

Myanmar, Russia to enhance cooperation in aerospace technology

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Deputy Director-General of Roscosmos State Space Corporation Mr Savelyev Sergey Valentinovich exchanged views on sending of Myanmar students to the Russian Federation to study aerospace technology.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Deputy Director-General of Roscosmos State Space Corporation Mr Savelyev Sergey Valentinovich of the Russian Federation at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha of Yangon Region yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, both sides cordially exchanged views on enhancement of cooperation in aerospace technology between Myanmar and Russia, development of human resources, and sending of students from Myanmar to the Russian Federation to study aerospace technology.

Also present at the ceremony were SAC Joint-Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Council member Lt-Gen Nyo Saw, Union Minister at the SAC Chairman Office Ministry (1) Admiral Moe Aung, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw and officials.

The Deputy Director-General of Roscosmos State Space Corporation of the Russian Federation was accompanied by Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Iskander Azizov and delegation members. — MNA/TTA



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents gift to Deputy Director-General of Roscosmos State Space Corporation Mr Savelyev Sergey Valentinovich of the Russian Federation at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha of Yangon yesterday.

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MNHRC inspects Kengtung Prison, Tachilek Jail, Monghsat Prison, Kengtung and Tachilek Homes for the Aged, Kengtung Police Lock-up

THE inspection team, led by U Kyaw Myint, a Member of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, in accordance with Sections 43 and 44 of the Commission Law, inspected the Kengtung Home for the Aged on 14 May 2024; Kengtung Prison and Kengtung Police Lock-up on 15 May 2024; Tachilek Jail on 16 May 2024 and Monghsat Prison on 17 May 2024. The Tachilek Home for the Aged was inspected on 18 May 2024.

The inspection team looked into Kengtung Prison, Tachilek Jail and Monghsat Prison under the MNHRC law and procedures to find out whether the prisoners and detainees enjoy fundamental rights, including appropriate food supply, access to healthcare and provision of adequate purified water. The inspection



Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Member U Kyaw Myint meets the prisoners from Monghsat Prison in Monghsat on 17 May.

team enquired with the prisoners whether they received their personal items and items sent by their families, whether they got family visits, and whether they had the right to freedom of religion. The inspection team enquired whether there were instances of human rights vio-

lations and torture and also privately interviewed the prisoners who wanted to speak freely and privately.

The inspection team also inspected the dormitories, clinic, library, kitchen, food storage area, water purifier, water and sanitation system at Kengtung

Prison, Tachilek Prison and Monghsat Prison and donated books for the prisoners.

Next, the inspection team visited Kengtung Home for the Aged and Tachilek Home for the Aged under the MNHRC Law and procedures to ascertain whether the residents were

enjoying fundamental rights, including healthcare services, appropriate food, purified drinking water, right to freedom of religion, adequate dormitories and arrangements for leisure.

While inspecting the Kengtung police lock-up, the MNHRC team inspected the conditions of detainees during the remand period, including whether any torture occurred during the investigation and whether there were opportunities to meet family members, as well as provision of food and drinking water, the handling of sewage, and the overall cleanliness of the facilities.

MNHRC will send recommendations to the relevant departments for the necessary action based on the findings during the inspection. — MNA

YBS instructed to install security cameras by 30 June, action to be taken if they fail to do so

ALL YBS companies have been instructed to install security cameras in their buses by 30 June and if they fail to do so, action will be taken effectively, said Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC)'s joint secretary U Lyan Cing Mang.

YRTC made this instruction years ago but YBS didn't follow it by giving various reasons and about 1,700 buses have yet to be installed CCTV, he said.

"The Yangon Region Chief Minister has also instructed that CCTV installation has to be made by 30 June. And we have also instructed all YBS companies about it. So if they fail to follow it, we are going to take proper action, even bus line suspension may be followed," said U Lyan Cing Mang.

In order to make convenience for passengers, YBS route

map posters have been planned to provide on YBS buses with the management of YRTC and currently, more than 3,000 buses from 71 bus lines owned by seven companies were completed

and will be continued for the rest bus lines, he said.

About 3,800 buses from 131 YBS bus lines commutes about 1.6 million passengers daily, according to YRTC. — MT/ZS



CCTV cameras are installed in a YBS bus.



Emergency medical treatment was provided to the pulmonary oedema patient with opaque right lung.

Kyaikto hospital saves pulmonary oedema patient with opaque right lung

ALTHOUGH nurses and staff were off, Kyaikto People's Hospital could save a pulmonary oedema patient with opaque right lung.

Just on the day the patient arrived back to his village from Yangon after receiving medical treatment, he suffered having severe difficulty with breathing again, and he arrived, the hospital gave necessary injections but the condition didn't improve, the hospital said on 17 May.

According to medical history, the patient is suffering acute condition of having fluids in lung due to a disease.

"The electricity was out but

we took X-ray by using a generator. Under the X-ray result, his right lung was opaque with fluids. At that time, nurses and medical staff were off, but we called them and asked to prepare for removing fluids in emergency," the hospital's statement said.

The patient could breath well after three litres of fluids were removed from lung, it said.

"Despite being exhausted, we are glad to see the patient is feeling well. It is a moment all the staff smile at the same time. Nobody can know the meaning of this smile, except us," said the statement by the hospital.

— MT/ZS

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.

MoALI holds meeting on boosting domestic cooking oil production

A coordination meeting was convened at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation yesterday to discuss ensuring adequate domestic cooking oil production.

The main theme of the meeting was to seek cooperation from relevant departments to achieve sufficiency in domestic cooking oil production by processing and

producing cooking oil from locally grown oilseeds.

Attendees included Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, U Min Naung, Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than, Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn, as well as permanent secretaries from relevant ministries, directors-general, and experts. Discussions centred on achieving sufficient domestic



A coordination meeting on boosting domestic edible oil production in progress at Office No 15 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

cooking oil production within their respective sectors.

Furthermore, it was noted

that collaborative efforts among the relevant departments would continue to focus on increasing

domestic cooking oil production and reducing the reliance on oil imports. — MNA/ TRKM

Union EP Minister inspects solar power and substation projects in Kyaukse, Thazi, Meiktila townships



Union Minister U Nyan Tun inspects the production and connection of solar energy to National Grid System in the power control room at Thapyaywa-3 30 MW and Thazi 30 MW solar power plant projects in Thazi Township 18 May 2024.

UNION Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun visited the Belin Base of the Hydropower Implementation Department in Kyaukse Township on 18 May. During his visit, they met with temporarily displaced employees from Shan State (North) and provided necessary assistance.

At Thapyaywa-3 30 MW and Thazi 30 MW solar power plant projects in Thazi Township, the Union minister heard reports on power plants, urban development work, installation of solar panels using a tracking system, construction of power lines to feed electricity to main stations, and corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities in the surrounding villages.

In his response, the Union minister emphasised that using the tracking system in solar

power plants and ESS battery storage would help generate the full amount of power needed for stable electricity production. Afterwards, the Union minister toured the power control room to inspect the production and connection of solar energy to the National Grid System, and the status of solar panel installation using the tracking system.

The Thapyaywa-3 and Thazi Solar Power Plants have an installed capacity of 30 MW. The Thapyaywa-3 solar project began generating electric power on 30 March and the Thazi Solar Project on 30 April on test to feed electricity to the national grid.

Subsequently, the Union minister looked into the 500 KV Kankaung substation project of the Department of Electric

Power Transmission & System Control in Meiktila Township.

He also inspected the installation of transformers and a shunt reactor, the completion of the Hybrid Gas Insulated Switchgear (HGIS), the construction of the 500 KV switch bay and 230 KV switch bay, and the construction of the control building.

The 500 KV Kankaung substation project is the first of its kind in Myanmar. Upon completion, it will enable the full transmission of electricity produced by power plants in the northern part of the country to the southern part through the 500 KV power grid system. The project is currently 79 per cent complete and is expected to be fully completed by December 2024. — MNA/TKO



Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win inspects medicines and medical equipment stored in Taikkyi People's Hospital in Yangon Region, on 19 May.

MoH Union Minister inspects Taikkyi Township People's Hospital

UNION Minister for Health Professor Dr Thet Khaing Win conducted an inspection of Taikkyi Township People's Hospital at 9 am yesterday. Accompanying him were the Director-General of the Medical Services Department, the rector of Yangon General Hospital and officials.

Initially, the Union minister examined progress of a two-storey patient ward built by the special construction task force (2). Following this, he inspected the laboratory, X-ray building, Department of Dentistry, operation theatre, and medical stores.

Additionally, the Union minister held a meeting with health staff from the Department of Public Health of Taikkyi Township at the hospital's meeting room. He urged the staff to collaborate and support the community's healthcare needs through the special plan in order to reduce mortality rate, fully coverage of immunization, functions of rural health branches to help pregnant mothers to give birth, organizing local people to receive medical treatment, and stressing the importance of providing necessary resources for improved treatment. — MNA/ TRKM

NATIONAL

Illegal goods seized in various states/regions

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

On 16 May, the combined team supervised by the Customs Department captured five kinds of goods worth K37,495,500 including five Ajax dental chairs and two dental suction devices that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port. This enforcement was carried out under Customs procedures.

On 17 May, the on-duty



Illegal timbers seized in Bago Region on 17 May.



Seized smuggled fuel oil bottles.

cedures and the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

During inspections on the same day, the combined teams nabbed illegal teak weighing 1.820 tonnes worth K1,601,776 in Hmawby township, illegal teak weighing 6.440 tonnes, illegal hardwood weighing 71.625 tonnes and other timbers weighing 9.165 tonnes valued at K33,144,052 in Bago, Toungoo and Pyay districts, an unregistered Mitsubishi RVR vehicle (estimated value of K3 million) at the Nawaday Bridge checkpoint in Pyay township. The action was taken under the Forest Law and the Export and Import Law.

Similarly, the combined teams seized a total of 3.789 tonnes of timbers worth K264,024 from a Forland (estimated value of K8 million) near Mawlamyine-Kyaikmaraw-Hpa-an road in Mawlamyine township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 12 arrests were made on 16 and 17 May, with an estimated value of K189 million. — MNA/MKKS



A Yutong Bus seized in Kayin State.



Illegal timbers seized in Bago Region on 17 May.

teams impounded a Yutong bus (approximately K30 million), heading to Nay Pyi Taw from Eindu of Kayin State, carrying

32,750 bottles of Lipovitan-D valued at K26.2 million without official documents at the Thanwin Bridge combined checkpoint

(Tayokhla side) and a Nissan Condor truck (approximately K30 million) carrying illegal diesel weighing 1,784 gallons worth

K20,182,500 at the Yadanabon bridge (Mandalay) combined checkpoint. The action was conducted under Customs pro-

Counter-argument to false information

Subversive media spreading fake news about Tatmadaw actions in Inwaing village in Phaungpyin Township, Sagaing Region

SUBVERSIVE media are disseminating false information on social networks, falsely claiming that the Tatmadaw entered Inwaing village in Phaungpyin Township, Sagaing Region, and killed a 13-year-old child and five residents, while also falsely

accusing the village of being burnt down.

In response to these reports, a relevant area security official stated that on 17 May, the Tatmadaw did not enter Inwaing village, and the circulated news of residents being killed and the

village being set on fire is indeed false.

It is reported that these illegal subversive media outlets are fabricating news and spreading propaganda on social networks to deceive the public about the actions of the security forces. — MNA/TKO



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NATIONAL

Paungde Township sees thriving summer paddy farms, booming handicraft works

BAGO Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win visited Kyutawkan Village in Paungde Township, Bago Region, yesterday morning to observe a model paddy field of high-quality, high-yield YSR-1 paddy strain.

U Aung Myo Min, the head of the township agriculture department, explained the YSR-1 rice variety to the Chief Minister. Following this, the Chief

Minister visited Natpadee Village to observe a local business involved in producing velvet footwear. During the visit, he learned about the production process and distribution methods of velvet footwear.

The Chief Minister also held discussions concerning assistance for local business owners and farmers. — Shwe Thar (IPRD)/ TMT



Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win observes a local business, producing velvet footwear, in Natpadee Village in Paungde Township yesterday. PHOTO: SHWE THAR (IPRD)

Priority given to convenient and peaceful learning of students



Mon State Chief Minister U Aung Kyi Thein looks into the basic education schools in Chaungzon Township yesterday. PHOTO: SITHU (IPRD)

MON State Chief Minister U Aung Kyi Thein conducted inspections of basic education schools in Mon State yesterday to provide necessary assistance.

He began by visiting Htanbingon Village Basic Education Primary School in Phalanpha Village-tract, Chaungzon Township, yesterday afternoon.

There, he met with well-wishers and officials to address school matters, including repairing infrastructure and acquiring school desks for convenient learning of students.

Later the same day, he visited Kwantake Village Basic Education Primary School in Kwantake Village-tract, Chaungzon Township. He gave

instructions for the improvement of the education system, ensuring students can pursue their education peacefully. Additionally, he provided necessary resources for the schools.

The Chief Minister paid homage to Sandawshin Kyai-kamaw Pagoda and visited related religious buildings.— Sithu (IPRD)/ KZL

Painting exhibition of students from Painting Department of NUAC (Yangon)

IT is known that the paintings created by four first-year and second-year students of Master of Arts and 14 final-year students of the Painting Department of the National University of Arts and Culture (NUAC, Yangon) are put on display daily starting from 9 am to 4 pm during the period from 18 to 25 May, at the National Library of Myanmar (Yangon) situated on the Merchant Street in Pabedan township.

This exhibition aims to increase the creativity, to get the experience of interacting with the audiences, to understand the activities related to display, to improve leadership skills and

to learn about the cooperation of the students. It is also aimed to get the credit points for the students' art creations and exhibition arrangement.

The interested audiences can enjoy a total number of 55 various kinds of paintings freely at the exhibition. It is also known that the paintings are worth between K150,000 and K1.5 million for the painting lovers.

The art exhibitions by the students of the Painting Department had been shown in outdoor art galleries in Yangon before the Covid-19 period, and this exhibition is shown for the first time after the pandemic period. — Myo Min Thura/ TRKM



Stories portray paintings art exhibition held at the National Library of Myanmar (Yangon) situated on the Merchant Street in Pabedan township.

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NATIONAL

Nay Pyi Taw to introduce electric buses for pilgrim transport to Maravijaya Buddha Image

Pilgrims to the Maravijaya Buddha Image.



THE Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee has announced that electric buses will be arranged to transport pilgrims to the Maravijaya Buddha Image.

This was stated by the Chair of Nay Pyi Taw Council and Mayor during a coordination meeting on 17 May, which focused on the use of electric

vehicles for public transportation in the Nay Pyi Taw Council area.

The meeting discussed developing bus routes and bus

stops for the public, particularly for those in Tatkon, Pyinmana, and Lewe townships. The government is working to implement a transportation system

that primarily uses electric trains and electric buses, aiming to reduce reliance on imported fuel and to conserve the environment. — TWA/TMT

Social welfare associations prepare for possible natural disasters in early monsoon

AS early monsoon is arriving soon, social relief associations have started making preparations to cooperate in rescue works for possible natural disasters, Shwe Myitta social welfare association chairperson Daw Shwe Lei told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

In early monsoon, vehicles may slide on the street, so the social welfare associations have prepared first-aid kits in order to provide helps in the

nearest areas, she said.

“Why we have prepared for early monsoon is because lightning, heavy rain and strong wind may happen if there are cumulonimbus clouds. Cooperating in rescue works when it comes to happen natural disasters is one of the objectives of our social welfare associations, so we have prepared handsaw machines and ladders so that we can provide timely assistances when trees fall and roads are

blocked,” she said.

Floods may happen in lower areas after rains, that is why they have made checks on tools that are used in carrying out relief and rescue works.

“Floods don’t happen all the time. Dirt and silt remain after water drops. So we have to clean up the dirty water by machines. So we have made tests in order to make them ready when rescue works are carried out,” she said. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS



Rehearsal for flood rescue operations.



Photo shows some container trucks which are rolling in downtown Yangon.

Myanmar Container Trucking Association announces new rental fees effective 20 May

THE Myanmar Container Trucking Association has announced new rental fees for container trucks. The rates for container trucks travelling in Yangon have increased from K340,000 to K400,000 per kilometre for journeys from Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa (MITT) to Hlinethaya Industrial Zone.

Additionally, the rate for 20-foot container trucks has

been raised from K100,000 to K150,000, while the rate for 40-foot container trucks has increased from K150,000 to K210,000.

These new rates will take effect from 20 May, due to rising costs of vehicle preparation, fuel, and the higher cost of living, as resolved in the meeting (1/2024) of the Myanmar Container Trucking Association. — TWA/ TRKM

NATIONAL

Myanmar Fire Brigade forms immediate response units for natural disasters in storm-prone regions

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Fire Brigade Headquarters, units have been formed at the township and regional levels to provide immediate aid and rescue operations in the event of natural disasters, including storms.

U Thein Tun Oo, the Director of the Fire Services Department, stated that these units have been established in the Yangon, Ayeyawady, and Bago regions, which are prone to storms during the rainy season.

“In order to respond immediately to storms and natural disasters, we have organized fire platoons of 35 fire brigade members each in townships within Yangon, Ayeyawady, and Bago regions. We are prepared to respond immediately. If necessary,

we have also formed units of 116 regional-level personnel with equipment to assist,” U Thein Tun Oo added.

In the event of a disaster, including storms, the Myanmar Fire Brigade provides assistance and conducts search and rescue operations, as well as clearing and removing blockages and damage to buildings and roads as quickly as possible.

The Myanmar Fire Brigade has prepared the necessary life ropes, life vests, life boats, and emergency search and rescue equipment for these activities.

— ASH/KZL

The Fire Brigade is seen practising to respond to disasters in 2023.



Myanmar Permanent Representative takes part in ASEAN-Hong Kong collaboration talk



ASEAN permanent representatives seen in group photo of ASEAN-HK collaboration talk.

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reported that U Aung Myo Myint, Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), attended a discussion on collaboration between ASEAN and Hong Kong in the sectors of investment, finance, technology and innovation, and tourism. The event took place at the Fairmont Hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia on 15 May.

Mr Andrew Leung, Chair-

man of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, along with permanent representatives of ASEAN countries, also attended the event.

The report states that Mr Andrew Leung's delegation met with ASEAN permanent representatives in Indonesia as part of his working visits to Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore to promote ties between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and

ASEAN member states.

During the discussion, both sides explored collaboration opportunities in investment, finance, technology and innovation, and tourism sectors between ASEAN and Hong Kong. They also discussed priority sectors to be implemented in 2024 by Laos, the ASEAN alternate chair, and the potential for entering the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. — ASH/TMT



Czech citizens and family members from embassies in the Prague seen with traditional foods.

Myanmar showcases Golden Rice in ASEAN traditional foods presentation

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), families of Myanmar embassy participated in the processing and presentation of the ASEAN traditional foods programme in the Prague, Czech Republic, organized by the ASEAN-Prague Committee.

The ASEAN-Prague Committee organized a programme to process and present ASEAN traditional foods at the Chef Parade Culinary School in the Prague on 16 May. Trainers

from embassies to ASEAN such as Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam showcased the processing and cooking of traditional foods.

The cookery class was attended by Czech citizens and family members from embassies based in the Prague. Under the theme of ASEAN Desserts, the Myanmar Embassy in the Prague presented the processing of “Golden Rice called Shwe Htamin”. — ASH/TKO

OPINION

Protect museums to proudly showcase cultural heritage

THE International Council of Museums (ICOM) was established in Paris, France, in 1946 with a mission to protect and promote natural and cultural heritage. By 2021, it had grown into an international organization with over 40,000 members. Representing 119 countries, national committees work alongside 32 international committees composed of curator experts. In total, 141 international committees collaborate within ICOM to fulfil its goals.

ICOM initiated the International Museum Day on 18 May 1977, and this global event has been celebrated annually since. In 2024, the 47th International Museum Day was commemorated at the National Museum on Pyay Road in Yangon, Myanmar. The theme for this year was "Museums for Education and Research," featuring a paper-reading session attended by archaeologists and curators. Discussions focused on topics such as the purpose and design of museum architecture, the pivotal role of curators in the digital age, the AI-Museum Alliance, and museum education.

Museums play a critical role as reflections of history, offering insights into both the positive and negative aspects of the past. In Myanmar, it is crucial for individuals to cherish and protect their cultural heritage, as museums preserve both tangible and intangible elements for future generations. By valuing these kinds of heritage, Myanmar's people can learn valuable lessons from the past, guiding them to make better choices and avoid repeating historical mistakes.

Day celebrations through social media, amplifying the impact of these events.

Museums play a critical role as reflections of history, offering insights into both the positive and negative aspects of the past. In Myanmar, it is crucial for individuals to cherish and protect their cultural heritage, as museums preserve both tangible and intangible elements for future generations. By valuing these kinds of heritage, Myanmar's people can learn valuable lessons from the past, guiding them to make better choices and avoid repeating historical mistakes.

In conclusion, sustaining museums is essential for showcasing and preserving cultural heritage. These institutions not only educate and inspire but also ensure that the lessons of the past are available for future generations. By supporting museums, we uphold the legacy of our cultural and historical treasures, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of our shared heritage.

MYANMAR'S yachting, which emerged in 1924 together with the Rangoon Sailing Club, has now reached its 100th anniversary in 2024.

Myanmar Yachting Federation makes preparations for its centenary in advance and tries hard to grab achievements at the 33rd SEA Games to be held in Thailand in 2025.

Here are the heartfelt words of the officials and winners of the Men's Championship Shield Sailing Competition organized by the Myanmar Yachting Federation at Inya Lake in Yangon and Ngwehsaung Yacht Club & Resort in Ayeyawady Region from 16 March to 12 May, marking the 100th anniversary.

U Maung Win, Vice-President of the Myanmar Yachting Federation

The award ceremony for the Men's Championship Shield Sailing Competition of Myanmar Yachting Federation is a ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of Rangoon Sailing Club.

The Myanmar Yachting Federation and Rangoon Sailing Club are inseparable, like a coin, but their nature is different. The federation is a semi-government under the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Myanmar Olympic Committee. In contrast, the Rangoon Sailing Club is a non-profit organization and a member club. It was established by the British Governor in 1924, and now it has sailed into a century in 2024.

Myanmar's Yachting Celebrates a Century of Sailing

By Nadi Min



U Maung Win

Our country was the first country to put the sailing competition in the 1961 2nd SEAP Games, and we won gold medals for two types of class and four gold medals at the 5th SEAP Games in 1969. We also grabbed two golds, one silver and one bronze, in the 27th SEA Games in 2023 at Ngwehsaung. We are still exerting our efforts

Ko Sai Pyae Sone Hein, head coach of the Myanmar Yachting Federation

The Men's Championship Shield Sailing Competition included eight different classes. They are Optimist for under 16, ILCA-4,

ILCA-6 men and women. They had to compete after the Ngwehsaung practising section in March. The competitions of Rater, Sharpie A, B, and C were at Inya Lake. That is the largest competition held by the federation every year.

We are delighted with the athletes and those who participated in the competitions. The number of athletes is higher than the number before the COVID-19 period. After COVID, most athletes, for age reasons and even younger, suspended their participation. The situation recovered in 2022, and the training reopened in 2022. Therefore, the number of athletes is high again, and we are satisfied with it.

The athletes will be trained for the SEA Games. It can be said that it is the 100th anniversary of the Rangoon Sailing Club and yachting sports. As sports are not very popular among people, and so we will keep trying hard, they are also included in our objectives. I would like to invite those interested in sailing to become yachters.

Ko Zaw Myint Than - a winning yachter

I had to compete in five matches. I won first prize in three successive competitions. Although I thought I might win as I

grabbed first place three times on the first day, fortune didn't give me a favour on the second day. I had to try my best on the second day. There were 14 boats for Sharpie C, but one didn't come to compete, so there were 13; I won the first prize with the lowest average marks for five matches.

Our country won first medals in ASEAN in terms of Ko Si Thu and Saya Aung Myin Thu. Myanmar received international training and support from the federation chairperson in ASEAN. However, the new generation did not earn gold medals at the ASEAN level. The Department of Sports and Physical Education bears the cost for 10-year-old and 12-year-old athletes to compete in international competitions once every three months. Our side also provides the expenses so they are closer towards the global level, and I think we will be again in the gold age just like Ko Si Thu soon.

Now, I am 45, and I cannot expect to participate in ASEAN and international competitions. The sailing is different from others. We have the Yangon Sailing Club for yachting, and those who win gold medals can train directly with the new generations. If young yachters have potential and the gold prize winner can train them systematically, the sport will have

the most potential in Myanmar, grabbing gold and silver medals in the future.

Maung Htet Lin Zaw - an awardee

I competed in four types of matches. I won the first prize in the ILCA 6 men's fleet in March at Ngwehsaung. Then, I won the second prize in Sharpie B at Inya Lake. I am 18 years old. I want the best things for sailing. I expect to win prizes in international competitions. I started sailing in 2016. I practised Optimist for under 16 for four years and participated in international competitions. I competed in the Malaysia SEA Games in 2017 and the Philippines SEA Games in 2019, and I also participated in tournaments, World Championships, and Asian & Oceanian. I ranked third in men's Overall in Hong Kong in 2018, first prize for Under 12 and second prize for Under 12 in the Singapore National Championship in 2018.

Although sailing is just like techniques of other sports, it needs fitness, critical thinking and consideration. When we start a match, we have to use our whole bodies and brains to think about the next step. Now, yachting is in the centenary due to the efforts of the seniors. I respect them, and



Ko Sai Pyae Sone Hein

we should keep trying just like them to maintain such success.

Maung Khun Tun Oo - a winning yachter

I participated in two classes. I was the champion for Sharpie B. I started sailing when I was nine. I have had experience in international competitions, but

I have not won any prizes. I will spare no effort to compete in the Singapore National Championship, Thai Pattaya competition and other competitions. I will do my utmost in the SEA Games that will be held in Thailand. I do hope I will achieve medals.

Translated by KTZH



Myanmar's yachting community has a rich history, dating back to 1924 when the Rangoon Sailing Club was established. Now, in 2024, the Myanmar Yachting Federation celebrates its 100th anniversary. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ MYANMAR YACHTING FEDERATION

NATIONAL



PHOTO: LUCASSTOFFEL

Community-based tourism in Bagan to attract more visitors in 2024



Foreign tourists enjoying sunset views from view desk in Bagan ancient cultural zone.

PHOTOS: BAGAN BRANCH

THE Directorate of Hotels and Tourism has estimated that there will be more tourists in 2024 than in 2023, due to the attraction of community-based tourism businesses that are compatible with the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone, where a wide range of Myanmar's ancient cultural heritage is located, according to U Myo Min Aung, the assistant director of the Bagan branch of the department.

A total of 55,846 tourists visited the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone in April, including 993 foreign tourists and 54,853 local tourists. In the same month, a total of 352,712 domestic tourists visited the Shwezigon Pagoda, with 198,900 visiting the Buu Pagoda, 39,483 visiting

Lawkananda Pagoda, and 32,031 foreign and local tourists visiting Mount Popa. In 2022, 1.08 million foreign tourists visited the Shwezigon Pagoda, a popular destination in Bagan, and this number increased to 2.47 million in 2023. The Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone remains one of the regions with the highest number of tourists in Myanmar, with the most frequent visitors reported to be from Thailand, China, Russia, and the United States this year.

The Assistant Director disclosed, "The Directorate of Hotels and Tourism has also developed more attractive destinations for foreign tourists in Bagan. The Kyaukmyathmaw Pagoda and Rocky Lake around Bagan are frequently visited by

tourists. Zee Pho Hla Village, which has paintings from more than 900 years ago, and the Setsetyo Village in NyaungU Township, which preserves Myanmar traditional hairstyles called Yaungpaysu for boys and Sanyitwine for girls (top-knot with a circular fringe), as well as the village of Thepyintaw, which is prepared for community-based tourism, attract both domestic and international visitors. Foreign tourists particularly enjoy the village because they can view the sunset from the Shwenattaung Pagoda. They are also interested in the 200-year-old ancient Yokesone Monastery and the various antiques found there.

"At the same time, you can learn about the toddy palm tree

climbing occupation and the lifestyle of the villagers. Since it is a community-based tourism village, it is one of the most visited places not only by foreign tourists but also by domestic visitors. It was hotter this summer, but tourism operations didn't stop. If it hadn't been so hot, more visitors would have come here. The Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone, where Myanmar's cultural heritage is gathered, is a region that our country can be proud of. The ancient pagodas, a group of palm trees, and an ancient lake are a heritage that suits the Bagan region. Foreign tourists, in particular, will appreciate it more. Therefore, it is estimated that more tourists will visit Bagan's ancient cultural area this year than last year."

The Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone received the highest number of visitors in April during the

Thingyan festival period. The area saw more tourists in early 2024 than in the same period in 2023. During the heat of May, about 700 to 800 travellers visited the area daily, and about 1,000 travellers visited during office holidays. More visitors are expected in the rainy season and the following period.

The inbound tourism services, which generate significant income for the country without smoke, is attracting foreign revenue through the development of many destinations and attractions. With its natural scenery, natural lakes, and ancient cultural heritage areas, community-based tourism will thrive in Bagan. Tourism operators predict that 2024 will bring more tourists to Myanmar than 2023, thanks to the country's hospitable traditions and warm-hearted people. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/TH



Local and foreign tourists visit ancient religious edifices in Bagan.

Museums in China register 1.29 billion visits in 2023

Throughout the year, Chinese museums hosted an impressive array of cultural exhibitions and educational events, with over 40,000 exhibitions and 380,000 educational activities taking place.

MUSEUMS in China logged 1.29 billion visits in 2023, surpassing the figures of previous years, according to the National Cultural Heritage Administration.

The figures were unveiled on Saturday at an event marking International Museum Day in Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province.

The administration said that throughout 2023, museums in China hosted more than 40,000 exhibitions and over 380,000 ed-

ucational events.

In 2023, 268 museums were newly registered in China, bringing the total number of museums in the country to 6,833. The country is also expanding its free-entry policy, with over 90 per cent of all museums now offering free admission. — Xinhua

People visit Shaanxi History Museum in Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, 11 May 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA



Kiara Advani exudes diva vibes in her first look from Cannes

In a recent video, Kiara was spotted showcasing her inner diva in a chic ivory crepe back satin dress by designer Prabal Gurung.

ACTOR Kiara Advani is serving major fashion goals at Cannes.

The 'Kabir Singh' star, who recently checked into the French Riviera to represent India at Women in Cinema Gala dinner, dropped a stylish post on her social media on Friday.

In a video, she could be seen exuding diva vibes in an ivory crepe back satin dress featuring a thigh-high slit. The outfit was from the shelves of designer Prabal Gurung. She elevated her simple yet classy ensemble with large matching earrings and heels. The video started with Kiara getting out of a car. She then walked, posed and smiled on a deck.

"Rendezvous at the Riviera," Kiara captioned the post, leaving fans mesmerised.

Her post is flooded with heartfelt reactions.

"Gorgeous," a fan wrote.

"You are so stunning," another Instagram user wrote.

The Cannes Film Festival opened on Tuesday night with the world premiere of Quentin Dupieux's 'Le Deuxieme Acte (The Second Act),' starring Lea Seydoux, Vincent Lindon, Louis Garrel and Raphael Quenard.

Other Indian actresses including Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Sobhita Dhulipala and Aditi Rao Hydari are also in Cannes.

Aishwarya, who is called 'Cannes Queen', has so far

served two looks at the ongoing Cannes Film Festival.

For her first look, Aishwarya WORE a dramatic monochrome gown with striking golden accents as she walked the red carpet. — ANI



Kiara wowed fashion enthusiasts at the Red Sea Film Foundation's Women in Cinema Gala dinner in Cannes. PHOTO: ANI

SUMMARIES: LIFESTYLE

Sri Lanka: Seetha Amman Temple hosts grand puja with global devotee attendance

IN Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka, the serene ambiance of the Seetha Amman Temple is aglow with spiritual fervor as the auspicious Kumbaabhishekam puja unfolds. Devotees from far and wide have converged upon this sacred site, drawn by the reverence of the occasion.

At the heart of the ceremony is a ritual known as Kumbaabhishekam, symbolising the renewal of divine energies within its hallowed confines. Among the distinguished guests gracing the event is the Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Santosh Jha, underlining the cross-cultural significance of this sacred gathering. Seetha Amman Temple, nestled in the tranquil village of Seetha Eliya, holds profound mythological significance as the purported location where Goddess Sita was held captive by Ravana, according to ancient lore. — ANI

Paul McCartney becomes UK's first billionaire musician

MUSIC icon Paul McCartney has become the UK's first billionaire musician, according to the Sunday Times Rich List published Friday, despite the country recording its largest fall in the billionaire count in the guide's 36-year history.

The 81-year-old's fortune was boosted by "strong touring, a valuable back catalogue and even a little help from Beyoncé", who covered the Beatles song "Blackbird", said the Rich List, considered the definitive guide of the UK's wealthy.

McCartney, whose net worth was estimated at £1.0 billion (\$1.26 billion), has bucked the trend, with the amount of billionaires in the UK falling from a peak of 177 in 2022 to 165 this year.

This is partly due to plans by the government to scrap the "non-dom tax status" from next year, the system whereby people do not pay UK tax on their overseas earnings. "Non-dom" has been a political issue for many years, with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Indian wife Akshata Murty claiming the status, meaning she was not required to pay tax on her shareholding in Infosys, the Bangalore-based IT company co-founded by her father. — AFP

ECONOMY

WORLD/AD

India sees Chabahar Port as connectivity hub for Afghanistan, Central Asian countries: MEA

The agreement, signed on 13 May underscores India's commitment to harnessing the potential of Chabahar as a pivotal connectivity hub for Afghanistan and the landlocked Central Asian nations.

THE Ministry of External Affairs on Friday said that India signed the agreement for the operation of Chabahar port with Iran as it has the potential to emerge as a connectivity hub for Afghanistan and Central Asian countries.

"On 13 May, we signed the long-term agreement for the operation of Chabahar port. Our minister was there. It's a major achievement. We see Chabahar as India's commitment towards realizing the potential of the place as a connectivity hub for Afghanistan and for landlocked central Asian countries," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Chabahar port

The Chabahar Port is an India-Iran flagship project that serves as an important transit port for trade with Afghanistan. India has been a key player in

the development and operation of Chabahar Port.

Randhir Jaiswal said that

the US recognizes the significance of Chabahar Port for ongoing humanitarian aid to Afghan-

istan and for offering economic options to the country.

The MEA spokesperson said

that the US had in the recent past appreciated the "larger relevance of the Chabahar project, particularly in the context of humanitarian supplies to Afghanistan".

Earlier on Tuesday, the United States warned that "anyone" considering business deals with Tehran needs to be aware of the "potential risk of sanctions."

"I would just say... US sanctions on Iran remain in place and we will continue to enforce them," the US State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson, Vedant Patel said at the press briefing.

"Any entity, anyone considering business deals with Iran, they need to be aware of the potential risk they are opening themselves up to, potential risk of sanctions," Patel added. — ANI



MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal highlighted the importance of this agreement, emphasizing Chabahar's role in facilitating regional connectivity and trade. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

IMF estimates Singapore's annual growth at 2.1%

Masahiro Nozaki, who led the team's discussions with Singapore from 7 May to 16 May foresees headline and core inflation moderating to 3 per cent this year, with core inflation stabilizing around 2 per cent by 2025.



Containers are seen at the Pasir Panjang container terminal in Singapore on 17 August 2020. **PHOTO: THEN CHIH WEY/XINHUA**

A team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said the recovery in manufacturing, tourism, and consumer-facing

services would fuel Singapore's GDP growth to 2.1 per cent in 2024 from 1.1 per cent last year.

Masahiro Nozaki, who

led the team in discussions with Singapore from 7 May to 16 May, projected the headline and core inflation in Singapore to moderate to 3 per cent this year, with the latter expected to stabilize at around 2 per cent by 2025.

The inflation stickiness would continue due to volatility in global energy and food prices, and growing labor costs, Nozaki said.

Accordingly, he called on the authority to maintain tight monetary policy until inflationary pressures recede and to adjust the policy to stabilize prices once the envisaged disinflation is firmly in sight.

He also noted that Singapore's targeted support to vulnerable households and firms is appropriate and expected to complement the tight monetary policy stance. —Xinhua

Over US\$ 16 billion from partners push ADB's focus on climate action, sustainable development

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s partners committed US\$ 16.4 billion in cofinancing in 2023, up by 44 per cent from the previous year.

This bolstered ADB's efforts to tackle the complex challenges faced by developing member countries, as reported in ADB's Partnership Report 2023: Climate Action, Sustainable Development.

"Working hand in hand with partners, ADB is accelerating climate action and sustainable development in the Asia and Pacific region," said ADB Managing Director General Woonchong Um.

"We are boosting renewable energy with Southeast Asia's biggest wind power

plant, the Monsoon wind power project, in the Lao PDR. We are integrating climate adaptation and mitigation measures into major transportation projects, for example, with Vanuatu's inter-island shipping project."

New partners include the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet and the International Finance Facility for Education. ADB also established new financing partnerships in 2023, including the Innovative Finance Facility for Climate in Asia and the Pacific and the Ocean Resilience and Coastal Adaptation Financing Partnership Facility. — ANI

Transferring Distributor for Registered Products

Distribution of following pesticides registered by **Zhejiang Zhongshan Chemical Industry Group Co., Ltd** is transferring from **ZHONGSHAN MYANMAR COMPANY LIMITED** to **Farm Link Co.,Ltd**. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, West Gyogone, Insein Township within (14) days.

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration	
			Type	Number
1.	Hydra 750 WG	Tebuconazole 50%+ Trifloxystrobin 25% WG	Provisional	P 2023-6248

India's oilmeal exports start 2024-25 on a weak note, drop 6% in April

Oilmeals, the byproduct of oil extraction from oilseeds, are widely used as livestock feed globally.

INDIA'S overall oilmeal exports during April 2024 were 6 per cent lower on a yearly basis at 4.65 lakh tonnes. During the same month last year, the total exports were 4.93 lakh tonnes, industry data showed.

In break up, exports of soybean meal rose while that of mustard meal declined.

Oilmeals are the residue left over after the extraction of oil from oilseeds and it is widely utilized as livestock feed globally.

According to the Solvent Extractors' Association of India, which has put out the trade data, said the country harvested a record crop of soybean in Kharif season last year and mustard in Rabi season

which encouraged higher crushing and increased availability of meals, both for the domestic consumption and exports.

The total oilmeal exports during November-April, the first six months of the marketing year, indicated the revival of soybean meal exports which jumped from 10.4 lakh tonnes to 16.6 lakh



In April 2024, India's total oilmeal exports reached 4.65 lakh tonnes, showing a 6 per cent decline compared to the same period last year when exports stood at 4.93 lakh tonnes, as per industry data. **PHOTO: ANI**

metric tons.

While rapeseed meal exports are down by nearly 23 per cent so far this

season at 9.3 lakh tonnes.

The industry body said last year the exports were higher as India could ex-

port substantial quantity due to price advantage vis-a-vis other supplying countries. — ANI

Japan's Norinchukin Bank mulls 1 tril yen capital increase

According to a source familiar with the situation, the bank anticipates a net loss of around 500 billion yen for the fiscal year ending March 2025 due to the disposal of these unrealized losses.



Norinchukin plans to engage in discussions with its primary investors, including the Japan Agricultural Cooperatives, regarding the proposed capital increase. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

JAPAN'S Norinchukin Bank is considering a capital increase of about 1 trillion yen (\$6.4 billion) to bolster its financial standing that is undermined by unrealized losses from its holdings of overseas bonds, including US Treasuries, a source familiar with the matter said Sunday.

Norinchukin will discuss the matter with its main investors such as the Japan Agricultural Cooperatives, as it could post a net loss of around 500 billion yen in the year ending March 2025 due to the disposal of the unrealized losses.

The bank is likely to use subordinated loans, which have a lower repayment priority and count as capital, while foreign bonds with unrealized losses will be sold and replaced with more profitable assets. Its capital stood at 4.04 trillion yen at the end of December 2023.

Norinchukin has focused on investing in US Treasuries, which have higher yields than Japanese government bonds. Since March 2022, however, the United States had been raising interest rates at a rapid pace to counter inflation. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Diversified tourism spurs new growth in China's Three Gorges Reservoir area

COLORFUL tourism scenarios have diversified the pastime experiences in China's Three Gorges Reservoir area, spawning new consumption growth.

Tourists can now visit the area by water, land, or air. Fengjie County of southwest China's Chongqing Municipality introduced low-altitude helicopter tours this year, providing a fresh angle for holiday-goers to admire the scenery of Kuimen, a gateway to the steepest gorges of the Yangtze River, the longest river in China. "The Three Gorges Reservoir area boasts both natural scenery and an abundance of historical and cultural heritages. It's a great thing to see with my own eyes the magnificent views here, which are frequently mentioned in ancient Chinese poetry," said Zhang Lu, a tourist. —Xinhua

UK clears way for Microsoft-Mistral AI tie-up

BRITAIN'S competition watchdog on Friday cleared the way for a tie-up between US giant Microsoft and French artificial intelligence firm Mistral AI, concluding it did not amount to a merger.

The Competition and Markets Authority last month announced that it would examine tie-ups between the two firms, between US giant Amazon and its AI partner Anthropic, and also look at Microsoft's hiring of former employees and related arrangements with Inflection AI. The CMA had issued an "invitation for comments" on the three cases but stopped short of launching formal investigations. — AFP

Transferring Distributor for Registered Products

Distribution of following pesticides registered by **Anhui Zhongshan Chemical Industry Group Co., Ltd** is transferring from **ZHONGSHAN MYANMAR COMPANY LIMITED** to **Farm Link Co.,Ltd**. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, West Gyogone, Insein Township within (14) days.

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration	
			Type	Number
1.	DKBENTA 480 SL	Bentazone 480 g/l SL	Provisional	P 2023-4762

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

Israeli political crisis deepens as IDF failures prompt cabinet resignation threat

Recent polling reveals Netanyahu's approval rating in Israel stands at some 32%.



If Netanyahu chooses a path that leads the nation to the abyss, Gantz is prepared to quit the government. PHOTO: GIL COHEN-MAGEN/AFP/FILE

THE country's emergency war cabinet appeared on the verge of collapse Saturday with a key member voicing opposition to its leadership. Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu's grip on power appeared under threat this weekend when a key member of the country's war cabinet threatened to resign.

Opposition leader Benny Gantz issued an ultimatum Saturday, claiming he would leave the emergency political formation if Netanyahu does not implement his six-point plan for the country's military operation in Gaza by 8 June. Among Gantz's demands are efforts to ensure the return of Hamas-held Israeli captives, a demilitarization of the Gaza Strip and a move towards international administration of the Palestinian territory.

Gantz, a retired army general, has criticized Netanyahu's prosecution of the

country's military campaign in Gaza, reflecting public frustration in Israel over the prime minister's failure to secure the return of Israeli hostages. Fighting has resumed in northern Gaza recently as Hamas fighters have returned to the area, prompting claims the country has failed to accomplish Netanyahu's stated aim of defeating Hamas.

The threat suggests the transpartisan political cooperation that emerged after Hamas' 7 October attack threatens to break down, potentially leading to calls for new elections. Critics have claimed Netanyahu has prolonged Israel's military campaign in Gaza to maintain his hold on power. The Prime Minister was previously un-

der investigation on multiple charges of corruption, with the judicial process against him set to resume if he is toppled.

Recent polling reveals Netanyahu's approval rating in Israel stands at some 32 per cent. The country has been rocked by large demonstrations for months with protesters calling on the prime minister to step down.

An open letter signed by dozens of prominent Israelis earlier this year called on Netanyahu's "immediate removal," deeming him an "existential" threat to the country. Political polarization in the country has remained high since large anti-Netanyahu protests took place in 2019 and 2020. — SPUTNIK

NEWS IN BRIEF

Eleven missing after South African trawler sinks

ELEVEN fishermen are missing after their trawler sank in the South Atlantic 30 nautical miles off the Cape of Good Hope, South African rescue services said Saturday. The fishing vessel got into difficulty on Friday but local officials said they had not given up hope for the men, despite air and sea searches turning up no trace. "My prayers are with the families of those still missing at sea," said Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis of the city of Cape Town.

South Africa's lifeboat organisation, the National Sea Rescue Institute, said 20 crew had been on board the missing trawler.

Nine survivors were found by other fishing vessels on a life raft after a boat issued a mayday distress call on Friday afternoon. —AFP

China gears up for heavy rain in southern regions

CHINA'S State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters activated a Level-IV emergency response on Saturday due to anticipated heavy rainfall in parts of Guangdong, Guangxi and the Pearl River over the next three days.

From Saturday to Tuesday, China's southwestern and southern regions may experience heavy rain, accompanied by thunderstorms, gales and hail, the country's meteorological authorities have forecast.

Work teams have been dispatched to Guangdong to provide guidance on rainfall prevention efforts.

Chinese authorities have urged local departments to strengthen early warning systems and contingency measures to prevent floods in small and medium-sized rivers, as well as potential geological disasters. —Xinhua

Locals in central Japan near Mt Fuji count on UFO craze for tourism

In Yamanashi Prefecture, locals in Kofu are aiming to transform their city into a tourist hotspot with the help of an otherworldly ally—an alien.



A person dressed as the "Kofu alien" (C) strikes a pose at an event on 23 February 2024, in Kofu, Yamanashi Prefecture, known for an alleged UFO sighting in 1975. PHOTO: KYODO

LOCAL residents in Yamanashi Prefecture, at the foot of Mt Fuji, are striving to make their city Kofu a tourist magnet with extraterrestrial help from an alien.

Next year marks the 50th anniversary of an incident in which two elementary school children claimed to have en-

countered unidentified flying objects and an alien. It is dubbed one of "three major UFO incidents" reported in Japan.

Radio personality Kiichi Tokutake is among a group of people organizing events to celebrate the anniversary and boost the city's appeal. "I

want to make Kofu a mecca for UFO enthusiasts," he said.

Tokutake's passion grew after he was told by a guest during his show that the UFO sighting in Kofu had recently grabbed attention among some overseas enthusiasts.

The alleged incident dates back to 23 February 1975, when two boys playing near a vineyard in Kofu saw what they described as two saucer-shaped UFOs flashing in orange at around 6:30 p.m. They said a 120- to 130-centimetre tall alien with a big head, long ears and three fangs then descended, according to Tokutake. The alien reportedly had a brown face with no eyes or nose.

The boys left the scene to call their family. When they returned, the objects started blinking and glared briefly before disappearing. Their family and local residents provided similar descriptions. — Kyodo

SPORTS



The Myanmar bodybuilder (C) is seen with gold medal during the 18th Southeast Asian Bodybuilding & Physique Sports Championship 2024.

Myanmar claims 3 gold, 3 silvers in 18th Southeast Asian Bodybuilding & Physique Sports Championship 2024

MYANMAR bodybuilders earned three gold and three silver medals in the 18th Southeast Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship 2024 held in Vientiane, Laos from 16 to 20 May.

In the Women's Athletic Physique event, Myanmar's Thei Wah won a gold medal while Viet Nam earned a silver medal and Laos achieved a bronze medal.

In the men's Bodybuilding, Myanmar's Tun Min

Naing from 60 kilogramme event, Naing Min Thein from 70 kilogramme event, Aung Min Oo from 75 kilogramme event stood the fourth each whereas Myo Naing Tun from upper 75 kilogramme event finished as sixth place.

Myanmar's Ko Ko Kyaw Phy from won one gold in the men's Athletic Physique Upper 175cm +6kg event while Than Htike Oo won another gold in men's Sports Physique up to 170 cm -2 kg event on

19 May. On the same day, Myanmar's Khin Nilar Soe secured one silver medal in women's Model Physique up to 160 cm event while Zue Zue Thant claimed another silver medal in women's Model Physique over 165 am event. Team Myanmar will arrive back home on 20 May from the championship. — Arkar Lin/KZL

Man City win historic fourth straight Premier League title

MANCHESTER City created English football history on Sunday, overcoming West Ham 3-1 to win their fourth straight Premier League title and break Arsenal's hearts as Jurgen Klopp made an emotional Liverpool exit. Phil Foden scored two early goals at an expectant Etihad to put his side on the brink of the title before Mohammed Kudus pulled one back with a spectacular overhead kick.

But Rodri struck just before the hour to restore City's two-goal cushion and the home side rarely looked troubled as they coasted to the win. Arsenal started the day two points behind their rivals and praying for a miracle to deny City their coronation, knowing that a win against Everton would not be enough if the champions won on home turf. The Gunners, without a Premier League title since 2004, came from a goal down to beat Everton 2-1 but had to content themselves with second in the table for a second straight season.—AFP



Manchester City's English defender #02 Kyle Walker holds aloft the Premier League trophy during the presentation ceremony following the English Premier League football match on 19 May 2024. PHOTO: OLI SCARFF / AFP

Yangon United advance to MNL Cup's semifinal berth

YANGON United made a semifinal final stage after securing all wins in games of the Group A at the Myanmar National League Cup Championship 2024.

Team Yangon edged Maha United 3-1 at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna in Yangon on 19 May, and the win made Yangon United undefeated this season.

Since Yangon United had already reached the semifinals before playing against Maha United, some changes were made to the starting line-up, leaving out all foreign players and deploying local players. Maha United had no hope of making the semis, but came out with a solid set of players.

Yangon United attacked from the start and Okkar Naing opened the scoring in the fourth minute. But Maha United were awarded a penalty kick in the 27th minute and Patrick touched the ball to tie the score.



Yangon United player (greenish blue) vies the ball with Maha United keeper during the Group A match of the Myanmar National League Cup Championship 2024 at Thuwunna YTC in Yangon on 19 May 2024. PHOTO: MNL

However, Yan Naing Oo added second goal back in the 33rd minute for team Yangon to lead the match by 2:1 after the first half.

In the second half, Yangon United managed to win the game, and Zaw Win Thein scored the third goal to ensure victory in the 66th minute.

Likewise, University Team smashed GFA 3-1 at the Padonma Stadium. Though GFA led the game with Hla Bhone Oo's goal at 28 minute, the University made come-from-behind actions with the goals of Nyein Zeyar at 62 minute, Hlaing Bwar at 66 minute and Zaw Zaw Htike at 81 minute respectively.

In the Group A, the semifinalist Yangon United bagged 24 points while Maha United collected 15 points, GFA and University team shared the result, garnering nine points each and Shwe Pyitha made just three points.

Shan United will also take on Rakhine United at Thuwunna YTC and Kachin United will face Glory Goal FC at Yangon United Sports Complex today as Group B matches. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Indian talent in high demand globally, mobility agreements on rise

During the CII Annual Business Summit 2024 in New Delhi, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar emphasized the increasing global recognition of Indian skills and talent.

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Friday stressed the growing role of Indian skills and talent at the global level and said that the developed countries of the world are now manifesting interest in concluding mobility agreements with India.

“In the era of a knowledge economy, the role of Indian skills and talent is also being reassessed. The nature of technological advancement is itself creating greater demand. But there is also the reality of demographic shortages in developed countries. These trends are manifesting themselves right now in an interest across the world to conclude mobility agreements with India,” EAM said while speaking at the CII Annual Business Summit 2024 in New Delhi.

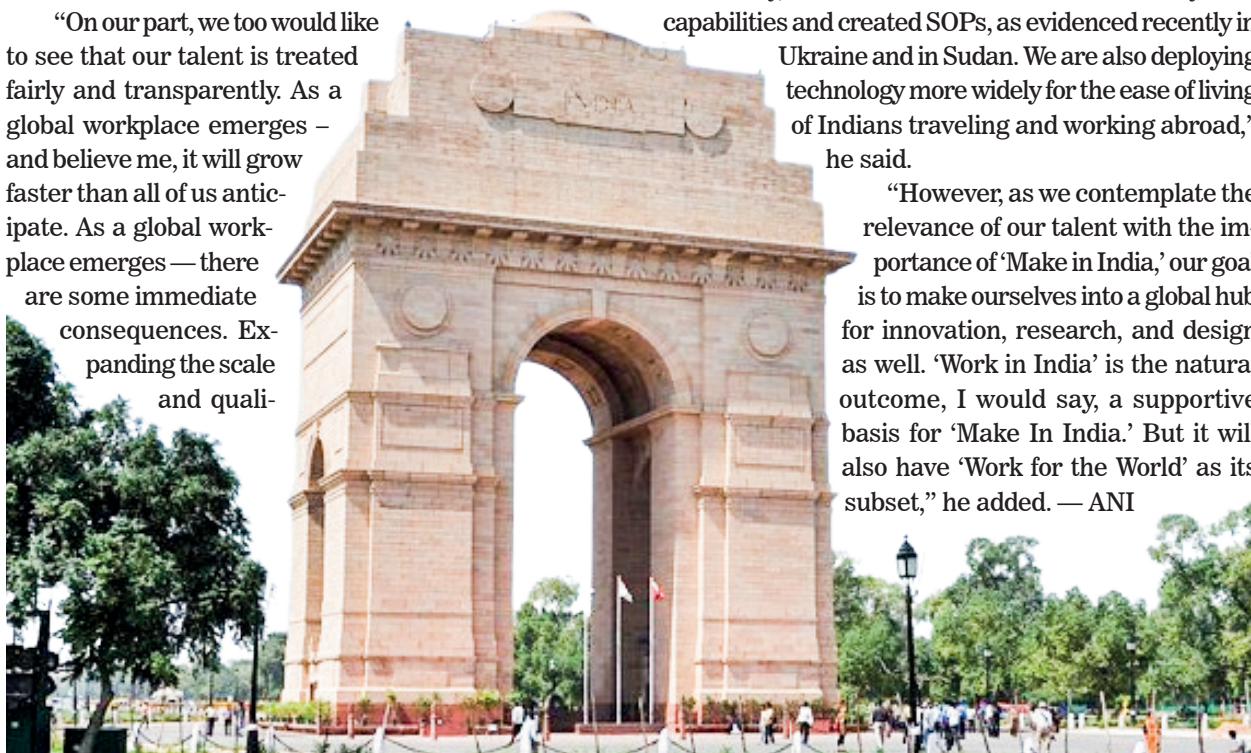
“On our part, we too would like to see that our talent is treated fairly and transparently. As a global workplace emerges – and believe me, it will grow faster than all of us anticipate. As a global workplace emerges — there are some immediate consequences. Expanding the scale and quali-

ty of skilling at home becomes an even more urgent imperative. This is very much in line with the Modi Government’s thinking. They are supported by the spread of the innovation and start-up culture as well. Businesses too need to do their fair share in the upgrading of our human resources,” he added.

Asserting the obligation to secure Indian citizens even abroad, EAM also highlighted India’s successful operations held to evacuate Indian citizens from Ukraine and Sudan and said that their goal is to make India a global hub for innovation, research, and design as well.

“As the global workplace expands, the obligation to secure our citizens abroad will also grow proportionately. Fortunately, this is an area where we have already built capabilities and created SOPs, as evidenced recently in Ukraine and in Sudan. We are also deploying technology more widely for the ease of living of Indians traveling and working abroad,” he said.

“However, as we contemplate the relevance of our talent with the importance of ‘Make in India,’ our goal is to make ourselves into a global hub for innovation, research, and design as well. ‘Work in India’ is the natural outcome, I would say, a supportive basis for ‘Make In India.’ But it will also have ‘Work for the World’ as its subset,” he added. — ANI



Jaishankar stressed the importance of fair and transparent treatment of Indian talent globally. India Gate in Delhi. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

BRIEF NEWS

Intense search for Iran’s President Raisi after helicopter ‘accident’

IRAN launched a large-scale search and rescue effort to scour a fog-shrouded mountain area after President Ebrahim Raisi’s helicopter went missing Sunday in what state media described as an “accident”.

Fears grew for the 63-year-old ultraconservative after contact was lost with the helicopter carrying him as well as Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and others in East Azerbaijan province, reports said.

The supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, urged Iranians to “not worry” about the leadership of the Islamic republic, saying “there will be no disruption in the country’s work”.

“We hope that Almighty God will bring our dear president and his companions back in full health into the arms of the nation,” he said in on state TV.

Expressions of concern and offers to help came from abroad, including Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Qatar and Türkiye, as well as from the European Union which said it activated its rapid response mapping service to aid in the search effort.

State television reported that “an accident happened to the helicopter carrying the president” in the Jolfa region of the western province, while some officials described it as a “hard landing”.

“The harsh weather conditions and heavy fog have made it difficult for the rescue teams to reach the accident site,” said one broadcaster.

More than 40 rescue teams using search dogs and drones were sent to the site, reported the IRNA news agency as TV stations showed pictures of rows of waiting emergency response vehicles.

Raisi was visiting the province where he inaugurated a dam project together with Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev, on the border between the two countries.

Raisi’s convoy included three helicopters, and the other two had “reached their destination safely,” according to Tasnim news agency. — AFP

Viet Nam’s ruling party nominates minister To Lam to be next president

To Lam, aged 66, has held the position of public security minister since 2016. The nomination comes after the resignation of President Vo Van Thuong in March.

VIET Nam’s ruling Communist Party has nominated the public security minister, To Lam, to be the country’s next president, months after his predecessor stepped down as part of an anti-corruption crackdown, Al Jazeera reported on Saturday.

The decision was taken following the party’s central committee’s approval of To Lam’s name for the president post on Saturday, Al Jazeera reported, citing Vietnam News Agency. 66-year-old Lam has been public security minister since 2016.

In March, President Vo Van Thuong resigned

after a little more than a year in office due to “violations” and “shortcomings”, the party said.

Al Jazeera reported that Thuong was the second president to quit in two years amid an anti-corruption crackdown that has seen several senior politicians fired and top business leaders tried for fraud and corruption. Tran Thanh Man, 61, was also nominated as the new head of Viet Nam’s National Assembly, state media said, becoming one of Viet Nam’s four most powerful leaders, Al Jazeera reported. — ANI



Viet Nam’s Public Security Minister To Lam speaking at a meeting at the National Assembly House in Hanoi, 21 December 2023. Lam has been named president by the Communist Party. PHOTO: AFP/FILE