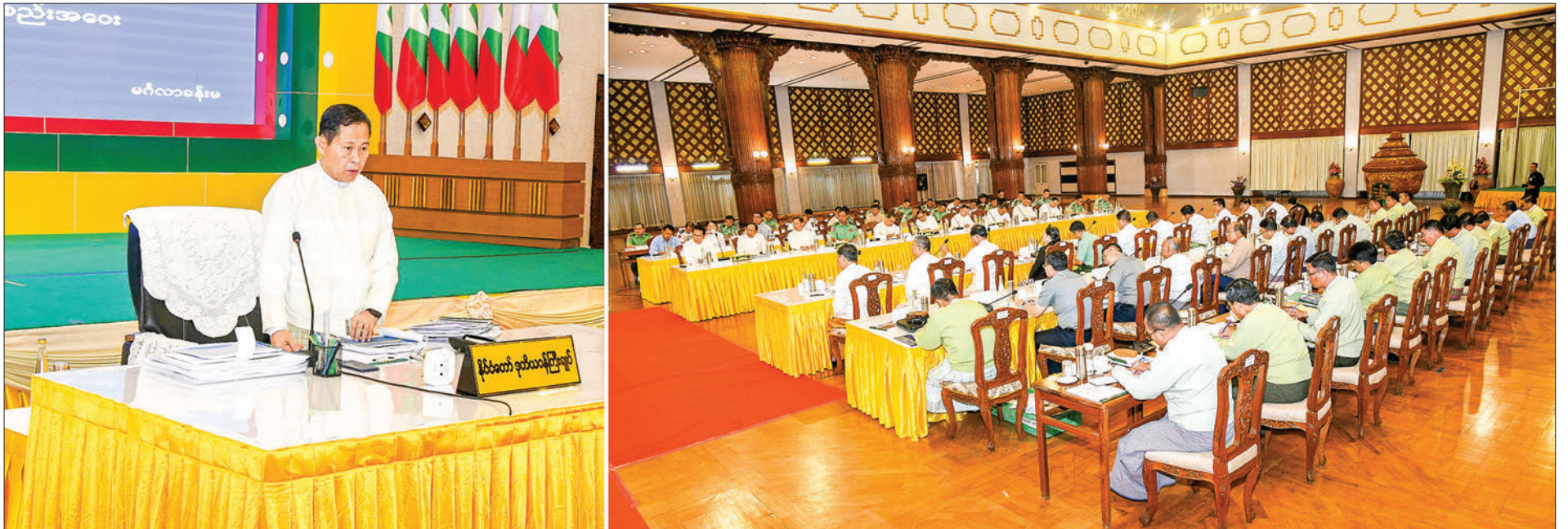


The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the meeting with Yangon Region cabinet members, district and township officials yesterday.

Officials need to raise security awareness and knowledge of people in Yangon Region

Officials were instructed to carefully supervise the prevention of unacceptable bullying and extortion in accord with the law.

spent on the actual running of businesses.

The Vice-Senior General pointed out that only when businesspersons actually operate their businesses will they be able to pay back the loans. If so, such money can be disbursed again to other industries, he added.

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THE government is carrying out all measures of People's Military Service in accordance with the laws, said Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win met Yangon Region cabinet members and district and township officials at the hall of Yangon Region government yesterday morning to talk about regional development and economic sectors.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General said: As some malicious media wishing to undermine peace and stability spread misinformation against implementation of the People's Military Service Law to cause public panic,

the government is carrying out all tasks under the law.

In the livestock breeding sector in Yangon Region, the Vice-Senior General noted that as some 17-20 million layers and broilers are being raised in Yangon Region, military units have to establish feedstuff factories for the production of poultry feed in accord with the guidance of the Head of State so as to reduce 20 per cent of feedstuff production cost than the market prices.

He continued that if feedstuff factories operated for chickens, pigs, fish, and cattle, livestock farming would have greater achievement.

He emphasized the disbursement of K7.5 billion out of K8 billion to businessper-

sons for the enhancement of the State economy, adding that the loans must be

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Vice-Senior General at the meeting with authorities and departmental officials

- Officials were instructed to carefully supervise the prevention of unacceptable bullying and extortion in accordance with the law.
- Some malicious media wishing to undermine peace and stability spread misinformation against the implementation of the People's Military Service Law to cause public panic.
- Correct data from the census can contribute to education, health, defence, social and economic sectors of the country, and development undertakings in regions and states.
- Relevant officials have to solve water and power supply and labour issues of economic zones in line with the adopted frameworks.

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Successful continuation of liver transplant surgery at Tatmadaw Hospital

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MoRAC introduces post-graduate diploma in library management

BUSINESS

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YGN palm oil wholesale reference rate flat for three straight weeks

NATIONAL

New pilgrimage route: Akauktaung destination to open soon

THE Ayeyawady Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism is currently developing the Akauktaung Pilgrimage destination, which is accessible via the Yangon-Hinthada-Kyangin route.

Akauktaung is a mountain extending from Pyay District to Hinthada District, renowned for

its numerous ancient Buddha images carved into the rock wall along the Ayeyawady River bank.

“Most pilgrims come from Pyay. As the mountain is situated in Kyangin, we also receive visitors from Hinthada and Kyangin. The current travel arrangement spans one night

and two days,” stated an official from the Patheingyi branch of the directorate.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has finalized a draft of standard operating procedures based on field studies.

The mountain offers year-round accessibility, providing

complimentary accommodations and vegetarian meals for lunch and dinner from 6 am to 6 pm daily. Local and foreign tourists alike visit the mountain to admire its numerous Buddha images.

Historically, the mountain served as a toll gate for pass-

ing boats and ships. Over time, artisans carved the mountain walls, resulting in 370 Buddha images depicted in various positions: standing, sitting, and lying. Most of these Buddha images date back to the Konbaung era, with some originating from the Innwa era. — ASH/NT



The Buddha images carved into the wall are visible from the Ayeyawady River.

Ohnmadanti Beach receives 26,775 domestic visitors in April

U Soe Win, Assistant Director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Ayeyawady Region), reported that Ohnmadanti Beach in Maubin District of Ayeyawady Region attracted a total of 26,775 domestic travellers in April.

The majority of day-trippers to Ohnmadanti Beach are from the Yangon Region.

“Ohnmadanti Beach, situated near Danuphyu and relatively less known, has been drawing the highest number of day-trippers from Yangon Region. Technically, it’s not a beach but a sandbank in the Ayeyawady



River. During the Thingyan period, it welcomed 21,155 domestic travellers. In March, a total of 16,775 domestic visitors were recorded. The number of visitors to the beach is steadily increasing each month,” explained U Soe Win.

Ohnmadanti Beach, named after the pagoda built by Ohnmadanti Princess, was inaugurated in 2011. — ASH/MKKS

The photo shows visitors to Ohnmadanti Beach during Maha Thingyan Festival.

COVID-19 report, 13 MAY 2024

| NEW TESTS | NEW CASES | CASUALTIES |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 27,817 | 91 | Nil |

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

NATIONAL

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win offers certificates, religious titles to winner monks in 76th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Exam



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, his wife and the congregation take Five Precepts from Members of the Sangha at yesterday's ceremony.

A ceremony to honour 112 members of the Sangha who passed the 76th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination organized by the Religious Affairs Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture took place in conjunction with the certificate offering ceremony at Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

SSMNC Chairman Sayadaw Thanlyin Minkyang Buddhism Learning Centre Presiding Patron Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa gave Saraniya Ovada Katha.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin supplicated religious affairs.

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win offered religious title and certificate to Ashin Pannasirilankara from Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery in Dagon Township of Yangon Region, who secured Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title for passing the examination and Ashin Janinda from Mingun Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery of Moemeik Hill in Sagaing of Sagaing Region for passing Mula Abhidhammika subject respectively.

SAC member Dr Ba Shwe, Union ministers U Maung Maung Ohn, U Tin Oo Lwin and Dr Thet Khaing Win, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Yangon Command



The Vice-Senior General offers the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title at yesterday's event.

and officials presented religious titles and certificates to monks who passed relevant subjects in the examination.

The Vice-Senior General and wife, SAC member Dr Ba Shwe,

Union ministers and party donated offerings to monks who passed the Examination.

The Examination turned out one Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida monk, five Mula Ab-

hidhammika monks, three Digha Nikayakovida monks, nine Digha Bhanaka monks, five Vinayakovida monks, 31 Vinayadhara monks, seven Ubhato Vibhankovida monks and 51 Ubhato Vibhangadhara monks, totalling 112.

Up to the 76th examination, 16 Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida monks have emerged during the 76 years. The government offers Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandagarika title to those Sayadaw who have secured Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title 15 years. So far, 14 members of the Sangha have been offered the Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandagarika title. As five Tipitakadhara Sayadaws have emerged, more Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title recipient Sayadaws will come out in the future. — MNA/TTA

Officials need to raise security awareness and ...

FROM PAGE-1

The Vice-Senior General stressed that preparations must be made for enumerating the population and household census across the nation from 1 to 15 October 2024.

He underscored that as the census is concerned with all residents of the nation, correct data from the census must be enumerated in order to contribute to education, health,

defence, social and economic sectors of the country as well as development undertakings in regions and states.

In the education sector, he urged officials to strive to open all schools in the coming academic year and stressed the need to manage all school-age children to pursue education safely in accord with the guidance of the Prime Minister.

The Vice-Senior General

highlighted that MSME businesses should not set a vision of foodstuffs and personal goods production for just domestic consumption; instead, they have to set a target to manufacture agriculture- and livestock-based export items.

The Vice-Senior General instructed relevant officials to solve water and power supply and labour issues of economic zones in line with the adopted

frameworks.

At the meeting, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and departmental officials reported on the progress of agriculture and livestock breeding farms, disbursement of loans to businesspersons from the State economic promotion fund, issuance of MSME member cards, implementation of Thilawa Special Economic Zone, formation of

people's security supervisory bodies, preparations for collection of the census, systematic selection of those inclusive of the People's Military Service Law, and implementation of Pankhinn project.

Also present at the meeting were SAC member Dr Ba Shwe, Union ministers, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and officials. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Vice-Senior General Soe Win comforts Tatmadaw members, family members receiving medical treatments at Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed)



The Vice-Senior General is seen viewing and encouraging patients yesterday.

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win comforted Tatmadaw members and families receiving medical

treatment at Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) in Mingaladon Township of Yangon Region yesterday afternoon.

The Vice-Senior General viewed Tatmadaw members and family member patients,

cordially asked about conditions of diseases, medical treatment and progress of health conditions and presented foodstuffs and cash awards.

The Vice-Senior General

also presented cash awards to the hospital's health staff through officials. He then viewed round the hospital.

Afterwards, the Vice-Senior General met the Yangon

Command Commander and commanders and officials from military stations under Yangon Command and gave instructions on local security measures. — MNA/TTA

Successful continuation of liver transplant surgery at Tatmadaw Hospital

THE sixth liver transplant surgery continued on the third day at the specialized treatment centre of the Defence Services General Hospital (1000-bed) in

Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region, yesterday.

The patient undergoing surgery was U Zaw Lin Tun, with his wife, Daw Khin Swe

Win, serving as the liver donor. The liver extraction from the donor commenced at 9 am, and the transplanted liver was successfully implanted into the recipient patient around 3:30 pm. The total surgery duration was approximately nine hours.

Both the donor and the recipient are in good health post-surgery, receiving ongoing care from specialist doctors and nurses in the special care unit.

The health conditions of the two liver donors and two liver recipients who underwent surgery in the preceding two days are also showing improvement. — MNA/TKO



The sixth liver transplant surgery in operation yesterday.

Counter-argument to false information

Allegations of Tatmadaw-used chemical bomb refuted as false

CERTAIN media outlets with subversive intentions have accused Tatmadaw of deploying chemical bombs during conflicts near Thayetgon Village, Nawngkhio Township, Shan State (North), on 8 May.

They claim that these bombs resulted in symptoms of dizziness and nausea among terrorists. However, an official from the security forces has refuted these claims, stating that there was no use of chemical weapons. According to their statement, terrorists have falsely accused Tatmadaw of employing such tactics in conflicts where they faced significant losses. Reports from the recent



The screenshot validates misinformation.

conflict indicate a high number of casualties among terrorists due to heavy weapon attacks and air supporting fire by the security forces. It appears that certain deceitful media outlets are spreading misinformation as part of their propagand campaign. — MNA/NT

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NATIONAL

Union Information Minister discusses screening processes with stakeholders of film industry

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn met businesspersons from the film production industries at Studio 1 in Bahan Township, Yangon, yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister said the producers emphasize movies that the fans prefer, whereas screening films at the cinema plays a key role. When the government sold the cinemas to the private sector for commercial purposes, the conditions stated the cinemas must run the movie screening industry. Currently, some of the cinemas have not been reopened, but they are encouraged to reopen.

He also mentioned the movie screening processes in different eras, uninvolved in movie screening by the ministry to be able to freely reopening of cinemas after



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn speaks on the meeting occasion with the film industry businesspeople yesterday in Yangon.

the COVID-19 period, and possible ways to cover the expenses of producers in making films.

He then urged the producers to make proper movies that are marketable and that carry

Myanmar culture, customs, and heritage. He underlined the need to supervise to prevent illegal recording in cinemas and other matters related to the loans to remedy COVID-19's impact on

the economy and the willingness of the Head of State to produce movies that support cultures, traditions, customs, and the tourism industry.

The Union minister concluded

the meeting after hearing the discussions of the chairman of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, cinema entrepreneurs and producers. — MNA/KTZH

91 ancient lakes of Bagan era under renovation

THERE are 106 ancient lakes in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bagan, and 91 of them have been renovated through two phases to explore the essence of the Bagan era.

Out of 106 lakes, 12 are located in monastery and pagoda compounds, and there is no need for them to be dug. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has conducted renovation works on Ahlenpya Lake, Ahlekan and Naung Lettaphet Lake, while the remaining 91 lakes are in progress.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture completed 100 per cent of the renovation works on Swaytaw Myotaw Lake between Culamani and Dhammayan, Shwe Htee lake in Taungbi village in the east of Bagan Hmyaw, Pyakyiswal Lake in East Phwasaw village and Zeebin lake in southwest of KazunO monastery, whereas Yaytaw Muni Lake and Thaesit Lake near Minnanthu village are still in progress.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation keeps



One of the ancient lakes under renovation in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone. PHOTO: KANU

doing the renovation works on three Mingala lakes in the northeast of Dhamma Yazaka pagoda – Moon Tain and Zayaweyi Lake in east Phwasaw village, and the Ministry of Border Affairs completed works on Myauktawet lake in the north of Myauktawet Pagoda. It is still working for Phyauckseikpin Lakes 1 and 2 and Phoethutaw Lake near Culamani Pagoda.

Officials supervise the plants *Vachellia leucophloea*, neem, Rain trees, and other plants below six feet high so as not to affect the ancient heritages in the Bagan cultural zone. Moreover, visitors to Bagan can breathe the past while seeing the ancient lakes of the Bagan era.

“Renovating the ancient lakes in the Bagan ancient cultural zone can contribute to the

birds, biodiversity and drinking water, and it also fits with Myanmar cultural zone as a recreational site for local and foreign visitors. All the lakes in Bagan are historic. We dredge 91 lakes out of 106. Nyaung Lettaphet Lake, where tourists enjoy sunset views, is one of them. When the renovation works are completed, Bagan's beauty can be modified more. The pagodas,

temples, lakes, and toddy palm trees are Myanmar's heritage from the Bagan era. It can see disappearing Myanmar heritage soon, and so the local and foreign travellers will be interested in it as a new tourist attraction of Bagan ancient cultural zone,” said U Myo Min Aung, assistant director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Bagan branch).

It is estimated that the lakes will be renovated in two phases, with 46 lakes in the first phase and 45 in the second phase. Of 46 lakes, 11 will be in the first phase, another 11 lakes in the second phase, 12 lakes in the third phase and another 12 lakes in the fourth phase. After that, 45 lakes will be in the second phase.

In addition to the lakes, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture renovated the moats, and it completed 20 per cent out of 30 per cent of dredging along the eastern moat. The soil test and HIA were conducted before the renovation works so as not to affect the ancient heritage. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

NATIONAL

Tender called for medical supplies at new Yangon General Hospital

THE Ministry of Health has announced that essential medical supplies, liquid oxygen, and consumables required for the New Yangon General Hospital will be procured through a tender system.

In the financial year 2024-2025, FDA-certified drugs and medical devices, laboratory and X-ray equipment, liquid oxygen, and consumables, including oxygen, necessary for patient care, will be purchased in Myanmar kyats.

These items will be procured from officially recognized

licensed companies via an open tender system. Entrepreneurs interested in participating can obtain tender forms between 10 am and 4 pm from 8 May to 6 June.

For further details regarding the tender process, individuals can visit the medical superintendent's office during office hours, according to the Ministry of Health. — TWA/TKO

New Yangon General Hospital.



The photo showcases the National Library of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw.

MoRAC introduces post-graduate diploma in library management

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture has announced the introduction of the Post-Graduate Diploma in Library Management, which will run for 18 months at the National Libraries of Myanmar in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw.

The diploma course for the academic year 2024-2025 will be overseen by the Department of Historical Research and National Library, the Ministry of

Religious Affairs and Culture, and the National University of Arts and Culture in Yangon and Mandalay.

Application forms will be available from 14 May at the National Libraries of Myanmar in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw. Applicants can apply in person or through the websites www.nlm.gov.mm and www.nlmnpt.gov.mm, as well as via the Facebook pages - National

Library-Yangon and National Library of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw. The deadline for applications is 24 May, and the entrance exam (covering English and general knowledge) will be conducted on 29 May.

Upon completion of the 18-month course, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture will award the Post-Graduate Diploma in Library Management. — TWA/TRKM

Mandalay Region co-ops fund summer rice farming

THE Mandalay Region Cooperative Department reports that over K600 million has been loaned for cultivating more than 3,000 acres of summer rice in Mandalay Region.

Since 1 April, a total of K600 million has been distributed to 749 members across 18 cooperative societies from 12 townships in Mandalay Region. This funding comes from the State Economic Promotion Fund, the regional government fund, and the cooperative fund.

Additionally, growers have received 1,448 baskets of paddy seed, 3,133 bags of natural fertilizer, 2,328 bags of pearl fertilizer, and 1,782 bags of compound fertilizer.

The objective is to assist cooperative society members in increasing crop yields and earning higher profits through collaboration. The loan carries an interest rate of one kyat per month, with both interest and principal repayment required after six months. — TWA/MKKS



The photo shows the summer paddy field in Mandalay Region.

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News and Periodicals Enterprise



MoC announces companies list remaining to enter export earnings in 2021

THE Ministry of Commerce (MoC) has announced a list of 451 companies that exported in 2021 and have remained to enter export earnings of more than US\$462 million.

The list of companies remaining to enter export earnings is published on an annual basis by the ministry.

MoC announced the list of 451 companies that have exported in 2021 and have yet to settle their export revenue as of 26 April 2024.

These companies have to re-enter the export earnings of 462,054,787.13 US dollars.

The companies that have remained to settle the export earnings are Precious Myawady Logistics and Supply Chain Co Ltd with more than \$59.976 million, Hein Aung That Export and Import Company with more than \$54.975 million, MMSM Myawady Company with over \$42.387 million, Sein Kabar (MWD) Company over \$16.7 million,

Apex World International Company over \$12.5 million, Han Nay Wunn Company over \$11.8 million, Aung Tharaphu (Myawady) logistics company with more than \$10 million, Sein Setkyar Win Myaing Company almost \$9.684 million, Shwe Mandalay Liquefaction Company over \$9.415 million, Subana Company over \$8.8 million, and Z & D Company more than \$7 million.

The Ministry of Commerce has also published the list of companies that have

remained to return export earnings for 2016, 2017 and 2019.

In 2016, seven companies had yet to settle their export earnings, and the remaining amount is more than \$500,000.

In 2017, 44 companies remained to re-enter export earnings.

In 2019, 96 companies still needed to return their export earnings, and the remaining amount was more than \$75.74 million, according to published sources. — TPT

MoC accelerates export promotion through public-private partnership

MORE than 230,000 tonnes of maize will be exported on 15 May.

The Ministry of Commerce (MOC) announced that export promotion activities are underway. More than 230,000 tonnes of maize are planned to be conveyed to foreign trade partners on 15 May.

The State is prioritizing the export promotion activities to boost the economic growth. The MOC is expanding export-promoting activities jointly with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) as a public-private partnership.

Myanmar schedules to export 71,900 tonnes of maize and 6,000 tonnes of rice through Sule Pagoda Wharves, 53,500 tonnes of maize through Myanmar Industrial Port, 58,400 tonnes of maize and 12,500 tonnes of rice through Ahlon International Port Terminal, 29,500 tonnes of maize through The Myanmar Terminal (TMT), 5,400 tonnes of maize through Min Htet Min Port (MHM), 11,000 tonnes of Yangon International Gateway Terminal (YGT) and 2,700 tonnes of Myanmar Five Star Line to foreign trade partners on 15 May.

Myanmar delivered 5,400 tonnes of maize from the MHM Port, 2,700 from Shweme Jetty and 4,850 from Wilmar International Port Terminal on 12 May. Myanmar exports maize to China and Thailand at the borders and ships to China, India, Vietnam, and the Philippines through maritime channels, according to the Myanmar Maize Industrial Association.

As a leading importer of Myanmar's maize, Thailand grants maize imports under zero tariff (with Form-D) between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposes a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on maize imports to protect the rights of its growers if the maize is imported during its season in Thailand.

Additionally, China has been purchasing Myanmar's maize through cross-border trade under the opium substitution programme. Legitimate maize trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 Myanmar companies have been authorized for maize exports.

Myanmar conveyed over 2 million tonnes of maize to foreign trade partners in the 2022 season. The majority of them were sent to Thailand, and the remaining went to China, India, the Philippines and Viet Nam. The maize is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah, and Kayin states as well as Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway regions. Myanmar has three maize seasons: winter, summer, and monsoon season. Myanmar's annual maize output is estimated at 2.5-3 million tonnes. — NN/EM

YGN palm oil wholesale reference rate flat for three straight weeks



Cooking oil is arranged for sales in the market.

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market was set at K5,220 per viss this week starting from 13 May, similar to that of the previous two weeks, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution. The reference rate remained unchanged in the past three consecutive weeks.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

Nonetheless, the market price is higher than the reference price.

To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed the consumers of lodging the complaints for overcharging through the call centre's hotline in late August. The department urged consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices. The committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil

Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

Complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic consumption of cooking oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/EM

OPINION

Prioritize safe foods for the health and longevity of people

AS correct living style plays a key role in the enhancement of people's health standards, the government, healthcare service personnel, and people have to make tripartite efforts to ensure the safety of food for the people.

As most people cannot emphasize individual health and fitness in doing daily routines, they are reachable for possessing a healthy life. Especially as most people cannot pay attention to the lifestyle supporting their health conditions, they face a variety of incommunicable diseases. Hence, people need to take care of possibly harmful functions in their daily food consumption process.

Currently, people cannot emphasize the content of nutrition in foods and the safety of foodstuffs. Subsequently, they suffer from unexpected diseases.

As such, food manufacturers need to take care of their food production so that people have easy access to safe foodstuffs and avoid the production of dangerous food.

The Department of Food and Drug Administration under the Ministry of Health examines foodstuffs prior to the market. It checks these products in the market so as not to cause dangerous conditions for foodstuffs and supplies and ensures safe and quality foodstuffs are sent to the markets for public consumption. As such, consumers and food producers need to notice and accept the efforts of departmental personnel in examining the foodstuff markets. Moreover, food vendors and shops need to avoid expired foods and damaged ones strictly.

To enable consumers to consume foodstuffs safely, the Myanmar Food and Drug Authority released Notification

8/2022 on 20 January 2022 for labelling instant foodstuffs. Hence, consumers have a chance to check the labels of relevant foodstuffs in the market and can choose the proper foodstuffs for consumption to be free from unexpected dangers.

Labelled foodstuffs can show consumers their safety. Moreover, producers of such products will have the trust of consumers and the prestige of their production, among others. In addition, they can easily penetrate the international market. Occasionally, officials from the Foodstuff and Drug Supervision Committee can chase the dangerous occurrences of instant foodstuffs and timely take action against hazardous situations of foodstuffs and those food producers.

That is why both consumers and foodstuff producers have to follow the recording process of foodstuffs to enable people to be free from the danger of unsafe foodstuffs. If so, a large volume of safe and guaranteed foods can be manufactured for public consumption, contributing to people's health and longevity.

THE Internet can be a magical place, but it can also be the one where things are not always what they seem. According to the E-Commerce Association of Myanmar, many in the country continue to fall victim to Facebook sponsored posts (advertisements) scams, where the sellers from border towns such as Myawaddy collect advance payments for (non-existent) goods, defrauding hundreds of buyers of their hard-earned cash. Getting an item quite different from what is advertised is one thing, but getting scammed of all your money is hard to take, and victims are caught between reporting to an establishment whose laws and orders do not instil fear and the embarrassment of being a first-class example of a village idiot.

Unfortunately, not every mistake is so benign, and it is not news that there are scammers on the Internet, but you may have noticed that one scam, in particular, is currently everywhere globally.

A common way that it starts is with a weird text from a number that you do not recognize, e.g., Cindy... can we move lunch to five, when you are certainly not Cindy; or Rick, what time is our flight when you are not Rick and you definitely don't have a flight booked; or hello is this the manager Joey from the flower shop; or is this Dr John, I'm Emily and is my horse recovering well! Most people would ignore messages like those, but some kind souls would respond right back and get sucked

into a conversation, and eventually, through a process popularly known as Pig Butchering, they can end up losing a lot of money.

It is a scam with a striking name that newscasters cannot seem to get over. It is called a Pig Butchering scam, and it might sound like a gruesome name, but that is because the amount of money victims are losing is extremely large and painful. First, you feed the pig till it grows bigger and bigger before you finally kill the animal for pork and bones. It is exactly what it sounds like, but the name makes a little more sense once you understand how scams actually work in the world of cyber and counterterrorism threats.

In 2021, special agents from the US covering internet scams started seeing this new scam called Pig Butchering. It just refers to raising little piglets, fattening them up and butchering them later. Scammers are fattening up their victims with illusions of grandeur of wealth or love before bleeding them really dry. That is particularly vicious because imagine being a victim of this scam, turning on the news and suddenly learning that the small handful of people in his or her situation are the pigs.

It might actually be an honour to be compared to a pig, and if you are thinking, well, this seems like the kind of scam that's been around for decades. That is only partially true, but the way this one works is fairly new, and in the

short time that it's been around, it's been massively successful.

Just this year, it was at the centre of a huge local news story in Kansas, USA, which brought down a financial institution. Kansas State Bank Commissioner talked about the massive cryptocurrency scam at the Heartland Tri-State Bank in Elkhart, a cryptocurrency scheme that the FBI now referred to as Pig Butchering. The commissioner said the victim was Shan Hanes, the bank's CEO. He is now facing charges of embezzling nearly \$50 million, a loss that caused the bank to fail last August. According to prosecutors, the CEO got Pig Butchered. He sent his scammer the majority of the bank's holdings, and the bank went under. It is extremely alarming for several reasons; among them is how banks work because there should be at least one control or monitoring step between the CEO getting tricked and, whoops, the bank's empty.

It's estimated that as of 2022, this scam was taking people for a ride, more than \$3 billion a year in the US alone, and that's almost certainly a massive undercount as it only includes people who reported their losses to the FBI. Global

Silence of the Pigs

By U AC

figures could be many times that amount.

Why is it easier to fall for than you might think?

Let's start with where this merciless online scam all began. To do that, unfortunately, we need to go back to the place that no one wants to go to - the beginning of Covid. Pig Butchering took off basically at the start of Covid because many of us were isolated and lonely, desperately looking for human contact online. This made us ripe targets. At the same time, organized crime groups from China running casinos in Southeast Asia were in crisis thanks to the pandemic, as gamblers were not showing up. So, these crime bosses turned those casinos into bases for online scam operations, and from then on, their managers and second-fiddler scammers started identifying people and praising their vulnerabilities.

Let us walk through the basic steps. The first is to make contact and lure you (the target) in. In one real-life example, this woman victim explains how her scammer, who called himself Jimmy, contacted her at a moment when she was dealing with cancer, the pandemic and the end of her marriage. The first communication

came as a very innocent message. She said the wrong number; but the scammer came back saying she looked Chinese and asked if she was Chinese. She said yes. He said he had moved here just before Covid hit, so he was not able to go home. He was a lonely man in need of comfort. Jimmy would message her every day. She remembered receiving these Emojis with hearts. It was pretty flattering for a middle-aged woman to meet a young man who finds her attractive. Of course, that's flattering because scammers are very good at telling their targets what they want to hear most.

One way of making contact is through those wrong number texts, but experts estimate that they only make up about a quarter of the initial contacts for this scam. The rest can come through sites like LinkedIn, dating apps, Instagram, or Facebook, which are specifically designed for you to meet people that you do not know, either for love or hookup. Scammers often research their target using social media, where there is a lot of information about people, and they can pretend to have something in common.

Another woman victim met someone on a dating app only to

discover that they shared an unexpected connection. He started asking questions about my family and my past experiences. It was a connection that felt even stronger when the scammer told her he came from the same town in China from where she was adopted. They kind of bonded over that. That story starts with him asking her questions about her life and ends with her giving him all of her money, but regardless of how they begin, sooner or later, we move on to step two, turning the conversation towards cash.

But even then, there's a smart twist because you will not be suddenly asked to wire money to a Nigerian prince with an obviously fake email or a lottery-winning email from Microsoft or Google. These are for historians and archaeologists. In Pig Butchering, there is no direct quest for money at all. Instead, an opportunity gets presented to you. Another victim explains the moment when a guy that he met on a dating site started to reel him in. He spent at least a month daily talking to the victim to cultivate friendships. Initially, the only talk about money was about how much his new online friend had made in crypto. After all, the victim, like most of us, thought he knew how to protect himself from scams: 'You can invest with me, and I'll make you all this money', and hence, he will not be giving out any money at all. That's when he started saying the big 'NO' - you don't give it to me; you establish your own account,

and I'll guide you. That's the cleverer hook here: you're not sending the scammer your money; they're helping you set up and control your own account, and everything seems more legitimate, especially when an app is involved.

When was the last time you took a Grab taxi and thought - oh, I am getting into a nondescript car with someone I've never met. I would never do that. But wait, if I can do it from my phone, well, in that case, here's my address and particulars. Now you know where I live and that I won't be home that evening. We are programmed to believe that everything's safe where an app is involved, and the fact that the investment is often in crypto can be persuasive for multiple reasons. First, who really knows how crypto works? But people have made money on crypto, so it's not unreasonable to think you might meet one of them, and they could give you some tips. On top of that, you might not be super familiar with how a trading platform operates or even what one looks like.

Scammers have already created incredibly plausible-looking platforms that seem to have all the details and functionality of a real one and that could fool everyone. Also, some scammers use legitimate apps that allow anyone to build a trading exchange. The problem is there are tools that scammers can use to simulate fake results on those apps while taking your real money.

This gave one victim false

confidence in Metatrader - it looks just like any kind of normal trading interface that one would use that's available in the Google Play Store. It's also available in the Apple App Store. It's an app that has a lot of good ratings, and that was one of the things that made him think that this whole operation was legitimate.

You believed that your investment was making money if you were trading on a legitimate trading interface. You see the profits and losses over time. That is exactly what you saw; if your friend told you to download an app and you saw it in the App Store with good reviews, you might assume everything on it was legitimate even before you saw the Meta-trader logo. Some scammers even set up additional features like two-factor authentication or customer service hotlines.

One woman, the victim, did try her best to do due diligence on the site that the scammer recommended to her and came away convinced that it was real. There was a legal secretary involved in another state vouching association with a law firm to where she was sending her money. She was real; the victim could verify her; so it was a very complex and well-rehearsed operation. She spoke with a legal secretary and a law firm before sending money, and that is more vetting than any of us intelligent people could have done.

To Be Continued

Singapore introduces AI in classrooms, caters to individual need

This innovative approach empowers students to engage actively in their education and enhances their mathematical skills.

AT Lakeside Primary School in Singapore, a trolley full of laptops is wheeled to the door of a fifth grade classroom where 30 or so students rush out to a hallway to retrieve them to learn mathematics using artificial intelligence.

A teacher wearing a headset tells the students to set their own goals for the lesson they will learn that day on devices they use for some hours of their lessons each week.

She writes on a whiteboard

that the lesson will focus on "the conversion of measurements involving decimals" such as how 10 metres and five centimetres can be converted to 10.05 metres.

Using their laptops, the students swiftly access an AI enabled "Adaptive Learning System" embedded in an online learning portal, developed by Singapore's Education Ministry for fifth and now sixth grade mathematics.

The ALS, introduced in June last year, enables the students to choose their own difficulty from

three levels, while the AI generates questions based on previous learning data and other factors.

Lovelle Ng Bo Yee, one of the fifth graders at Lakeside school, was looking at the laptop screen guided by the ALS system on how to convert 0.062 m into 6.2 cm by multiplying by 100.

This is done visually with a small arrow on the screen pointing to how the decimal point in 0.062 m should shift two spaces to the right in order to get the answer of 6.2 cm.

Ng, 11, who opted to take on a challenge, said she likes using ALS as it motivates her to study math.

"When we get the question wrong, it will give us an easier question," she said, adding the system explains why an answer is wrong and how she can improve. "When I get it correct, it will give more challenging questions," she added.

Cynthia Goh, the school's mathematics head, said the students have the option to decide what they want to learn on a giv-

en day. They can make revisions, receive further guidance when uncertain, or take on a challenge, while the teacher observes the students and sometimes helps them.

The ALS collects data on each student's mastery of a new topic and compiles a report on their performance. Teachers benefit as they can save time on grading, get data on students' areas of weakness, enhance lesson content and provide more individualized instruction.

SOURCE: Kyodo



Students receive laptops for a mathematics lesson using artificial intelligence at Lakeside Primary School in Singapore on 9 November 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

NATIONAL

Good-weather PyinOoLwin's real estate draws Mandalay buyers



Advertisements for houses and land plots for sale seen on the pages of real estate agents.

MANY people in Mandalay have been more interested in buying real estate in PyinOoLwin, which has cold and fair weather, according to the real estate agents.

PyinOoLwin, which attracts attention as a resort, is a beautiful city with natural scenes and fair weather. Owing to its less severe heat, it has attracted interest from many people in Mandalay to invest in the property market.

"People are buying property in PyinOoLwin. Many people from Mandalay have moved up to PyinOoLwin. They run their businesses in Mandalay and buy property in PyinOoLwin. Many of them are like this. Property sales in PyinOoLwin rarely stop because the weather is good and there is a lot of interest. After half an hour or an hour's drive from Mandalay, the weather turns cold,

so many people buy property in PyinOoLwin as a second home. They usually operate their businesses in Mandalay. And they come to PyinOoLwin on Sabbath days or weekends to meditate or take a rest. Some visit here with their friends," Ma Htar Htar Ei, a real estate agent in PyinOoLwin, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Property in areas close to the city, including Anisakhan, Aungchantha Ward, and Wards 9, 10 and 11, are being sold better. The market was very active from 2021 to 2023, but it became quiet from the end of 2023 to early 2024, and starting from March, the market became good again.

"PyinOoLwin property market was better in 2021, 2022 and 2023. The market was still in late 2023 and early 2024. Since March, the market

has been active again. It has been four months. We are selling land plots and those with houses. Some Myanmar people living abroad are buying here with a plan for the future. One of the reasons for the increase in sales is that it was hotter in Mandalay in March and April," she explained.

Property sales will be low in the coming rainy season, and if a plot is used for a hotel, it may be available at a cheaper price, according to the market.

"Normally, sales are better in the fine weather season. Sales are lower in the rainy season. If it is for hotel construction, land plots are available at reduced prices. People prefer larger plots in PyinOoLwin. If a plot is small, 40 feet by 60 feet, rich people are reluctant to buy. Those who cannot afford much buy small plots," she said. — Thit Taw/ZN

MMPO secures documents for film city project in Hlegu Township

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, U Aye Kyu Lay, announced that official documents have been acquired for the film farm to construct a 200-acre film city in Hlegu Township of Yangon region.

U Aye Kyu Lay stated, "This farm was allocated to our MMPO ten years ago, and now we are in the process of clearing it. We

finally possess the official documents for our film farm, and we are actively working towards establishing the film city."

It has been revealed that plans are underway to develop this film farm in Hlegu Township into a film city, following the acquisition of official documents. The film city project is expected to commence at the earliest opportunity. — ASH/ TRKM

Hlinethaya to see 20 six-storey buildings in public-private venture

IN a public-private partnership, 20 six-storey RC buildings, each floor featuring four rooms, will be constructed in Hlinethaya township, according to the Yangon Region government.

This project will be implemented on 3.508 acres of land, which is under the management of the regional government and located at the lane between Bo Aung Kyaw Road and Kyansittha Road in Hlinethaya (western) township's ward 19.

It will be implemented in public-private partnerships, and Myanmar citizen-owned local companies, which have already registered with the regional government's tender

screening and evaluation committee, can apply for bidding.

For Myanmar citizen-owned companies which want to invest in this project, tender application forms will be sold at Yangon City Development Committee's Engineering Department (Buildings) from 20 May to 14 June. Submission will have to be made on 21 June, and the auction date will be announced.

Including industrial projects, buildings and road and bridge repair works, the implementation of urban development projects has escalated in Hlinethaya as of early this year. — TWA/ZS

Thukha Dagon housing 2nd stage winners to contract on 20 May

WINNERS of the Thukha Dagon public rental housing at the second stage will be signing contract for residing and providing deposit on 20 May, according to the Ministry of Construction.

The Thukha Dagon public rental housing is constructed and located at the junction of Nos 2 and 7 highways in Dagon Myothit (South) Township. Authorities will allow residing on 1 June for the lots drawing winners of the housing at the second stage on 13 November 2023.

"We won the housing lots in November last year. We will sign

the contract for residing on 20 May this year. Those who are currently living in the housing are the lots drawing winners in previous stage. We are very glad to have chance to live at the housing since we have many challenges living as the tenants," Daw Myint Swe from Thingangyun Township, who won the lots told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

A total of over 1900 rooms from Thukha Dagon housing will be allotted this year. Third time forms for residing have been sold from 25 March to 25 April, the report stated.

Flats from the Thukha Dagon housing have been allowed for the civil servants, retired personnel and the public who have difficulties in living. Accordingly, a total of 810 rooms in June 2024; 864 rooms in July; 272 rooms will

be allowed in December.

The report also stated that a total of 1,168 rooms have been allowed in December 2023.

"It is very suitable for those who have difficulties in living. In the first lots drawing stage,

some who own the houses involved drawing, which impacted on those who truly do not own houses. What is more, the former groups signed the contract for living. However, they did not reside at the housing with the given period. When the department warned, they leased the rooms to the tenants. Authorities should scrutinize those cases," Ko Tun Lin from Dagon Myothit (South) Township told the GNLM. It is also reported that bus stops and bus terminals will also be constructed for the housing. — TWA/TMT



Thukha Dagon public rental housing.

NATIONAL

A man-made forest to emerge near Yenangyoung

It is expected that a man-made forest will appear near Yenangyoung in Magway Region, central Myanmar or Anyar which has suffered extreme heat, in the next couple of years.

The plan has been carried out by a local philanthropic group, Yenatha Dingar Brothers which does philanthropic works such as planting, digging wells and building public rest-house.

“It will be initiated at Parahita park near Yenangyoung bypass. Various kinds of trees will be planted there. We have aimed to create a small forest where travellers can take shelter and birds and animals can come to inhabit. No Parahita park existed before. We will implement it for the first time,” said the group founder Ko Yenatha Dingar.

The small forest will include



a lake and about 10,000 trees more will be planted and existing trees must not be cut, he said.

“It will shape up in next two years. The number of people who cut trees is still larger than the number of people who grow trees. So it will be better similar plans can expand,” he said.

In order to protect the man-made forest including shade trees such as rain trees, neem trees and Homalium longifolium from forest fire, arson attack and animals, gardeners including their families will be hired by providing financial support. — Thit Taw/ZS



Parahita park located near Yenangyoung bypass where the man-made forest will be created.

Myanmar clinches numerous awards at international photo competition



Some information prescribed for the photo contest.

U Kyaw Kyaw Win, Secretary of the Myanmar Photography Association, reported that Myanmar achieved significant success at the Myanmar International Photo Circuit 2024, an online photography competition jointly organized by Myanmar, Chile, and Bangladesh.

“A total of 170 contestants from three countries participated in the event, submitting a total of 1,996 photos for consideration. Among these, 48 contestants represented Myanmar, submitting 559 photos. Myanmar garnered a total of 1,156 awards, a result that brings us great joy,” said U

Kyaw Kyaw Win.

Myanmar contestants took part in the Agile Photographic Society (APS), Foto Cine Club Valparaiso (FCCV), and Myanmar Photographic Society (MPS) categories. In the APS salon, Myanmar secured two gold medals from FIAP, four gold medals from APS, two FIAP Ribbon awards, two APS Ribbon awards, 38 honourable mentions, and 440 acceptance awards.

Similarly, in the FCCV salons, Myanmar contestants achieved two FIAP gold medals, two APS Ribbon awards, 20 honourable mentions, and 314 acceptance awards. In the MPS salon, Myanmar won six gold medals, six silver medals, six FIAP gold medals, four FIAP ribbon awards, 30 honourable mentions, and 318 acceptance awards.

The competition commenced on 26 March, with submissions being scrutinized on 8 April. The list of winners was announced on 11 May. — ASH/TMT

Illegal goods worth over K200M seized in enforcement operations

DURING inspections conducted on 11 and 12 May, combined teams apprehended several vehicles involved in illegal activities. A Yutong minibus, valued at approximately K25 million, was travelling from Lashio to Mandalay and was found carrying seven types of goods worth K35.973 million, including 225 sets of TOMZN circuit breakers from China, without official documents, near Yepu village on the Shwenyaung-Yatsauk road.

Another vehicle, a Mitsubishi Fuso bus valued at approximately K30 million, was travelling from Hpa-an to Yangon and was discovered carrying three types of goods worth K13.04

million, including 18,000 boxes of Lactasoy soy milk without official documents, near the Shwethanlwin Tollgate in Phayagyi. Additionally, a total of 3.269 tonnes of illegal teak, 0.839 tonne of illegal hardwood, and 5.110 tonnes of illegal timber, valued at K3.07 million, were confiscated in Bago, Toungoo, and Nyaunglebin districts. This enforcement action was conducted under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

On 12 May, combined teams impounded four unregistered vehicles, estimated to be worth K42 million, near Sanpayi village in Mokaung township. A Mitsubishi Fuso

truck, valued at K30 million, was intercepted at the Kywetatson checkpoint carrying five types of goods valued at K28.244 million, including 94 coffee tables from China without official documents. Illegally extracted teak weighing 2.045 tonnes, worth K14.5 million, was seized at the Yadanabon Bridge combined checkpoint. The action was carried out under the Export and Import Law, Customs procedures, and the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 14 arrests made on 11 and 12 May, with an estimated value of K221 million. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated illegal commodities from various states and regions.

ECONOMY WORLD



Photo taken on 13 May 2024, shows an unmanned, mobile convenience store operated by FamilyMart Co at a construction site at the venue for next year's 2025 World Exposition in Osaka. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Japan's FamilyMart opens unmanned, mobile shop at Osaka Expo

JAPANESE convenience store operator FamilyMart Co on Monday opened an unmanned, mobile shop at the venue for next year's 2025 World Exposition in Osaka, with hopes of eventually utilizing such stores in disaster-stricken areas and depopulated regions.

The shop on wheels, measuring approximately 14 square metres, will make its debut at the expo venue under construction on Yumeshima, an artificial island in Osaka Bay.

The first of its kind in Japan, it is slated to carry around 280 products, including refrigerated and frozen goods, and will have two self-checkouts.

The store can be moved using a trailer and its location will vary according to how the ongoing construction of expo-related sites progresses, FamilyMart said in a press release.

It will be open between 9 am and 5 pm.

The global event is scheduled to take place from 13 April through 13 October next year. —Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

S Korea, Malaysia renew currency swap deal for 3 years

THE central banks of South Korea and Malaysia agreed to renew their bilateral currency swap deal for three more years, the Bank of Korea (BOK) said Monday.

The BOK and Bank Negara Malaysia announced the renewal of the bilateral swap arrangement which allows for the exchange of local currencies between the central banks of up to 5 trillion won (3.7 billion US dollars) or 15 billion ringgit (3.2 billion US dollars).— Xinhua

Singapore receives 1.36 mln visitors in April

A total of 1.36 million visitor arrivals were recorded in Singapore in April, up 20.1 per cent year-on-year, according to the latest statistics released by the Singapore Tourism Board.

Indonesia was Singapore's largest visitor source in April with nearly 244,000 travellers, followed by the Chinese mainland, India, Malaysia, and Australia.— Xinhua

China-Europe freight train services report robust growth in first 4 months



This photo taken on 19 April 2024 shows a China-Europe freight train departing from east China's Shanghai. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINA-EUROPE freight train services saw solid growth from January to April this year, with continuous improvements to the transport capacity, efficiency and ser-

vice quality.

The number of China-Europe freight train services increased by 10 per cent year on year to 6,184 trips in the first four months of 2024, the China State Railway Group Co, Ltd (China Railway) said on Monday. About 675,000 20-foot equivalent units (TEU) of goods were transported through the freight trains during this period, up 11 per cent from a year ago, according to the company.

By the end of April, some 89,000 China-Europe freight train trips had been completed in total, serving 223 cities across 25 European countries, according to China Railway.— Xinhua



Tesla cars charge up at a Tesla Supercharger on 2 May 2024 in Petaluma, California. California Gov Gavin Newsom said over the weekend that Tesla's charging network will now be available to non-Tesla electric vehicles. **PHOTO: JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES/AFP**

Tariffs, corporate timidity driving US automakers into a ditch: Bloomberg

THE United States seems to be giving up on electric vehicles (EVs), as tariffs and corporate timidity are causing "an astonishing loss of nerve" in the country, "whose capitalist hunger once created the modern auto industry", Bloomberg has reported.

"Cosy within a market protected by distance and tariffs, and fearful of the wrenching shifts required by both electrification and Chinese competition, many executives would like to believe

the whole energy transition thing was just a bad dream," said Bloomberg columnist David Fickling in an opinion piece on Saturday.

US President Joe Biden is reportedly planning to raise tariffs on Chinese clean tech, and the centrepiece will be a quadrupling of levies on EVs to 100 per cent, Fickling quoted The Wall Street Journal as saying in the article titled "Tariffs and timidity are driving US automakers into a ditch." — Xinhua

SoftBank Group posts 3rd straight yearly loss on investment losses



File photo taken May 2019 shows the logo of Softbank Group Corp in Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO

SOFTBANK Group Corp said Monday it booked a net loss of 227.65 billion yen (\$1.5 billion) for the year ended March, posting red ink for the third straight year due to investment losses. The net loss shrunk from the 970.14 billion yen

logged the previous year. Its sales rose 2.8 per cent to 6.76 trillion yen, the company said. The company lost 559.4

billion yen on investments in the fiscal year, improving from the 835.1 billion yen loss a year earlier.

Some of the tech firms it invested in, such as Bytedance Ltd, the operator of short-video app TikTok, and South Korean e-commerce giant Coupang Inc, increased in value, but that was not enough to make up for overall investment losses, the Japanese company said.

Among the investments that contributed to the losses, SoftBank cited a decrease in the value of shared workplace provider WeWork Inc which filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in November. — Kyodo

Emirates Group books record \$5.1 bln annual profit

DUBAI'S Emirates Group announced annual profits of \$5.1 billion on Monday, a rise of 71 per cent, as the airline company set a new record for the second year in a row.

Citing strong customer demand, it said group profits for the past two years hit \$8.1 billion, surpassing the losses seen during pandemic-hit 2020-2022.

"The Emirates Group has once again raised the bar to deliver a new record performance," chairman and chief executive Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum said in a statement.

State-owned Emirates Group, operator of the world's largest long-haul carrier, announced a record \$3.0 billion in profits last year as it returned to the black after the Covid pandemic.

Emirates has now erased the \$1.1 billion loss in 2021-2022 and the heavy \$5.5 billion deficit a year earlier, when it was forced to ground its fleet and lay off staff.

"The Group's excellent financial standing today places us in a strong position for future growth and success. It enables us to invest to deliver even

better products, services, and more value to our customers and stakeholders," Sheikh Ahmed said.

The airline business alone returned record profits of \$4.7 billion, up 63 per cent. Emirates Group also encompasses airport services company Dnata, whose profits more than quadrupled to \$400 million.

The Emirates Group workforce grew 10 per cent to a record 112,406 employees. The airline will receive 10 new Airbus A350s from August but remains plagued by delays to Boeing's 777X, with 205 on order.

'Volatile environments'

The positive financial results come despite a period of turmoil in the region since the Israel-Hamas war started in October, setting off a wave of political tensions.

"The business outlook is positive, and we expect customer demand for air transport and travel to remain strong in the coming months," said Sheikh Ahmed, adding that possible hazards included "volatile environments caused by socio-political changes". — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V NEWSUN VOY.NO. (24.01)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NEWSUN VOY.NO. (24.01)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-5-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **M.K.H** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S WILHELSEN PROT SERVICES (S) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2411S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2411S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-5-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V HIBISCUS VOY.NO. (104864)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HIBISCUS VOY.NO. (104864)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-5-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-3** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD

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

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC YUANMING VOY.NO. (2406S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-5-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (817N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (817N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-5-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

Indonesia flood death toll rises to 44 with 15 missing

THE death toll from flash floods and cold lava flow from a volcano in western Indonesia over the weekend has risen to 44 with 15 more missing, officials said Monday.

Hours of heavy rain caused large volcanic rocks to roll down one of Indonesia's most active volcanoes into two districts on Sumatra island Saturday evening, while flooding inundated roads, homes and mosques.

"As of 13:00, the number of dead victims was 44 people," national disaster mitigation agency (BNPB) spokesman Abdul Muhari said in a statement on Monday.

Rescuers were still searching for 15 missing people in two districts — Agam and Tanah Datar — that were the worst hit by the floods and home to hundreds of thousands of people.

Residents said they heard rocks thundering down roads outside their homes when the heavy rains struck.



This handout image taken and released by Indonesia's National Search and Rescue Agency (BASARNAS) on 13 May 2024 shows personnel taking part in a search operation in Tanah Datar, West Sumatra. **PHOTO: INDONESIA SEARCH AND RESCUE AGENCY (BASARNAS) / AFP**

Refki Amelia, a 39-year-old mother-of-three in Agam, survived but lost her 65-year-old mother and her 15-year-old niece.

"My parents' house was right across from my home. (My mother) wanted to run outside but did not have the time, a big rock came crashing down," she

told AFP on Monday.

"Her body was found two kilometres away. My surviving sister... is traumatized, so is her son."

Abdul Malik, head of the local search and rescue agency in provincial capital Padang, said Sunday that the bodies retrieved included two children — a three-year-old and an eight-year-old.

Ilham Wahab, a West Sumatra disaster mitigation agency official, encouraged "people to evacuate to relatives' places, which are safer" than tent shelters in heavy rains.

"We are focused on first, searching and rescuing the victims, second, protecting the evacuees, protecting the vulnerable people," he said.

Provincial Governor Mahyeldi Ansharullah told reporters on Monday that around 130 people had evacuated to an elementary school in Agam, while more than 2,000 people were evacuated to several places in Tanah Datar.

Roads in the districts were turned into rivers, with mosques damaged and houses destroyed. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Death toll hits 143 from Brazil state's "worst-ever" weather catastrophe

THE death toll rose to 143 from the worst extreme weather to ever hit south Brazil's Rio Grande do Sul state, with 125 people missing and more than 600,000 evacuated, the Civil Defence agency said Sunday.

In two weeks of record rainfall that has unleashed flooding and mudslides across the state, 446 towns have witnessed dramatic scenes of survivors rescued from floodwaters, including in the state capital Porto Alegre, where the Guaiba River burst its banks, inundating more than half of the city.

Downpours began on 29 April and continued Sunday, erasing hopes of floodwaters receding, and raising the number of the displaced from about 441,000 on Saturday to 618,550 on Sunday. — Xinhua

Lee Hsien Loong submits resignation, Lawrence Wong nominates new cabinet

SINGAPOREAN Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Monday submitted his resignation to President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, saying he and his government will resign on Wednesday.

Lee said in the letter that he advised the president to invite Lawrence Wong to form the next government. Tharman Shanmugaratnam accepted Lee's resignation and said he will appoint Wong as prime minister and invite him to form the new government.

Gan Kim Yong and Heng Swee Keat will be deputy prime ministers in the new government, Wong announced at a press conference.

Gan will remain as the Minister for Trade and Industry and replace Wong as the chairman of the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

Lee Hsien Loong and Teo Chee Hean will be senior ministers in the new cabinet, said Wong, who will remain as the Finance Minister. — Xinhua

Intl Red Cross delegation visits crew of hijacked ship in Yemen

A delegation from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visited on Sunday the *Galaxy Leader*, a vehicle carrier hijacked by the Houthi group, and met its crew near the port city of Hodeidah in western Yemen.

The Houthi group said in a statement that the ICRC delegation met the crew on the ship and was informed of their health conditions.

A Xinhua reporter, who accompanied the delegation during its visit, confirmed that the delegation held a meeting with the 25-member crew, all of whom appeared to be in good health.

Houthi forces boarded the ship using a military helicopter on 19 November 2023, and forced the ship to dock near the Hodeidah port. The Houthis have not disclosed when it would release those crews.

The ship is registered



This photo taken on 12 May 2024 shows crew members of the *Galaxy Leader* on the ship near the port city of Hodeidah in western Yemen. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

in Panama and co-owned by Nippon Yusen, a Japanese shipping company, and Ray Shipping, a company with partial ownership by Israeli businessman Abraham Ungar. The crew consists of 17 Filipinos, with the rest hailing from Bulgaria, Ukraine, Mex-

ico, and Romania.

The Houthis have been targeting "Israel-linked" commercial vessels in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden since the escalation of the Israel-Palestine conflict, in what they say is a show of solidarity with the Palestinians. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Leverkusen extend unbeaten run, Bayern stay second in Bundesliga

LEVERKUSEN extended their unbeaten streak to 50 games after a dominant 5-0 victory over 10-man Bochum, while Bayern Munich secured the second spot with a 2-0 win over Wolfsburg in the closing matches of Bundesliga's 33rd round on Sunday.

Bochum, facing relegation, started strong but couldn't capitalize on their early opportunities. In the 11th minute, Philipp Hofmann narrowly missed a header from Kevin Stoger's corner. The game's momentum shifted dramatically in the 15th minute when Felix Passlack was sent off for a last-man foul on Nathan Tella.

Despite initial misses by Patrik Schick and Granit Xhaka, Leverkusen capitalized on their numerical advantage, opening the scoring in the 41st minute with a volley from Schick off Arthur's precise cross. They doubled their lead shortly before halftime through Viktor Boniface's penalty.

In the second half, Bochum defended deeply, with goalkeeper Manuel Riemann repelling several shots. However, Leverkusen's pressure was relentless, and they tripled their lead at the 75-minute mark when Amine Adli headed in a corner from Jonas Hofmann. Josip Stanisic and Alejandro Grimaldo added two more goals, sealing the 5-0 rout.

"After the red card, the game changed. It wasn't easy, but we are happy with the result," said Leverkusen coach Alonso.

Meanwhile, Bayern Munich fielded a younger, second-string side against Wolfsburg, emerging victorious with a 2-0 scoreline.

"We had a few debuts with a few young guys today. In the end, it was a deserved victory, I'm very satisfied with the performance," said Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel. — Xinhua

Myawady FC regains victory in Myanmar Women's League

MYAWADY FC thrashed YREO 5-0 on the first day of Fixture 2 of Myanmar Women's League 2024 at Salin Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

Defending champion Myawady FC secured a victory for the openers. YREO formed with young players who could not compete with the experience of the defending champion.

Myawady FC lined up with star players Phyu Phyu Win, Hla Yin Win, Yupa Khaing and Zin Mar Tun, where YREO, handled by Daw Thet Thet Win, deployed its most vital players. Myawady FC scored an opening goal in the 6th minute.

Phyu Phyu Win shot two goals, and Yupa Khaing three goals for Myawady FC.



Players from Myawady FC and YREO are vying to control the ball in the first day of Fixture 2 yesterday. PHOTO: MWL

On the second day of Fixture 2, ISPE will play against Ayeyawady at Padonma Stadium, whereas Thitsa

Arman will meet Yangon United at Salin Stadium on 14 May. — Shine Htet Zaw/TTA

Premier League: Title race goes down to wire



Arsenal reacts after the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Arsenal at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England, on 12 May 2024. PHOTO: AFP

THE battle for the Premier League title will go to the last game of the season after Arsenal won 1-0 at Manchester United on Sunday afternoon.

The win leaves Arsenal a point ahead of Manchester City at the top of the table with three-goal advantage in goal difference. But Manchester City have two games to play, which means City almost certainly need to win their last two games of the season away to Tottenham and at home to West Ham to assure the title, if Arsenal win their only remaining match, which is at home to Everton.

Arsenal's win came thanks to a 20th minute goal from Leandro Trossard, who finished a low cross from Kai Havertz following poor defending from Casemiro and Aaron Wan-Bissaka.

Manchester United worked hard to find an equalizer in the closing stages of the game, but failed. City had returned to the top of the Premier League for 24 hours with a 4-0 win away to Fulham on Saturday. — Xinhua

Mbappe bids farewell to PSG fans with defeat in final home game

KYLIAN Mbappe scored on his final home appearance as a Paris Saint-Germain player on Sunday but the French champions suffered a surprise 3-1 defeat against Toulouse on the night they picked up the Ligue 1 championship trophy.

Mbappe confirmed in a video posted on social media on Friday that he would be leaving PSG when his con-

tract expires at the end of the season, ending a seven-year association with the club. Real Madrid is expected to be the next destination for a player whose departure from Paris had been an open secret since February, when he privately informed the club of his intention to move on.

Mbappe wore the captain's armband and opened the scoring early on

against Toulouse to take his tally for the season to 44 goals in all competitions.

However, Thijs Dallinga quickly equalised for the visitors against a PSG side which showed 10 changes to the team knocked out of the Champions League by Borussia Dortmund in the semi-finals in midweek, with Mbappe the only player to keep his place. — AFP



Paris Saint-Germain's French forward (7) Kylian Mbappe poses in front of a giant tifo before the French LI football match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and Toulouse (TFC) on 12 May 2024 at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris. PHOTO: AFP

Indonesia flood death toll rises to 44 with 15 missing

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WORLD



Palestinians are seen at a temporary camp in the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah on 10 May 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

UN nears landmark deal on combatting biopiracy

THE fight against biopiracy — plundering genetic resources and the traditional knowledge surrounding them — could soon be based on an international treaty, which is being finalized at negotiations that began on Monday.

“Let me be candid — negotiations will not be easy,” warned Daren Tang, head of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), as the diplomatic conference in Geneva got under way.

After more than 20 years of talks on the subject, WIPO’s more than 190 member states are meeting at the agency’s Geneva headquarters until 24 May for negotiations on finalizing a treaty.

The United Nations agency dealing with patenting and innovation will try to conclude an agreement by consensus.

Tang said countries were on “the cusp of a truly landmark agreement”.

“There is no contradiction between a robust and predictable IP regime — one that incentivises innovation, attracts investments and drives game-changing research — and one that responds to the needs of all countries and their communities everywhere, including those from Indigenous peoples, as well as from local communities,” he said.

The draft treaty text says patent applicants would be required to disclose which country the genetic resources in an invention came from, and the indigenous people who provided the associated traditional knowledge. — AFP

Israeli military announces opening of new crossing for aid to reach Gaza

THE Israeli military announced on Sunday that it has opened a new crossing to bring humanitarian aid into the famine-stricken Gaza Strip.

In a press release, the military announced the opening of the “Western Erez crossing” between Israel and northern Gaza in coordination with the United States.

According to the military, the new crossing is located west of the Erez crossing, closer to the seashore.

It added that the crossing was constructed by the Israeli military “as part

of the effort to increase routes for aid to Gaza, particularly to the north of the strip”.

Also on Sunday, the military said it launched a large-scale operation in the area of Jabaliya in northern Gaza while continuing its operations in eastern Rafah and the Gazan side of the Rafah crossing. It stressed that it had called on the civilian population to evacuate from Jabaliya to shelters in western Gaza City.

The military noted that its Air Force attacked 150 sites throughout the en-

clave in the past day.

In early April, the Israeli government approved the temporary reopening of the Erez crossing, also known as the Beit Hanoun crossing to Palestinians, to allow humanitarian aid to enter Gaza.

The over seven-month-long Israeli offensive in Gaza, which was launched in retaliation for a Hamas onslaught on southern Israeli sites, has led to at least 35,034 fatalities and 78,755 injuries in the besieged enclave, according to Gaza’s health authorities on Sunday. — Xinhua

If West wants to settle Ukrainian conflict on battlefield, Russia ready – Lavrov

IF Western countries want to solve the Ukrainian crisis on the battlefield, Russia is ready for this, acting Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Monday.

“This is their (Western countries’) right, if they want to (settle the conflict) on the battlefield, it will be on the battlefield,” Lavrov said during consultations at the parliament’s upper house.

Moscow has repeatedly said that it is ready for negotiations to

resolve the Ukrainian crisis, but taking into account the current reality, Lavrov added.

Speaking about the conference on Ukraine in Switzerland planned for June, with Russia was not invited, Lavrov likened the situation to “giving a schoolboy a reprimand”.

“The conference... boils down to formulating an ultimatum to Russia once again,” he added.

Switzerland will host the

high-level conference on Ukrainian crisis at an alpine resort in Nidwalden canton outside of Lucerne from 15-16 June. Switzerland said that it had invited over 160 delegations from around the world to attend the event. Russia was not included on the guest list.

In April, Russian Ambassador to Bern Sergei Garmonin told Sputnik that Russia would not participate in the Ukraine peace conference in Switzerland in June in any format. — Sputnik



Russian Acting Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov arrives to attend a meeting of Russian President Vladimir Putin with Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel at the Kremlin, in Moscow, Russia. PHOTO: SPUTNIK