

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sprinkles scented water on a ruby brick during the ceremony to lay cornerstones for the construction of the convocation of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University in Yangon yesterday.

Cornerstones laid for building convocation of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing lays a ruby brick in the central area of the international standardized convocation, which can accommodate 70 members of the Sangha at the graduation ceremony.

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Tapioca flour in high demand as import substitution

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NATIONAL

‘Beware of Pickpockets’ stickers to be placed on Yangon buses

AS a preventive measure to warn the passengers, the ‘Beware of Pickpockets’ stickers will be placed on buses, according to the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC).

A sticker was sent on 16 May to the YBS companies asking them to put three stickers on each bus.

“This is to get rid of pickpockets. CCTVs will be installed on the buses to catch them if they are on the bus. The main

purpose of sticking these reminders is to get rid of rampant pickpockets on the buses and not to allow pickpocketing on the buses,” said YRTC joint secretary U Lyan Cin Mang.

Pickpocketing mostly happens on buses without CCTV, while for cases on CCTV-installed YBS, pickpocket identification procedures have been started in cooperation with the Myanmar Police Force after being tracked by YRTC’s control



Some YBS buses are seen operating in downtown Yangon.

centre.

Sticker locations for YBS are at the entrance door, behind the driver, and at the back of the vehicle, and mini-buses are at

the entrance door and on the left and right sides of the back of the bus.

YRTC conducts monitoring activities for the disciplined

operation of buses in Yangon with eight inspection teams and three joint district teams at the 16 most congested bus stops on a daily basis. — MT/ZN

Licensing underway for trending campsites, farm tours, and day-trip spots

FOR the systematic development of campsites, farm tours and day-trip destinations that are currently in vogue among travellers, a licensing process is underway, U Naung Naung Han, chairman of the Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Association, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Since the post-COVID-19 period, such new trips have started proliferating among small-scale operators with the added effect of escapism from urban frustration later.

“It is good to have more new tours. It is also a sensible thing to develop in the tourism sector. The main point is that there are still no regulations. For example, licences are issued to hotels and guesthouses. Since these new tours don’t have a licence, we have been discussing this with the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. If proper licences can be issued, it



Some travellers are recreating at a campsite.

will be convenient for both consumers and providers of these services. And in my opinion, it will also develop in a proper way,” he said.

It is unknown when licences for such tours can be issued, and current discussions are based on issuing some kind of other service permits, he added.

“Licences are issued to tour companies. Hotels and

guesthouses also have their respective licences. Some of these new tours include overnight stays. So, it is necessary to issue a licence for that,” he said.

With the proper regulations in place, quality can be guaranteed for vacationers, while operators can be assured of a legal status for the new businesses they invest in. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN



Myanmar employees seen working at a garment factory.

Lao businesses eager to recruit Myanmar workers

BUSINESSPEOPLE from Laos are keen on recruiting Myanmar migrant workers, an overseas employment agent told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Similarly, Myanmar workers are now interested in going to Lao factories to be employed.

“We see the willingness of factory owners there to hire our people because Myanmar nationals are obedient and dutiful. The majority of them show their willingness. They are also interested in making it happen,” he said.

Laos appears to be becoming a new destination of interest for Myanmar migrant workers.

“The number of people interested in working has increased. They want to work in Laos as well as Thailand. Many people have made enquiries,” he explained.

Laos is not yet as famous as Thailand or Malaysia for overseas work, but it can become another potential destination for many interested migrant workers, he added. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN

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



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and the congregation take the Five Precepts from Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Vice-Chancellor of ITBMU Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vasettha Bhivamsa.

A ceremony to lay cornerstones for the construction of the convocation of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture took place at the venue in Mayangon Township of Yangon Region yesterday morning.

First, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, who led the congregation, took the Five Precepts from Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Vice-Chancellor of the University Presiding Patron of Masoeyein Taikthit from Mahaangmye Township of Mandalay Region Presiding Patron of Dhamma Thameikdi

Cornerstones laid for building convocation of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University

Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vasettha Bhivamsa.

Disciples offered accessories to be used in laying cornerstones to members of the Sangha.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, council members and their wives, Union ministers and their wives, and officials donated alms to venerable Sayadaws.

On the occasion, the Sen-

ior General placed a ruby brick in the centre of the convocation area. State Ovadacariya University Ovadacariya Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academies Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Agga Maha Pandita Maha Dhammakathika Bahujana Hitadhara Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara recited Maha Pathavijaya Mantra. The SAC Joint Secretary, Union ministers and well-wishers put bejewelled bricks in designated places.

The Senior General made the stucco for ruby brick and sprinkled scented water on it.

The Senior General, his wife and party offered day meals to members of the Sangha.

Under the leadership of ITBMU Rector Agga Maha Pandita Maha Dhammakathika Bahujana Hitadhara Ashin Hsekinda, arrangements are being made to build an internationally standardized convocation of ITBMU. Hence, the Senior General, his wife and

family, the leading donor, and well-wishers made donations for the construction of the hall. The convocation hall will be 204 feet long, 154 feet wide and 93.5 feet high four-storey RC building. Lifts, car parks, a multipurpose hall, a library, lecture halls, offices, and hostels for guest members of the Sangha will be facilitated at the hall. Upon completion, the convocation hall can accommodate 700 members of the Sangha at the graduation ceremony. — MNA/TTA

CBM, Commerce Ministry, AD banks, UMFCCI discuss foreign banking issues

GOVERNOR Daw Than Than Swe of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) presided over a coordination meeting on foreign exchange rate and financial matters, as well as the trading and banking system, in Yangon yesterday.

At the meeting, the Governor said the Central Bank of Myanmar set policies to stabilize the exchange rate, and the Online Trading Platform is an official market for buying and selling foreign currency. It is also an official

foreign exchange market based on market prices, as buyers/sellers post their rates daily via banks. Moreover, CBM releases the rate on its Facebook page and website and also takes action against illegal sales. International countries are watching the illegal hundi businesses, and the CBM sells the needed foreign currency depending on the demand/supply via Online Trading Platforms.

She then called for cooperation of people from government/private sectors in implementing



A coordination meeting on foreign exchange rate and financial matters, as well as the trading and banking system, in progress in Yangon yesterday.

the policies of the CBM and mentioned the need to control the price manipulators.

She also discussed the matters related to the payment for trading via the official banking system, supervising the return of export income during the fixed time, foreign currency procure-

ment by AD licensed banks to the beneficiary owner on the Online Trading Platform and making import licences via the banking system for border trading.

She then urged the AD-licensed banks to follow the rules and regulations of CBM. She stressed the actions taken by the

Monitoring and Steering Committee on the gold and currency market, switching to digital payment and AML/CFT-related matters.

Then, the deputy minister for Commerce and UMFCCI secretary coordinated the discussion. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Union Health Minister inspects Thanlyin Township People's Hospital

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, along with the rector (Medical Superintendent/Treatment) from Yangon General Hospital, deputy directors-general, directors, and officials, inspected Thanlyin Township People's Hospital in Yangon Region on 18 May.

The Union minister first met the medical superintendent, specialists, nurses, medical professionals, and health workers in the hospital's meeting hall. The superintendent of the hospital explained the conditions and activities to the Union minister. The Union minister then provided support and addressed needs.

He also gave guidance on supplying necessary medicines and hospital equipment, arranging training for relevant staff to perform intensive and gastroscopy treatments, conducting regular hospital-based vaccination work, and maintaining regular specialist field treatments.

In addition, the Union minister toured the emergency and outpatient departments, laboratory, x-ray room, operation theatre, intensive care unit, infirmary and specialist outpatient department of the Thanlyin Hospital. — MNA/TKO



Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win inspects medicines and hospital equipment at Thanlyin People's Hospital in Yangon Region, on 18 May.

Thanlyin Bridge 3 promises economic boost, traffic relief for Yangon

UNION Minister for Construction U Myo Thant, directors-general, and officials inspected the ongoing construction of the Thanlyin Bridge 3, connecting Thakayta and Thanlyin townships of Yangon Region, yesterday.

On the Thakayta side of the bridge, the official in charge presented the potential contributions of the bridge to the Thilawa Special Economic Zone to the Union Minister. The Union minister instructed the engineering team to install aviation lights, lightning rods, required resistance levels in Ohms, and navigation lights for safety.

Regarding the construction of the toll plaza and control building on the Thakayta side, the Union Minister suggested implementing QR code-assist-



Officials seen inspecting the Thanlyin Bridge 3, connecting Thakayta and Thanlyin townships of Yangon Region.

ed tolling and mobile payments in addition to manual toll collection. He then inspected the asphaltic concrete paving on the approach lanes.

The bridge, built in line with international standards, is 2,633 metres (8,638 feet) long and features four driving lanes.

It is a suspension bridge with a clearance height of 13.25 metres (43 feet), allowing ships to pass through easily.

The bridge will potentially help boost the Thilawa SEZ and other economic zones, as well as alleviate traffic congestion in Yangon. — MNA/NT

E-9 visa workers allowed to apply for skilled worker visa with required marks

IN an effort to solve the skilled worker shortage in the Republic of Korea, E-9 visa workers can apply for an E-7-4 visa (skilled worker visa) if they have specified marks, as announced by the Myanmar Embassy to the Republic of Korea.

The embassy stated that the visa policy changed on 16 May. The Myanmar Embassy in Seoul attended the 2024 Briefing Session on Visa Policy meeting organized by the Ministry of Justice, Republic of Korea, and it made this decision in order to solve the skilled worker shortage.

Those on E-9, E-10, and H-2 visas who have lived in the Republic of Korea for more than four years in the last ten years and must have at least a two-

year employment contract with the current company and have a yearly income above 26 million Korea won can apply for E-7-4 visa.

Those who have at least one year of work experience, receive above 200 marks of Korean Language proficiency along with company recommendations and have no criminal records in Korea can apply.

Due to Korea's declining birth rate, increasing older people population and workforce decrease, foreigners have been allowed to apply for regional-specialized visas (F-2-R) in 66 suburban towns, and detailed information is available at <https://www.hikorea.go.kr/Main.Pt>, the embassy said. — MT/ZS

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
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Myanmar co-chairs 43rd ASEAN-China Working Group meeting

MYANMAR co-chaired the 43rd ASEAN-China Working Group meeting on the implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The event took place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 13 to 15 May.

Representative Mr Tan Qinsheng of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and Deputy Director-General of ASEAN Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Mang Hau Thang co-chaired the event, the report said.

The Meeting reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and the current situation in the South China Sea.

The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of practical maritime cooperation in building capacities and enhancing trust and confidence among parties and welcomed new proposals for practical maritime cooperation initiatives, which will strengthen preparedness to deal with challenges in the maritime domain as well as contribute to the implementation of the Annual Work Plan on the Implementation of the DOC for 2024.

The Meeting continued the negotiations on the Single Draft COC Negotiating Text (SDNT) and arranged preparation for the ASEAN-China foreign ministerial-level meeting. The Meeting expressed its appreciation and gratitude to Myanmar for its valuable and constructive contributions as the co-chair of the JWG-DOC and SOM-DOC meetings for the



The 43rd ASEAN-China Working Group meeting is held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 13-15 May.

period of 2021-2024 and looked forward to Malaysia co-chairing the JWG-DOC and SOM-DOC meetings for the period of 2024-2027. Myanmar had co-chaired

the JWG-DOC meeting 11 times and the SOM-DOC meeting twice during the Coordinatorship of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations throughout the course.

The Meeting agreed to convene the 44th JWG-DOC Meeting back-to-back with the 22nd SOM-DOC Meeting tentatively in August 2024 in China. — ASH/TMT

ASEAN, New Zealand discuss strengthening ties, future plans



Attendees including Myanmar's Permanent Representative to ASEAN U Aung Myo Myint pose for the documentary group photo at the 12th ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Cooperation Committee meeting.

MYANMAR'S Permanent Representative to ASEAN U Aung Myo Myint attended the 12th ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Cooperation Committee meeting at the ASEAN Secretariat on 15 May, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to ASEAN, Ambassador Latifah Zaini, and Ambassador of New Zealand to ASEAN, Stuart Calman, jointly presided over the meeting.

At the meeting, attendees discussed enhancing cooperation through continued implementation of the ASEAN-New Zealand Plan of Action

(2021-2025), adopting a new Plan of Action (2026-2030), and strengthening trade and economic ties through the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

Myanmar's permanent representative presented developments of the IAI Workplan IV as the chair of the IAI Task Force. Dato' Astanah Abdul Aziz, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Political-Security Community, was also present. Timor-Leste attended it as an observer. — ASH/NT

Farmers in 9 states/regions to receive K12B in loans this FY

THE Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department has announced that it will provide a loan of K12 billion to farmers in nine states and regions during this financial year.

Loans will be available from the State economic promotion fund starting in June for those involved in breeding four types of animals: beef cattle, dairy cattle, layers, sheep, and goats in order to foster the development of livestock industries.

The loan period, provided at a low-interest rate, is set for three years for dairy cattle breeders and two years for breeders of beef cattle, laying hens, sheep, and goats.

In the financial year 2023-2024, the State economic promotion fund lent K20 billion to breeders of three types of animals: broilers, duck, and pig from 11 states and regions, including Nay Pyi Taw. — TWA/KZL



The photo depicts dairy cows at the breeding farm.

NATIONAL

Over 26,000 foreigners tour Shwedagon Pagoda within 4 months



The photo shows pilgrims who visit the Shwedagon Pagoda.

ACCORDING to official figures, a total of 26,067 foreigners visited the Shwedagon Pagoda, with 6,830 in January, 7,474 in February, 7,206 in March, and 4,557 in April.

An average of 150 foreign visitors per day visit the pagoda, with most coming from China, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The Shwedagon Pagoda

has been open from 5 am to 9 pm since 1 January 2024 to provide pilgrims with more convenient visiting hours. — TWA/TRKM

Zawtika gas pipeline leak cuts electricity supply by 55 MW

ACCORDING to the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC), a leak in the Zawtika natural gas pipeline near Bilin reduced power generation capacity by nearly 55 MW during repairs on 15 and 16 May.

According to YESC, they have managed to generate about 22 MW of electricity at the Ahlon Power Station using the supply from the Yadana natural gas pipeline during the daytime. Additionally,

nearly 50 MW of electricity is generated at the Thilawa and Thakayta power plants using diesel engines at night in an effort to meet the power demand as much as possible. — TWA/TKO



A general view of the Zawtika Operation Centre.

NEWS In BRIEF

Myanmar-India air forces meet for 5 days

THE air forces of Myanmar and India met for five days at the Nay Pyi Taw Air Base, according to the State Administration Council's statement. Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and Air Vice-Marshal Ichettira Iyappa Kuttappa VM VSM discussed cooperation between the two air forces, the sending of trainees, further development of the relationship between the two air forces and technological matters.

MNA set to float shares

MYANMAR National Airlines amended its law on 16 May, allowing it to sell shares on the stock market. The company will undergo conversion into a public holding corporation. Additionally, the amendment includes the provisions that designate the majority of shares as State-owned shares and substitutes the wording "operating fleet of aircraft and related parts on lease" with "acquiring aircraft and related parts, operating on hire purchase, lease, and selling".

Gold sales to be designated as Essential Services

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been drafting a law to designate the selling of gold as an Essential Service. Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association said it is a move to control the gold market, tackle price hikes and combat profiteers.

RBE train to connect Pyinmana and Tatkon

RAIL Bus Engine (RBE) will start running between Pyinmana and Tatkon on 20 May. The train will leave the Tatkon station at 6 am and arrive at the Pyinmana station at 7:15 am. It will leave the Pyinmana station at 5:30 pm and arrive at the Tatkon station at 6:45 pm. It will also make a stop at the Nay Pyi Taw Central Railway Station. The ticket price is K1,300 per passenger and K500 for students and monks at special rate.

Container rent set to rise

THE Myanmar Container Tracking Association has set to increase the container rental fees at the Yangon port starting on 20 May. This decision is attributed to the elevating costs of vehicles, spare parts, maintenance, operations, and general expenses. The price increase applies solely to container rental fees and does not affect toll fees for road usage, bridge crossings, or unloading.

Farmers warned of thunderstorms

THE Department of Agriculture warned farmers on 15 May to prepare for thunderstorms expected during the early monsoon season. It advised dredging and repairing gutters around the fields for irrigation. Additionally, farmers currently harvesting summer paddy were encouraged to take precautions to reduce waste. — Htun Htun/NT

Tapioca flour in high demand as import substitution

TAPIOCA flour is in high demand in the domestic market as it is widely used as an import substitution for wheat flour, according to Mon State's Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce.

The tapioca is commonly cultivated in villages of Mon State due to low input cost. Living fences with cassava can be found in some villages.

The tapioca can be utilized as starch, tapioca pearl, thickener and tapioca chip animal feed.

The Konjac processing factories keep running their operations with tapioca starch production despite the end of the Konjac season in late January.

Myanmar has exported tapioca starch to Thailand in recent years. Efforts are being made to explore more

markets and penetrate the Chinese market. Myanmar invites foreign investors to invest in value-added tapioca products for market expansion.

Myanmar's geographical location is suitable for growing cassava. At present, it is primarily grown in Kyonpyaw, Yekyi, Ngathainggyoung, Kyaunggon and Thaboung townships in Ayeyawady Region.

The cassava cultivation and commercial starch production are processed in Kachin, Shan, Mon, Rakhine, and Kayah states, as well as Yangon, Bago and Magway regions. It is a commercially valued crop with high potential for the future.

China and India account for 90 per cent of global demand for tapioca starch. Myanmar is strategically located



Farm workers harvesting cassava roots at a farm.

by sharing borders with those countries.

Therefore, it is a lucrative

crop that generates foreign earnings.

Despite commercial pro-

duction in Myanmar, market promotion for tapioca use is

still required. — NN/EM

CBM to sell 10M yuan for exporters, importers on online trading platforms

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) will sell ten million yuan for exporters and importers on online trading platforms on 20 May 2024.

CBM sold US\$5 million on 9 May, 2.5 million yuan on 7 May, and five million yuan and 30 million Thai baht on 2 May to exporters and importers through online trading platforms.

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



Central Bank of Myanmar's Yangon Branch.

According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been joining hands with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws.

CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange

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

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

PPRD issues supervision tickets for oil transport

THE Petroleum Products Regulatory Department has been issuing supervision tickets for oil and petroleum products transport upon completion of the requirements in accordance with regulations.

While screening the applications, some were found to be forged documents that modified information. Most of them are submitted by brokers. Therefore, the department encourages applicants to submit the files in person at the respective region and state offices. The department warned that they are asked to submit original documents or non-fabricated documents in whatever way they apply them.

If they can provide complete and verified documents, the supervision ticket fee is only K20,000. The ticket processing time is only two working days. Individuals can also complain to the department through contact numbers 067 3411282 and 067 3411129 for any inconvenience. — NN/EM



A fuel oil bowser is pictured filling fuel at one petrol outlet in Yangon.

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OPINION

Systematic handwashing: The key to preventing infectious diseases

SYSTEMATICALLY washing hands is the most effective way to prevent the spread of infectious diseases from one person to another. About 80 per cent of contagious viruses are transmitted through hand contact, making regular handwashing a crucial practice in reducing disease transmission rates.

A wide variety of microorganisms cause numerous diseases in society. These microorganisms attempt to enter the human body through various means, often choosing the hands as the primary route of entry. Since these viruses and microorganisms can enter the body through the eyes, nose, and mouth, which are frequently touched by hands, it is essential to wash hands thoroughly with water and soap after handling anything. This simple act of handwashing can prevent virus transmission and save countless lives, making it a valuable tool in disease prevention.

Research has shown that regular handwashing with soap can reduce the risk of pneumonia by 23 per cent, diarrhoea by 30 per cent, and respiratory tract infections by 20-45 per cent. Notably, systematic handwashing has been instrumental in controlling the spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-19 in recent years worldwide. Additionally, handwashing can help prevent not only human-to-human transmission but also human-to-animal transmission of infectious diseases to some extent. It is recommended to wash hands with soap or hand sanitizer for a minimum of 20 seconds. Thoroughly rinsing all parts of the hands is essential to sterilize the points of entry to the body. Therefore, public health authorities should raise awareness about the importance of preventing infectious diseases and the proper technique for systematic handwashing.

Before the COVID-19 outbreak in Myanmar, local authorities, UNICEF, and non-governmental organizations had been collaborating on a project aimed at promoting four types of cleanliness in both urban and rural areas. The project focused on ensuring the cleanliness of food, water, hands, and toilets, in addition to promoting a clean environment. Such initiatives are crucial for safeguarding public health and preventing the spread of infectious diseases in communities.

Actually, handwashing is very cheap, and individuals can do it. Moreover, handwashing action can directly benefit the healthcare services for the people as well as all disease control projects of the Ministry of Health. As such, everybody needs to wash their hands whenever they do anything. When they come back home from public places, they contact any patients, and they handle something suspected to be infectious.

Indian scientists conducting groundbreaking research on ageing

Understanding the aging process and factors contributing to longevity can significantly impact healthcare strategies and improve the quality of life for the elderly population.

THE Department of Geriatric Medicine at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi is spearheading a groundbreaking study on ageing and longevity.

In recent years, discussions surrounding longevity and ageing have taken centre stage as researchers worldwide strive to unlock the secrets of a longer, healthier life. With advancements in science and technology, the quest to understand the ageing process has gained momentum, paving the way for innovative studies aimed at improving the quality of life across generations.

Amidst this fervent pursuit, AIIMS Delhi has emerged as a beacon of hope in the realm of ageing research. Leveraging cutting-edge technologies and a multidisciplinary approach, they have embarked on a groundbreaking study to unravel the complexities of ageing and longevity.

Driven by a team of dedicated scientists and healthcare professionals, the research initiative seeks to delve deeper into the mechanisms underlying ageing, with a focus on identifying key factors that influence lifespan and quality of life in lat-

er years. Through meticulous analysis of genetic, physiological, and environmental factors, researchers aim to shed light on the intricacies of the ageing process, paving the way for targeted interventions and personalized healthcare strategies. Central to the research endeavour is the active participation of families from diverse backgrounds and age groups. The team is looking for families with members of all ages: teens (10-19), parents and middle-aged adults (40-59), grandparents (60-79), and even great-grandparents (80+).

SOURCE: ANI



Book Title - Ohn Hmote Khwet Ninn Yawgar Kin
Writer - Magway Win Myint
Publishing House - Seikku Cho Cho
Publication Date - December 2023
Price - K4,000

Ohn Hmote Khwet Ninn Yawgar Kin

THE book under review is written by Magway Win Myint, a reporter-cum-writer, who also has some knowledge about traditional medicine. When meeting with U Ba Kyaw, the manager of the Mandalay Boxing Team, the writer happened to discuss health matters.

During their discussion, he learnt that U Ba Kyaw was strong, fit and healthy. When he asked U Ba Kyaw what the secret was, the latter provided him with some tips about keeping fit. U Ba Kyaw is the younger brother of a national hero who was assassinated at a cabinet meeting held in the compound of the Old Secretari-

at. U Ba Kyaw said that he trod on the coconut shell daily. It all boiled down to writing articles about keeping fit in a magazine named Thint Bawa. The first article was published in this magazine in 1979. Thint Bawa's publisher was U Lay Gyi U Tin Maung. As this very first article on the benefit of treading on the coconut shell was highly popular among the readers, Saya Magway Win Myint was encouraged so far as to research the benefits of treading on the coconut shell in addition to conducting interviews with the traditional medical practitioners and those who had become fit thanks to this healing tips. All

these efforts enabled him to write a book on this secret of staying healthy. He named his book "Ohn Hmote Khwet Ninn Yawgar Kin".

This title can be roughly translated into English as treading on the coconut shell keeps one free from diseases. Matter-of-factly, this book has already been published at least 20 times. Now, it is published by Seikku Cho Cho in December of 2023.

Headache, dizzy-giddiness, and backache, among other types of aches, hypertension, paralysis, poor eyesight, and neck stiffness, among others, can be relieved by treading on

the coconut shell. Such most common complaints have the root causes in the loss of balance of earth and air – the two of the four basic properties of matter. The texts on Myanmar traditional medicine, as well as those on Indian traditional medicine and Chinese traditional medicine, have all recommended the same line of therapy.

According to Magway Win Myint, there are four steps in this healing practice: -

— First, buy two coconut shells from the traditional medicine shops or from the coconut shops;

— Second, lay the coconut shells upside down and make a bamboo pole row or a rope row;

— Third, put the two feet on the coconut shells and tread on them for a hundred times; and

— Fourth, do the same procedure once in the morning and once at night. In the morning, take a shower first before treading on the coconut shells.

It is notable to bathe only after four or five hours of treading.

This land is your life

By Maung Lun Way (Medicine - Mandalay)
Translated by Myint Zan



ဒီမြေ သည် သင့်ဘဝ
အသက်ရှင်ရန်ကအစ
ပြုစုလုပ်ကျွေး အော်ဂဲနစ်အသီးအရွက်တွေပေး
နေရေး အသက်ရှင်ရေးမပူရ

ဘဝ ဘဝ ဘဝ တွေအစုံ
ဒီမြေပေါ်ကြီး ဒီမြေပေါ်နေ
ရွှေသီးတုံမြေကြီးပို့

ကျေးဇူးသိကြပါ
ကမ္ဘာသူကမ္ဘာသား
အို...လူသားတို့

ဒီနေ့...
ကမ္ဘာ မြေကြီးနေ့
မမေ့အပ်သည်သာ
ဒီစကြဝဠာမဟာမြေထူ
လူသားတို့ကို အကျိုးပြု...။

(World Earth Day, 22 April 2024)

မေတ္တာဖြင့်...

မောင်လွမ်းဝေ
(ခေး-မန်း)

this land is your life
heralding your very existence
(the Earth) feeds and serves you
providing organic vegetables and fresh leaves
so, (you) don't have to worry about being alive and about your livelihood

life and life and life
variegated, numerous lives
grow up and live on this Earth
because it is an Earth that blossoms into gold

be grateful
citizens of the world
oh, humans!

today
Earth Day
shouldn't be forgotten
this world, this solid Earth
have been and are of great benefit to humans

ARTICLE POEM/ BOOKRACK

Beware!

By Chit Ko Pe

As the day ends with a sunset,
the night falls with darkness.

Returning home on a trip,
get aid by holding a stick.

သတိ

နေ့အိုနေ့ပျောက်
ညမှောင်ရောက်ပြီ
တုတ်ကောက်ကူလို့ အိမ်ပြန်လေ။

ချစ်ကိုဗေ



Book Title - Thet That Lut (Kyan Mar Yay Hnint Nyein Chan Tharyar Thaw Gabar Gyi Hsi Thoh)
Writer - Shiva Saywa (Ka)
Publishing House - Aung Myo Sarpay
Publication Date - March 2024 (1st Edition)
Price - K4,000

Thet That Lut (Kyan Mar Yay Hnit Nyein Chan Tharyar Thaw Gabar Gyi Hsi Thoh)

IF a person is asked to pinpoint something that every nation, big and small, and every stratum of class, regardless of being rich or poor, is being faced with, he will point to the concern over the issue of global warming. The international community views the issue of global warming as something as equally important as the threat of war. That is why the nations around the world are taking preparatory measures to make arrangements for going into battles.

The book under review provides the benefits of being a vegetarian. Additionally, the readers

will have some knowledge about global warming. The writer of the book is Shiva Saywa (Ka), the founder of the Shiva Ba (Ka) Si Yoga Association.

Most of us are rarely aware of the relationship between not eating meat and fish and environmental conservation. Vegetarians bring dramatic benefits to the environment by reducing the overproduction of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide.

What is more, vegetarianism can save a large volume of water. Pollution of creeks, rivers and oceans can be avoided. Degradation of upper-layer soil and

monsoon forests can be prevented while damaging the habitats where the wild animals take shelter, and the loss of endangered species can be reduced. Last but not least, the use of antibiotics, growth agents and other chemicals can be reduced.

In this regard, it is worth remembering a scientist known as Albert Einstein, who once said, "Our duty is to embrace all living beings, the natural world and their beauty. We must set ourselves free, extending our horizon of compassion."

It is also worth quoting Pythagoras, a philoso-

pher-cum-mathamatician, who said, "As long as our human beings are ruthlessly persecuting and slaughtering the animals which are inferior to us, we will not be able to seek ways and means to keep ourselves healthy and to enjoy peace. So long as we are persecuting and killing the animals, we will kill our fellow human beings. The killers or those who sow the seeds of pain will never be able to enjoy the fruits of loving kindness."

The writer also quoted Harvey Diamond as saying, "Are human beings the carnivorous or the omnivorous or herbivorous by nature? Put an apple and a rabbit in a cradle together with a baby. If that baby eats the rabbit and plays with the apple, I will buy you a car."

If people do not eat meat and fish, living on vegetables only, we can save the world. And if we do not use the skin of the animals, we can save the lives of the animals, thereby reducing global warming.

If the habitat of the animals is not destroyed, we can save the environment, thereby reducing climate change, according to a research paper published by the University of Yale.

NATIONAL Entertainment

Mahar Application to produce its new original series

THE debut ceremony for the 'Thitsar Phyint Siyin Say' movie, which will be the original series of the Mahar Application, was made at Acindawya Pagoda in Dagon Township of Yangon Region, according to Academy Min Oo, director of the series. Ka Kyo Shin adapted the novel of Shin Ma into the script.

"This is my very first series. When I first saw the story, there were many actors. I am lucky to have worked with many actors. When I made my first

movie, 'Chu Si', it included many actors and actresses. It is a challenge for me," said director Academy Min Oo.

The stars will be Aye Chan Maung, Nyi Nanda, Kyaw Kyaw, Nay Htut, Melody, Lin Zarni Zaw, Su Pan Twar, Phoo Sone, Shwe Thamee, Chuu Lay and other artistes. — ASH/KTZH

The photo shows artistes participating in the staging event of offerings (coconut and three bunches of bananas in a basket).



Saya Tin Swe Moe

THE equality and sharing group that supports ill writers and journalists comforted writer Saya Tin Swe Moe. It provided K20,000 from writer and director Saya Aung Soe Oo, K20,000 from Ko Myint Lwin (design) and K100,000 from the group to the wife of the patient. Those who want to provide cash assistance for Saya Tin Swe Moe can contact Ko Aung Hlyan Waing at 09 443003232 and Ko Kaung Kyaw at 09 973815690.

Shwe Mann Chan Thar

SHWE MANN Chan Thar will perform a duet dance at the 'Asint Myint Shusar Shwe Hnapar' together with dancers Sann Min Aung, Chan Nyi Nyi and female dancers Hsan Shwe Sin, Chan Chan Moe and May Myat Noe Khin at Melia Hotel Ballroom of Myanmar Plaza on 2 June. Comedians Chat Gyi and Phoe Thae will also entertain at the event, along with other comedians. People can contact them at 09 421031142 and make a payment through KBZ Pay - 09421031142 for seats.



Lwin Moe

THE 'Lugyi Lukaung Myar' (The Gentlemen) movie was screened on 21 May with veteran actor Lwin Moe starring alongside Lu Min and Pyay Ti Oo, free of charge. He said over 100 people from the filmmaking industry and lighting technicians bought shares in this movie, which is a private company. Profits will be shared with them; therefore, people should watch the film.



Eaint Chit

THE MV of 'One and Only' by singer Eaint Chit, released on 12 May, Happy Mother's Day, reached over one million views. The singer composed it on her own, depicting the affection of her mother. Her mother said, "I am happy when you (children) understand me. I did everything for you as your father and your mother. Who will fight for you? I have to do as a man and a woman. There is no need to understand me by others. You should understand, and you should have potential life conditions. I am not one for the surroundings, but only for my children."

Phway Phway

ACADEMY Phway Phway donated K2.1 million, snacks and soft drinks at the Mommy Cook Foundation for single pregnant women and orphan babies in PyinOoLwin on 16 May. She also shared her donations and her thoughts and feelings on her Instagram.



Celebrity Brief



Po Po

SINGER Po Po celebrated her 34th birthday ceremony together with their friends and fans on 17 May. She made a post on her FB, "Thank you to my father, mother, grandmother, and those who stand with me to date. I also thank the ones who give birthday wishes. I love you with my heart." She recently released her new MV song, 'Love Made by God', with actor Aung Ye Lin. — Htun Htun/KTZH



WORLD

Delhi records season's hottest day with 47.4 degrees Celsius



The Indian capital city recorded the season's hottest day on Friday with the mercury soaring to 47.4 degrees Celsius, confirmed the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD). **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE Indian capital city recorded the season's hottest day on Friday with the mercury soaring to 47.4 degrees Celsius, confirmed the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).

The Najafgarh area in southwest Delhi recorded the highest temperature of 47.4 degrees Celsius, followed by Mungeshpur area at 46.5 degrees Celsius, Aya Nagar at 46.2 degrees Celsius, Jafarpur at 45.9 degrees Celsius, Palam

at 45.1 degrees Celsius, Ridge at 45 degrees Celsius and the Lodhi Road area at 43.8 degrees Celsius.

The areas adjacent to Delhi also recorded unbearable heat wave, with Noida at 45.2 degrees Celsius and Gurugram at 44.6 degrees Celsius.

In a statement, the IMD said that the heat wave conditions would prevail in Delhi and surrounding areas for the next couple of days.

An online media report by "India Today" quoted IMD's senior scientist Naresh Kumar as saying that the heat wave is likely to peak on Saturday.

Meanwhile, amid the heat wave, fire incidents were reported from as many as four places across the Indian capital. Firefighting and rescue works were in progress at all three places. No human injury or casualty was reported yet. — Xinhua

BRIEF STORIES

N Korea tested tactical ballistic missile with new navigation tech

NORTH KOREA said Saturday it test-fired a tactical ballistic missile equipped with a new autonomous navigation system, with the drill overseen by leader Kim Jong Un, according to the country's official Korean Central News Agency.

The South Korean military detected Friday the launch of what were believed to be short-range ballistic missiles fired toward the Sea of Japan from an area near North Korea's eastern port city of Wonsan. They were estimated to have flown about 300 kilometres before falling into the sea.

KCNA said the accuracy and reliability of the autonomous navigation system was verified through the test and Kim expressed "great satisfaction" with the outcome.

Kim also visited a defense industrial complex on Friday and stressed the need to continue to accelerate production "for more rapidly bolstering the nuclear force" of the country, the news agency said.

Referring to "reckless military confrontation moves" by South Korea and the United States, the leader said, "enemies would be afraid of and dare not to play with fire only when they witness the nuclear combat posture of our state which is hard for them to feel," KCNA added.

His remarks came after Seoul and Washington conducted joint aerial drills involving stealth jets on Thursday. — Kyodo

Tokyo startup to develop reusable rocket in tie-up with US partner

TOKYO-BASED startup Innovative Space Carrier Inc will develop a reusable satellite launch rocket in partnership with a US rocket engine maker, aiming for commercial use by around 2030.

The ASCA-1 rocket will be powered by an engine developed by US partner Ursa Major Technologies Inc. and built under what Innovative Space Carrier calls Japan's first development project for a reusable launch vehicle. Reusable rockets, capable of multiple launches, can lower costs. — Kyodo

US conducts subcritical nuclear test

THE United States conducted a subcritical nuclear test at Nevada earlier this week, according to a statement released by the US Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration.

The experiment, the third under the administration of President Joe Biden, was carried out on Tuesday to collect "essential data" regarding the country's nuclear warheads, according to the National Nuclear Security Administration.

The experiment was the first in the Nimble series, execut-

ed at the Principal Underground Laboratory for Subcritical Experimentation (PULSE) facility in partnership with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

The NNSA, an arm of the US Energy Department, said it relies on subcritical tests to support the safety and effectiveness of nuclear warheads, without the use of nuclear explosive testing.

The US government had announced a moratorium on tests involving nuclear explosions in 1992, however, successive administrations have continued subcritical tests. — ANI

Russia vows to retaliate against EU over media ban

THE Council of the EU has decided on Friday to suspend the broadcasting activities of four more Russia-associated media outlets Voice of Europe, RIA Novosti, Izvestia and Rossiyskaya Gazeta in the European Union.

Russia will provide a tit-for-tat response to Europe's ban against RIA Novosti, Izvestia, Rossiyskaya Gazeta and the Voice of Europe portal, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told Russian media.

RIA Novosti is Russia's leading news agency and



In Moscow stands the Izvestia Building, home to Izvestiya, a historically significant Russian daily newspaper. **PHOTO: IMAGE USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE/ WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

Russian-language news website. Rossiya Segodnya is the parent company of RIA Novosti. — SPUTNIK

ECONOMY WORLD

US move of tariff hikes sets “bad example” for free trade

The United States announced its intention to impose additional tariffs on various Chinese imports, including electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries, solar cells, critical minerals, semiconductors, steel, aluminum, and cranes, as part of its Section 301 tariffs.



“Shenxing”, a fast-charging lithium iron phosphate (LFP) battery made by China’s EV battery maker Contemporary Amperex Technology Co, Ltd (CATL), is displayed during the press preview of the 2023 International Motor Show (IAA) in Munich, Germany, 4 September 2023. **PHOTO: REN PENGFEI/XINHUA/FILE**

CHINESE industrial groups and officials have voiced their objection to the US tariff hikes on Chinese products, saying the move sets a “bad example” in global economic and trade cooperation, tarnishing the credibility of the world’s largest economy at least on the front of free trade.

Calling it “a breach of the globally-recognized trade rules,” Gao Shiwang, spokesperson for the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products, told Xinhua on Thursday that the US move benefits no one and will only backfire. The remarks came after the United States on Tuesday decided to raise additional tariffs on its imports of Chinese products including electric vehicles (EVs), lithium-ion batteries, solar cells, critical minerals, semiconductors, steel and aluminium, and cranes, on top of existing tariffs under Section 301.

Although the United States justified its move as to “protect American workers and businesses”, what business people expected to happen could be just the contrary.

The tariff hikes will push up prices of relevant products, increase American consumers’ burdens, and hinder the development of global collaborative technological innovation, Gao said.

Moody’s has estimated that 92 per cent of the costs of the tariff hikes will fall on US consumers, while average US household expenditure increases by 1,300 US dollars annually. After the US imposed tariffs under Section 301 on certain imports from China in 2018, the US importers bore nearly the full cost of these tariffs because import prices increased at the same rate as the tariffs, according to a report by the US International Trade Commission last year. — Xinhua

SUMMARIES: ECON

Cambodia, South Korea agree to leverage RCEP, other FTAs

CAMBODIA and South Korea on Thursday agreed to leverage the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement and other free trade agreements for the benefit of all, according to a joint statement.

The statement was released after a bilateral meeting between Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol during Hun Manet’s official visit to Seoul.

“Both sides agreed to leverage bilateral and multilateral economic cooperation mechanisms, including the Cambodia-Korea Free Trade Agreement (CKFTA), the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement (AKFTA), and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP),” the statement said. — Xinhua

Malaysia’s economy grows 4.2% in first quarter

THE Malaysian economy grew at 4.2 per cent in the first quarter, driven by stronger private expenditure and positive turnaround in exports, the country’s central bank said Friday.

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) said in a statement that household spending was higher amid continued growth in employment and wages.

Meanwhile, better investment activities were supported by higher capital spending by both the private and public sectors. Exports also rebounded amid higher external demand. — Xinhua

Struggling sake breweries getting revamped, eye on overseas markets

WITH domestic sake consumption in decline, a former executive of one of the biggest players in the industry has established a company in Japan’s cultural hub of Kyoto to help struggling regional brewers turn around their businesses.

Currently, the company, Yumesakagura (Dream Sake Brewery), is working on revitalizing Yoshida Shuzo, a sake brewery founded in 1877 in Takashima city in the neighboring western Japan prefecture of Shiga, with the eventual goal of exporting its products overseas.

Makoto Obe, 61, a retired executive of Gekkeikan Sake Co, launched Yumesakagura in January 2022, and at Yoshida Shuzo, its first project, it has so far overseen an extensive overhaul of its tanks and other equipment.

An avid sake drinker himself, Obe joined Gekkeikan, one of Japan’s oldest and most revered sake breweries, based in

Fushimi, Kyoto, at a young age.

It was while he was still at the company in charge of mergers and acquisitions that Yoshida Shuzo came to his attention following a proposal to acquire it. A deal never materialized, but the idea of rescuing a once-flourishing brewery that had fallen on hard times stuck

in his mind. After retiring from Gekkeikan, he and former colleagues established Yumesakagura with the goal embodied in its name — to support the dreams of local sake brewers.

Yoshida Shuzo’s shipments have shriveled since its heyday, hit hard by Japan’s changing drinking habits. — Kyodo



Makoto Obe, founder of Yumesakagura, speaks in front of a sake tank at Yoshida Shuzo in Takashima, Shiga Prefecture, on 30 January 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

China vows to actively promote restoration of intl flights

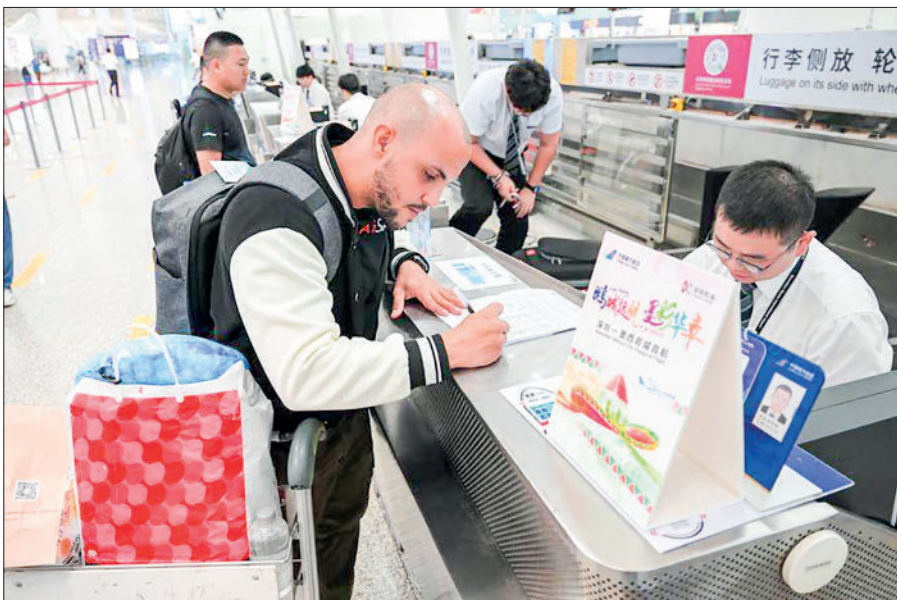
Currently, China is connected to 70 countries through international passenger flights, with five new destinations added since the pandemic: Kuwait, Serbia, Tanzania, Luxembourg, and Papua New Guinea.

CHINA'S civil aviation authorities have committed to boosting the frequency of international passenger flights as a primary goal for this year, aiming to further revive international air travel.

Chinese and foreign airlines operated a total of 5,493 pairs of scheduled international passenger flights from 6 to 12 May, representing approximately 73 per cent of the pre-COVID-19 pandemic level, Xu Qing, an official of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), said Friday.

At present, international passenger flights link China with 70 countries, with the addition of five new destinations since the pandemic, namely, Kuwait, Serbia, Tanzania, Luxembourg and Papua New Guinea.

"The CAAC actively supports Chinese and foreign airlines in increasing their capacity on inter-



A passenger checks in for a flight to Mexico City at Shenzhen Baoan International Airport in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, 11 May 2024. PHOTO: MAO SIQIAN/XINHUA

national routes and improving the international route network," Xu said.

Several airlines have recently launched new international routes to facilitate travel between China and other countries. For example, Air China inaugurated the Beijing-Madrid-Sao

Paulo route on 27 April, while China Southern Airlines began operating the Shenzhen-Mexico City route on 11 May. In addition, Hainan Airlines is set to launch the Shenzhen-Budapest route, and China Southern Airlines will also open the Guangzhou-Budapest route

soon.

The CAAC will continue to streamline the approval and boost support for international flights, promptly addressing any issues and challenges airlines encounter in restoring international services, Xu said. — Xinhua

BRIEFS: BIZ

There can be no energy transition without China, says Siemens Energy CEO

ENERGY transition without China does not work, Christian Bruch, chief executive officer (CEO) of Siemens Energy, told reporters this week, as he stressed that trying to build a wind turbine without any Chinese supply in Europe will be close to impossible.

"The last thing I would do is advocate something like departing or de-risking. We have a connectivity between the two regions that is fruitful and unavoidable," Bruch was quoted as saying by Reuters on Friday.

The CEO made the remarks as the EU initiated last month subsidy investigations into Chinese wind turbine suppliers, marking the fourth probe targeting Chinese firms in just two months. The manufacturing of wind turbines mainly relies on materials from China, most notably rare earths and permanent magnets, Reuters reported. — Xinhua

Ukraine allocates over US\$ 38 mln to restore destroyed thermal power plants

THE Ukrainian cabinet on Friday allocated over 1.5 billion hryvnias (38 million US dollars) to restore two critical thermal power plants (TPPs) that were destroyed by Russian attacks. The funds will be directed to rebuilding the Zmiivska TPP in the eastern Kharkiv region and the Trypilska TPP outside the Ukrainian capital, the government's press service reported.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said restoring the TPPs should be done "as quickly as possible".

The Zmiivska TPP, which had a capacity of 2,200 megawatts, had been destroyed by a Russian missile attack in March. — Xinhua

Tata STRIVE to set up skill development centre for tribal youth empowerment

Vanjari conveyed optimism and enthusiasm for participating in this project aimed at empowering the youth of the region through skill development and training.



The new centre will specifically target the hospitality sector, aiming to provide comprehensive training and career opportunities for tribal youth.

PHOTO: ANI

TATA STRIVE, a prominent initiative of the Tata Group focused on skill development, is set to establish a state-of-the-art skill development centre in the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) region.

The new centre will specifically target the hospitality sector, aiming to provide comprehensive training and career opportunities for tribal youth.

In a recent communication,

Ameya Vanjari, Chief Operating Officer of Tata STRIVE, expressed enthusiasm for the collaboration in a letter addressed to CK Jamatia, Chief Executive Officer of TTAADC.

Vanjari conveyed appreciation for TTAADC's proactive approach and highlighted the alignment between TTAADC's commitment to empowering tribal youth and Tata STRIVE's mission to foster skill development and career growth.

— ANI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB418A)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB418A) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-5-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

Xi stresses improving modern tourism systems, building strong tourism sector



Tourists visit the Imperial Summer Resort in Chengde, north China's Hebei Province, 2 May 2024.
PHOTO: LIU HUANYU/XINHUA

Xi acknowledged the distinct path China has charted in tourism development while noting the sector's new opportunities and challenges in the current era.

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has stressed efforts to improve modern tourism systems and accelerate the building of China into a country strong in tourism.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks in an instruction on the work related to the tourism sector.

In his instruction, Xi said China has fostered the biggest domestic tourism market in the world and has become the largest source of international tourists and a top destination.

China's tourism sector has increasingly grown into an emerging and strategic pillar industry which enhances people's well-being and sense of happiness, Xi said, stressing that China has successfully blazed

a path of tourism development with distinct characteristics.

Xi said tourism development faces both new opportunities and challenges on the new journey of the new era.

Xi called for adopting a holistic approach to government and market, supply and demand, protection and development, domestic and international markets, as well as development and security. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

UN says floating aid pier off Gaza less viable than land routes

THE just completed floating dock off Gaza for aid deliveries is less viable than land routes, said a UN spokesman on Thursday.

"Getting aid to people in need into and across Gaza cannot and should not depend on a floating dock far from where needs are most acute," said Farhan Haq, the deputy spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

"Land routes are the most viable, effective and efficient aid delivery method, which is why we need all crossing points to be opened. To stave off the horrors of famine, we must use the fastest and most obvious route to reach the people of Gaza – and for that, we need access by land now," he said.

The pier, constructed by the US military in cooperation with Israeli authorities, was successfully anchored on Thursday, it was announced by Israel and the United States.

Haq said the world body is finalizing operational plans to make sure that it is ready to handle aid once the floating dock is properly functioning, while ensuring the safety of UN staff.

"Community awareness and acceptance is paramount to ensure the safety and security of this operation. We're grateful for the efforts of Cyprus, supported by other member states, to sustain the maritime corridor as an additional route for aid to Gaza. And of course, we're thankful to the US for all the work they've done in creating the floating dock," he said. — Xinhua

Slovak PM shooting suspect arrives in court

THE suspect charged with the attempted murder of Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico is expected before a penal court on Saturday that will decide whether to hold him in pre-trial detention.

The suspect charged with the attempted murder of Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico arrived Saturday in a court that will decide on pre-trial detention, an AFP video journalist said.

The man, identified by Slovak media as 71-year-old poet Juraj Cintula, shot Fico after a government meeting on Wednesday.

An AFP video journalist at the penal court in Pezinok northeast of the capital Bratislava said several police cars had driven into the court's premises. News channel TA3 also reported the suspect was brought to the court. Cintula fired five shots at Fico and hit him four times – including in the abdomen – as the prime minister was walking towards his supporters after a government meeting in the central Slovak mining town of Handlova on Wednesday. — AFP

Singapore Airlines carries over 2 mln passengers in April

The surge in cargo loads for the SIA Group was notable, with a 26.4 per cent increase compared to the previous year. This uptick was attributed to heightened demand resulting from security concerns in the Red Sea region.

SINGAPORE Airlines transported 2.1 million passengers last month, up 20.3 per cent year on year, according to the latest operating statistics.

The low-cost airline Scoot within the same group recorded

1.06 million passengers in April, a year-on-year growth of 13.2 per cent.

The cargo loads of Singapore Airlines (SIA) Group increased by 26.4 per cent year on year last month, supported by

demand spillover from security concerns in the Red Sea.

The SIA Group's passenger network covered 122 destinations by the end of April, and the cargo network comprised 126 destinations. — Xinhua



An Embraer E190-E2 passenger aircraft of Singapore's budget airline Scoot receives water cannon greetings at Singapore's Changi Airport in Singapore on 15 April 2024. **PHOTO: THEN CHIH WEY/XINHUA**

SPORTS

National Yachting Championship 2024 concludes

SINCE the National Yachting Championship 2024, organized by the Myanmar Yachting Federation, has ended, the awarding ceremony was held yesterday at the Yangon Sailing Club at Inya Lake, Yangon.

Myanmar Yachting Federation President U Moe Myint first gave a welcome speech. The Myanmar Yachting Federation president and officials then presented prizes to the athletes who won the National Yachting Championship 2024.

The Championship was held at Inya Lake in Yangon and Ngwehsaung Beach in Ayeyawady Region from 16 March to 12 May.

A total of 24 athletes for Optimist Class, five for ILCA-4 event, another five for the ILCA-6 (Men) event and four for ILCA-6 (Women) event competed at Ngwehsaung Yacht Club & Resort, while 14 athletes for Sharpie A event, another 14 for Sharpie B event and further 14 for



The awarding event for the National Yachting Championship 2024 in progress yesterday in Yangon.

Sharpie C event totalling 42 plus extra 16 athletes for Rater event competed at Inya Lake in Yangon. The current National Yachting Championship 2024 Awarding Ceremony was a celebration event that

coincides with the 100th anniversary of the Yangon Sailing Club. The competition is the most advanced competition organized by the Myanmar Yachting Federation during the year. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar wins Sepak Takraw World Cup 2024 Championship opener

TEAM Myanmar won in the opening group match of the Sepak Takraw World Cup 2024 Championship, held in Malaysia on 18 May.

Myanmar squad defeated the Philippines 2-1 in the double event by 15-9 in the first match, 16-17 in the second match and 15-6 in the third match. Myanmar placed in Group C with the Philippines and Indonesia in the double event.

The whole competition will be divided into two categories, Premier and Division, and high-ranking countries, including Myanmar, will enter at the Premier level.

The tourney features three types of events: the doubles competition and the triple competition, which will be held from 18 to 22 May, and the team competition, which will be held from 23 to 26 May.

According to the triple event fixture, Group A sees Thailand, Viet Nam, and Indonesia, while Group B comprises Malaysia, China, and Brunei. Meanwhile, Group C features South Korea, the Philippines and Singapore, and Group D includes India, Japan and Myanmar.

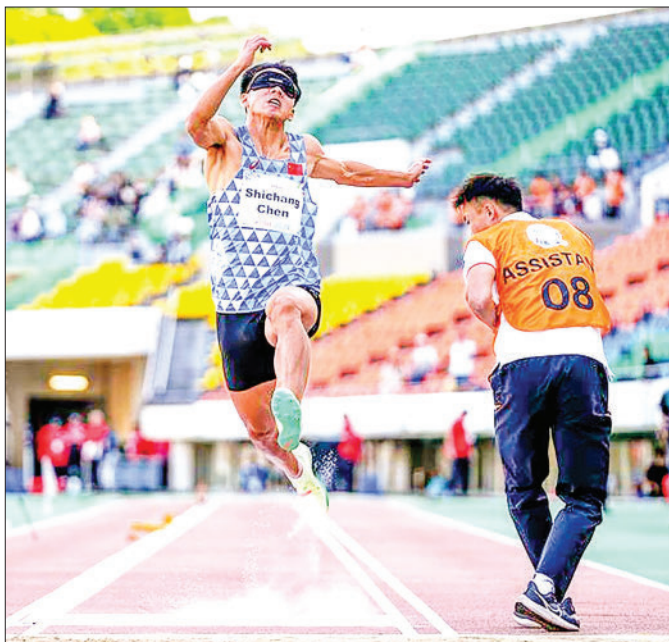
For the double event, Group A showcases Japan, Brunei, and Malaysia, while Group B consists of China, Viet Nam, and India. Likewise, Myanmar will demonstrate its skills in Group C with the Philippines and Indonesia, whereas Thailand is set up in Group D with Singapore and South Korea.

For the team event, Group A embraces Indonesia, Viet Nam, and Singapore, while Group B is made up of India, Thailand, and China. In the meantime, Brunei, Japan and Malaysia are running for Group C, while Myanmar is ready to shine in Group D with South Korea and the Philippines.

According to the format of the tournament, all participating countries will have to vie without a choice of competition type, and rankings will be made after the matches.

Team Myanmar will take on Indonesia for the double event and India for the triple event on 19 May. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

China sweeps men's long jump T11 medals at Para Athletics World Championships



Chen Shichang of China in action during the men's long jump T11 final at the Para Athletics World Championships in Kobe, Japan, 17 May 2024. PHOTO: ZHANG XIAOYU/XINHUA

CHINA made a clean sweep of all three medals in the men's long jump T11 final at the Para Athletics World Championships here on Friday.

Chen Shichang, 23, bagged the gold with a leap of 6.62 metres at the Universiade Memorial Stadium in the Japanese port city of Kobe, twice refreshing the championship record during the process.

The visually-impaired athlete also outperformed his previous personal best of 6.39m.

Di Dongdong clinched the silver with a jump of 6.50m, while Ye Tao grabbed the bronze with a personal best of 6.48m.

"I did great today, and I am so glad that I am qualified for Paris 2024," Chen, a world championship debutant, told Xinhua.

Held in East Asia for the first time and a crucial qualifier for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, the Kobe 2024 Para Athletics World Championships attracted over 1,000 athletes from 100 countries and regions to compete in 168 events.

A total of 73 Chinese para athletes, many of whom are multi-eventers, are competing in the nine-day championships.

On Day 1, China took home six medals, including two golds, two silvers and two bronzes. — Xinhua

League title battles for City, Arsenal

THE Premier League title race goes to the wire in a dramatic last weekend in England, which will also see an emotional farewell at Liverpool's Anfield Stadium.

Although many questions have already been resolved before the final weekend in England, with Aston Villa claiming the fourth

place in next season's Champions League and Luton virtually confirmed as the third side to be relegated to the Championship due to their vastly inferior goal-difference to Nottingham Forest, the big question of who lifts the title is still in the balance.

Manchester City have a two-point lead

over Arsenal and if they win at home to West Ham, they will lift the title for the fourth consecutive year, irrespective of Arsenal's result at home to Everton.

However, if Pep Guardiola's side lose or draw and Arsenal win, Arsenal would be Champions as they have a goal difference advantage.

Both sides have kept their nerve, traded

blows and been unstoppable since they drew 0-0 in City's Etihad Stadium in March, with eight consecutive wins each. City's 2-0 win away to Tottenham on Wednesday looks as if it could be the decisive moment, as they held on against a rival that had chances to take a point, but in the end, key saves from Stefan Ortega and the goals of Erling Haaland made the difference. — Xinhua

Digital technologies restore looks of 2,200-year-old woman

Experts on facial reconstruction were invited to create a sculpture of Xin Zhui's face, which was then used by a tech firm to develop a digital model. AI technology was employed to create a rejuvenated version of her at age 35.

LADY XIN ZHUI, a 2,200-year-old mummified aristocrat from central China, has been recreated in digital form, giving some idea of how she looked at age 35.

On Friday, the Hunan Museum in Changsha, central China's Hunan Province, released the image of a "3D digital figure" of Xin Zhui, one of the most famous wet mummies in the world. The image consists of a seated figure of an amicable-looking woman with coiled hair and delicate makeup, which represents the likely look of the noblewoman at the age of 35. Also made public is an earlier

digital recreation of the face at 50, Xin Zhui's approximate age of death. The digital image was created based on X-ray scans of the skull conducted following the corpse's excavation about five decades ago, coupled with on-site observation and historical records, said Duan Xiaoming, director of the museum.

The museum launched the project to digitalize Xin Zhui last October. Leading experts on facial reconstruction were invited to produce a sculpture of her face, which helped a tech firm create a digital model of the 50-year-old lady. AI technology was then employed to create a rejuvenated version at the age of 35.

— Xinhua

Lady Xin Zhui, a 2,200-year-old mummified aristocrat from central China, has been digitally recreated to give an idea of her appearance at age 35. **PHOTO: XINHUA**



Canua Island, a private floating beach denounced as 'an ecological aberration' by its opponents, has been unveiled off the French Riviera. **PHOTO: NICOLAS TUCAT/AFP**

Controversial floating beach unveiled off French Riviera

The luxurious platform has the capacity to accommodate up to 350 people.

A controversial private floating beach anchored off the French Riviera has entered service despite opposition from local politicians and environmental groups, its backers said on Friday.

"Canua Island", a 1,750 square-metre (18,800 square feet) motorized platform boasting a restaurant, bar lounge and freshwater swimming pool, was inaugurated Thursday night off

Mandelieu-La Napoule on the Cote d'Azur in southeastern France. The luxurious two-storey platform set on a trimaran and anchored 600 metres from the seafront can accommodate up to 350 people.

Opponents of the 16-million-euro project have denounced it as "an ecological aberration".

Environmental groups have long battled for increased pro-

tection for sea life and the coastline of the highly developed Cote d'Azur, long considered a playground for the rich and famous. The owners were denied permits to operate last year, but they took the case to court and were granted an authorization to launch the project. The project had initial support from just one local commune, Mandelieu-La Napoule, but was contested by the head of the broader Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur region, Renaud Muselier, a member of President Emmanuel Macron's ruling party. — AFP

Law change lets Japan police crack down on rule-breaking cyclists

The revised Road Traffic Act empowers the police to issue blue tickets to individuals aged 16 and older for approximately 115 relatively minor violations.

JAPAN'S parliament on Friday passed a bill that will permit police to fine cyclists for minor traffic violations, as authorities respond to an increase in accidents that has come in line with a boom in cycle commuting that began during the coronavirus pandemic.

When the revised Road Traffic Act comes into force, police will be able to issue people aged 16 and older so-called blue tickets for about 115 relatively minor violations like ignoring traffic lights and stop signs.

Before the change, cyclists were only able to be issued with red tickets for some 20 serious offenses, including riding while heavily intoxicated. The red tickets require investigations that can lead to criminal procedures, creating a burden for both police and the offender.—Kyodo



These changes aim to streamline enforcement for minor violations while still addressing serious infractions, ultimately enhancing road safety and reducing administrative burdens. **PHOTO: LIVEJAPAN**