

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Article

Step-by-step Tasks of Building Up the Test

By Hu Wo
(Cuckoo's Song)

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Local industrialist successfully creates diesel-substitute paddy husk gasifier



A string puppetry show performed by the Htwe Oo Thet Paing family, showcasing Myanmar's traditional cultural heritage.

Htwe Oo Myanmar to host Puppet-Making Workshop

The Htwe Oo Myanmar puppet workshop will be held at Pann Chan Café in Institut français de Birmanie, the French cultural centre in Yangon, on 18 May.

The puppet enthusiast Htwe Oo Thet Paing family announced that they will share their knowledge about puppets with other puppet lovers. They stated, "There are many steps involved in making a puppet, and it requires a lot of patience to be able to perform with one. Actually, the love for art depends on one's own spirit and passion. Puppetry can be loved by everyone."

Moreover, the Puppet Making Workshop will be included in the programme. The show will take place from 1 pm to 3 pm at Pann Chan Café, and the entrance fee is K25,000 per person. — TWA/TRKM



Htwe Oo Myanmar Puppet troupe is seen performing a puppet show.

Myanmar-Thailand border trade hits US\$297 mln in one month

MYANMAR'S border trade with the neighbouring country Thailand amounted to US\$297.53 million as of 10 May of the current financial year 2024-2025.

The figures plunged from \$428 million recorded in the year-ago period, indicating a sharp drop of \$131.2 million.

Myanmar conducts cross-border trade with Thailand via the Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee and Mawtaung borders. Of them,



Trucks are seen entering the Myawady border trade zone.

the Hteekhee border performed the most enormous trade worth over \$185 million over the past month.

Moreover, the trade values stood at \$31.69 million at Myawady border post, \$23.97 million at Tachilek, over \$22 million at Myeik, \$28.56 million at Kawthoung and \$6.123 million at Mawtaung.

Myanmar carries out border trade with neighbouring countries such as China, Thailand, Bangladesh, and India. It exports agricultural produce, livestock products, fisheries, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other goods while bringing in capital goods, intermediate goods, consumer goods, and raw materials from the CMP enterprises. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

Myanmar, Indian delegates meet at 6th Air Staff Talks

A delegation led by Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Intelligence) Air Vice-Marshal Ichettira Iyappa Kuttappa VM VSM of the Indian Air Force arrived in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 May to attend the sixth Myanmar Air Force-Indian Air Force Air Staff Talks. It was welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by senior air force officers, the Indian Defence Attaché to Myanmar and officials.

On 14 May, the talks was also attended by the Commander of Western Air Force Command of Tatmadaw (Air) and party, Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Intelligence) Air Vice-Marshal Ichettira Iyappa Kuttappa VM VSM of India and party, the Indian Defence Attaché to Myanmar and officials.

The Commander of Western Air Force Command of Tatmad-



The sixth Myanmar Air Force-Indian Air Force Air Staff Talks in progress on 14-16 May 2024 in Nay Pyi Taw.

aw (Air) and the Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Intelligence) gave opening speeches. Then, the accomplishment of the min-

utes of the fifth talks between India and Myanmar air forces were presented. Delegates from both countries discussed rele-

vant topics during the meeting. The Tatmadaw (Air) hosted a dinner in honour of the talks at Park Royal Hotel.

On 15 May, the Indian delegation visited the Defence Services Museum, the Memorial to Fallen Heroes and the Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. It paid homage to the Uppatasanti Pagoda and Maravijaya Buddha Image.

At Flying Training Base on 16 May, an official explained the history of the base to the Indian Air Vice-Marshal. The guests viewed round the Apron 1.

In the afternoon, the Indian guests visited Bogyo Aung San market and paid homage to Shwedagon Pagoda.

On 17 May, the Indian Air Vice-Marshal and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by senior military officers from Tatmadaw (Air), the Indian Defence Attaché and officials. — MNA/TTA

Artistic Space Art Gallery to host “Two for Art, Art for All” exhibition

A group exhibition named “Two for Art, Art for All” will be held from 18 to 22 May at the Artistic Space Art Gallery in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region.

The art exhibition will display and sell the various works of artists Zaw Zuzin and Khual Pi Art.

“We respectfully welcome individuals to visit and see the two different styles of young and old,” said the gallery manager.

The sizes of the paintings that will be displayed in the exhibition are 24 by 24 inches, 36 by 24 inches, 18 by 24 inches, and 18 by 18 inches. — ASH/MKKS

Two for Art, Art for All
Art Exhibition

Artist Zaw Zuu Zin

- Studied at Mandalay State School of Fine Art in 1996
- Based in 1975, his parents are U Aung Myint (Artist Rahulari) and Daw Mya Mya Win
- In 1992, the First Group Show in Hmaw Do Thakha (Shwepyithar)
- From 1996 to 2007 group shows at the Mandalay Fine Arts School
- In 2002, Two man show art works at Mandalay Hill Gallery
- 2023, Solo Show Mandalay Art Gallery Yangon

18.19.20.21.22, May 2024 (10:00 AM To 5:00 PM)
* Organized by The Art Garden with Artistic Space Art Gallery *

Organized Partner: VANUE Artistic Space Art Gallery

Two for Art, Art for All
Art Exhibition

Artist Khual Pi Art

Born April 13, 1980

Parents : Pa A Zin Oo Chin, Au Chin Khin Hui

- Graduated from State School of Fine Art, Yangon, (2008-2011)
- Studied under U Kyaw Thein, U Myung Oh, U Win Tun, U Myint Mawng, U Aung Shwe Hlaing, U Daw Mya Zin, Daw Khin Myat Su, U Thein Myint.

Exhibition:

- In the Beginning Artistic Expression - Group Show (Color Expressions Art Space - 21-25 Feb 2024)
- Deception (Mawng - Group Show (The Garden Art Gallery - 2-8 Dec 2023)
- The Hidden By Soul Group (General Art Gallery - 8-5 July 2023)
- MINDSCAPING Exhibition - Group Show (Studio Phawda - 9-9 July 2023)
- Let There Be Light Art Exhibition - Group Show (Identity Art Space - 1-5 March 2023)
- Color Overlure Spring - Group Show (Studio Phawda - 25-27 Feb 2023)
- Color Overlure Art Exhibition - Group Show (Identity Art Space - 23-31 Dec 2022)
- Deception (Mawng Art Exhibition - Group Show (Identity Art Space - 3-9 Dec 2022)
- Self-Expression - Group Show (General Galleries - 24 July 2022)
- Stellar of Light Art Exhibition (General Galleries - 25 May 2022)

18.19.20.21.22, May 2024 (10:00 AM To 5:00 PM)
* Organized by The Art Garden with Artistic Space Art Gallery *

Organized Partner: VANUE Artistic Space Art Gallery

Some of the paintings that will be included in the catalogue Two for Art, Art for All”.

MEXT scholarship written test: List of eligible candidates released

MYANMAR Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA) released the list of candidates who are eligible to sit the written test for undergraduate, college of technology and specialized training students programmes that would be provided by Japan’s Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) for 2025 academic year.

After verification was made on applications submitted from 23 April to 11 May, whether they meet requirements such as age and education, MAJA released the eligible candidate list according to different programmes on 15 May.

The online written test will

be conducted through the Zoom application, and Mathematics A and B tests will be held from 9:30 am to 10:30 am, and the Japanese Basic test will be from 11 am to 12 pm on 18 May. For Mathematics A and B exams, candidates need to take one subject only depending on the scholarship programme they have applied. All candidates must have Japanese Basic test.

On 15 May, exam rules and Zoom links will be sent to email addresses that were used when Google Form was submitted. MAJA requested candidates to understand if exam schedules would change in regard to current situations. — MT/ZS

Up to 400 Japanese companies to recruit more than 1,300 Myanmar workers

MYANMAR Embassy to Japan said in a statement on 15 May that more than 400 Japanese companies will recruit up to 1,300 Myanmar workers.

Myanmar Embassy has carried out verification of demand letters organized in order of date of receiving replies from

Japanese companies, and the statement says about 406 demand letters were accepted until 3 April 2024 and submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after verification. According to the statement, more than 400 Japanese companies will provide jobs for up to 450 My-

anmar male workers and up to 890 Myanmar female workers, totalling more than 1,300.

The embassy verifies whether labour supervisory companies and factories or companies that offer jobs in Japan are officially established and re-submits its findings and

remarks to the Ministry of Labour through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

According to its statement issued on 30 April about 408 demand letters, up to 400 Japanese companies would employ more than 1,100 Myanmar workers.

Similarly, a statement about 403 verified demand letters was issued on 12 April, and it said more than 400 Japanese companies would recruit up to 330 Myanmar male workers and up to 940 Myanmar female workers, totalling 1,200. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

Myanmar prepares for BPFA+30 report

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement organized a coordination meeting on submitting the BPFA+30 review report in 12 critical areas of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister Dr Soe Win, who is also chairman of the Myanmar Women's Committee, said the BPFA is a global policy to emphasize the 12 critical areas to empower women, peace and gender equality. The country is implementing

Procedure 2 of the BPFA and re-organized the Myanmar National Committee on Women-MNCW with deputy minister-level officials to strengthen the commitment, and also carried out the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (2013-2022), and is now making efforts to approve 2023-2032 strategic plan.

He continued that Myanmar submitted the five-year (2014-2019) Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA)+25 to the United Nations Economic and Social



The group documentary photo of the coordination meeting on submitting the BPFA+30 review report held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) on 16 June 2019, and the BPFA+30 report will cover the implementations conducted between April 2019

and March 2024.

Then, the attendees coordinated the meeting regarding the Zero Draft of BPFA + 30 and selected the five priorities for the

coming five years.

The representatives from 48 departments and organizations attended the meeting. — MNA/KTZH



The Kachin State chief minister and officials inspect the construction of bamboo houses for IDPs in Thazinmyaing Village, Myitkyina Township.

Kachin Chief Minister provides aid for IDPs returning home

THE Kachin State chief minister met and provided support to internally displaced people (IDPs) at the St Joseph temporary shelter in Myitkyina Township on 16 May, who are set to return to their respective homes.

He promised to provide the necessary support and assistance during their relocation.

Additionally, the National Natural Disaster Management Committee provided 54 rice bags, Kachin State government

54 edible oil bottles, eggs, and instant noodles, and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement rice for one month, K5.4 million in cash to help with relocation, and 16 rescue items for 337 people in 54 families who planned to relocate to Palana Village and 10th-Mile Village on their own.

Then, the chief minister proceeded to oversee the construction of bamboo houses for 30 families within a church's land plot in Thazinmyaing Vil-

lage, who are now taking shelter at a Theological Seminary in Jamaikaung Ward in Myitkyina.

The state government provided over K7 million and the Ethnic Affairs Minister K3 million for the construction of houses, latrines, and wells.

The Kachin State government has been working to resettle IDPs and close down temporary shelters while providing accommodation for IDPs fleeing armed conflicts in the region. — State IPRD/NT

Myanmar-Viet Nam Friendship Associations hold workshop in Hanoi, 4 MoUs signed

THE Myanmar-Viet Nam Friendship Association and Viet Nam-Myanmar Friendship Association held a workshop at the Viet Nam Union of Friendship Organizations in Hanoi and signed four memoranda of understanding between businesses on 13 May, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Myanmar merchants presented the ongoing status of trade and investment, avocado cultivation, fish farming and natural fertilizer production. Representatives from Truong Hai Business Group briefed the attendees on their investment portfolios in Myanmar.

U Thet Win, chairperson of the Myanmar-Viet Nam Friendship Association, and his Vietnamese counterpart, Mr Chu Cong Phung, led the workshop. — ASH/NT



Association officials seen exchanging the MoUs.

Daily newspapers available online

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NATIONAL



CBM Governor Daw Than Than Swe seen participating in the Asia Pacific Joint Group plenary meeting in Bali, Indonesia.

Myanmar delegation attends APJG plenary meeting on progress of Myanmar's AML/CFT in Indonesia

THE Myanmar delegation led by Governor Daw Than Than Swe of the Central Bank of Myanmar attended the plenary meeting of the Asia Pacific Joint Group (APJG) on the progress of Myanmar's Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism-AML/CFT held in Bali of Indonesia on 15 and 16 May.

During the meeting, Myanmar's AML/CFT progress, the Governor discussed the implementations of

Myanmar as per the recommendations of APJG observers on the remaining works, and the Myanmar delegates explained the questions raised by the APJG observers.

Then, they presented the measures to uncover the high-risk crime-related money laundering, urged illegal hundi providers to receive official licences and took action against those run without licences by cooperating with the central

bank of host countries, cooperation of Financial Intelligence Unit with international countries in receiving money-laundering related information and other cases.

They also discussed matters including registration and supervision and conducting awareness-raising campaigns to inform reporting entities of their obligations related to PF TFS, effective legal actions, law, order and directives. — MNA/KTZH

Potentials to cooperation between Kuwait, Myanmar discussed

ASSISTANT Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait Ambassador Sameeh Essa Johar Hayat received Myanmar Ambassador to Kuwait U Chan Aye on 15 May in the ministry,

according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

They discussed and exchanged views on promoting bilateral cooperation and strengthening ties between Kuwait and Myanmar. — ASH/MKKS



Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait Ambassador Sameeh Essa Johar Hayat receives Ambassador of Myanmar to Kuwait U Chan Aye.

Counter-argument to false information

Media defames security forces by spreading false information

MALICIOUS media outlets intentionally spread misinformation online, claiming that the security forces raided Shwebo and Yaytha villages in Gangaw Township of Magway Region, torched a monastery and houses and killed two villagers on 16 May.

The clash between the security combined team and terrorists occurred in Shwebo and Yaytha villages as the terrorists started attacking using homemade heavy weapons and guns.

Afterwards, terrorists retreated, and the security forces conducted security measures.

The misinformation about the torching of houses and the killing of two civilians is invalid, according to a security officer.

— MNA/KTZH



The screenshot validates misinformation.

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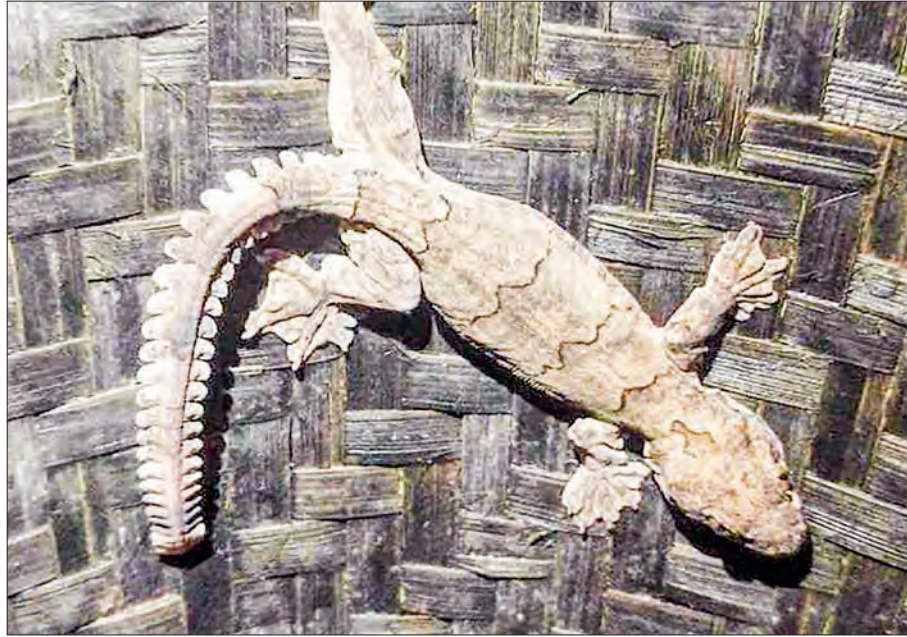
NATIONAL

Photo documentation obtained for Mt Popa gliding gecko, only Myanmar species

POPA gliding gecko, a species of gliding gecko found only in Myanmar in the world, has been recorded at Mt. Popa, said an official from Native Species Conservation and Identification in Myanmar (NSCI).

Various species of gliding geckos are believed to have inhabited other areas in addition to Popa. However, photo records could only be made in Popa so far, and others found in some areas are different species, he said.

“They are called gliding geckos because they paraglide with their skin flap from one tree to another while climbing down tall trees or while finding prey, not jumping down immediately. They are believed to have existed at Mt Popa, Mandalay Region and its surroundings and Bago Yoma and connected areas, but at present, we can make records only at Mt Popa, and most of the geckos in other areas are found in different species. But we can’t say it is found only at Popa in Myanmar because they may have existed in other areas close to Popa, such as Bagan. However, we have



Gliding gecko found only in Mount Popa. PHOTO: YE HTET

not received any record yet,” he said.

The gliding gecko is about the same size as a normal gecko, is non-venomous, and has small insects as its main food.

The gliding gecko species, which

has been recorded now, hide among trees and tree holes during the day and go to find food at night.

“Its original species are not abundantly found. So far, no rampant poaching has been found. Sometimes, when they were found accidentally, they were captured and sent to China to be eaten.



Confiscated illegal timbers.

Illegal goods seized in various states/regions

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

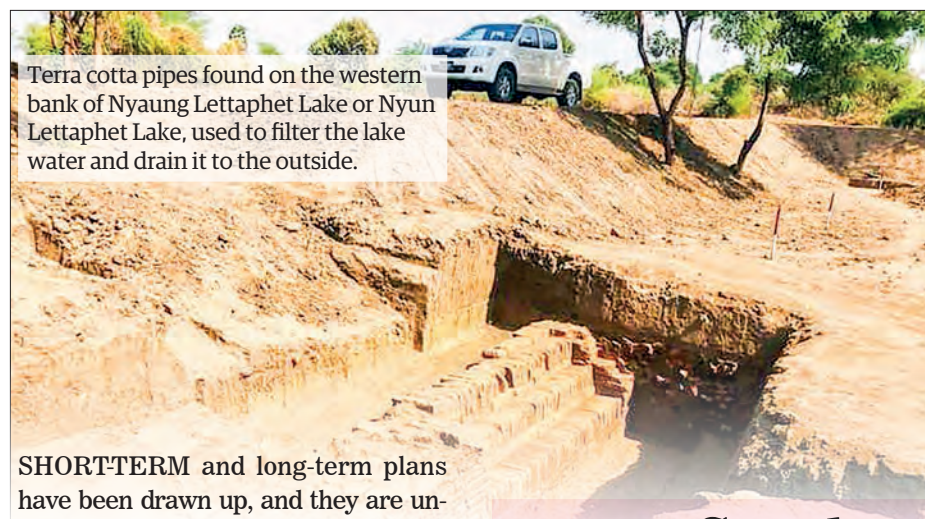
On 15 May, the combined team under the Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force captured 1,500 boxes of illegal Tingtong mosquito repellent coils that were piled up by the side of the road over the Sinphyu checkpoint in Muse township. This enforcement was carried out under Customs procedures.

On the same day, the on-duty teams impounded five vehicles (estimated value of K160 million) travelling from Myawady to Bago, from Myawady to Yangon and from Thamanya to Yangon, carrying 27 kinds of goods valued at K46.159 million, including 120 bags of 108 branded detergent powder without official documents at the Thanlwin bridge combined checkpoint (Tayokehla side) and 4,440 sets of child desk (small) and 15,509 kilogrammes of BLUE branded pad valued at K51,760,716 that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from six containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint. The action was conducted under Customs procedures.

During inspections on the same day, the combined teams nabbed four vehicles (approximately K120 million) heading to Yangon from Thamanya, carrying 19 kinds of goods worth K121.19 million, including 400 men’s T-shirts without official documents in Phayagyi and illegal teak weighing 4.838 tonnes, illegal hardwood weighing 1.951 tonnes and illegal other timbers weighing 1.991 tonnes valued at K5,162,557 in Bago, Toungoo and Thayawady districts. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

Similarly, the combined teams seized a Mitsubishi Fuso tractor head with a trailer (estimated value of K150 million) that was parked in the Hlaingthaya Industrial Zone (3), carrying 3,000 kilogrammes of Pencil case worth K9 million without official documents and illegal teaks weighing 0.701 tonne and illegal timbers weighing 1.538 tonnes worth 1,182,038 in Bogale township. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 38 arrests were made on 15 May, with an estimated value of K666 million. — MNA/MKKS



Terra cotta pipes found on the western bank of Nyaung Lettaphet Lake or Nyun Lettaphet Lake, used to filter the lake water and drain it to the outside.

SHORT-TERM and long-term plans have been drawn up, and they are under implementation to prevent floods in the world heritage-listed city of Bagan, according to U Kyaw Myo Win, director of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch).

The plans include the most essential emergency response action plan in the event of a natural disaster occurring in Bagan and pilot research projects in the short-term period to restore the natural environment and original ecosystem related to the Bagan-era water management system, he said.

Long-term plans cover annual restoration activities by the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department to maintain a sustainable water influx from Tuyin Hill and Thetsoe Hill

into Emerald Lake and yearly dredging works in the Bagan-era reservoirs and canals such as Alan Pagan and Ale Lake, which can restore the water management system from Tuyin Hill to the Bagan Palace and the moat, he said.

The Bagan Branch will continue the research on ancient water management systems in this fiscal year, including the water flow system from the Emerald Lake, Alan Pagan, Ale Lake at the foot of Tuyin Hill through Kanthone Lake,

Okphoke Lake, Hse Lake, Kanthitgyi in Phyaukseikpin village, and through again Nyaung Lettaphet Lake, Phoe-thudaw Lake, Manu Maywe Lake, to the moat of ancient Bagan, and the connecting system to drain the water from the moat into the palace, he said.

In addition, the high standard of water management in ancient Bagan will be revealed with research activities after comparing its water connection and collection from natural mountains and the use of the Ayeyawady River as the main product channel with other

regional countries.

According to the latest findings, with a follow-up excavation by the research department of Bagan Branch after the finding of some broken pieces of bricks on the western bank of Nyaung Lettaphet Lake or Nyun Lettaphet Lake, terra cotta pipes were found to be used to filter the lake water and drain it into the outside, which shows the high standard of the water management system in Bagan era, U Kyaw Myo Win said. — MT/ZN

Bagan flood prevention: Short and long-term plans

NATIONAL

Surprise inspection to be conducted at Mandalay Zaycho market



A captivating glimpse of the Mandalay Zaycho Market with the bustling city in the surroundings.

THE Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) stated that a surprise inspection will be conducted at the Mandalay Zaycho market to prevent the sale and distribution of foods containing harmful dyes.

The combined team of the MCDC and the Food and Drug Administration Department will inspect the foods at the market and confiscate any foods containing prohibited dyes in order to ensure consumer safety.

Similarly, the other markets under the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) will also be checked for foods that are not suitable to eat and foods containing prohibited dyes. — TWA/TRKM

Modernity shouldn't disgrace Myanmar culture, warns Music Association Chairman

Modernization and development are welcome, but it shouldn't disgrace Myanmar culture to make it acceptable, Myanmar Music Association Chair U Lwin Myint told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

There are criticisms of actions against some music video makings that do not conform to Myanmar culture, and he made comments about it.

"Music, movie and Theatrical associations are not authorities; and they are just organizations. We have limited authority, so we summoned them to educate and warn them not to do things that shouldn't be done, and if something happens, we protect them," he said.

In order not to disgrace Myanmar culture, they always warn

all entertainment.

"We are not elders who steadfastly refuse to accept social changes. But we should know what our country is. We should know what our national culture preserves," said U Lwin Myint.

Being developed is acceptable, but people should remember their nationality and should pay attention to the country's cultural norms, he said.

"I like development and don't like opposing making new things. I accept development that doesn't destroy the country's nationality and cultural norms. It's not our business whatever they do in foreign countries, but filming music videos inside Myanmar should follow Myanmar culture," he said. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS

Meteorologist predicts temperature drop, rain across Myanmar in late May

TEMPERATURES are forecasted to drop in late May, and rains are likely throughout the nation, according to meteorologist U Win Naing.

A low-pressure area is likely to form in the South Bay of Bengal from 22 May, which may move to the north-northwest and intensify on 24-25 May, possibly towards the coast of Andhra Pradesh, India, he forecast.

During the period from 22 to 25-26 May, when a low-pressure system is likely to develop into a depression, the monsoon may begin entering southern Myanmar and spread to the whole country with widespread rains by the end of May and early June, U Win Naing wrote in his forecast on his Facebook page.

"Temperatures will fall after 24 May. Fortunately, a possible depression may not directly enter but create a condition of early and regular monsoon rains. I predict it is almost certain. Some people ask if the temperatures in Anya in upper Myanmar will fall with the rains. After 24 May, it is forecasted that rain will fall all over Myanmar. Heavy rains can occur

in Magway, Yenangyoung, and Chauk. We even have to worry about the possibility of hefty rain in the southern part, including Yangon and Bago," he said.

People, especially those in the coastal areas, should be cautious about strong winds in early monsoon, he told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

"Main areas to be cautious of strong winds are coastal areas in Taninthayi, Ayeyawady delta and Rakhine such as Ngwehsaung and Chaungtha because there is a possible depression. We are on the right side of a likely depression. It is more severe with stronger winds and heavier rains on the right side. Another cause of heavy rain is that it often rains hard at the beginning, as it is hot. In the straight direction of the current are Mawlamyine, gulf of Mottama, Kyaikto, Waw and connected areas. They should be careful. Other areas include those along Bago Range to Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay, covering both the eastern and western parts of Bago Range," he said. — MT/ZN

100 navigation signs erected along Mandalay-Thaphandaunt Myinmu river route

A total of 100 navigation signs have been erected along the Mandalay-Thaphandaunt-Myinmu river route Ayeyawady River, as stated by the Mandalay Region's Navigation Section.

Since 12 March, a total of 200 signs, including 100 signs for a waterway and another 100 signs for shore, have been erected for the safe passage of ships along the water course. Currently, 100 signs for the waterway and shore have been erected, and 50 per cent of the work has been completed.

Currently, the Ayeyawady River is full of water. Hence, passenger boats



The navigational aid is seen being erected in the Ayeyawady River near Mandalay.

and cargo ships travelling in the river are able to travel easily. Still, during high water, watercraft need to be careful when travelling in the defiles of the river.

Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems of River Systems said that signs are being erected so that the ships that will be travelling from Mandalay Port in May can travel safely. — TWA/KZL

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606 rice storage facilities registered in MyRo

ACCORDING to the Department of Consumer Affairs, as of 6 May, 606 registered warehouses can store 50 tonnes of rice or 5,000 baskets and above.

For domestic rice sufficiency, systematic export of rice, stabilization of market price, registration of rice storage conditions and implementation of a financial system based on storage receipts, steps have been taken to register the rice storage facilities via Myanmar Rice On-

line (www.myro.com.mm) since 3 November 2023.

As of 6 May 2024, 197 warehouses of 94 companies and 409 warehouses of 221 individuals, totalling 606 warehouses, have been registered, according to the department.

Therefore, storage facilities that can store 50 tonnes of rice or 5,000 rice baskets and above for economic reasons have been notified to register their facilities. — TPT

iPHEX invites Myanmar business delegates

MYANMAR business delegates are invited to participate in iPHEX, the International Exhibition of Pharma and Healthcare, that will be held from 28 to 30 August 2024, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

iPHEX is an initiative of the Ministry of Commerce to position “India as Pharmacy of the World” to showcase the entire Indian spectrum of drugs, pharmaceuticals and the healthcare industry.

More than 360 Indian companies will display their products related to pharma and health care at the exhibition, expecting to attract 20,000 visitors.

Business delegates, including one government official, two representatives from the pharma manufacturing sector and pharma importers, will be sponsored for air tickets and accommodation. Yet, the representatives have to buy the air tickets themselves and can claim them in line with Pharmexcil policy.

The representatives from iPHEX must register online. For further information, individuals can contact director Mr Murali via phone at +91 9849283461 or director Mr Kamal by phone at +91 9899392930 and e-mail: rbsm@iphex-india.com. — NN/EM

Local industrialist successfully creates diesel-substitute paddy husk gasifier

A local industrialist, U Ko Oo, has successfully invented a diesel-substitute paddy husk gasifier on his own design.

He said he had successfully invented the paddy husk gasifier that can be used for a 550-kilowatt generator and would supply it to a customer from upper Myanmar who requested to make it.

“It spends a 20-viss bag of fuel cubes to use high voltage per hour. This is the first rice husk gasifier in Myanmar. It is fired by solid paddy husk tubes and generates gas to substitute diesel to run engines. I invented it for the first time because a customer made a customized order,” said U Ko Oo.

Depending on the size, he makes it at a negotiable price, he said.

A couple of months ago, he also invented a commercial charcoal making machine that can run on any combustible material. — MT/ZS



Diesel-substitute paddy husk gasifier that can be used for a 550kW generator invented by a local industrialist.

CBM injects US\$5M, 7.5M yuan, 30M baht on online trading platforms



The general view of the entrance to the CBM office in Yangon.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$5 million, 7.5 million yuan and 30 million Thai baht for exporters and importers through online trading platforms in the half of this month.

CBM injected \$3 million, two million yuan and 54 million baht into the financial market in April.

It also sold \$18 million, 12 million yuan and 312 million baht in March, \$77.38 million

and 850 million baht in February and \$68.33 million, 313.5 million baht and 4.2 million yuan in January 2024, with a view to curbing the instability in forex market and stopping the currency devaluation.

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

CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023.

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

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.

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



OPINION

Minimize loss and waste of foods in all means in Myanmar

AS SEVERAL countries around the globe grapple with the severe impacts of heatwaves and droughts, the threat to food production has become dire. The effects of the 2023 El Nino, which brought about the most severe heat in 122 years, have exacerbated this situation.

This year, the escalating global warming and climate change present a looming threat of severe famine, affecting approximately 282 million people from 59 countries worldwide. United Nations agencies report that global countries have been experiencing worsening food shortages for the past five years.

A joint statement from the European Union, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Agricultural Development Fund, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFP, and the World Bank highlights that vulnerable groups, particularly over 36 million children under the age of five, are falling victim to severe famine. Additionally, those displaced by conflicts and disasters are facing consequences of worsening malnutrition.

Despite being a country with food security, Myanmar is grappling with internal instability, the consequences of climate change, the impacts of natural disasters and poverty, and a development gap between urban and rural areas. As a result, Myanmar is striving to address food problems, particularly for people in remote areas.

It is anticipated that Myanmar may face a significant challenge in meeting the food requirements of its population, which is projected to reach 100 million by 2050. Therefore, it is imperative to prioritize food security across the nation and to efficiently utilize food resources by minimizing waste

and losses. Food loss and waste are major obstacles that must be addressed to solve global food security problems.

Currently, the government is focused on increasing crop yields per acre, including paddy and oil crops such as groundnut, sesame and sunflower, maize, pulses and beans, to meet local demand and generate revenue through agricultural exports to overseas markets. Efforts are also underway to encourage farmers and food producers to increase productivity.

Environmental challenges can lead to food shortages and conflicts in various parts of the world. Despite food production, the wastage and loss of food can result in multiple losses. Therefore, it is essential for all citizens of Myanmar to understand the critical importance of food security and to prevent food loss and waste through all possible means so as to prevent the impacts of food shortages. If so, people can successfully overcome food shortages in unison.



Tests are crucial for evaluating students' knowledge and skills, and they serve various purposes such as placement, formative assessment, diagnostic assessment, and summative assessment **ILLUSTRATION: IMAGE USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE/PIXABAY**

THE test is simply an essential thing that almost every instructor and scholar in the educational field must not abstain from along the road to their education. Most postgraduate students, sometimes undergraduates, have to sit a university entrance examination so as to study abroad or take up higher education. Currently, IELTS, TOEFL, and GED are the most popular test papers among adult and young learners. Tests are commonly undertaken in three types: written, oral, and practical. In the main, written tests are applied in nations where educational expenditure cannot be spent as much as needed due to their financial situation. Despite their pros and cons, several types of test formats have been used all over the world until today.

First of all, educators expect students to react to the subject matter of a course. As a student's behaviours can overlap a wide variety of subject-matter areas or vice versa, it will be more convenient to list each behaviour and subject-matter area separately and then relate them in the way that the content of a course may be outlined in detail for teaching ob-

jectives and its major categories.

Tests have been used in every corner of the globe for such various purposes as measuring a student's entry behaviour at the beginning of instruction (placement test), learning progress during instruction (formative test), causes of learning difficulties during instruction (diagnostic test), and general achievement at the end of instruction (summative test).

The learning outcomes measured by a test should faithfully reflect the objectives of instruction in education, usually identified as three domains – cognitive, affective, and psychomotor. The six basic hierarchical categories of educational objectives in the cognitive domain specified by Bloom are

knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. The knowledge level of Bloom's Taxonomy – knowledge of specifics, knowledge of ways or means of dealing with specifics, and knowledge of the universal abstractions in a field – describes learning activities that are fundamentally related to memory or recollection. At the comprehension level – translation, interpretation, and extrapolation, the learner knows what information is being communicated and is able to make use of it without necessarily seeing its implications or relating it to other material. At the application level, the learner will have had the ability to select a given abstraction, i.e., an idea, a rule of proce-

dures, or the generalized method, appropriate for a new concrete or specific situation, as well as to apply it correctly. Behaviour in the analysis of elements, relationships and organizational principles involves breaking down communication into its constituent parts in such a way that the relations between the ideas expressed are made explicit. Synthesis, which is divided into the production of a unique communication or a plan and the derivation of a set of abstract relations, includes the process of arranging and combining pieces and parts to assemble them into a pattern or structure not clear before. Lastly, evaluation entails quantitative and qualitative judgements made on the value of

methods and materials for particular purposes in terms of internal evidence and external criteria. Thus, the higher-ordered objectives can be obtained only after the foregoing ones are mastered.

One way to provide greater assurance that the test provides a representative sample of learning outcomes and subject matter content is the use of a table of specifications. The table of specifications is a two-fold table on which learning outcomes are listed along one side of a table and subject matter topics along the other. The purpose of this table is to define as clearly as possible the scope and emphasis of the test to relate objectives to the content and conduct a balanced test. The construction of a table of specifications often obeys the following steps: 1) List the topics to be tested and the amount of time spent on teaching each topic; 2) Allocate marks for each topic as a percentage; 3) Determine the learning outcomes necessary for each topic; 4) Fix % marks for different abilities in each topic; 5) Decide the type of test items to be given; 6) Cover

a particular test can be reviewed by the individual who constructs them or by a colleague, providing a check on the correct answer and spotting any obvious defects. A more careful evaluation of test items is made as follows: 1) Each item should be related directly to the type of learning behaviour specified in the table of specifications; 2) Each item should be suitable for the particular learning outcomes to be measured; 3) Each item should present a clearly formulated task, also stated in simple language; 4) Each item should be free from extraneous question clues; 5) Item difficulty should be appropriate; 6) Each item should be independent without overlapping as a group; and 7) Test items should give adequate coverage of the table of specifications.

After reviewing and editing test items, arrange them for the test and prepare the directions as shown above. For instructional purposes, it is usually desirable to group question items that measure the same learning outcome. Where possible, the items should be arranged so that all items of the same type are grouped together. At last, the items should be organized in order of increasing difficulty. Then, the concise directions for a test contain the information concerning the purpose of the test, the time allowed to complete the test, the specific ways to record answers, and the fact whether to guess when in doubt about the answer, not bluffing.

In conclusion, the administration of a test is primarily a matter of providing proper working conditions, keeping interruptions to a minimum, arranging enough space between students to prevent cheating, and giving clear directions to make the test self-administering, but in some situations where it may be desirable to provide the directions orally. With grouped students, a blackboard illustration may also be noticed, seeing that students' answers to objective test items may be recorded either on the test copy itself or on a separate answer sheet. Answers to the test are documented in a test booklet. If a separate answer sheet is used, it would be better to punch out the letters of the correct answers on a copy of the answer sheet and use this as a scoring stencil. The instructor scores on most educational tests.

Assembling the test for use calls for reviewing and editing question items, also considering whether they are arranged in some logical order and clear directions. The pool of items for

ARTICLE

Over 294 million people affected by hypertension in South-East Asia: WHO Regional Director

World Hypertension Day, launched by the World Hypertension League in 2005, endeavours to raise awareness about the dangers of high blood pressure and mobilize worldwide efforts to address it.

AN ESTIMATED over 294 million people are living with hypertension in South-East Asia according to World Health Organization (WHO)'s Regional Director for South-East Asia, Saima Wazed.

On the occasion of World Hypertension Day, Wazed emphasised that the efforts to prevent and control hypertension need to be further strengthened to meet global and national targets.

Hypertension, in the words of the World Hypertension League (WHL), is 'a driving force in the global epidemic of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and the leading risk factor for death and disability globally.'

World Hypertension Day, initiated by WHL in 2005, aims to increase awareness of this "silent killer" and galvanise global action to combat high blood pressure.

This year, the theme is a call to "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer."



On 17 May World Hypertension Day is celebrated. **ILLUSTRATION: FREEPIK**

Nonetheless, efforts to prevent and control hypertension need to be further strengthened to meet global and national targets, including those outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and SEAHEARTS milestones.

"On World Hypertension Day 2024, let us confront this silent killer, and motivate all to 'Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer,'" Wazed emphasised.

She highlighted that high intake of salt, tobacco and alcohol use, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, stress, and air pollution are key risk factors for the rising prevalence of hypertension.

SOURCE: ANI

TECH/ENVIRON: WORLD

China's Anhui leverages innovation, integration for high-quality development

EAST China's Anhui Province is charting a course of high-quality development, leveraging its strategic position and innovative capabilities to become an emerging economic powerhouse, Anhui Governor Wang Qingxian said on Thursday.

"We aim to ride the new technological revolution and industrial transformation wave," Wang said at a State Council Information Office press conference.

In the decade ending in 2023, Anhui's GDP soared from 1.9 trillion yuan (about 263 billion US dollars) to 4.7 trillion yuan, underscoring its evolution into a significant industrial and manufacturing center.

The province's commitment to innovation is evident in its robust investment in science and technology. Its high-level research institutions have a significant presence, and it is home to a

Anhui Province in East China is pursuing a path of high-quality development, utilizing its strategic location and innovative strengths to emerge as a formidable economic force.



Photo taken on 28 July 2022 shows a staff member at the Generation 10.5 TFT-LCD production line of the BOE Display Technology Co Ltd in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province. **PHOTO: LIU JUNXI/XINHUA**

burgeoning number of high-tech enterprises and SMEs.

"Our province has seen a surge in its development of new energy vehicles, advanced photovoltaics, new types of energy storage, next-generation information technology, and artificial intelligence," he said.

Anhui's industries are booming. Local automobile production increased to 2.49 million units in 2023, ranking second nationwide, and the province's new energy vehicle output climbed to approximately 868,000 units, ranking fourth. Notably, Anhui exported 1.15 million vehicles last year, accounting for nearly 25 per cent of the country's total vehicle exports.

"We are confident in our path," the governor said, suggesting that if current progress is inspiring, the future of Anhui's development promises to be even more remarkable. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Food Innovation Conference: tackling sustainability challenges in the Gulf region

ABDULKAREEM Sultan AlOlama, CEO of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI), emphasized the significance of the Food Innovation Conference 2024 for the Gulf region.

He pointed out that the region, being a desert area with limited natural resources and water, needs innovative solutions to tackle the obstacles to food sustainability in the future. The conference aims to address global food and agricultural challenges by exploring new approaches like vertical, climate-smart, smart agriculture, and alternative proteins. — ANI

\$2.2B pledged to end deadly planet-heating cooking methods

THE International Energy Agency announced on Tuesday that \$2.2 billion had been pledged by governments and companies to improve access to less deadly and polluting cooking methods in Africa.

More than two billion people cook on basic stoves or over open fires and exposure to this smoke is a leading cause of early death around the world. These cooking methods also harm the planet, with carbon-absorbing forests stripped for firewood and emissions from burning these dirty fuels a major contributor to global warming. — AFP

Google's AI search revamp puts publishers in a quandary

GOOGLE'S use of artificial intelligence to sum up answers to search queries has publishers wondering if traffic to their websites will wither.

The internet titan announced Tuesday it is introducing AI-generated answers to online queries in the United States, in one of the biggest changes to its world-leading search engine in 25 years.

The change will soon spread to other countries, arguably reducing the importance of links and web pages for more than a billion people.

And bloggers, news outlets and others who benefit from people clicking on their links via Google's search results could see audiences dwindle if people are sated by what its "AI Overview" serves up.

"It's going to create a negative impact on brands and publishers who rely on organic search traffic for sure," Mar-

keting AI Institute CEO Paul Roetzer said of such a scenario.

"We just have no idea how much, and we don't really know what you can do about it." AI blurbs generated by Google's Gemini technology will offer succinct summaries of what it found on the internet with only a few links to the online sources that supplied the information.

Research firm Gartner predicts traffic to the web from search engines will fall 25 per cent by 2026 because of increased reliance on AI in general. Roetzer noted that Google has not provided much information about how the change might affect advertisers or publishers, essentially asking them to have faith. — AFP



Google chief executive Sundar Pichai says the AI revamp of its online search engine will soon spread to countries other than the United States. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

Buddhist Association of China observes Buddha's birth anniversary

THE Buddhist Association of China on Wednesday held a commemorative event at Guangji Temple in Beijing to observe the birth anniversary of the Buddha.

Sutra chanting and Buddha bathing rituals were held during the event, which was attended by representatives from China's major Buddhist communities, as well as foreign envoys.

Addressing the event, Master Yanjue, head of the association, lauded generations of Buddhists for building bridges of harmony, mutual respect and

common development among people of different countries.

The Chinese Buddhist community is willing to join hands with Buddhists and peace-loving people around the world to jointly promote the harmonious co-existence of diverse cultures and different civilizations, as well as mutual learning and exchange, he said.

According to Chinese Buddhist tradition, the birth anniversary of the Buddha is celebrated on the eighth day of the fourth lunar month.— Xinhua



The Buddhist Association of China held a commemorative event to observe this year's birth anniversary of the Buddha at the Guangji Temple in Beijing. According to the Chinese lunar calendar, this year Buddha's birthday falls on 15 May. PHOTO: GLOBALTIMES.CN

Film shows rural Japan's changing face through eyes of mythic critter

FOR the overwhelming majority of people in Japan, the tsuchinoko, a creature resembling a fat snake that has never been conclusively confirmed as real, does not exist.

But a new documentary film to be screened in Tokyo from Saturday is asking audiences to reflect on what changing beliefs in the cryptid, which has shapeshifted from folklore tale to trophy-hunt animal to fictional regional attraction, tell us about how the country has changed since the mid-20th century.

Its director, Tomoki Imai, specializes in documentaries exploring how rural communities' customs are shaped. A native of Gifu Prefecture's Higashishirakawa, a village with the most recorded tsuchinoko sightings nationwide, his childhood belief in the creatures had long since given way to dismissal and embarrassment that his hometown is synonymous with them.

Located in a lush, mountainous part of central Japan, today it is known for its annual 3 May hunt, for which paying

crowds have gathered since 1989 in hopes of bagging one of the mythical creatures and an as-yet unclaimed 1.32 million yen (\$8,400) prize.

Tsuchinoko are said to have beer bottle-shaped bodies measuring 30 to 80 centimetres, a triangular head and a short, stubby tail. They are reportedly able to jump, and move forward and back rather than slithering like a snake. Records of the creature go back centuries.

Imai, who wore a tsuchinoko T-shirt during an inter-

view at a cafe near his studio in Kawasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture, described how the idea for the film came about through a story from a local that surfaced in an interview for an unrelated project in Higashishirakawa.

"We were on a break from filming when the man pointed to the field outside the house. He said that 30 to 40 years ago it had been lots of smaller fields separated by stone banks, but that they were torn down to allow access for farming machinery." — Kyodo



Supplied photo shows a scene from new documentary film "The Hunt for Tsuchinoko (Little Mallet)", or "Ora ga Mura no Tsuchinoko Sodoki" in Japanese, in which director Tomoki Imai's father and his son fish together in Higashishirakawa, Gifu Prefecture. PHOTO: 2024 STUDIO-GARRET/KYODO

ROUNDUP: LIFESTYLE

Richie Mehta highlights Indian cinema's global impact at Cannes' Bharat Pavilion

THE 77th edition of the Cannes Film Festival witnessed a significant moment as the inauguration ceremony of the Bharat Pavilion took place on Wednesday.

Filmmaker Richie Mehta graced the occasion, highlighting the monumental occasion for Indian cinema and its global outreach. Reflecting on the significance of Indian storytelling, Mehta expressed, "The festivals have helped me basically unlocking a career. And also one of my missions has been to, as

a Canadian Indian to export the best of Indian storytelling and I'm not talking about from a film standpoint, I'm talking about from the stories, from people on the ground, from the amazing culture that we have to show the world. It's a real honour to be a part of this inauguration."

His words resonated with the essence of the event, emphasizing the rich cultural tapestry that Indian cinema weaves on the global stage. — ANI

Monet painting fetches \$35 million at New York auction

A Monet sold for nearly \$35 million at auction Wednesday evening, Sotheby's said, marking a solid start to New York's spring art sales.

Both Sotheby's and rival auction house Christie's launched their spring season Monday. Though the global art market softened last year, strong sales in London and Paris have sparked optimism for 2024.

Claude Monet's "Meules a Giverny", which the French impressionist painted in 1893, went for \$34.8 million after a bidding war.

Meanwhile, British-Mexican artist Leonora Carrington broke her own auction record when her "Les Distractions de Dagobert" sold for \$28.5 million. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Israel launches foreign worker reform to deal with labour shortage



Palestinian labourers work at the site of a new neighborhood in the Jewish settlement of Givat Zeev in the West Bank, north of Jerusalem. **PHOTO: MENAHEM KAHANA/AFP/FILE**

The new reform aims to simplify the procedure for employing foreign workers in Israel by reducing regulations and prioritizing labour rights protection.

THE Israeli government on Wednesday approved a structural reform to facilitate the arrival and hiring of foreign workers and improve their labour rights, the Israeli Ministry of Labour said in a statement.

The reform, initiated by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Labour Minister Yoav Ben Tzur, aims to maintain the stability of the Israeli economy amidst the ongoing conflict with Hamas, which has caused a severe shortage of both foreign and Palestinian workers across all economic sectors, particularly in agriculture, construction, and nursing. The new reform stream-

lines the process of bringing in foreign workers by easing regulations and allocating significant resources to protect labor rights. It increases the maximum number of foreign workers permitted to work in Israel to about 330,000, compared to the about 150,000 working in the country before the outbreak of the conflict in early October last year.

Moreover, the plan substantially reduces fees paid by employers, a measure that will not only simplify the hiring process but also help lower consumer prices and reduce the cost of living, according to the statement. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dubai Civil Aviation Authority spotlights air transport enablement at Airport Show 2024

THE Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA) has highlighted its pivotal role in advancing the aviation industry and related activities in the emirate during the 23rd edition of the Airport Show. Under the patronage of Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports and Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group, the event saw participation from over 150 exhibitors from more than 20 countries worldwide. One of the key achievements showcased was the significant growth in commercial activities in the aviation sector during the first quarter of 2024, totalling 11,990 activities, a 21 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2023. This growth has led to a surge in permit requests by 72 per cent and permit renewals have grown by more than threefold. While requests for landing permits for aircraft (private, passenger, and cargo) at Dubai International Airport and Al Maktoum International Airport to operate all types of non-scheduled and designated flights (commercial and non-commercial) have also increased, reaching more than 4,000 permits in the first quarter of 2024. Building and elevation permits in air easement zones have increased significantly as the emirate's construction industry has grown, reaching two and a half times the previous level.

Mohammed Abdulla Lengawi, Director-General of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, said, "The aviation industry of Dubai continues its sustainable growth thanks to the directives of our wise leadership represented by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai. — ANI

Japan's 3 biggest carmakers eye tie-up over vehicle software

The tie-up is expected to be announced at an upcoming study group meeting organized by the industry ministry.

JAPAN'S three biggest automakers are considering collaborating over vehicle software to increase development efficiency as electric vehicles gain a growing share of the market, sources familiar with the matter said Thursday. Toyota Motor Corp, Honda Motor Co and Nissan Motor Co aim to standardize part of their software to promote collaboration with their parts suppliers and IT firms over vehicle controls and developing services, the sources said.

The automakers are expected to unveil the tie-up at a study group meeting to be held by the industry ministry in the near future, the sources said.

Japan's industry and transport ministries expect to include the potential collaboration in a digital strategy for the country's

auto industry that they are currently drawing up. The initiative could expand to include other carmakers in Japan, the sources said. The tie-up is expected to revolve around application programming interfaces, or APIs,

which link different software applications. Standardizing APIs will allow the automakers to reduce costs and use the same parts, such as sensors, across different brands, the sources said. — Kyodo



The Japan Mobility Show opens to the press at Tokyo Big Site in Tokyo on 25 October 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Beijing greenlights robotaxi test service at key train hub

The demonstration zone will collaborate with relevant companies to facilitate road tests of autonomous vehicles, contributing to the advancement of autonomous driving technology.

BEIJING South Railway Station, one of the city's major train hubs, has been given the green light to operate an autonomous taxi test service, in a move set to further bolster the commercial use of self-driving technology.

The approval, issued by Beijing High-level Autonomous Driving Demon-



This photo taken on 1 August 2023 shows the waiting hall of the Beijing South Railway Station in Beijing, capital of China. **PHOTO: ZHANG CHENLIN/XINHUA**

stration Zone Work Office, marks the official opening of autonomous driving tests at a high-speed railway station in Beijing.

The demonstration zone will coordinate with relevant companies to advance the road tests of autonomous vehicles.

Companies are permitted to offer robotaxi

services on two designated test routes connecting the Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area with Beijing South Railway Station. — Xinhua

US Dow stock index briefly tops 40,000 for 1st time

THE Dow stock index briefly topped the 40,000 line for the first time ever on Thursday amid growing optimism about the solid US economy as recent data suggested stubborn inflation may ease and the Federal Reserve could begin cutting key interest rates in the fall.

But the buying lost steam after the 30-issue Dow Jones Industrial Average hit an intraday record at 40,051.05, also on the back of strong corporate earnings reports. — Kyodo

Easyjet CEO flies out in 2025 after seven years

EASYJET said Thursday that chief executive Johan Lundgren would step down at the start of 2025 after seven years piloting the no-frills airline, notably through COVID turbulence.

Easyjet, which flies mainly across Europe, added in a statement that it would promote chief financial officer Kenton Jarvis to the top post.

Swedish national Lundgren, 57, "has done an excellent job as our CEO since December 2017, steering the com-

pany through the immense challenges of the Covid period, and setting up a clear strategy and strong execution plan", said Easyjet chairman Stephen Hester.

The announcement came alongside news that Easyjet had reduced net losses in its first half, or six months to the end of March. Airlines tend to log losses early on because of the northern hemisphere winter, typically a quieter travel period compared with the peak-demand summer season. — AFP



Easyjet revealed that it would be promoting its chief financial officer, Kenton Jarvis, to fill the CEO position. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BRIGHT COSMO VOY.NO. (417W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BRIGHT COSMO VOY.NO. (417W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-5-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAERSK A/S.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (225N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (225N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-5-2024** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PADIAN 4 VOY.NO. (0UV7IE1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PADIAN 4 VOY.NO. (0UV7IE1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-5-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC CHENMING VOY.NO. (2406S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHENMING VOY.NO. (2406S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-5-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

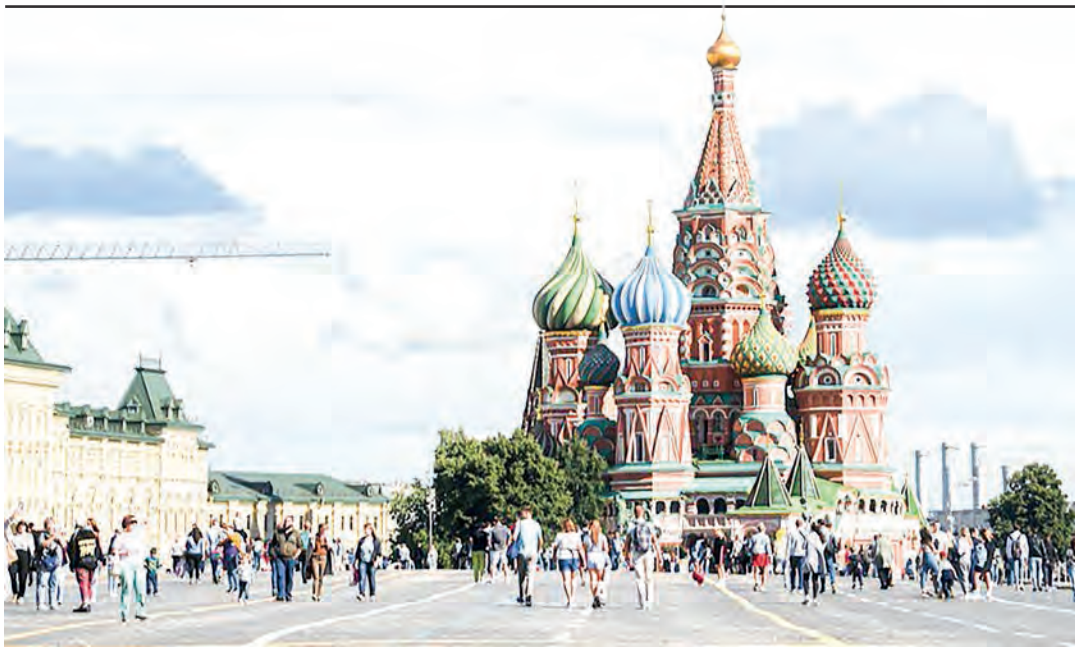
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD



Tourists are seen on the Red Square in Moscow, Russia, on 24 July 2020. **EVGENY SINITSYN/XINHUA/FILE**

First India-Russia consultations on visa-free tourist exchange set for June, confirms Russian official

Kondratyev stated that progress has been made in the process of group visa-free trips, with India reportedly in the final stages of internal state coordination.

THE first India-Russia joint consultations on the launch of visa-free tourist exchange will be held in June, followed by a bilateral agreement by the year-end, reported Sputnik, citing a Russian minister.

Nikita Kondratyev, director of the Department for Multilateral Economic Cooperation and Special Projects, opened up on the consultations on the sidelines of the 'Russia-Islamic

World: KazanForum 2024', a global economic forum.

"The process with group visa-free trips has moved a little. The Indian side returned with the answer that they are at the final stage of internal state coordination and asked us again for the latest draft of the document and promised to return in the very near future. I think we will hold the first consultations with them in June

to discuss a draft agreement," Kondratyev said on the sidelines of the KazanForum 2024 in Russia's Kazan.

"We plan to sign by the end of the year," he added, according to Sputnik. Earlier, in February, the Russian ministry said it expects to launch visa-free tourist exchanges with India in 2024, on the lines of similar agreements signed with China and Iran. — ANI

SUMMARIES: WORLD

Clash between Afghanistan-Pakistan border guards kills 5

FIVE persons were killed and five others sustained injury as a result of a clash between the border forces of Afghanistan and Pakistan over the past four days, Afghan local media outlet TOLONews reported Friday.

The clash between Afghan and Pakistan border forces has been continuing close to the border area in Zazai Aryub and Dand wa Patan districts of the eastern Paktia province, the private media outlet added.

Afghan officials have yet to make any comment. — Xinhua

Bulgaria intercepts 2 trucks with 62 immigrants on board

BULGARIAN authorities at the Danube Bridge checkpoint in Vidin near the Romanian border have captured 62 immigrants hidden in two trucks, who were attempting to leave the country, officials said on Thursday.

The Prosecutor's Office said in a statement that the first truck, driven by a Lithuanian citizen, was intercepted on Tuesday with 33 immigrants on board.

The immigrants were hidden in a 12-metre-long secret compartment made of metal, which was built into the trailer, the statement said. — Xinhua

North Korea fires ballistic missile towards Sea of Japan, says South Korea

NORTH Korea has fired a ballistic missile towards the sea off its east coast, South Korea's military said on Friday.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff did not immediately provide details, Yonhap news agency reported.

The development comes at a time that Russian President Vladimir Putin is visiting the Chinese city of Harbin as part of his two-day State visit to China. Yonhap said the launch comes after the North fired 600-millimetre super-large shells, considered to be short-range ballistic missiles, towards the East Sea on 22 April. — ANI

Spain, UK 'getting closer' to Gibraltar deal

The United Kingdom, European Commission, Spain, and Gibraltar issued a joint statement, noting that the discussions were conducted in a constructive manner and resulted in significant breakthroughs and areas of agreement.

BRITAIN and Spain insisted they were closer to a deal on post-Brexit arrangements for disputed Gibraltar after they made "important breakthroughs" in talks Thursday.

The two countries are aiming for an agreement allowing free circulation of goods and people between Gibraltar and Spain.

"Today's discussions took place in a constructive atmosphere, with important breakthroughs and additional areas of agreement," the United Kingdom, European Commission, Spain and Gibraltar said in a statement.

"All sides are reassured that the agreement is getting closer

and will work closely and rapidly on outstanding areas towards an overall EU-UK agreement," they added.

Foreign ministers from Britain and Spain met alongside European Commission vice-president Maros Sefcovic and Gibraltar government chief Fabian Picardo in a bid to reach a deal



Both countries are working towards an agreement that would facilitate the free movement of goods and people between Gibraltar and Spain. **PHOTO: WANG LILI / XINHUA**

over the tiny British territory's status following Britain's 2020 exit from the European Union.

It is the second time they have met in this format after talks in April. — AFP

SPORTS

MFF president attends 74th FIFA Congress

MYANMAR Football Federation President U Zaw Zaw and officials attended the 74th FIFA Congress held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 17 May.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino and FIFA Executive members, Football Confederations and Federation presidents and representatives from various FIFA member countries of Europe, Asia, South America, North America and Africa, football experts and former star players, and committee members attended the congress and discussed football matters, including World Cup, women's tourneys, youth tourneys and football development programmes.

The Myanmar Football Federation president also attended the congress in Thailand on 16 May and achieved the AFC Distinguished Service Award. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Brazil selected as host of 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup



FIFA President Gianni Infantino announces Brazil as the hosts of the 2027 Women's World Cup during the 74th FIFA Congress in Bangkok on 17 May 2024. **PHOTO: MANAN VATSYAYANA /AFP**

BRAZIL will host the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup following a vote at the 74th FIFA Congress here on Friday.

Brazil got 119 votes from the Congress, beating the joint bid of Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany, which took 78 votes. Brazil's successful bid means the 10th edition of the tournament will be held in South America for the first time. FIFA had earlier received two other initial expressions of interest to host the 2027 event, namely a joint bid by the United States and Mexico, and a single bid from South Africa. However, they withdrew to focus on bidding for the tournament in 2031. — Xinhua

Badminton star Thet Htar Thuzar to compete in Paris Olympics



MYANMAR'S Badminton icon Thet Htar Thuzar will show her skills in the Paris Olympics, which will be held in July after securing qualifiers, as stated by the World Badminton Federation.

The qualifiers for the Olympics were held from 1 May 2023 to 28 April 2024, while Thet Htar Thuzar competed in the 23 games. With winning points 32,630, she seized 22nd position in the world and also qualified for the Olympic Games.

In terms of qualification, a maximum of two per country will be

allowed to compete among those ranked from 1 to 16, but only one per country will be allowed to compete for those ranked after 17th.

There will be 39 players competing in the women's singles competition of the Paris Olympics, including 32 players from the knockout stage and seven invitational and continental players.

Thet Htar Thuzar has qualified for two consecutive Olympics after qualifying for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and now competing at the 2024 Paris Olympics. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



Myanmar's badminton star, Thet Htar Thuzar, is seen as being full of energy. **PHOTO: BWF**

Skateboarding's ageless ambassador: Macdonald inspires at Olympic Qualifier Series



The venue for the 2024 Olympic Qualifier Series is located at Huangpu Riverside in Shanghai. **PHOTO: OLYMPICS**

AMID young skateboarders, Andy Macdonald stands out at Huangpu Riverside in Shanghai, the venue for the 2024 Olympic Qualifier Series. Approaching his 51st birthday in two months, Macdonald, an eight-time World Cup Skateboarding competition

winner, is the oldest contender in Shanghai. He contrasts sharply with the 32 younger participants born after 2000 among a total of 44 entries in the park event.

Competing with much younger generations, Macdonald shared his philosophy on age: "It's just a number. You don't get old and quit skateboarding; you quit skateboarding and you get old."

"This is what I've been doing since I was 12 years old. I picked up a board at the age of these kids and started competing right away, trying to learn new tricks and progress," Macdonald noted. — Xinhua

Tun Min Naing wins in ONE Friday Fight-63



Fighter Tun Min Naing delivering a curved punch to his opponent.

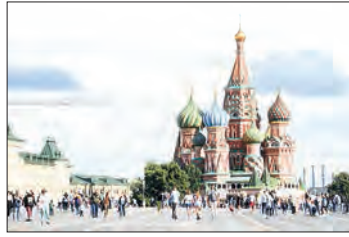
TUN Min Naing (aka) Sulaiman bagged a win after beating Japanese Tomoki Sato with a point system during the ONE Friday Fight-63 event held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 17 May.

There was no difference in abilities between the two fighters, but Tun Min Naing's punches and kicks were accurate, so he won the decision on points.

Tun Min Naing has fought six bouts in ONE history, making four wins with two losses. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

First India-Russia consultations on visa-free tourist exchange set for June, confirms Russian official

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WORLD

Xi sends congratulatory letter to 8th China-Russia Expo

This year holds special significance as it marks the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and Russia. President Xi underscored the importance of this milestone, stating that bilateral relations are poised for new opportunities and broader developmental prospects.

deepen exchanges and share opportunities, jointly contribute to the mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Russia, and inject new impetus into the development of the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era. With a theme of “cooperation, mutual trust, and opportunities”, the eighth China-Russia Expo is jointly hosted by China’s Ministry of Commerce, the Heilongjiang provincial government, Russia’s Ministry of Economic Development, and its Ministry of Industry and Trade. — Xinhua

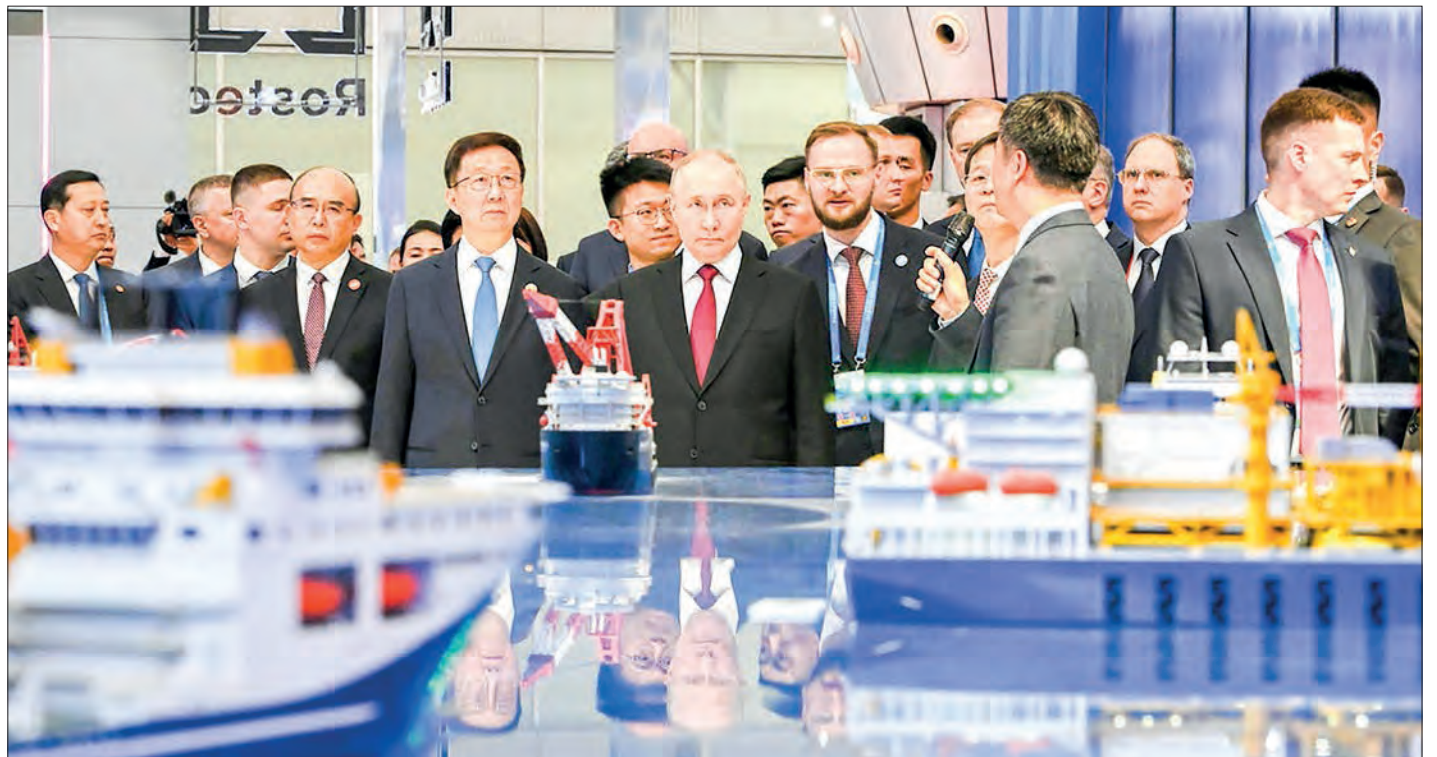
CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Friday sent a congratulatory letter to the eighth China-Russia Expo.

The expo opened in Harbin, capital of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, on the same day.

Xi said that with the joint efforts of the two countries, China-Russia relations have made solid progress step by step and delivered tangible cooperation outcomes to the benefit of the two peoples.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of China-Russia diplomatic ties, Xi noted, saying that standing at a new historical starting point, bilateral relations will embrace new historical opportunities and show broader prospects for development.

Stressing that after years of cultivation and development, the China-Russia Expo has become an important platform for promoting bilateral economic and trade cooperation, Xi added it is hoped that all sectors of the two countries will make full use of the opportunity presented by the current China-Russia Expo to



President Vladimir Putin travelled to the northeastern Chinese city of Harbin on Friday, the final day of his brief trip, where he sought to promote crucial trade with China. Putin attends an exhibition as part of the 8th China-Russia Expo. **PHOTO: SERGEI BOBYLEV/TASS/KREMLIN.RU**

RECOVERY EFFORTS

Up to 2,000 gallons oil may spill into Gulf of Mexico as barge hits bridge in US Texas

UP to 2,000 gallons of oil may have spilled into the Gulf of Mexico after a bunker barge struck a bridge in the island city of Galveston, eastern Texas, the US Coast Guard estimated on Thursday.

The source of the leakage from the barge has been contained after the accident, said the US Coast Guard. AP reported that the Coast Guard had deployed a boom, or barrier, to contain the spill.

The Coast Guard said it deployed planes and drones to evaluate the extent of the oil spill on Thursday, while closing about 6.5 miles (10.5 kilometres) along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, a busy shipping channel for the region. Galveston is about 50 miles (80.5 km) away from downtown Houston, the largest city of Texas. — Xinhua

“Flying car” makes Tokyo debut at international tech event

A “flying car” took to the air in Tokyo for the first time on Friday during an international event showcasing cutting-edge technology. About 500 spectators applauded as the vehicle hovered around 10 metres off the ground in a parking lot outside the Tokyo Big Sight convention centre in the capital’s Koto Ward for SusHi Tech Tokyo 2024.

Flying vehicles are expected to become part of the next generation of human transport and will be effective in dealing with traffic congestion and delivering supplies to disaster areas, the Tokyo metropolitan government and other organizers said. The Hexa, manufactured by US firm Lift Aircraft Inc, has 18 propellers attached to the top of its single-seat passenger cabin. It is 4.5 metres wide, 2.6 metres high and weighs around 196 kilogrammes.

The Hexa will conduct demonstrations again, twice daily, for around 15 minutes per session on Saturday, Wednesday and Thursday, organizers said. Admission to view the demonstrations is free. — Kyodo



Photo taken on 17 May 2024 shows the inaugural flight in Tokyo of a flying vehicle. The vehicle developed by LIFT Aircraft of the United States and driven by one person flew about 10 metres above ground in front of about 500 people in Tokyo’s Koto Ward. **PHOTO: KYODO**