

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects preservation of ancient cultural heritages in the precinct of Shwezigon Pagoda yesterday.

Ancient artistic works with high historical value must be displayed for easy observance of visitors

Officials urged to inspect systematic preservation of valuable ancient heritages to be free from natural disasters.

THE pagoda board of trustees needs to coordinate with experts to preserve glaze terracotta plaques depicting 550 Jataka stories of the Buddha, rocky alms-bowls and Myanmar's architectural heritages decorated at Thudhamma public rest houses at the pagoda without losing original designs, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accompanied by his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the Mandalay Region Chief Minister and the commander of Central Command paid homage to ancient pagodas in Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone yesterday morning.

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Salient points in speeches of the Senior General on his tour of Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone

- Systematic preservation must be done at valuable ancient heritages to be free from natural disasters.
- Officials need to coordinate with experts to preserve glaze terracotta plaques, rocky alms-bowls and Myanmar's architectural heritages decorated at Thudhamma public rest houses without losing original designs.
- Bronze casting process at four standing Buddha images depicts flourishing of ancient fine arts works.
- Ancient artistic works with high historical value should be displayed with captions for easy observance of local and foreign travellers.

NATIONAL

Severe Cyclonic Storm "REMAL" No 13/2024

Issued at (23:00) hours MST on 26-5-2024

Severe Cyclonic Storm Condition

According to the observations at 21:30 hrs MST today, the Severe Cyclonic Storm "REMAL" over North Bay of Bengal has continued to move nearly Northwards and centred at about 180 Nautical miles West-Northwest of Maungtau, 220 Nautical miles West-Northwest of Sittway, Myanmar; 65 Nautical miles Southwest of Khepupara, 70 Nautical miles South-Southwest of Mongla, Bangladesh, 65 Nautical miles East-Southeast of Sagar Island, 95 Nautical miles East-Southeast of Digha and 65 Nautical miles South-Southeast of Canning, West Bengal, India.

It has not directed towards Myanmar Coasts, the present stage of the Severe Cyclonic Storm "REMAL" is coded yellow stage.

Position of Severe Cyclonic Storm "REMAL", central pressure and wind

The Severe Cyclonic Storm "REMAL" is located at Latitude 21.4 degree North and Longitude 89.2 degree East, central pressure of Severe Cyclonic Storm is 978 hPa and maximum wind speed near the centre is 70 miles per hour at 21:30 hrs MST today.

During next (12) hrs forecast

The Severe Cyclonic Storm "REMAL" is likely to continue to move Northwards and the outmost banding features of and Cyclonic Storm is crossing Bangladesh and adjoining West Bengal coasts, India. The center of Cyclonic Storm will forecast to cross Bangladesh and adjoining West Bengal coasts between Sagar Island (India) and Khepupara, close to Mongla (Bangladesh) tonight.

General caution

Under the influence of Severe Cyclonic Storm "REMAL", rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavyfalls in some regions and states along with strong winds from tonight to 27-5-2024. Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 40 mph and wave height will be about 9-12 feet. Frequent squalls with rough to very rough seas will be experienced in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 45-55 mph and wave height will be about 13-16 feet.

Advisory

Under the influence of Severe Cyclonic Storm "REMAL", people should be aware heavy rain with strong wind, flash flood and landslide in the hilly areas and near small rivers and also domestic flight, trawlers, vessels and ships off and along Myanmar Coasts.

Condition of Southwest Monsoon Onset

Issued at 26 May 2024

DURING the past 24 hours, Southwest monsoon has advanced into the Deltaic Myanmar areas, Southwest Bay and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal.

Public Notice

1. According to Section 40 (e) and Section 62 of the Central Bank of Myanmar Law, the Central Bank of Myanmar is the sole legal entity authorized to issue and administer the local currency.
2. The Central Bank of Myanmar, with the directive 9/2020 released on 15 May 2020, has announced that digital currencies such as cryptocurrency, Bitcoin (BTC), Litecoin (LTC), Ethereum (ETH) and Perfect Money (PM) are not designated as legal currencies, and financial institutions are not allowed to sell/buy them using personal Facebook accounts and web pages.
3. Nonetheless, illegal virtual currency conversion and illegal hundi money transfers involving USDT (cryptocurrency) were found. Legal action is taken against those involved in such transactions in accordance with the provisions of the Anti-Money Laundering Law and the Financial Institutions Law, with the accounts of those involved being frozen and legal proceedings initiated.
4. Therefore, people should refrain from violating the prohibitions in above mentioned paragraph (2) and if they are found to be in violation, their accounts will be closed, as well as imprisonment or fine or both under the Anti-Money Laundering Law and the Financial Institutions Law.

The Central Bank of Myanmar

More unauthorized money changers face legal action for illegal transactions

1. THE Central Bank of Myanmar found that transactions of foreign currencies have been taking place using the following Facebook pages and internet websites without holding a foreign currency business licence issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar, and has taken action against those involved in such transactions. In addition, the Facebook pages and phone numbers of those conducting transactions from overseas locations have been reported to the relevant central banks, and negotiations are being carried out to take action against them.
 - (a) Currency Prices and Remittance
 - (b) Moe Latt
 - (c) Si Thu & bro
 - (d) Yangon currency prices
 - (e) Direct USD Exchange
 - (f) Dollar Transaction
 - (g) December Snow
 - (h) June Lin Htet Naing
 - (i) Htet Yan Money Exchange
 - (j) Global Value Services-GVS Money Exchange and Transfer
 - (k) Boss Online Money Exchange Services (Family Money Exchange)
 - (l) Lucky Sky Gold Smith (Facebook Page)
 - (m) Nay Myo Htet (Facebook Page)
 - (n) Gold Market Myanmar (Facebook Page)
 - (o) Ye Mon
 - (p) Naing Lu
2. The Central Bank of Myanmar is working with law enforcement agencies to identify, arrest, and take action against such businesses, and further monitoring and action will be taken. The developments of the operation will be communicated to the public in real time.
3. Therefore, we further inform the public about exchanging foreign currencies only at licensed financial institutions to exchange foreign currencies.
4. We further inform the public that those who are illegally trading and speculating in foreign currencies on the above-mentioned Facebook pages and internet websites will be prosecuted under Sections 38 and 42 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, as well as under sections of the Penal Code for harming the public interest.

The Central Bank of Myanmar
26 May 2024

NATIONAL

FROM PAGE-1

The Senior General, his wife and entourage paid homage to Shwezigon Pagoda built by King Anawrahta and King Kyan-siththa and presented cash to the fund of renovation tasks to officials of the pagoda board of trustees.

After visiting the pagoda, the Senior General inspected preservation of ancient cultural heritages in the precinct of the pagoda. In his instructions, he said that the platform of the pagoda must be repaired not to leave water after raining.

The Senior General underlined that the bronze standing Buddha images with 12 feet in height kept in four bronze chambers from each dimensions of the pagoda show artistic works in Bagan era. He added that these works were created with the bronze casting process, depicting flourishing of ancient fine arts works.

As such, he continued that these ancient artistic works with high historical value should be displayed with captions for easy observance of local and foreign travellers.

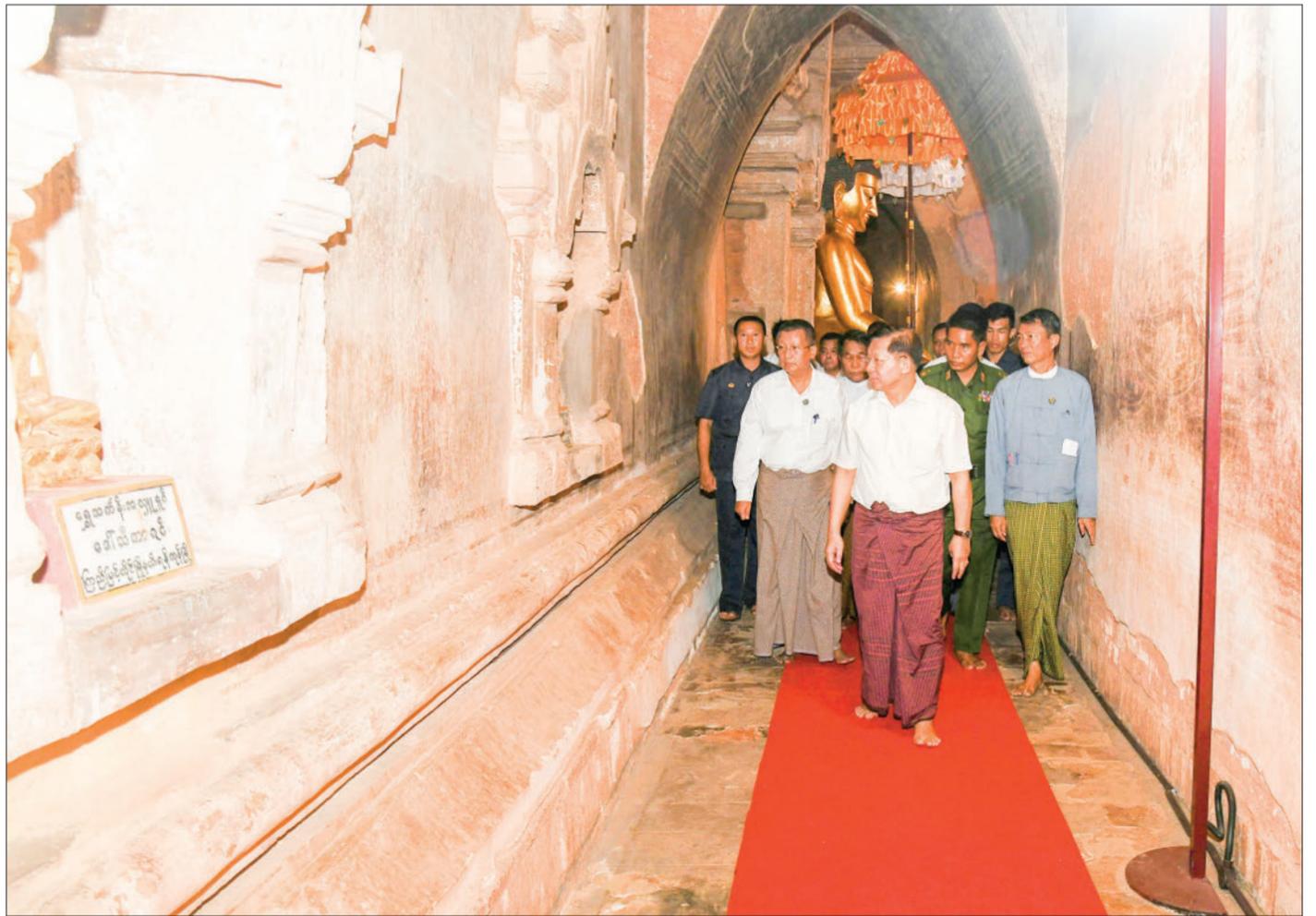
Members of the pagoda board of trustees reported on offering of gold foils and gilding the whole structure of pagoda. The Senior General left necessary guidance.

Director-General Dr Kyaw Oo Lwin of Department of Archaeology and National Museum and officials reported to the Senior General on presentations of ancient pagodas and stone inscriptions of Myanmar on the pagoda digital directory website. The Senior General gave necessary guidance.

The Senior General presented cash awards for service personnel working at ancient heritage exploration and preservation in Bagan ancient cultural zone to the director-general.

The Senior General and his wife cordially greeted officials from souvenir shops, pilgrims and visitors at the prayer hall of the pagoda.

The Senior General also paid homage to Htilo Minlo Pagoda and inspected repairing of the damaged parts in and out the precinct of the pagoda and a passage



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects preservation of ancient cultural heritages inside of the Htilo Minlo Pagoda yesterday.

Ancient artistic works with high historical value must be displayed for easy observance of visitors

built of shale tiles.

He stressed the need to emphasize preservation of stupas and temples in Bagan ancient cultural zone as ancient, valuable historical heritages.

The Senior General and wife donated cash to the fund for offering gold foils and renovation of Htilo Minlo Pagoda to officials.

Heavy rains in May 2023 occurred in

Bagan ancient cultural zone in NyaungU District of Mandalay Region, inundating Shwezigon, Ananda, Dhammayangyi, Culamani and Dhammarazaka pagodas, Hsinbyushin Complex, Kheminga, Thabeikmauk, Htio Minlo and Laymyethna pagodas, Hsinpaung brick monastery, the pagoda next to Dhammarazaka Pagoda, Baganhmyaw, Ywahaunggyi and Shwenanyin pagodas. In the incident,

some parts of eight ancient pagodas and buildings were damaged. As such, these edifices were maintained in ancient works in accord with the guidance of Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister. Currently, an emphasis is being placed on lessening loss and waste of buildings in Bagan ancient cultural zone and vicinity in natural disasters and greening of natural environment. — MNA/TTA

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Livestock breeding zone in Twantay Township sees development

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein inspected progress in building Twantay Livestock Breeding Zone near Talokhtaw Village, Twantay Township on 25 May.

Mayor U Bo Htay who is also a Chairman of the Yangon City Development Committee and officials explained to the Yangon Region Chief Minister that there are 63 livestock farmers in relevant sections of the zone.

Those farmers are carrying out

farming for 3,062 goats, 55,000 fish, 220 dairy cattle, 113 beef cattle, 46,300 broilers, 20,000 domestic chickens, more than 6,400 layers, over 200 black chickens, over 4,000 ducks for eggs and over 1,000 ducks for meat, 311 pigs, 14,370 quails, and have produced 296,245 eggs, 270,561 duck eggs, 67,273 quail eggs, 34,979 visses of cow's milk and 118,463 visses of chicken in addition to 9,570 visses of duck, 4,183 visses of mutton and 7,553 visses of pork till today.

Then, the Director of the Regional Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department reported on the restoration of the Kangyikon Dam built in 1913, and departmental officials clarified the activities of the breeding zone in each sector.

After that, the Regional Chief Minister and his team visited the Kangyikon Dam and inspected the livestock operations. — Hsan Kyaw Oo (IPRD)/KZL

NATIONAL

Illegal goods seized in various states/regions

SUPERVISED by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, action is taken under the law against illicit trading across the nation.

During inspections on 23 May, a Customs on-duty team nabbed two sets of Suzhu hydraulic plane cutting machines worth K8.4 million from China without an Import Licence from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port. This enforcement was carried out under Customs procedures.

On the same day, the on-duty teams under the Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force captured a Nissan Condor truck (estimated value of K60 million) heading to Taunggyi from Kengtung, carrying

21,000 packs of Yum Yum instant noodles from Thailand valued at K9.1 million without official documents on the outskirts of Kengtung. The action was conducted under Customs procedures.

On 24 May, the combined teams captured two vehicles (estimated value of K65 million) heading to Yangon from Myawady and to Yangon from Myeik, carrying two kinds of goods worth K15.5 million including 20 bags of milk powder (weighing 25 kilogrammes each) from New Zealand without official documents at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray station and illegal hardwoods weighing 21.122 tonnes and illegal timbers weighing 2.780 tonnes valued at



A vehicle seized at Nyaungkhashay X-ray checkpoint.

K8.376 million in Toungoo and Pyay districts. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

On the same day, the com-



Seized two motorcycles.

0.941 tonne worth K141,300 in Thanlyin township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law and the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 12 arrests were made on 23 and 24 May, with an estimated value of K174 million. — MNA/MKKS

On the same day, the combined on-duty teams seized two unregistered vehicles (valued at K7.5 million) in Tamway and Dagon Myothit (North) townships and illegal timbers weighing

Counter-argument to false information

Media defames security forces for destroying over 140 houses in Salin Township

MALICIOUS media outlets are intentionally spreading false news on social networks, claiming that security forces burned and destroyed over 140 houses in Koncha village, Salin Township, Magway Region, on the morning of 24 May.

According to a security official from the area, the reality is that PDF terrorists abducted traveller near the junction of Pathein-Monywa Road and Koncha Road, tortured them and extorted money. Consequently, based on a report from a conscientious citizen advocating peace, security forces were dispatched to secure the area. However, PDF terrorists fled, leaving behind robbed foods and related materials, which were subsequently confiscated. Additionally, reports indicate that there were

no fires in the villages along the roads on that day.

Subversive media outlets are intentionally circulating misinformation to create misunderstanding and tarnish the reputation of the security forces, who are dedicated to forging peace and stability in the country. — MNA/TRKM



Screenshot validates false news.

Narcotic drugs seized in Yamethin, Hline townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a motorbike driven by Nyein Chan Aung (aka) Boke Si near Shwemyintin village of Yamethin Township at 4 pm on 23 May and seized 1,000 stimulant tablets.

Acting on a tip-off, police

searched his house in Indine village in Yamethin Township at 4:20 pm and captured 3,400 stimulant tablets. Police searched the house of Sithu Aung (aka) Chit Phu in Indine village of Yamethin Township at 4:45 pm and captured 1,800 more stimulant tablets.

Similarly, the police force

searched Myo Min Tun (aka) Hamid on 3rd Zeyatheindi Street in Ward 1 of Hline Township at 2 pm on 24 May and seized 1,200 stimulant tablets.

They are charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS



Nyein Chan Aung (aka) Boke Si and Sithu Aung (aka) Chit Phu seen with seized stimulant tablets.



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

Visa-on-arrival system introduced to foreign tourists for convenient travels

Among the ASEAN countries, Myanmar, known for its rich ancient cultural heritage, ecotourism areas, and recreational beaches, has been receiving international tourists since the resumption of its tourism sector after the Covid-19 period.

To promote Myanmar's tourism sector, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, in collaboration with the Myanmar Tourism Federation, the Myanmar Hoteliers Association, the Myanmar Tourism Operators Association, and other affiliated organizations, is taking the initiative to boost tourism industry. In 2023, over 1.2 million foreign tourists visited Myanmar, with most heading to the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone.

"There are still fewer tourists in Myanmar's tourism sector compared to the period before Covid-19. Therefore, we are all making efforts to promote our Myanmar tourism

sector. The key is to showcase the beauty and nature of Myanmar. Since the majority of visitors come from neighbouring countries, we offer the fastest visa-on-arrival system for tourists from China, India, and ASEAN countries. China's Yunnan province, sharing border with Myanmar, is expected to attract more tourists to visit Myanmar. International flights are convenient and smooth; so many people are visiting Myanmar.



A tourist is pictured at the Bagan temple complex in Myanmar.



Myanmar-China Tourism Promotion Familiarization Trip members are greeted by Myanmar cultural dance troupe at the arrival lounge of Yangon International Airport in Yangon, Myanmar. PHOTO: ZWE MARN

mar. Most Chinese tourists who travel to other countries visit with a visa. Thailand ranks second, with tourists entering via border visas. The department is implementing tourism promotion programmes to attract more foreign tourists," stated U Zeyar Myo Aung, Deputy Director-General of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

In 2024, foreign tourists have been continuously entering Myanmar from early January to May. At the end of May, due to

the decrease in heat, more foreign tourists are visiting the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone than at the beginning of the month.

The visit of foreign tourists to Myanmar is recognition of the country's ancient cultural heritage, natural beauty, and sincere friendliness. The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is conducting tourism promotion programmes to revitalize the tourism sector, in line with efforts by other ASEAN countries. — Thitsa (MNA)/TKO

Minbu District enjoys agricultural water from 19 solar-powered irrigation projects



ACCORDING to the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department, 19 solar-powered irrigation projects have been implemented in Minbu District with a loan from the State economic promotion fund to improve the socio-economic life of the regional farmers from the townships and to increase the crops yield.

It is known that 19 solar-powered irrigation facilities have been approved with a loan of K78.365 million and now

the crops are being cultivated successfully.

Staff Officer U Soe Nyunt Linn from the Irrigation and

Water Utilization Management Department said that K 5.625 million was loaned to each farmer at a low interest rate

with one-year loan period. The irrigation facilities are supported by the technologies to supply agricultural water to crops

in difficult areas.

It is also reported that the local farmers can implement triple crops a year thanks to new solar-powered irrigation system. The system utilizes underground water and provides a dependable water supply whenever crops need it. This replaces the traditional reliance on rainwater and reduces fuel costs for farmers. Furthermore, the system is expected to boost crop yields and improve the overall socio-economic life of farmers. According to the mentioned department, the State economic promotion fund will be used to expand this solar-powered water supply system to other townships in Minbu District. — Maung Maung (Minbu)/TRKM



Farmers using solar-powered irrigation facilities are seen at their farms in Magway Region. PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG (MINBU)

NATIONAL



Monks sitting for Government Dhammacariya Examination in 2024 at Pariyatty Beikman (double-storey hall) located in Ward 4 of Pakokku.

Result of Government Dhammacariya Examination to come out on 30 May

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the result of the Government Dhammacariya Examination that took place in March 2024 will be released on 30 May. The result of the Pali Pathamabyan Examination result was released on 26 May. The result of Dham-

macariya exam will be released through the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee website www.mahana.org.mm, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture website www.mora.gov.mm, and the Department of Religious Affairs website www.dra.gov.mm, according to the Department

of Religious Affairs. In 2024, the Government Dhammacariya Examination was held at 67 exam centres across the country, and the Pali Pathamabyan Examination was held at 216 exam centres, according to the Department of Religious Affairs. — TWA/TH

MMPO announces 200-acre film city project on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway



Photo depicts MMPO members at the film city project area.

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO), film producers, companies, cinema owners, and entrepreneurs with an interest in the film industry are invited to participate in implementing a film city project.

Academy Aung Lwin (San Shwe Maung), an actor-turned-director and patron of the MMPO, announced that the film city will be constructed on a 200-acre site located near the 20/4 milepost on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway.

“This film city will feature large sets, recording studios, and film setting studios. It will also include lounges for actors,

actresses, and crew members, as well as mini cinemas and restaurants and bistros. Our aim is to accommodate nearly four or five film crews working simultaneously in one location. Additionally, we will provide essential facilities for those interested in learning filmmaking, editing, and production,” stated U Aung Lwin.

In the past, a total of 32 film yards such as British Burma, A-1, Thu Khu Ma, Nyunt Myanmar, Thar Du and Shwe Mann in Yangon to allocate filming works. Later, film production crews take positions at the rented houses and plots to conduct film production processes. — ASH/ TRKM

Myanmar Chargé d’Affaires attends 36th ASEAN-US Dialogue

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reported that U Thet Win, Myanmar Chargé d’Affaires ad interim of Myanmar Embassy in Washington, the United States of America, attended the 36th ASEAN-US Dialogue held at the US Department of State on 24 May.

The Myanmar Chargé d’Affaires discussed development of Myanmar and cooperation with ASEAN in providing humanitarian assistance to Myanmar, as outlined in the five-point consensus.

Additionally, U Thet Win attended related meetings and participated in a working lunch hosted by the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific Region.

During the meeting, senior



The 36th ASEAN-US Dialogue in progress at US Department of State.

officials reviewed ASEAN-US strategic partnership cooperation, including the progress of implementing the “Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-US Strategic Partnership

(2021-2025)” and the “Plan of Action Annex to the ASEAN-US Comprehensive Strategic Partnership”.

They also exchanged views on potential arenas of coop-

eration in maritime security, education, business and trade cooperation, green economy, addressing unconventional challenges, technical partnership, sustainable development,

digital economy, infrastructural development, and climate change issues, aiming to further strengthen the ASEAN-US Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Regional and international developments were also discussed.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mr Daniel Kritenbrink, the Assistant Secretary for East Asia and Pacific Region at the US Department of State, and Mr Sidharto R Suryodipuro, Deputy Minister of Indonesia. It was also attended by senior officials from ASEAN Member States, the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for the ASEAN Political-Security Community, and the US Permanent Representative to ASEAN. — ASH/TMT

Yangon Stock Exchange discusses pre-listing board and consultant appointment

THE Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) held a talk on the pre-listing board and appointed a registered consultant on 25 May. The YSX also announced that Asia Pacific Business Group Public Co Ltd is making efforts to register as a pre-listing public company at the YSX.

Myanmar Enterprise Solutions' CEO and Founder, U Myo Hein, stated, "APC Company appointed us as the registration officer as part of the preparations for the pre-listing board. Although the YSX has been in development for eight years, public interest remains low. Due to the stringent criteria, many companies fail to meet the necessary standards. The pre-listing board was established in 2022, and in 2024, there are three

registered companies."

A Memorandum of Understanding for mutual cooperation was signed to facilitate APC Public Holding Limited's entry into the YSX Pre-listing Board.

During the talk, U Than Lwin, former deputy governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar and Senior Advisor to Kanbawza Bank, delivered the opening remarks. Additionally, U Myo Min (Director of DICA), U Thet Tun Oo, Executive Senior Manager, YSX, and Daw Tin May Oo (Advisor to SECM) discussed what companies need to prepare to enter the pre-listing board, knowledge on PLB readiness, and the steps local companies should take amid declining foreign investments. — Pwint Thitsa/ TMT



Yangon Stock Exchange organizes talk show on pre-listing board on 25 May in Yangon. PHOTO: SOE MYINT AUNG

Livestock breeding farms in 9 states and regions to get K12 billion loans starting June



Photo shows a layer farm.

ACCORDING to the Nay Pyi Taw Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, K12 billion will be loaned to livestock breeding farms in nine

states and regions, including Nay Pyi Taw, starting from June.

The Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Yangon, Mandalay,

Bago, Ayeyawady, Magway and Taninthayi regions, Shan and Mon states are planning to provide loans for breeding beef cattle, dairy cattle, raising layers, and breeding sheep and goats from June.

The loan will be part of the State Economic Promotion Fund and will be offered at a low interest rate, with preferential lending planned for dairy cattle farming businesses.

The loan period for dairy cattle farming businesses is set at three years, while the period for beef cattle, layer farms, and sheep and goat farming businesses is set at two years.

A total of K20 billion was lent to these businesses last financial year. — TWA/KZL

MNA resumes schedules of Yangon-Thandwe domestic flight starting from June

MYANMAR National Airlines (MNA) will resume domestic flights between Yangon and Thandwe in coming June, according to a press release issued by the airlines.

The trip will be operated on 2, 9 and 16 June, and the ticket price is set at K185,000 per passenger.

"The flight between Thandwe-Yangon route will be operated once a week. The tickets will be sold on 2 June.

The price of ticket is same as high class as usual. The new rate has not been set yet," an official from MNA said.

The Yangon-Thandwe domestic flight was suspended last April, and Myanmar National Airlines will resume not only the Yangon-Thandwe domestic flight but also the Yangon-Sittway in June. Yangon-Kyaukpypu domestic flight will also be run as schedules. — ASH/TKO



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OPINION

Defy natural disasters with supplies and shelters

NATURAL disasters have historically devastated regions worldwide, causing significant destruction and loss of biodiversity. Countries globally, including Myanmar, are not immune to the impacts of phenomena such as El Niño and La Niña. With global warming exacerbating these effects, the current global average temperature continues to rise compared to the period from 1850 to 1900.

Since May 2023, El Niño has significantly affected many countries. It intensified to a moderate level by July and August and peaked as a major event from September 2023 to February 2024. According to the World Weather Watch, a weaker phase is expected to persist until May 2024, with a return to normal conditions anticipated between June and October this year.

In 2023, the severe impacts of El Niño included intense storms, stronger winds, depression, high-magnitude earthquakes, heavy rains, floods, rapid ice shelf melting, heavy snowfall, and the extremely severe cyclonic storm Mocha, which struck Myanmar on 14 May 2023. In response, the government and local authorities are engaged in rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, particularly in Rakhine State.

The summer of 2024 is expected to bring extreme weather conditions globally, with Myanmar's townships like Chauk, Magway, Minbu, and NyaungU ranking among the world's hottest cities. According to Myanmar's Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, around 30 weather stations conducted 50 temperature measurements until mid-May 2024, recording new high temperatures. These extreme conditions have led to the formation of cumulonimbus clouds and downbursts, disrupting flights in certain regions.

As the monsoon season approaches, both authorities and residents must take proactive measures to mitigate the impact of potential natural disasters. Preparedness is crucial, and this involves several key steps. In this regard, authorities should prepare cyclone shelters to accommodate affected populations. These shelters must be equipped with essential supplies to ensure safety and comfort during and after the disaster. Basic construction materials and electronic equipment should be stockpiled. These supplies will be vital for the prompt rehabilitation of disaster-stricken areas. Ensuring an adequate supply of food and water for people in disaster-prone areas is essential. Proper storage and distribution plans should be in place to prevent shortages during emergencies.

By taking the steps mentioned earlier, people from communities can better withstand the impacts and challenges of natural disasters and recover more quickly. Preparedness, resource allocation, and efficient response mechanisms are critical to minimizing the loss and damage of public property and ensuring the safety and well-being of affected populations.

WE have been seeing more than our share of deaths and destruction within this beautiful country of ours, so let's spare a little time to lighten up the mood by dwelling on the tax system and some of its stats. Spoiler alert: you be surprised!

The five typical features of a good tax system are fairness, adequacy, simplicity, transparency, and administrative ease. Let's bring all these down to earth in Myanmar. We have spoken to IRD (Internal Revenue Department) to get ourselves updated on current issues of the day.

The good features are all here?

Fairness refers to the tax system treating all taxpayers equally and consistently. People and businesses would pay their fair share of tax, and income should be subject to tax only once. Yet fairness as defined by whom? Some businesses and individuals in states and regions outside of central government control end up paying some sort of protection money to EAOs, rebels or NNCP terrorist groups. Some restaurants in major towns and cities

are still evading the payment of five per cent commercial tax by either refusing to issue receipts or asking patrons to fork out extra for the shop, having to stick stamps onto receipts.

Among the three siblings of regressive, proportion and progressive taxes, most of Myanmar's taxes are not progressive in nature yet, resulting from the inability to assess one's income or wealth accurately.

Tax collections are not adequate either at present. We are running budget deficits for fourteen out of the past fifteen years. The country is grossly short on infrastructure to supply basic services.

Simplicity is one area that the Myanmar tax system can be proud of. That could be a result of a lack of advancement in the economy and the financial system. For instance, most taxes on transactions, such as properties or cars, are based on the value of the property and apply a fixed percentage of tax. The value of the property is also only officially determined for tax purposes. There is also no centralized transaction register either. There is fat hope for those wanting to do a valuation report of any property here.

An Enquiry on Tax

By U AC



Fairness: A good tax system should distribute the tax burden fairly among individuals and businesses based on their ability to pay. PHOTO: ILLUSTRATION: IMAGE USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE/SHUTTERSTOCK

Transparency refers to taxpayers' and citizens' ability to learn how the money collected from them was distributed. Taxpayers being clear on exemptions, deductions, tax credits, etc.

Since 2021, the transparency has somewhat decreased, based on the disclosure of spending and allocations by the central government. At the ground level, we also need transparency, as the lack of it encourages corruption across

all civil services. A good example would be the change of ownership titles for farmland. Without openness and publicity thereof on fee structure, citizens ended up having to cough up whatever amount demanded by civil servants work-

ing in these departments, just for the latter to do the job they get paid for by the government.

The last of the lot, the administrative ease, refers to both the collectors and taxpayers. The system itself cannot be cumbersome

or expensive. At present, due to different registration requirements of various government departments, citizens, business owners and companies are given a run around having to register at different places, go to different departments, etc. There is also the issue of frequent changes of tax collectors and assessors, requiring the taxpayers to restart the whole process from the beginning.

Here comes interesting stats

In terms of evasion of commercial tax, the government has taken action at least 884 times in the last financial year. Fines have been imposed depending on the frequency of the offence, a total of K980 million. Yet, it still represented only 0.03 per cent of the total commercial tax collections of the year.

Out of 283 branches of IRD across the country, only four per cent fall under SAS (Self-Assessment System). Yet collection-wise, offices under SAS collected 80 per cent of the taxes. The moral of the story seems to be to trust the taxpayer instead of the tax collectors. Most countries have also done away with OAS (Officer Assessment System), too.

There are many hotlines, branches and emails to ask for details on the taxes and clarify things. Yet, disagreement with the assessment can only be via written correspondence to the director-general of IRD.

The surprising finding in our inquiries was the fact that there has not been any reduction in tax revenues collected after 2021. Yes, there was a reduction during the COVID period, but not after that. We were saved by the SAS, perhaps.

Legal systems, integration issues, and high-level pushes are lacking to ensure that Myanmar has one unique ID number for every individual and entity that could be used for ALL government departments. This centralized registration system is still not in place yet.

Last but not least, the issue of Facebook getting all ad revenues out of Myanmar-based companies, targeting Myanmar consumers and not paying any income tax here, is unlikely to be addressed at any time soon. Meanwhile, Myanmar continues to lose out on its share of tax revenues from the number one social media platform.

Statement of Disputes and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea news analysis

U Khin Maung (A retired diplomat)

STATES have sovereignty over three kinds of territories. They are land territory, sea territory and air space over the sea territory. State parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea shall settle disputes between them concerning the interpretation or application of the convention by peaceful means.

The dispute over the East China Sea between China and Japan, the second and third biggest economies in the world, and the two neighbouring countries in Asia have remained one of the top news items for quite some time. Similarly, China's assertive claims over most of the South China Sea believed to be rich in oil and natural gas deposits, despite overlapping or rival claims with Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia

and Chinese Taipei, has also been another news item, drawing the entire world's attention, and drawing it's huge interest.

With malice toward none, with charity for all and with firmness in the right, or in other words, with goodwill towards all parties in the dispute, I, a retired civil servant with some sort of legal background, would like to submit my simple and sincere views on these disputes from international law point of view in general, and from that of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in particular. Well, where there is a dispute among states, it should be settled by diplomatic means, in good faith and with goodwill. It is a well-established, time-tested and long-lasting doctrine that diplomacy is the first line of defence

when it comes to settling a dispute. In other words, any assertion, claim, or dispute should be settled peacefully and diplomatically. It is a universally accepted rule of international law.

Before dealing with the above-mentioned territorial disputes, I would like to present the relevant provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea as follows: -

Article 2

The sovereignty of a coastal state extends beyond its land territory and internal waters and, in the case of an archipelagic state, its archipelagic waters to an adjacent belt of the sea, described as the territorial sea.

This sovereignty extends to the air space over the territorial

sea as well as to its bed and subsoil. The sovereignty over the territorial sea is exercised, subject to this convention and to other rules of international law.

As regards the breadth of the territorial sea, Article (3) prescribes that every state has the right to establish the breadth of its territorial sea up to a limit not exceeding 12 nautical miles measured from the baselines measured in accordance with this convention. In order for the coastal states to gain economic benefit from areas further off their shores, they can also establish the contiguous zone and the exclusive economic zone. The coastal states may exercise some controls inter-alia over such measures so as to prevent infringement of its customs, fiscals, immigration or sanitary laws and

regulations within its territory, or territorial sea or in a zone contiguous to its territorial sea. The convention also allows the coastal states certain rights in a zone that shall not extend beyond 200 nautical miles from the breadth of the territorial sea. That zone is called an exclusive economic zone. In this exclusive economic zone, the coastal states enjoy certain rights for the purpose of economic advantage, notably rights over fishing and exploitation of non-living resources. At the same time, however, neighbouring landlocked and geographically disadvantaged states must be allowed to have access to those resources of the zone that the coastal state does not exploit. In this particular zone, there is a very important point we should take note of. That is, the

coastal state must observe and maintain the traditional freedoms of the high seas in this specific zone.

We should also take note of one crucial point concerning the territorial sea. Subject to this convention, all states, whether coastal or landlocked, shall enjoy the right of innocent passage through the territorial sea. The coastal state may exercise control over a zone contiguous to the territorial sea. Such a zone is called a contiguous zone, and it may not extend beyond 24 nautical miles from the breadth of the territorial sea. As regards the exclusive economic zone, it shall not extend beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

See page-11



The world community's interests in the peaceful settlement of disputes and the prevention of the use of force in the settlement of disputes between states have been advanced by the mandatory system of dispute settlement in the convention. PHOTO: ILLUSTRATION: IMAGE USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE/ADOBESTOCK

NATIONAL

Department of Myanmar Examinations releases notice regarding financial fraud over exam results



The Department of Myanmar Examinations (Zwekabin Hall).

THE Department of Myanmar Examinations has issued a notice regarding financial fraud claiming matriculation exam results in advance.

Currently, the 2024 matriculation exam result list is

still under process, and the date and schedule of the results list will be announced in advance through State-owned newspapers, television, and the Department of Myanmar Examinations' website, including

its Facebook page.

However, fraudsters are now spreading fake news about the result list, as well as modifying the previous year's result list with photo editing applications/software, claiming that the result list must be known in advance, and there are fraudulent requests for fees, according to the Department of Myanmar Examinations.

People are urged to inform the department about information of unscrupulous persons through the page message box, the notice said.

The 2023 matriculation exam was held on 8 March, and a total of 161,850 candidates sat for the exam and 109,851 passed. Now, the 2024 exam was held from 11 to 19 March without spacing a day, and a total of 145,200 students registered to take the exam. — TWA/TKO

Despite higher yields, early-monsoon dried tea leaves lose popularity

AS it is early monsoon, tea leaf yield has increased but consumers don't enjoy dried tea leaves produced in early monsoon, according to tea leaf farmers.

In early monsoon, demand is likely to decline as tea leaf quality is a little low, it is easy to produce young leaves and sun drying takes longer.

"The price goes down slightly. Now, monsoon is arriving so production will increase. But price has fallen. If it rains in June, the number of buyers will decrease slightly. Production increases in monsoon. Young leaves are easy to produce when it rains, and sun drying may take several days. And the scent is not as good as before. Some buyers don't much like monsoon dried tea leaves," said Ma Tin Tin Yi, a tea leaf farmer from Pinlaung Township.

In May, dried tea leaf sales were good and price was good in previous months as the weather was hot.

"Tea leaf sales were still



Dried tea leaves produced in early monsoon are showcased.

good in May. Some people, who don't want to buy dried tea leaves in monsoon, have bought before monsoon comes. In this period, buds are produced abundantly. In previous months, the scent and quality of tea leaves were good. Before Thingyan, there were a lot of buying. At that time, the tea leaf quality was good and the price was good too, and we had a lot of buyers," she added.

Farmers need to pluck tea leaves before they are ripe and make sure that the drying process is done properly, so that they can get a good price. — Thit Taw/ZS

Trees downed by rain and strong winds in Yangon, other regions and states

INCLUDING Yangon Region, trees fell due to rain with strong winds in regions and states, and Myanmar Fire Brigade members have been carrying out clean-up operations.

On 25 May, a tree fell over the bund of the main canal of Mezali Diversion Weir in Magway Region's Pwintbyu Township at around 1:35 pm and another similar accident occurred at 1:00 pm in No 1 ward in Shan State's Lashio Township, therefore respective township fire brigade members provided clearing.

On the same day, a tree fell in Ayeyawady Region's Patheingyi Township due to heavy rain and strong winds and another similar accident happened at Minpine ward, Wakema Township in the region at

around 9:10 am. The respective township fire brigade members cleared debris.

On 24 May, in Yangon Region, a tree fell inside No 4 High School campus at Natmauk ward in Tamwe Township at 1:00 pm and two similar accidents broke out at 2:45 pm in ward 20 in Dagon Myothit (South) and in Satsan ward in Mingala Taungnyunt Township at 6:39 am. Therefore respective township fire brigade members carried out clearance works.

Similar accidents also happened in some wards of Magway and Ayeyawady regions, and respective township fire brigade members cleared debris, according to Myanmar Fire Brigade's statement. — MT/ZS



Fire Brigade members are carrying out clearing work in Yangon Region.

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise



China to launch 5th nationwide ecological condition survey

The survey will operate on three scales: national, key regional, and provincial levels, assessing the quality and functionality of China's ecosystems.

CHINA is set to kick off a two-year ecological condition survey in 2024, the fifth since 2000.

The project, a joint initiative between the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, aims to provide critical support for drawing the ecological protection red lines, advancing key functional zone strategies, and the strategic layout of major ecological conservation and restoration projects.

The survey will be conducted on three spatial scales, namely national, key regional and provincial levels, to monitor the quality and functionality of the country's ecosystem.

Key regions of interest include the Yellow River Basin, the Yangtze River Economic Belt, the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region,



Forest rangers patrol the Bawangling area of Hainan Tropical Rainforest National Park in south China's Hainan Province, 18 October 2023. PHOTO: ZHANG LIYUN/XINHUA

the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and the Yangtze River Delta, all of which are significant strategic areas for national development.

According to the national ecological condition change (2015-2020) survey and assessment report, the overall pattern of China's ecosystems has remained stable and continues to improve.

The quality of natural ecosystems has seen sustained improvement, with the area rated as excellent or good accounting for over 43 per cent, surpassing the proportion of poor or very poor areas for the first time. Minister of Ecology and Environment Huang Runqiu stated that in the new era, China's ecological protection, restoration, and supervision work have achieved positive results. — Xinhua

Boeing won't fix leaky Starliner before flying first crew to ISS

Originally scheduled for 6 May, the Starliner mission with astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams was postponed due to a faulty valve on the United Launch Alliance rocket.

BOEING is set to launch its first crewed space mission in June without fixing a small helium gas leak on its troubled Starliner spaceship, officials said Friday.

The vessel, under development since 2010, has been plagued by technical problems and has yet to fulfill its purpose of ferrying astronauts to the International Space Station, allowing

Boeing's rival SpaceX to zoom ahead with its Crew Dragon capsule. Starliner was supposed to finally fly astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams to the orbital outpost on 6 May, but the mission was scrubbed hours before lift-off after a faulty valve was discovered on the United Launch Alliance rocket carrying it. — AFP



Starliner was supposed to fly astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams to the ISS on 6 May, but the mission was scrubbed hours before lift-off after a faulty valve was discovered on the United Launch Alliance rocket carrying it. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

EarthCARE satellite to probe how clouds affect climate

WILL clouds help cool or warm our world in the years ahead? The EarthCARE satellite will soon blast off on a mission to find out, aiming to investigate what role clouds could play in the fight against climate change.

The collaboration between the European Space Agency and Japan's JAXA space agency is scheduled to launch Tuesday on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from California's Vandenberg base. — AFP

Statement of Disputes and the United Nations...

From page-9

In exercising the rights and performing its duties in the exclusive economic zone, the coastal state shall have due regard to the rights of other states. It shall act in a manner compatible with the stipulations of this convention.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea unequivocally stipulates the rights

and obligations of a coastal state, as explained above. In essence, all states, coastal, land-locked or geographically disadvantaged, will have to cherish and respect a very crucial stipulation that the resources of the deep sea-bed or the resources under the sea-bed of the high seas are the "common heritage of mankind". The world community's interests in

the peaceful settlement of disputes and the prevention of the use of force in the settlement of disputes between states have been advanced by the mandatory system of dispute settlement in the convention.

Conclusion

In presenting this news analysis, I bear no prejudice or bias

against any party in the disputes. And I also have no iota of authority whatsoever to advise any of them. I am just presenting this analysis with my own academic interest, pure and simple. If you have any comments to make or point out any mistakes, you are most warmly and respectfully welcome. Thank you.

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ECONOMY WORLD

China “powering ahead” in key sectors – leading management institute

Tesla maintains its dominance in electric vehicles (EVs) but faces growing competition, notably from China’s BYD, signalling a shift in the automotive landscape.

THE “2024 Future Readiness Indicator” report by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) showed that China is powering ahead in key industries.

“The competitiveness across all three sectors is heating up,” Howard Yu, director of the Switzerland-based IMD Centre for Future Readiness, told Xinhua on the sidelines of the report’s launch.

The report ranks 88 of the world’s largest finance, auto-

otive and consumer packaged goods companies in terms of their resilience.

In financial services, it showed that Mastercard, Visa, DBS and JPMorgan continue to stay ahead of competitors through partnerships, acquisitions, and that there is an increased focus on internal innovation.

Meanwhile, in the automotive sector, Tesla holds onto the lead in electric vehicle (EV) auto ranking, but its uncontested



leadership is being challenged on multiple fronts.

China’s electric vehicle maker BYD makes noteworthy progress as Chinese manufacturers’ progress signals serious competition to established automakers, said the report. — Xinhua

This photo taken on 24 April 2024 shows a new energy vehicle (NEV) assembly line of BYD, China’s leading NEV manufacturer, at the plant of BYD in Zhengzhou, central China’s Henan Province. **PHOTO: LI JIANAN/XINHUA**

Migration, infrastructure woes fuel S Africa poll disinformation

These include AI-generated images portraying poor road conditions in opposition-run areas and accusations of political parties providing fake papers to illegal immigrants.



After 30 years of South African democracy, the ruling ANC risks losing its absolute parliamentary majority for the first time. **PHOTO: AFP**

PROPAGANDISTS and scammers are exploiting xenophobia and anger over failing infrastructure to unleash a wave of disinformation ahead of South Africa’s most contested polls

since 1994, experts warn.

The ruling African National Congress (ANC) risks losing its outright majority in the May 29 ballot amid soaring unemployment, rising xenophobia,

prolonged power blackouts and allegations of endemic corruption.

AFP Fact Check found social media awash with false claims linked to the high-stakes election.

They ranged from AI-generated images showing poor road conditions in the opposition-run city of Cape Town, to parties being accused of supplying illegal foreigners with fake papers.

“It’s very concerning that the levels of xenophobic discourse have risen in the last months as the elections have gotten closer,” said Dale McKinley of Kopanang Africa Against Xenophobia (KAAX), which is part of an international anti-racism network. — AFP

EU told to tackle food cost differences across the bloc

EIGHT EU states urged Brussels Friday to clamp down on multinational giants unfairly limiting the sale of products within the bloc, forcing European consumers to pay more.

Their call comes a day af-

ter the European Commission slapped a 337.5-million-euro (\$366-million) antitrust fine on Mondelez, the US confectioner behind major brands including Toblerone and Oreo, for restricting cross-border sales of choc-

olate. The cost of living is a hot topic ahead of EU-wide elections in June as European households have been hit hard by soaring consumer prices following the coronavirus pandemic and Russia’s war on Ukraine. — AFP

SUMMARIES: ECON

G7 urges Israel to protect Palestinian banking services: draft statement

G7 finance ministers were set to urge Israel Saturday not to disrupt “vital financial transactions” in the occupied Palestinian territories, following indications it could cut off Palestinian banks.

“We call on Israel to take the necessary measures to ensure that correspondent banking services between Israeli and Palestinian banks remain in place, so that vital financial transactions and critical trade and services continue,” a draft statement following talks in Italy, seen by AFP, said.

The G7 ministers gathered in Stresa also urged Israel “to release withheld clearance revenues to the Palestinian Authority, in view of its urgent fiscal needs”. — AFP

UAE plans for regulatory practices in pharmaceutical sector

THE Board of Directors of the Emirates Drug Establishment (EDE) held its fourth meeting since its establishment at the end of last year, to review and develop the main initiatives to be taken for the regulation and management of the UAE’s healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors - all of which are designed to reinforce the UAE’s reputation as a global and regional hub for the medical industry.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the EDE, and was attended by Dr Maha Tayseer, Deputy Chairperson of the Board, Dr Fatima Mohammed Hilal Al Kaabi, Director General of the EDE, as well as board members Dr Issa Abdul Fattah Kazim, Badr Saleem Al Ulama, Dr Amer Ahmed Sharif, Dr Farhan Malak, and Professor Chris Evans. Ahmed Al Rumaithi has recently joined the Board as a representative of the UAE’s youth.

During the meeting, the Board of Directors discussed the development of plans for the establishment of various specialized committees to enhance the EDE’s operational efficiency. — ANI

China, Nepal reopen traditional border trade points

Over 50 types of goods, including daily necessities, building materials, food, beverages, agricultural products, and Nepalese handicrafts, were traded between 110 Chinese merchants and 47 Nepalese merchants at the Zhentang trade point.

CHINA and Nepal reopened their traditional border trade points on Saturday, marking a step forward in enhancing bilateral economic and trade ties.

The reopening ceremony took place in Zhentang Township on the China-Nepal border in the city of Xigaze, southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region.

At the Zhentang trade point, 110 Chinese merchants and 47 Nepalese merchants engaged in transactions involving over 50 types of goods, including daily necessities, building materials, food and beverages, agricultural products

and Nepalese handicrafts. Trade activities also resumed at other traditional sites in counties such as Zhongba, Saga, Gyirong and Nyalam.

Xigaze is a pivotal city for China's opening-up to South Asia, bordering India, Nepal and Bhutan, and hosting five trade land ports.

Feng Xuecheng, director of the municipal commerce bureau, said that traditional border trade has long supported the livelihoods of border residents and played a significant role in fostering the development and prosperity of border areas.

"We plan to continuously improve border trade infrastructure and promote further economic and trade exchanges between China and Nepal," Feng added.

Xizang traded with 175 countries and regions last year. Its imports from and exports to Nepal, its largest trading partner, totaled approximately 2.77 billion yuan (about 389.5 million US dollars), up 77.2 per cent year on year, according to the customs bureau in Lhasa, the regional capital. —Xinhua



Photo taken on 13 April 2022 shows Zhentang Township besieged by primitive forests at the foot of Qomolangma deep in the Himalayas, in Dinggye County of Xigaze, southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region. PHOTO: LIU YING/XINHUA

Elon Musk opposes US tariffs on Chinese EVs

TESLA CEO Elon Musk has said he opposed US tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles (EVs).

"Neither Tesla nor I asked for these tariffs," Musk said Thursday when answering audience questions via video link during VivaTech, an annual technology conference dedicated to innovation and startups in Paris.

"In fact, I was surprised when they (the tariffs) were announced," said Musk when asked

about the Biden administration's decision to raise tariffs on imported EVs from China to 100 per cent.

"Tesla competes quite well in the Chinese market, with no tariffs and no deferential support. In general, I am in favour of no tariffs," he said. "Things that inhibit freedom of exchange or distort the market are not good."

Tesla broke ground on a mega factory in Shanghai on

Thursday to manufacture its energy-storage batteries, Megapacks, a project hailed by the company as a "milestone".

The mega factory is the first of its kind built by Tesla outside the United States and the second plant of the company in Shanghai, following the inauguration of its gigafactory in 2019 with an initial investment of over 50 billion yuan (about 7 billion US dollars). — Xinhua



India has emerged as the world's second-largest agrochemical exporter, with trade surplus nearly doubling from USD 1.8 billion in 2018-19 to US\$ 3.6 billion in 2022-23, highlighting its increasing significance in the global agrochemical export market. PHOTO: IMAGE USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE/ JAMES LIND INSTITUTE

India's agrochemical industry poised to grow 9% CAGR over next few years

India's agrochemical industry, currently valued at US\$ 10 billion, is forecasted to exceed US\$ 14.5 billion by the end of the fiscal year 2027-28, according to a report by Rubix Data Sciences.

INDIA'S agrochemical industry, which is at present estimated to be around US\$ 10 billion, is likely to reach upwards of US\$ 14.5 billion by the end of financial year 2027-28, as per a report by Rubix Data Sciences, an analytics services provider.

In the just concluded financial year 2023-24, it though saw a degrowth of 3 per cent, the report said. Several key factors contributed to this setback. The influx of competitively priced products from China

further exacerbated the situation last fiscal year.

Firstly, the export market, which traditionally commands over 50 per cent of the industry's revenue, faced sluggish growth. This can be attributed to a global destocking trend, where international players likely opted to reduce their inventory levels, the report noted. The industry has a positive outlook, and is conservatively projected to grow at a 9-per-cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) by 2027-28. — ANI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (119N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (119N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-5-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD



Speaking at a rally, PM Modi accused the Samajwadi Party of keeping the Purvanchal region underdeveloped deliberately. Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a rally in Jaunpur. **PHOTO: ANI/FILE PHOTO: ANI**

PM Modi accuses 'INDIA bloc' of doing caste division politics

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a strong criticism against the Samajwadi Party-Congress alliance and the INDIA bloc, accusing them of aiming to marginalize the majority society of India and conspiring to create divisions based on caste.

LAUNCHING a scathing attack on Samajwadi Party-Congress and the INDIA bloc, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that these INDI alliance people want to make the majority society of India a second class citizen, adding that the Opposition is conspiring to create to division among the people based on their castes.

Addressing a rally here today, PM Modi said the Sama-

jwadi Party kept Purvanchal backwards under a conspiracy.

"Purvanchal will repeatedly punish such people who betrayed this region. Today I have come to Purvanchal to alert the people of Ghosi about the conspiracy of the INDIA alliance.

The INDI alliance of SP and Congress is making all the castes fight among themselves. These people want Dalit, Brahmin, Rajputs, Chau-

han, Yadav, Kurmi etc to become weak by fighting among themselves," he said.

"When the people of the society will not remain united then your attention will be diverted from the real issues and only then the evil people will implement their conspiracy," PM Modi added.

Further, the Prime Minister pointed out that the INDIA bloc is aiming to complete its three big conspiracies. — ANI

Prelude to WWIII: Italy slams NATO chief's proposal to allow Ukraine to strike deep into Russia

Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini echoed this sentiment, rejecting any involvement in a conflict that could escalate into a Third World War and emphasizing Italy's stance on seeking peace.

NATO'S chief Jens Stoltenberg earlier urged Western nations to lift restrictions on allowing Ukraine to conduct attacks deep into Russia using Western weapons.

The Italian government has slammed NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg's plea to lift restrictions on the use of Western weapons supplied to Kiev regime.

"We will not send a single Italian soldier to Ukraine, and the military equipment that Italy sends should be used on the

territory of Ukraine," Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani was quoted as saying by the Adnkronos news agency on Saturday.

He added that Italy "must always work for peace and lower the tone". While Italy is a part of NATO, "every decision must be made collectively," he pointed out.

Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and leader of the Lega party Matteo Salvini voiced the same position, stressing that no one seeks a "prelude to a Third World War". — SPUTNIK



Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg met with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in Rome on 8 May 2024 to discuss preparations for the Washington Summit. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/NATO**

ROUNDUPS : WORLD

At least 670 feared dead after huge landslide in PNG: UN official

THE death toll from a massive landslide in Papua New Guinea (PNG) was estimated to surpass 670, an official from the International Organization for Migration told media on Sunday.

According to Serhan Aktoprak, the chief of the United Nations (UN) migration agency's mission in the Pacific island country, the scale of the impact was much greater than initially thought.

In an interview with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Aktoprak said that more than 150 houses might be buried under the debris six to eight meters deep and over 670 people could have lost their lives. —Xinhua

UAE floating hospital in Gaza expands services, specialties

THE UAE Floating Hospital in the Egyptian city of Al Arish, established under Operation Chivalrous Knight 3, has announced the addition of new specialised medical staff, including neurosurgeons and maxillofacial and dental specialists.

This initiative aims to provide top-tier healthcare services to the Palestinian people in Gaza.

Dr Ahmed Mubarak, Director of the Hospital, affirmed that the hospital continues to enhance its capabilities and medical resources, to ensure being fully prepared to deliver high-quality medical services, including examinations, treatment,

and follow-ups, to Palestinian patients.

The addition of neurosurgery and maxillofacial and dental departments, he explained, will significantly contribute to the hospital's mission of providing comprehensive healthcare services under one roof, supported by a team of dedicated specialists and experts.

Dr Mubarak highlighted a recent complex and delicate surgery performed on a Palestinian patient who suffered a leg injury from an airstrike fragment, resulting in a broken leg and severed nerve causing foot immobility. — ANI

SPORTS



The Myanmar U-20 players are seen leaving for China to play friendly matches. PHOTO: MFF

Team Myanmar leaves for China to play friendlies

THE Myanmar U-20 men's football team left for China on the morning of 26 May to play international friendly matches.

The Myanmar U-20 team will play two friendly matches against the Chinese U-20 team in preparation for the ASEAN U-19 Championship and the

Asian Cup U-20 qualifiers this year.

According to the agreement between the Myanmar Football Federation and the Chinese Football Federation, the Myanmar U-20 team and Chinese U-20 team will play two closed door friendly matches in Xianghe, China on 30 May and 2 June. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Shan United edges Dagon Star 2-1 to make final

THE second day of the Myanmar National League Cup 2024 semifinals was held yesterday at the Youth Training Centre, Thuwunna, Yangon yesterday and Shan United defeated Dagon Star United 2-1 and entered the final.

The Shan United team qualified for the final stage with a winning goal in extra time. The Dagon Star team tried their best to qualify for the final, but the Shan United team struggled and had to play overtime due to a late equalizer and won due to a late goal in the extra time.

The Shan United team came out with a full set of core players, including three foreign players, except for some injured players, while the Dagon Star used strong players.

Shan United played an open attack from the start and had opportunities to score goals, but Barcayoko and Kaung Myat Thu missed. The Shan United team, which failed to capital-

ize on opportunities, conceded a goal at the 27 minute as Peter Aung Wai Htoo scored the lead for the Dagon Star FC. Shan United tried hard to score an equalizing goal in the second half, but it did not work due to anxiety. At the 82 minute, Shan United found an equalizer as team captain Nanda Kyaw launched the foul ball directly.

After 90 minutes, it was tied at one goal each, and an extra play continued. In the first half of the extra time, Dagon Star's captain was sent off with a red card, so they played with one less player. Shan United scored the winning goal at 120 minute-mark with a brave solo effort from the left wing and touched the ball into the net.

The final match of the Myanmar National League Cup 2024 will be played between Yangon United and Shan United on 19 June. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Shan United's Ye Yint Aung scores the leading goal for his team. PHOTO: THAW GYI



Myanmar players celebrate with medals at the Badminton Asia U17 & U15 Junior Championships.

Myanmar sweeps 12 gold, 4 silver, 1 bronze medals at Badminton Asia South East Asia U17 & U15 Junior Championships

THE badminton team representing Myanmar won 12 gold medals, four silver medals and one bronze medal at the Badminton Asia U17 & U15 Junior Championships 2024, which is held in Vientiane, Laos from 22 to 26 May.

In the tournament, Myanmar badminton players competed against players from Cambodia, Brunei, Timor-Leste and the host Laos. The Myanmar teams claimed medals for the country by defeating their opponents in every category under the age of 15 and 17.

Team Myanmar won one gold each at U-15 and U-17 event, while Myanmar's Oak Soe Khant garnered another gold medal at U-15 individual (boy's) event. Again, Yoon Thet Htar

Maung secured further gold at U-15 individual (girl's) event and Thada Htet Kyaw picked one silver for individual event. Meanwhile, Oak Soe Khant and Myint Myat Lin grabbed one more goal for the double event and Oak Soe Khant and Thada Htet Kyaw bagged another gold in the mixed double event while Myint Myat Lin and Yoon Thet Htar Maung garnered one bronze, Thada Htet Kyaw and Yoon Thet Htar Maung again secured one more goal at U-15 double events. At the U-17 individual events, Hein Thiha Aung won one silver, Nyan Shein Lin claimed one gold, Lin Lin Htet gained one more goal, and Shel Lamein picked one silver medal.

At the U-17 double

events, Hein Thiha Aung and Shel Lamein took one more gold in the mixed double event, Nyan Shein Lin and Lin Lin Htet one silver in the mixed double event, Hein Thiha Aung and Nyan Shein Lin grabbed one gold in men's double event and while Lin Lin Htet and Shel Lamein secured one more gold medal in women's double event.

A total of eight players representing Myanmar competed in the tourney and they picked many medals for the country. In last year's competition held in Cambodia, team Myanmar won 11 gold medals, and in this year's competition, Myanmar was able to do more than last year's success. — Arkar Lin/KZL



WORLD

Chinese premier lands in Seoul for China-Japan-South Korea trilateral summit meeting

This summit marks the resumption of the trilateral talks after a gap of over four years since 2019. Li, along with the leaders of Japan and South Korea, will engage in key events such as the trilateral summit meeting and the China-Japan-South Korea business summit, focusing on discussions about trilateral co-operation.

CHINESE Premier Li Qiang arrived here Sunday to attend the ninth Trilateral Summit Meeting among China, Japan and South Korea

from Sunday to Monday. The trilateral summit resumes more than four years after it was last held in 2019. Li, together with the leaders of Ja-

pan and South Korea, will attend key events including the trilateral summit meeting and the China-Japan-South Korea business summit where they will exchange views on trilateral co-operation. — Xinhua



People visit Cheong Wa Dae in Seoul, South Korea, on 24 May 2024. The ninth Trilateral Summit Meeting among China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) will be held in Seoul from 26 to 27 May. **PHOTO: YAO QILIN/XINHUA**

Japan to create flood projection maps for 4 Southeast Asian nations

JAPAN plans to create flood projection maps for Indonesia, Thailand and two other Southeast Asian nations to help mitigate the damage caused by water-related disasters in the countries, according to land ministry officials. The plan, which will also include Cambodia and Vietnam, is part of Japan's efforts to strengthen connections with countries known as the Global South.

The government hopes that providing these maps to the four flood-prone recipient countries in the fiscal year starting April 2025 will lead to infrastructure projects involving Japanese companies.

The Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Ministry is expected to utilize observational data from satellites operated by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and local geographical information to create the maps. Flooding forecasts will be based on a single area that the ministry identifies as crucial for business activities for each country, the officials said. In the future, Japan plans to provide expertise to assist the four countries in crafting their own flood projection maps and offer training to their officials.

Tokyo is also considering expanding the scope of the recipients as many developing nations in South America and Africa are struggling to deal with floods, one of the ministry officials in charge of the project said. — Kyodo

Indian Navy initiates preparatory actions in wake of Cyclone 'Remal'

The Naval Headquarters is closely monitoring the situation as Cyclone Remal is expected to intensify into a severe cyclone and make landfall between Sagar Island, West Bengal, and Khepupara, Bangladesh, on the intervening night of 26 and 27 May.

THE Indian Navy has initiated preparatory actions, following existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), to mount a credible Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) response in the aftermath of Cyclone Remal. Coast on the intervening

night of 26 and 27 May. The situation is being closely monitored at Naval Headquarters, with comprehensive preparatory actions being undertaken by the Headquarters of Eastern Naval Command.

Cyclone Remal, which is expected to intensify into a severe

cyclone, is forecasted to make landfall between Sagar Island, West Bengal and Khepupara, Bangladesh.

In preparation, the Indian Navy has readied two ships equipped with HADR and medical supplies for immediate deployment to ensure the safety



The Headquarters of Eastern Naval Command is undertaking comprehensive preparatory actions in response. **PHOTO: ANI**

and welfare of the affected populace.

Additionally, Indian Naval aviation assets, including Sea

King and Chetak helicopters as well as Dornier aircraft, are on standby for rapid response, the Navy said. — ANI