumping stations are used to supply water for cultivation and consumption as well as to generate electricity. Irrigated water covers some 750,000 acres of farmlands, and underground tapping benefits some

930,000 acres of cultivable lands, he added.

He continued that Myanmar has formed the water resources survey team to emerge a data bank through the collection of water data.

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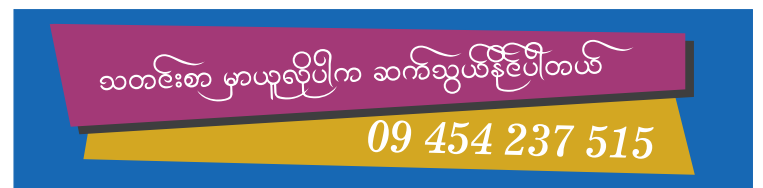


Kyaikto Hospital offers free caesarean section to poor pregnant woman

NATIONAL

Objectives of 79th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2024

- (A) To safeguard the State with the sacrifice of life by upholding Our Three Main National Causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty as the national policy of Tatmadaw;
- (B) To actively participate in implementing the processes of two national visions of the State: the prosperity of the country and food security by Tatmadaw members together with the government and ethnic people in their respective sectors;
- (C) To steadfastly implement enhancement of three capabilities in accord with the work process of Tatmadaw, such as study, practise and obey in building a modern patriotic Tatmadaw with powerful strength and sharpening prowess;
- (D) To provide necessary assistance to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election by Tatmadaw to ensure peace and stability, solidarity and development, which are actual needs of the State and to emerge a Union based on democratic and federal systems.



THE Shwesettaw Mannchaung Elephant Camp is one of the elephant camps developed as a tourism industry in Myanmar. It is built in a place with good transportation, forests, water, and natural beauty.

The Shwesettaw Mannchaung Elephant Camp, opened on 9 February 2019, is situated in the Minbu District timber extraction area of the Myanmar Timber Enterprise in Minbu (Sagu) Township, Magway Region. The camp spans 700 acres of land beside the Mann Creek, providing ample varieties of bamboo and grasses for elephant food, as well as easy access to water.

Shwesettaw Mannchaung Elephant Resort was opened with a view to developing tourism based on elephant conservation, providing employment opportunities for elephant employees and local people, developing community-based tourism businesses, understanding the habits and behaviours of elephants and learning to love

Shwesettaw Mannchaung Elephant Camp welcomes nature enthusiasts



da, visitors have the opportunity to visit the elephant camp, ride the elephants, and enjoy the natural beauty of the forest, mountains, and water along Mann Creek. The camp is home to 13 elephants, and the rates for elephant rides are K10,000 for foreigners and K5,000 for citizens. In previous years, during the three months of Myanmar's New Year's Thingyan Festival, which coincides with the Shwesettaw pilgrimage period, numerous pilgrims and visitors flocked to the camp.

At Mannchaung camp, a renowned destination for relaxation and exploration, visitors



elephants by opening and establishing ecotourism, creating a desire to preserve the beauty of Myanmar's forest and land, helping to protect the environment, and generating income for the State through green business, according to U Zaw Win Naing, manager of Minbu District's timber extraction area.

The Shwesettaw Mannchaung Elephant Camp is conveniently located just two miles from the Shwesettaw Pagoda. After paying homage to the pago-

can find bungalows equipped with water supply and electricity. Standard accommodation is available for K40,000 per room, while VIP accommodation is priced at K70,000 per room. Visitors who wish to indulge in the crystal-clear waters of Mann Creek and experience the forest's natural beauty on an elephant ride are warmly welcomed at the Shwesettaw Mannchaung Elephant Resort in Minbu (Sagu) Township, Magway Region. — Zeyar Htet/(Minbu)/TKO

NATIONAL

Youth's role to govern water sufficiency in the future: Senior General

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As critical challenges for humans, the Senior General underscored that the United Nations stated that more than two billion people lack safe water, whereas more than four billion people face a shortage of water at least one month per year due to climate change and loss of water sources.

He explained that the earth's planet is covered with 97.5 per cent of seawater and 2.5 per cent of freshwater. Of them,

68 per cent of freshwater cannot be used due to its existence as glaciers, poles, clouds and humidity in the atmosphere. So, humans can use 0.5 per cent of water aboveground and 30.1 per cent of underground water.

The Senior General retold that the WHO survey in 2022 mentioned that some 1.4 million people lose their lives due to unsafe water on a yearly basis, and 74 million people face a shortening of their lifespan. Experts predict the globe

will require 55 per cent of water in 2050. Moreover, the surveys stated that 3,600 million people do not have a proper sewage system.

Next, the Senior General presented prizes to winners in the open article contest to mark World Water Day 2024.

Vice-Chairman of the National Water Resource Committee Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo also awarded winners in the amateur

article contest.

The Senior General and attendees visited the World Water Day 2024 exhibition.

Also present at the ceremony were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, council members, Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the Nay Pyi Taw Command commander, deputy ministers and officials. — MNA/TTA

Military columns participating in 79th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day Parade take full-dressed rehearsal

MILITARY COLUMNS, which will take part in the parade for the 79th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, which falls on 27 March 2024, took a full-dressed rehearsal at the Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground yesterday morning.

Anawrahta, Kyansittha, Bayintnaung, Aungzeya, Hsinbyushin, Bandoola and Aung San columns marched to the parade ground from Thittat ground under the parade programme, singing marching songs to the accompaniment of the military bands.

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win together with Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Zwe Win Myint, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung, senior military officers from the Of-



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspects parade columns yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

fice of the Commander-in-chief, Chairman of Armed Forces Day Organizing Management Committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Saw

Than Hlaing and officials, inspected parade columns. The Vice-Senior General fulfilled the needs of parade columns in coordination with officials.

The parade rehearsal was participated in by officers, other ranks, female military personnel, members of the female special operation task force from

Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), and the Myanmar Police Force with aircraft from Tatmadaw (Air). — MNA/TTA

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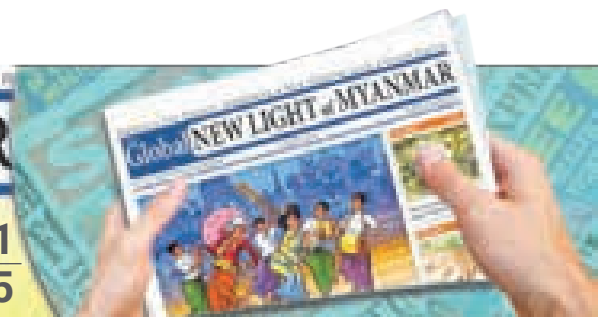
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NATIONAL

MoI families organize novitiation ceremony

FAMILY members of the Ministry of Information organized an ordination and novitiation ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and wife, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint and wife, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, departmental officials and wives, staff families and invitees.

At the event, artiste Dein Daung and gold medallist Zaw Lin carried out the ceremonial procedures as per Myanmar customary law, to the accompaniment of a traditional Myanmar orchestra.

Then, the monk-to-be and novice-to-be, staff and guests headed to Maravijaya Buddha Image, and the novice-to-be to

Ywatawshin shrine in Shwenta ward.

Lunch was served to all the attendees, including monk-to-be and novice-to-be.

The Union minister and wife and guests were also present at the monasteries while the monk-to-be and novice-to-be had their heads shaved, begging for permits to undergo ordination and novitiation and investing them with robes and occasions for girls who entered nunhood.

The ordination event and offerings to Sayadaws and monks will be on 23 March, and the donors will donate for the day meal.

The novitiation ceremony of the Ministry of Information includes 48 monks, novices and nuns. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and wife attend the MoI-organized ordination and novitiation ceremony yesterday.

Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System launched



The inaugural event of the Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System in progress yesterday on the Myanmar-Thai border.

THE Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS) start-up ceremony was held yesterday at No 2 Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge in Tachilek. Dep-

uty Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win, Shan State government Economic Affairs Minister U Khun Thein Maung and departmental officials, import and export entrepreneurs, officials from the Department of Customs of Thailand in Mae Sai, and invitees attended.

The deputy minister highlighted that MACCS was implemented in 2013 and was able to be used in the Yangon area in 2016. In 2018, Myawady continued to expand access to border areas with a large amount of trade and in 2022, it was expanded to be used in Muse and Chinshwehaw.

As MACCS has started to be used in Tachilek from

today, it will further develop the trade sector. He added that the Ministry of Planning and Finance is constantly pushing to use modern technologies in conducting trade activities and implement better trade processes in accordance with international standards.

Exports from Myanmar to Thailand and imports from Thailand to Myanmar can be processed through MACCS, and bilateral trading will become faster and more dynamic.

Later, the deputy minister and party launched the use of MACCS in the Tachilek border and inspected export and import verification operations using MACCS. — MNA/TS

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Minhlakyin village preserves bullock cart pilgrimage tradition

make pilgrimage tours by carts or by bus yearly.

Minhlakyin village is famous for its tradition of using bullock carts. Therefore, the photographers and pedestrians take photos and make movies and documentaries during the festival.

This year, those taking records donated K150,000 for 37 bullock carts and K500,000 by a well-wisher for preserving Myanmar's traditional culture to the leader of bullock carts and locals.

Villagers make pilgrimage tours to Mann Shwettaw pagoda from the 13th waxing to the 4th waning of Tabaung and return on the 1st waning of Tabaung. They build camps near their bullock carts by Mann Creek for four days and five nights.

Before doing good deeds in the early morning, they clean their cows and take batches in Mann Creek in groups. Then, they visit two sacred footprints of the Lord Buddha daily. At

the pagoda, they offer alms to monks, donate gold foils to the pagoda and do other good deeds, and they recreate by swimming in Mann Creek to get relief from the tiredness that they receive by farming the whole year round.

Older people of Minhlakyin village preserve and hand over their tradition of using bullock carts for pilgrimage tours to the youths, and they all will be practising those actions in the coming years. Although villagers faced hardships in transport during the rainy season, the government built the Bailey bridge and paved an earthen road at the entrance to the village so that there would be proper transport. The village lacks access to electricity, and villagers want the government to provide electricity to the village, according to locals.

The author visited Minhlakyin village to write this article, honouring their tradition of bullock cart pilgrimage tours. — Maung Maung (Minbu)/KTZH

Minhlakyin village in Minbu (Sagu) township is the sole village across the nation that preserves the traditions of residents to date in the use of bullock carts on their pilgrimage tour.

Although the residents from Minbu, Sagu, Pwintbyu, Salin and Ngaphe townships in Minbu district used the bullock carts to make the pilgrimage tour to Mann Shwettaw Pagoda previously, only Minhlakyin village used the bullock carts nowadays to preserve the traditions, according to the locals.

Locals

from Minhlakyin village make pilgrimage tours to Mann Shwettaw Pagoda using bullock carts every year, and they made a tour with the use of 37 bullock carts on 21 March this year.

The pagoda festival is being held for 64 days, from the 5th waxing of Tabodwe to the first day of the Myanmar New Year. The festival is crowded with visitors from different regions and states, for being the most well-known pagoda. It holds the longest festival in Myanmar, according to the pagoda board of trustees.

Min -

hlakyin village is about over 20 miles from Minbu (Sagu) and only 13 miles from Mann Shwettaw Pagoda. The residents mainly operate farming traditionally. They used to run hand weaving (garment), bamboo slicing for thatch and bamboo matting (for walls). Currently, they mainly do farming, and the number of people who make handicrafts is falling gradually.

Minhlakyin villagers made a pilgrimage tour to Mann Shwettaw Pagoda using bullock carts, and they suspended the pilgrimage tour during the COVID-19 pandemic. They resumed their tour with about 20 bullock carts in 2023. Before the pilgrimage tour, they check the carts to save food, utensils, and cow feed.

Then, the leader and men prepared tents near Mann Creek in advance. Except for older persons and those who do not have bullock carts, all the villagers



NATIONAL

Drop anticipated in summer paddy prices

FOLLOWING the decline in non-premium rice prices, traders are likely to slash the price of newly harvested summer paddy this month. The prices are expected to fall below K2 million per 100 baskets of new summer paddy and approximately K70,000 per sack of new summer rice.

New summer rice (non-premium) floods the Yangon market at K4,000 per sack, lower than monsoon rice in mid-March, Ko Kyaw involved in Wahdan rice depot told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Yangon's rice market braces for sluggish demand in mid-March.

The paddy prices of the rice mill from Myaungmya Township on 15 March 2023 showed that the prices stood at K1.57 million per 100 baskets of 90-day



The picture shows the harvesting process of 90-day short-matured rice in Bogale Township on 18 March 2024. **PHOTO: AUNG ZAW HTET**

short-matured paddy and K1.47 million for paddy cultivated under inter-cropping system.

The paddy prices were reg-

istered at K1.55-K1.6 million for non-premium paddy and K1.92 million for premium Pawsan paddy, according to figures from

the rice mill in Wakema Township on 20 March 2023.

The monsoon paddy prices peaked at K2 million per 100

baskets of non-premium paddy and K3.3 million for premium Pawsan paddy in March 2024. The wholesale rice prices were K85,000-K98,000 per sack of non-premium rice and K123,000-K155,000 per sack of premium Pawsan rice.

The wholesale rice prices in Yangon moved in the range between K54,000 and K87,000 per sack in the corresponding period last year.

The figures reflected a remarkable rise in rice prices this year. The prediction for monsoon paddy prices went wrong last year.

If the summer paddy and rice prices drop this year, exporters will buy more. As the summer paddy yield is better than that of monsoon paddy, the farmers might not face losses. — TWA/KK

Three-wheelers experience socioeconomic renaissance

THREE-WHEELERS are experiencing a socioeconomic resurgence in the tourism industry in some townships within the Yangon Region and other regions and states.

U Myo Thiha, the project manager of Bajaj Three-wheeler Production, stated: "Our three-wheelers are equipped with 200cc engines and can cover 20 kilometres on a single litre of gasoline. This not only saves fuel but also makes maintenance affordable."

Bajaj is among the micro, small, and medium enterprises operated by the government. The operation sources materi-

als from India and assembles parts in the Kayin State Industrial Zone. According to U Myo Thiha, it provides employment opportunities for over 100 locals.

The government grants licences for driving three-wheelers in certain townships, including Yangon Region.

For years, three-wheelers have been a popular choice for short-distance travel in Mandalay Region. Oway has also incorporated three-wheelers into its transport services, utilizing them to ferry visitors within heritage zones and resorts across over 90 renowned travel destinations, including

Bagan.

Buyers have the option to acquire three-wheelers through mid to long-term instalment plans, opening up additional income sources. There are also stands dedicated to three-wheelers.

Ko Aung Hsan Oo, a three-wheeler driver in Thanlyin Township, said: "It can travel 160 kilometres on K20,000 worth of fuel. I earn about K80,000 a day. Three-wheelers also offer greater comfort for both the driver and passengers. As a result, our family's prosperity has increased". — TWA/NT



The photo depicts Bajaj three-wheelers in Taikkyi Township, Yangon Region.

Myanmar pockets over US\$250M in mineral exports in 11 months



Jade pieces of jewellery.

MYANMAR bagged US\$256.44 million from mineral exports as of 8 March in the current financial year 2023-2024, commencing 1 April, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The mineral exports plunged from \$323.366 million recorded in the corresponding period last FY, showing a drop of over \$66 million.

The public sector performed mineral exports valued at over \$33 million, whereas the private sector saw mineral exports worth over \$220 million.

The export items are gems

and jewellery, gold, jade, pearl, diamond, lead, tin, tungsten, silver, copper, zinc, charcoal and other minerals.

Myanmar's external trade with foreign partners reached over \$27.758 billion as of 1 March in the current Financial Year 2023-2024, beginning 1 April, comprising exports worth over \$13.378 billion and imports worth \$14.379 billion. Myanmar's sea-borne trade value crossed over \$20.55 billion this FY, while border trade was valued at \$7.207 billion, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated. — TWA/KK

Rising octane prices persist



OCTANE prices continued to rise in the domestic fuel oil market as the MOPS price index climbed.

Fuel prices were K2,730 per litre of Octane 92 and K2,845 for Octane 95 on 21 March 2024 and increased to K2,795 per litre of Octane 92 and K2,900 Octane 95 on 22 March.

Domestic fuel prices are closely tied to the price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in southeast Asia, according to the Supervisory Committee on Fuel Oil Import, Storage and Distribution.

The diesel oil prices hit the highest of K3,245 for premium diesel and K3,330 for diesel in August 2023.

The committee is, there-

fore, steering the market to ensure price stability and fuel oil security. Under the supervision of the committee, the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department has been issuing daily reference prices to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations to see whether they are overcharging. The authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging rather than the set reference rate.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. Domestic fuel prices

are highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the losses experienced by importers, sellers, and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar's. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies, and the prices are about 60 per cent cheaper than those of Myanmar. Every country lays down different policy patterns to fix oil prices. Myanmar also levies only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. — NN/EM

CBM sells 5M yuan, 50M Thai baht on 22 March

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold five million Chinese yuan and 50 million Thai baht on 22 March 2024 for exporters and importers through online trading platforms.

Additionally, CBM sold \$5 million on 15 March, 50 million Thai baht on 11 March, seven million Chinese yuan and 12 million Thai baht on 5 March for exporters on online trading platforms. CBM injected \$10 million and 200 million Thai baht on 4 March, totalling US\$15 million, 12 million Chinese yuan and 312 million Thai baht in March.

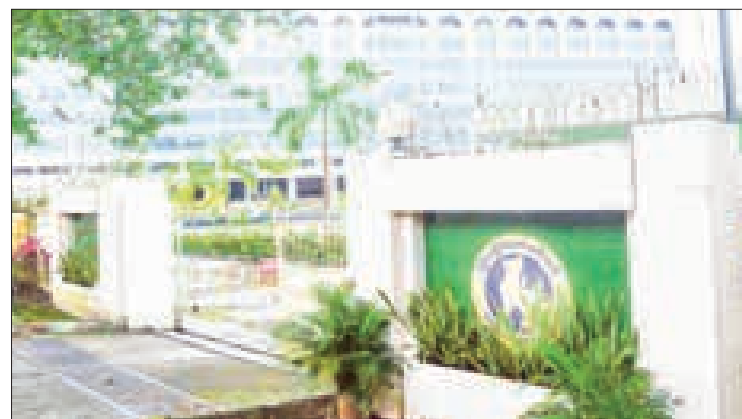
CBM also sold \$77.38 million and 850 million Thai baht in February and \$68.33 million, 313.5 million Thai baht and 4.2 million

Chinese yuan in January 2024.

The reference exchange rate set by the CBM is K2,100 against a US dollar, while it is valued at some K3,700 at the over-the-counter market at present. The exchange rates currently stand at K103 for a Thai baht and K505 for a Chinese yuan.

CBM lets authorized dealers (private banks) operate online forex trading freely as per the market forces depending on supply and demand factors, starting from 5 December.

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



The Central Bank of Myanmar in Yangon.

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MoC to assist in seeking GACC certificate for coconut hybrid exports

MYANMAR Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce will help seek the certificate from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) in order to export coconut hybrids to China.

Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization held the hybrid meeting of the project management committee for the Potential Product (Coconut) Value Chain project implemented under the ACEMES-ROK Cooperation Fund for the second time on 21 March 2024.

Attendees discussed mat-

ters regarding future work plans in order to prioritize the coconut and its based products in the lists of the micro small, and medium enterprises that will be implemented in Ayeyawady Region, including agriculture and livestock projects, ramp-up production of coconut hybrids and earning Good Agricultural Practices certificate issued by the Agriculture Department for the coconut and GACC certificate for coconut hybrid exports.

The Potential Product (coconut) Value Chain project that is implemented under the ACEMES-ROK Fund from May



2023 to April 2024 in Ayeyawady Region has been offering coconut handicraft training.

Experts will share practical approaches to manufacturing

coconut value-added products, from disposable coconut shells to commercially valued coconut crafts, including choosing coconut shells, sketching, painting,

decorating, finishing the products, and polishing and drying methods with the use of drilling machines. For designing, essential drawing arts will be offered as well.

The trainees will learn how to make coconut-based shrine lamps, curtains, key chains, shell lights, and earrings. The training will provide practical installation of shrine lamps and shell lights. They will earn the completion certificates.

The three-day coconut-based products expo and competition was held in Patheingyi from 22 to 24 January 2024. — NN/EM

OPINION

Ease thirst and starvation in sharing water

WATER, often referred to as the lifeblood of societies, stands as a crucial national resource essential for all forms of life, both living and non-living. Its significance is magnified in regions grappling with water scarcity, where its value cannot be overstated. Throughout history, water has been a catalyst for both peace and conflict, with some wars erupting due to disputes over its improper allocation for consumption and agriculture, resulting in countless casualties. Conversely, when countries have successfully cooperated in sharing water resources, it has led to peace, saving numerous lives.

Globally, more than three billion people depend on water that traverses national borders, yet only 24 countries have comprehensive cooperation agreements in place. With the escalating

impacts of climate change and burgeoning populations, there is a pressing need for intra- and inter-country collaboration to safeguard and conserve this invaluable resource. The well-being of public health, prosperity, food and energy systems, economic productivity, and environmental integrity hinges on the effective management of the water cycle.

The theme of World Water Day 2024, "Water for Peace", underscores the pivotal role of water in shaping peaceful societies and nations. Cooperation in water management can have a positive ripple effect, fostering harmony, prosperity, and resilience to shared challenges.

World Water Day, observed annually on 22 March, highlights the importance of freshwater for society. Each year, the theme focuses on topics relevant to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, aligning with the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 6 adopted by the United Nations.

In Myanmar, the National Water Resources Committee is tasked with developing and implementing an integrated water management system. This includes formulating national policies, strategies, directives, and laws aimed at ensuring water sufficiency across both rural and urban areas. The committee's relentless efforts aim to provide clean water for drinking and irrigation, thereby addressing the needs of the populace.

Individuals play a crucial role in promoting cooperation over conflict in water management, working towards peace and prosperity for all. By prioritizing equitable water-sharing, nations can mitigate thirst and starvation on a global scale, fostering a more sustainable and harmonious world. They have to harness water for the interests of society without disputes and conflicts, focusing on peace and prosperity. Proper sharing of water will be based on optimism aimed at peacefully fulfilling the requirements of global people, mitigating thirst and starvation all over the world.

IDIOMS and expressions play a vital role in everyday conversations, offering valuable cultural insights and infusing language with vitality. They serve to paint vivid pictures, render conversations memorable and nurture stronger connections between individuals.

These linguistic tools contribute to the enrichment of language, injecting discussions with liveliness and diversity. Moreover, the use of idioms facilitates the understanding of different cultures and promotes smoother social interaction.

In human communication, words act as threads that weave understanding and unity. Conversations resemble rhythmic dances, bridging gaps between individuals and fostering a harmonious blend of shared experiences. Language serves as a conduit for connection, expression, and exploration of our innermost thoughts, thereby promoting unity and embarking on a collective journey of humanity.

ရွှေလမ်းငွေလမ်းဖောက် /shwei lan: ngwei lan: hpau/

Fig: establish cordial relations

- တစ်ပြည်နှင့်တစ်ပြည်တစ်ဒေသနှင့်တစ်ဒေသချစ်ကြည်ရင်းနှီးစွာ ကူးလူးဆက်ဆံနိုင်ရန် ဆက်သွယ်သည်။
- ချစ်ကြည်ရေးအတွက် နှစ်တိုင်းနှစ်ပြည် ရွှေလမ်းငွေလမ်းဖောက် ခဲ့သည်လည်းရှိပေသည်။

To construct a gold-and-silver road.

DEFINITION

When two states have established friendly relations, a

flow of trade between them, including the exchange of gold and silver, is inevitable. Therefore, the establishment of friendly relations between two states is figuratively referred to as the opening of a gold-and-silver road.

The phrase "constructing a gold-and-silver road" is similar to the English idiom "building bridges" between two parties or "forging a golden connection," both of which signify the establishment of positive and friendly relations leading to increased trade or exchange.

Example sentences:

* After years of conflict, the two countries finally started building bridges and opened up opportunities for mutual cooperation.

* The new trade agreement between the neighbouring nations has forged a golden connection, leading to a surge in economic activity.

Here are some additional sayings and examples:

1. "Bridging the gap": This expression conveys the idea of bringing together two disparate entities or groups, often to facilitate understanding and cooperation.

Example: "Through cultural exchange programs, we're working on bridging the gap between communities."

2. "Extending an olive branch": This phrase is derived from the ancient Greek tradition of offering an olive branch as a symbol of peace. It is used to

Idiom Explorations Edition 4

Connecting on the Universal Dance of Words

By Augustin

describe making a gesture of reconciliation or friendship.

Example: "After their argument, he extended an olive branch by inviting her to lunch."

3. "Breaking the ice": This saying refers to initiating conversation or interaction with someone to alleviate tension or create a comfortable atmosphere, especially in new or awkward situations.

Example: "The team played an icebreaker game to break the ice at the start of the workshop."

4. "Making connections": This phrase can be used literally to refer to establishing links between objects or people, but it is also commonly used to describe networking, forming relationships, or finding common ground.

Example: "Attending industry events is crucial for making connections in the business world."

5. "Getting in touch": This

expression is often used to mean reaching out to someone or making contact, whether to express interest, communicate, or re-connect.

Example: "I need to get in touch with my old friend from college."

ဂြိုဟ်မွှေ /grou kja. hmwei/

- ဒုက္ခပေးသည်။ ဒုက္ခရောက်သည်။ မင်းကတော့ တော်တော် ဂြိုဟ်မွှေတာပဲ။

To be molested by the planets.

Fig: 1. Give or cause trouble.

2. be in trouble

This Myanmar idiom definition is as follows: People commonly believe that planets in space exert certain influences on living creatures on Earth. If a person is considered lucky or unlucky, it's often attributed

to the dominant influence of the planet they are associated with at the time of their birth. Therefore, being in a precarious or adverse situation is described as being affected by the planets.

Here are English idioms, sayings, and examples with meanings similar to the Myanmar idiom:

1. "Born under a bad sign": This expression is used to suggest that someone's life may be influenced negatively due to their birth circumstances or astrological signs.

Example: "Ever since he was born, it's like he's been born under a bad sign - nothing seems to go right for him."

2. "Stars aligned": When things come together perfectly or go well, people might say that the stars aligned for them.

Example: "I can't believe how smoothly everything went today. It's like the stars aligned for me."

3. "Heavenly bodies at play": This phrase can be used to describe situations where external forces or factors seem to be at work, influencing events.

Example: "It feels like the heavenly bodies are at play whenever she's around - everything just falls into place."

4. "Cosmic interference" Refers to when outside forces seem to be affecting a situation or outcome.

Example: "I can't explain it, but it feels like there's some cosmic interference causing all these mishaps."

5. "In the stars": When something is predestined or believed to be influenced by fate.

Example: "Their love was written in the stars - they were meant to be together." These idioms and expressions capture the idea of external forces, fate, destiny, and astrological influences on people's lives.

Here are a few more idioms and expressions that centre around fate, destiny, and external influences:

1. "Fortune smiles on someone": This idiom is used to indicate that someone is experiencing good luck or favourable circumstances.

Example: "It seems like fortune always smiles on her - she's constantly winning prizes and opportunities."

2. "Twist of fate" Refers to a sudden and unexpected change in one's circumstances or the course of events.

Example: "Their meeting was a twist of fate that changed their lives forever."

3. "Karma comes around": This expression suggests that the consequences of one's actions will eventually catch up to them.

Example: "He should be careful - karma has a way of coming around when you least expect it."

4. "Written in the stars": Similar to "in the stars," this phrase implies that something is destined or predetermined.

Example: "Their paths crossing was written in the stars, and they were meant to meet."

5. "Wheel of Fortune": Refers to the unpredictable nature of luck and fate.

Example: "Life's like a wheel of fortune."

အတိုင်အလှည့်ညီ /a.tuing ahle nji/

"အတိုင်နဲ့ အလှည့် ပြောင်းပြီး"

တော့ မောင်းကြည့်ရအောင် ထို နွား နှစ် ကောင် မှာ နွား နှင်း(အလှည့်)နှင့် နွားပြေး(အတိုင်)တို့ ဖြစ်ကြသည်။

Fig: to be well harmonized on the yoke

When two oxen work together to pull an ox-cart, their cooperation is crucial, especially when navigating corners. If one ox doesn't cooperate, the cart cannot be pulled smoothly or at a steady pace. Similarly, when two people cooperate effectively, they are said to be well-aligned on the yoke.

Here are English idioms, sayings, and examples with meanings similar to the Myanmar idiom:

1. "Working hand in glove" Means working closely together or cooperating seamlessly.

Example: Sarah and John work hand in glove to ensure the project's success.

2. "On the same page": Meaning being in agreement or having the same understanding.

Example: It's important for the team to be on the same page to avoid any misunderstandings.

3. "In sync": Meaning working or moving together in harmony.

Example: The dancers were perfectly in sync, creating a mesmerizing performance.

4. "Rowing in the same direction" Means working together towards a common goal.

Example: The committee members need to row in the same direction to achieve their objectives.

5. "United we stand, divided we fall": This means the importance of unity and cooperation in achieving success.

Example: The family knew that united they stood, but if they let differences divide them, they would fall.

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ရွှေလမ်းငွေလမ်းဖောက် /shwei lan: ngwei lan: hpau/



ဂြိုဟ်မွှေ /grou kja. hmwei/



အတိုင်အလှည့်ညီ /a.tuing ahle nji/

NATIONAL

Electricity supply from Pahtaw Reservoir solar system begins



A panoramic view of the floating solar system at the Pahtaw Reservoir in Kyunsu Township, Taninthayi Region.

THE Pahtaw Reservoir floating solar system, located in Pahtaw village, Kyunsu township, Taninthayi Region, is now supplying electricity.

The Pahtaw Reservoir floating solar system is installed with 6,384 solar panels on seven acres of water surface that can supply 3.77 megawatts.

The project is cooperated by the Pyae Phy Tun International Company Limited and Myanmar Solar Power Trading Company Limited with a public-private partnership system, and the project is expected to be completed entirely in May 2024.

Twelve inverters of 255 kilowatts distribute the 3.77 mega-

watts of solar energy generated from the project. If the floating solar system is implemented in water reservoirs, it will reduce the evaporation of water in the reservoir and will not affect the supply of agricultural water. Besides, it is renewable energy and can reduce the damage to the environment. — KK/TRKM

Duck farming trade expected to improve in March

THE trading of duck farming for eggs is expected to rise in the coming months starting this March, according to the duck farmers.

After Thingyan in April, the sale of ducks among farmers will become widespread, said Kyaw Swa Duck farming for Eggs Trading.

“We have buyers, and as our farm is a long-term business, there are no new customers, but we have regular sales for current customers. Starting

this month onwards, it is the duck farming season, so that farmers will order ducks continuously. After this month and Thingyan, duck farming for eggs can be sold well,” said this farm from Maubin, Ayeyawady Region.

With an excellent daily hatching rate, farming ducks for eggs is a reliable business that generates daily income in local communities.

It is commercially viable, and if one starts with small-

scale farming, it can become a regular income-generating business within two-three years.

Farming ducks for eggs and meat is different, and since duck eggs are ready and handy dishes, most people eat them while the market for duck meat is expanding.

Due to the increasing price of duck feed, duck egg prices are also rising, and it is K350 to K400 depending on the size, according to the foodstuffs market. — Thit Taw/ZN

Kyaikto Hospital offers free caesarean section to poor pregnant woman

USING the hospital fund, Kyaikto Hospital successfully conducted a caesarean section on a pregnant woman who couldn't afford it.

Under the title of Kyaikto Hospital on Facebook, the hospital regularly posts its contributions to the public welfare and knowledge-sharing content.

The woman had a C-section for her first child, and since the nurse told her that a caesarean section must also bear her second baby, she has stopped visiting the outpatient department and taken the risk of having a normal birth at home, it said.

“It is a dangerous decision. When she was told not to deliver by a local untrained midwife as it was a dangerous pregnancy, she replied that she would go to a trained nurse nearby. But we had to convince her that no nurse would accept her if they saw a C-section scar. However, she insisted on risking her life to give birth at home,” the post stated.

Therefore, the nurse in her locality arranged for the patient to meet and explain the situation

to the senior surgeon at the hospital. The operation was conducted on 21 March using the hospital's own fund, and a baby weighing eight pounds was successfully delivered.

“The assigned nurse can no longer be calm. She grabbed her patient by hand and forced the woman to come to the hospital and explain the situation to the doctor. Her blood pressure was 200/120. Pregnancy was overdue. When she was told she had to be hospitalized, she said she had no money. Since she couldn't afford it, the hospital paid for it. The baby weighed about eight pounds. If she had given birth usually, both the mother and the baby might have been at risk of death from a ruptured uterus,” the hospital said.

The hospital made a public notice that if patients cannot afford hospitalization, they should inform the nurse in charge, the doctor or the nurse in the respective locality and that more support will be provided for mothers and newborns. — MT/ZN



A hospital-funded caesarean section for a pregnant woman who can't afford treatment payment.

Private car sales, including EVs, stable; May forecasted improvement

THE sale of private cars, including EVs, has been regular, and it is expected to become active in May, said Myanmar Automobile Manufacturer and Distributor Association's general secretary U Kyaw Swa Tun Myint.

Currently, commercial-use cars priced around K50 million, private cars priced between K50 million and K100 million and private cars priced between K100

million and K200 million are being sold regularly, he said.

“The sale has been regular. Those who need cars buy. Dealers also buy if they need. There are private car customers, and some buy cars for their business. It is not that the sale has completely stopped, but it runs regularly. No surge has been seen, though the sale has been normal. The sale of cars priced between K400 million

and K500 million has been slow, but K100 million-K200 million cars have been sold regularly. EV is a part of the automobile industry, so there are buyers and sellers for EVs,” he said.

If no policy change happens in March and April after the Thingyan period, it is not likely to have an impact on the car market.

As of December 2023, auto-

mobile sales have been slowing. Around May after Thingyan, the car market is always lively every year, so there is also a possibility this year, he said.

“Every May, before monsoon season, the car market is always lively. Some buy for their business, such as school ferry services. In previous years, the sale used to be active again in around May. There is a 60 or 70

per cent possibility this year too. In Myanmar, there is a community that wants to enjoy luxury cars, and there is another community that wants to make profits from buying and reselling cars. Vehicles can easily be liquidated. So, people consider buying and reselling cars as a business-like making investment in property and gold,” said U Kyaw Swa Tun Myint. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

Shwezigon Pagoda to receive complete gold foil offerings

THE pagoda board of trustees has announced its plan to offer gold foils to the entire structure of Shwezigon Pagoda in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone, NyaungU Township.

The waste gold salvaging work from refining balls, spreading and inverted lotus flowers started on 20 March to be able to donate gold foils to the pagoda.

Offering full gold foils will be implemented using 26,000 gold foils except for

balls, the spreading and inverted lotus flowers.

Individuals interested in donating gold foil can contribute at a rate of K150,000 for one gold foil. They can also donate directly to the Shwezigon Pagoda Board of Trustees office or the Chairman of the NyaungU District Administration Body via KBZ Pay. — TWA/MKKS



The photo shows pilgrims visiting Shwezigon Pagoda.

Counter-argument to false information

False reports link grandmother's death to military conscription



The screenshot validates misinformation.

MALICIOUS media outlets have been spreading false news on social media, alleging that a grandmother died of heart failure on 15 March upon learning that her grandson, her only caregiver, was recruited by the People's Military Service Law in Latpangon Village, Twantay Township, Yangon Region.

A member of the township administration body clarified that they are actively educating residents about the law. Moreover,

the law provides provisions for individuals who are responsible for caring for ageing parents with no other caregivers, granting them temporary deferment from service. Therefore, the narrative of the grandmother's death due to heart failure is merely misinformation intended to sow misunderstandings about the law.

The said grandmother is over 80 years old and currently resides with her three sons and one daughter in Latpangon Village.

Citizens are encouraged to directly enquire about the People's Military Service Law from the Central Body for Summoning People's Military Servants to avoid falling victim to misinformation spread by malicious media. Phone numbers of the Central Body can be read and noted in State newspapers. — MNA/NT



Preparations underway to organize walking Thingyan festival, and water throwing pandals on Maha Bandoola Park Street.

1385 ME Walking Thingyan Festival prepared at People's Square in Yangon

DEPUTY Director-General of Public Relations and Information Department Dr Toe Aung said that preparations are underway for the 1385 ME walking Thingyan Festival at the People's Square in Dagon Township, Yangon.

The preparations began on 18 March, and construction of the pandals for water dousing and charity meals donations is also underway.

"The Yangon Region government and YCDC are coordinating this walking Thingyan festival. We are overseeing the dousing water and charity meal pavilions, performances,

and shops, providing the public with a convenient location to enjoy water festivities and food. The People's Square is a renowned venue, and we are organizing the Thingyan festival to ensure the public can celebrate safely," stated by Dr Toe Aung.

All preparations are well underway, and attendees will be entertained by lively performances from film, theatrical, and music associations, as well as 68 traditional Thingyan dance troupes, from 8 am to 9 pm. — ASH/TRKM

Light silverware produced for domestic souvenir market



The photo shows silverware items.

LIGHT silverware that can be carried easily is produced in the domestic souvenir market, according to U Aung Kyaw Oo, the owner of Aung Kyaw Oo Silverware shop in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon.

"The domestic use of copperware surpasses that of sil-

verware, indicating a limited market for the silver industry. Large silverware items are more challenging to procure, and there are limitations on exporting them to other countries. Consequently, there exists a market for mementoes. However, market conditions could shift if international buy-

ers gain access to silverware in sizes convenient for transportation. At present, we exclusively produce silverware as gifts for the domestic market," U Aung Kyaw Oo said.

Moreover, we are currently manufacturing 3D-designed silver statuettes and Zattawgyi statuettes (pre-Buddhahood dramas). These silverware items are competitive within the global silverware industry. Myanmar's silverware is renowned compared to those from other regions. The silverware industry is poised for resurgence once these artisans can engage in successful trading.

The high wages of artisans and the cost of raw materials force Myanmar's silver handicrafts to be created for export. — ASH/MKKS

ECONOMY WORLD

Global energy leaders outline plans for increased production of oil, renewable energy

Energy leaders from the Global South at the CERAWEEK forum in Houston announced plans to boost oil and gas production while expanding renewable energy.

ENERGY leaders from the Global South on Tuesday outlined their companies' plans to increase oil and gas production while developing more renewable energy during the ongoing global forum CERAWEEK in Houston, Texas.

"We will invest US\$300 billion between now and 2040 to increase production capacity from current three million barrels per day (b/d) to four million b/d by 2035, and sustain at that level until 2040," Shaikh Nawaf S. Al-Sabah, deputy chairman and CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, told the CERAWEEK audience.



Participants are seen at the Innovation Agora of the CERAWEEK in Houston, Texas, the United States, on 18 March 2024. **PHOTO: CHEN CHEN/XINHUA**

The company plans to start offshore production soon and welcomes outside investors and partners to form a new type of partnership that features more direct involvement in the operations, he said.

Kuwait also has an ambitious plan to develop more renewable energy with its abundant solar energy resources, first to power its oil production, he added.

"Most people do not realize that Nigeria has more gas than oil," said Mele Kyari, group chief executive officer of Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation.

The company has raised its

oil production from below one million b/d in 2022 to the current over 1.6 million b/d, and together with its international partners, it is building a new processing unit in the Nigerian LNG project to bring the capacity to 30 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) from the current 22 mtpa, said Kyari.

He voiced hope that a final decision will be made before the end of this year for the 5,300-kilometre Nigeria-Morocco gas pipeline project. Once completed, it can be extended to supply Europe and is expected to benefit as many as 10 African countries along the route. — Xinhua

Japan's record exports for Feb cut trade deficit to 379.4 bln yen

Exports surged by 7.8 per cent to 8.25 trillion yen, driven by robust shipments of cars and auto parts to the United States.

JAPAN'S exports rose for the third straight month to hit a February record amid robust auto shipments, leading the nation to trim its trade deficit by roughly 60 per cent from a year earlier to 379.36 billion yen (\$2.5 billion), government data showed Thursday.

Exports gained 7.8 per cent

to 8.25 trillion yen as US-bound shipments of cars and auto parts increased. Imports rose 0.5 per cent to 8.63 trillion yen, lifted by clothing.

Energy imports, which had boosted the value of overall shipments into Japan, continued to fall. Among them, coal tumbled 39.6 per cent and liq-

uefied natural gas dropped 21.1 per cent, according to a preliminary report by the Finance Ministry. "Exports to China are rather sluggish even if we take into account the effects of the Lunar New Year holidays," said Chisato Oshiba, an economist at Dai-ichi Life Research Institute. — Kyodo



Photo taken on 5 July 2023 shows container terminal of Port of Nagoya in Aichi Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**



New Zealand's kiwi exports account for 50.9 per cent of world kiwi exports. A customer tastes kiwifruit imported from New Zealand at a farm export in Beijing, China, 28 November 2013. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ XINHUA**

NZ-EU free trade agreement to take effect in May

THE New Zealand parliament on Thursday overwhelmingly voted to ratify a bill seeking to implement New Zealand's obligations under the New Zealand and European Union Free Trade Agreement (NZ-EU FTA).

The European Union Free Trade Agreement Legislation Amendment Bill was passed at its second reading, which enabled the NZ-EU FTA to come into force on 1 May.

The EU, which is New Zealand's fourth-largest trade partner, has completed its ratification processes, and the agreement has been signed off

by the European Parliament and Council.

The benefits of the deal include duties removed on 91 per cent of New Zealand's goods exports to the EU, rising to 97 per cent after seven years, covering kiwifruit, wine, onions, apples, honey, fish, seafood and other horticultural products, according to the FTA.

Tariff savings will reach 100 million NZ dollars (60.44 million US dollars) per year on New Zealand exports to the EU, said Minister for Trade and Agriculture Todd McClay. — Xinhua



Shares of Nike tumbled after the company offered a tepid near-term sales outlook.
PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Tepid Nike outlook dents shares as it touts Olympic offerings

The sports giant reported flat quarterly sales and profits slightly lower than the year-ago period, but still exceeded analysts' expectations.

SHARES of Nike tumbled Thursday after the sports giant signalled a tepid near-term revenue outlook even as it promised to wow consumers with new offerings in an Olympic year.

The sports giant, which has been criticized by some Wall Street analysts over a lack of hot new products in recent times, reported flat quarterly sales and profits that were slightly lower than the year-ago period, but which topped analysts expectations.

Shares initially ral-

lied on the results, which came only hours after the German football team picked Nike over Adidas in a win highlighted by the CEO on a conference call.

But Nike stock went steeply negative after Chief Financial Officer Matthew Friend projected only one percent revenues growth in the upcoming quarter, its fiscal fourth quarter. Friend also forecast a revenue drop in the "low single digits" in the first half of the next fiscal year, in part reflecting "the subdued macro outlook around the world",

he said.

Profits in the quarter ending February 29 came in at \$1.2 billion, down five per cent from the year ago period. Revenues were \$12.4 billion, essentially level with the year-ago stretch. The results were dented by about \$400 million in one-time severance costs after job cuts, said Friend, who cautioned that near-term performance would be negatively affected by "transition" impacts as it phases out some older items in favour of new offerings. — AFP

Social media company Reddit surges after NYSE debut

Despite challenges facing the tech sector IPOs, Reddit's shares surged nearly 50 per cent on its first day of trading, closing at \$50.44 and lifting its valuation to around \$8 billion.

REDDIT made its much-anticipated debut on the New York Stock Exchange Thursday, launching its initial public offering at \$34 a share and valuing the company at approximately \$6.4 billion amid a challenging period for tech sector IPOs.

Shares of social media company Reddit soared nearly 50 per cent on the New York Stock Exchange Thursday in a buoyant market debut that raised hopes about the IPO market.

The company, which trades under the ticker RDDL, finished at \$50.44, up 48.4 per cent from its initial public offering price, lifting the valuation to



Reddit is siloed into about 100,000 subject-focused chatrooms known as subreddits, making it more specialized and a place where posts are less prone to going viral.
PHOTO: AFP

around \$8 billion.

The hot trading debut came after the company's IPO priced at the upper end of the range, raising a bit more than \$500 million.

Market watchers were not sure what to expect

from Thursday's start given Reddit's record of annual losses and skepticism about potential growth in advertising revenues — which the company has described as a key area of promise. — AFP

Berlin says German FA lacks 'patriotism' for dropping Adidas

THE German national football team's decision to drop Adidas as its kit supplier sparked dismay in Berlin on Friday, with the

economy minister blasting the switch to US sportswear giant Nike as a lack of "patriotism".

"I can hardly imagine

the Germany shirt without the three stripes," Economy Minister Robert Habeck said in a statement sent to AFP. — AFP

<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V TOLMIROS VOY.NO. (01/2024)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TOLMIROS VOY.NO. (01/2024) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-3-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MKH where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301928</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S WILHELMSSEN PROT SERVICE(S) PTE LTD</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V THERESA GLORY VOY.NO. (02-24)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V THERESA GLORY VOY.NO. (02-24) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-3-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WILMAR where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301928</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S RAFFLES SHIPPING INTERNATIONAL PTE LTD</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V JANKI VOY.NO. (04/2024)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V JANKI VOY. NO. (04/2024) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-3-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of IBTT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301928</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S WILHELMSSEN PROT SERVICE(S) PTE LTD</p>
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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

China to deepen cooperation with Singapore: vice-president

Han emphasized the importance of bilateral ties between the two countries, describing them as friendly neighbours and important partners.

CHINESE Vice-President Han Zheng met Singapore's Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security Teo Chee Hean in Beijing on Friday, saying China is willing to work with Singapore to deepen high-quality cooperation.

Describing China and Singapore as friendly neighbours and important partners, Han said the two countries' leaders drew a blueprint for the development of bilateral ties by establishing an all-round high-quality future-oriented partnership between China and Singapore.

Han said China will unswervingly advance reform and opening-up and achieve Chinese modernization through high-quality development and high-level opening-up. China



This aerial photo taken on 24 April 2022 shows a view of the Nandi Coastal Trail Park in the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City at Binhai New Area of North China's Tianjin. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ XINHUA**

will work with Singapore to further enhance political mutual trust, promote personnel exchanges, deepen high-quality

cooperation, and promote greater development of China-Singapore relations at a higher level, Han said. — Xinhua

Australia, Britain vow AUKUS nuclear-powered subs will be built

AUSTRALIA and Britain said Friday that a landmark deal to develop AUKUS nuclear-powered submarines would go ahead, despite mounting fears about costs, capabilities and the possible return of Donald Trump.

Under the fledgling AUK-

US deal, the two countries along with the United States have pledged to beef up their military muscle in a bid to counter China's rise.

Defence chiefs this week unveiled ambitious plans to supply Australia with a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines,

a key pillar of the agreement.

"The three governments involved here are working at pace to make this happen," Australian defence minister Richard Marles told reporters on Friday. "This is going to happen and we need it to happen," he added. — AFP



BAE Systems awarded contract to build Australia's nuclear submarines. **PHOTO: BAE**

Officials seek to maximize aid to Gaza through Cyprus sea corridor

Cyprus has reportedly agreed with Israel to lift a naval blockade imposed in 2007, aiming to facilitate aid shipments to Gaza.

OFFICIALS from 36 countries and organizations met on Thursday to discuss ways of maximizing aid to Gaza through the Cyprus sea corridor.

Representatives from the United Nations (UN), the European Union, the G7 and non-governmental organizations involved in the handling and dispatch of aid supplies to Gaza attended the meeting.

They discussed ways to improve the operation in terms of aid delivery, transport and distribution, Cyprus' Foreign Minister Constantinos Kombos said in Larnaca, where the aid operation is based.

The officials also discussed the establishment of a fund to finance the operation, Kombos said.

According to local media, Cyprus has agreed with Israel on the lifting of a naval blockade imposed in 2007 to facilitate aid shipment to Gaza.

The first aid consignment through the Cyprus sea corridor left for Gaza on 12 March.

UN agencies and aid organizations have expressed concern about the imminent famine in Gaza. The quantity of aid permitted by Israel to enter Gaza falls short of the desperate needs. — Xinhua



A boat carrying humanitarian aid for Gaza departs from the port of Larnaca, Cyprus on 12 March 2024. **PHOTO: GEORGE CHRISTOPHOROU/XINHUA**

UN urges more water cooperation to build peace

COOPERATION across borders on shared water resources can help avert conflicts and build peace, the United Nations said Friday, urging all countries to join its Water Convention.

The UN stressed that with climate change and rising water scarcity worldwide, cross-border water cooperation was increasingly crucial for regional stability and conflict prevention.

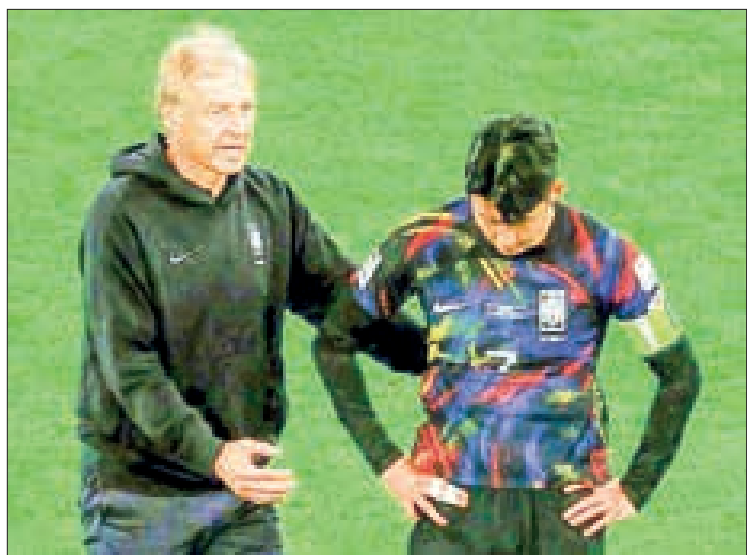
"Water and peace are very closely inter-related," Sonja

Koepfel, Secretary of the UN Water Convention, told AFP.

She pointed out that more than 60 per cent of all freshwater resources are shared by two or more countries, including major rivers like the Rhine and the Danube in Europe, the Mekong in Asia, the Nile in Africa and the Amazon in Latin America.

"Cooperating over those waters is crucial for peace, for development for climate action," she said. — Xinhua

SPORTS



Jurgen Klinsmann and Son Heung-min after a defeat in Qatar. **PHOTO: AFP**

Spurs ace Son came close to quitting international football

SON Heung-min says he considered quitting international football following a turbulent Asian Cup with South Korea but decided to continue for the fans.

The South Korea and Spurs captain hinted at doubts about his international future in the immediate aftermath of a 2-0 semi-final defeat to Jordan last month.

It later emerged that the 31-year-old played with a dislocated finger as a result of a bust-up with teammate Lee Kang-in on the eve of the game.

Jurgen Klinsmann, who had promised to deliver South Korea's first Asian Cup in 64 years, was then sacked after just a year in charge.

"Playing for the national team is a promise between

myself and the fans," Son told reporters following Thursday's disappointing 1-1 home draw with Thailand in a World Cup qualifier.

"I absolutely want to honour that," Yonhap News Agency quoted him as saying.

"I am going to keep my head down and play hard, and I hope I can grow into a stronger person so that I won't ever think about quitting again."

Revealing how close he came to giving up international football, Son said he had sought the advice of countryman and former Manchester United star Park Ji-sung. "I've never once taken my spot on the national team for granted - I've felt grateful and honoured every time," added Son. — AFP

Scaloni: Messi key in decision to remain Argentina boss

LIONEL Scaloni said Thursday that talks with senior players, including Lionel Messi, had rekindled his enthusiasm to remain manager of Argentina's national team after a year that he described as "difficult".

In November, Scaloni revealed he was considering leaving his job following the Albiceleste's 1-0 victory over Brazil in their FIFA World Cup qualifier at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium.

But speaking ahead of Argentina's friendly against El Sal-

vador in Philadelphia on Friday, the 45-year-old dispelled any doubts about his future.

"I spoke with Leo Messi and other players," Scaloni told a news conference. "With him because he is the captain, because of what he represents. I also spoke with other players, with Angel Di Maria, with Lautaro Martinez, Nico Otamendi, Rodrigo De

Paul. "They are people I trust a lot, who I love a lot. They have been with us from day one. I needed to speak with them and share my thoughts."

Scaloni, who had suggested in November that he lacked the energy to continue, insisted he had never seriously thought about quitting. But he said he had felt unexpected pressure after leading Argentina to glory at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, ending the South American country's 36-year wait for football's ultimate prize. — Xinhua



Lionel Scaloni expressed renewed enthusiasm to continue as manager of Argentina's national team following discussions with senior players, including Lionel Messi, after considering leaving his position in November. **PHOTO: AFP**

Late surge lifts LeBlanc to LPGA lead

CANADA'S Maude-Aimee LeBlanc closed with three straight birdies in a bogey-free seven-under par 64 on Thursday to take a one-stroke lead in the LPGA Seri Pak Championship in Los Angeles. LeBlanc, seeking a

first LPGA title was one stroke in front of American rookie Malia Nam, a former University of Southern California student golfer who made the most of her local knowledge in shooting a 65 on the par-71 Palos Verdes

golf club course. "I felt like I hit the ball really well today, and whenever I missed the green I was able to make up and down," said LeBlanc, who teed off on 10 and had two birdies before the turn. — AFP



Kei Nishikori's return to the ATP Tour ended in a straight sets loss to Sebastian Ofner at the Miami Open. **PHOTO: AFP**

Nishikori defeated in comeback game, Wozniacki out in Miami

FORMER world number four Kei Nishikori's return to the ATP Tour after a lengthy injury absence ended in a first round 6-3, 6-4 loss to Sebastian Ofner.

Japan's Nishikori has barely played on the tour in the past two years with his last appearance on the ATP Tour coming at Atlanta July. Given a wildcard by organizers, the 2016 Miami finalist was not surprisingly a little

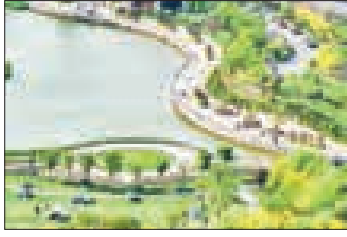
off the pace against 40th-ranked Austrian Ofner as he struggled to replicate his practice form.

"I thought I was practicing well, playing much better. I was feeling the rhythm and I was feeling the ball pretty good in the practice but during the match it's completely different," he told reporters.

"It was windy, he was hitting the ball very hard, very quick, the

courts are quick. I was having a tough time making a lot of balls in the court and just the little things that I was not making, maybe I was supposed to hit the corner but the ball goes to the middle sometimes," he added.

At 34, Nishikori faces a real challenge to work his way back up the rankings but he believes that in time, he can get back to an elite level. — AFP



In a special welcome to PM Modi, Bhutan youngsters perform Garba at hotel in Thimphu

P RIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday received a special welcome at his Hotel in Thimphu as youngsters from Bhutan gave a cultural performance of Garba on the song written by PM Modi.

Making the Gujarati folk dance more graceful, youngsters wore Gujarat's traditional attire, Ghagra-choli and Kurta Pajama.

The performance was staged after PM Modi interacted with the members of the Indian diaspora and the local people of Bhutan who gathered to welcome him outside the Hotel in Bhutan's national capital, Thimphu.

Later on, PM greeted the other officials gathered at the Hotel. The members of the Indian community on meeting PM Modi expressed their happiness and said that they felt honoured to meet PM Modi.

Earlier, PM Modi received a rousing welcome from the people who turned out in large numbers to accord a warm reception in Bhutan. In an unprecedented welcome for PM Modi in Bhutan, people lined up the streets across the entire stretch of 45

kms from Paro to the national capital, Thimphu.

It was as if a human wall was present across the entire stretch of 45 kms from Paro to Thimphu and the entire Bhutan

Youngsters warmly welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his hotel in Thimphu, Bhutan, performing a Garba dance to his song while dressed in traditional Gujarat attire.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi was warmly welcomed at his hotel in Thimphu, Bhutan, where youngsters performed a cultural Garba dance to a song written by him. **PHOTO: ANI**

bilateral relationship founded on mutual trust, goodwill, and understanding. Formal diplomatic ties between the two countries were established in 1968, with the cornerstone being the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed in 1949 and subsequently renewed in February 2007.

Over the years, high-level exchanges have played a pivotal role in nurturing the strong bond between India and Bhutan.

King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, has made several visits to India, underscoring the close ties between the two nations. His last visit to India was in November 2023.

Similarly, PM Modi's visit to Bhutan in August 2019 marked a significant milestone, with the launch of major bilateral projects aimed at bolstering economic cooperation and connectivity. — ANI

was on roads. During his visit to Bhutan, PM Modi will attend various programmes to further enhance India-Bhutan bilateral partnership. India and Bhutan share a unique and exemplary

THE THREE-DAY BAZAAR

Grand night event to resume at Singapore's Orchard Road

THE Night At Orchard will kick off at the signature shopping area Orchard Road on 29 March after a four-year hiatus, according to the latest news from Orchard Road Business Association, organizer of the event. The three-day bazaar will host over 50 booths offering food and drinks, products from retail and lifestyle brands, and games.

The event will take place from 3 pm to 10 pm on the last week of every month, varying from wellness to pets, and sustainability, the organizer added. — Xinhua

Global fertility crisis threatens 97% of world population, scientists warn

GLOBAL fertility is declining, with over half of all countries and territories experiencing rates below replacement levels in 2021. By 2050, it is projected that 75 per cent of the world's fertility rates will be insufficient to maintain population levels.

Scientists from the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) have warned of a looming global fertility crisis that could reshape population dynamics by the end of the century.

The findings, published in The Lancet on Wednesday, suggest that fertility rates are plummeting in almost all countries below the levels required to sustain current population numbers. Stein Emil Vollset, senior researcher and co-lead author of the study from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University



Fertility rates plummet in almost all countries below levels required to sustain current population numbers. **PHOTO: PIXABAY/SPUTNIK**

of Washington, Seattle, emphasizes that this trend will sharply contrast nations experiencing a "baby boom" and those facing a "baby bust". — SPUTNIK